

**FINANCE COMMITTEE
TOWN OF CONWAY, MA
MINUTES
Jan. 28, 2008
7:00 PM, Town Office**

Present: Roy Cohen, Jim Bosman, Tanya Campbell

Note: This was not an official meeting because there was no quorum.

Review of Minutes of 1/14/08 – Minutes were not approved due to lack of a quorum.

Budget Hearings with SB @ 7:30 PM

Highway – 11.5% increase over FY08 or \$48,597. Mostly due to Vehicular Diesel, Salt, Sand, Equipment Maintenance, and Heating Oil. Moving Gasoline budget to departments that use it (Fire and Police).

Town Buildings, Fire Dept, Street Lights

Town Hall (192) 50.8% increase or \$7,368 (Heating Oil)

Town Office Building (194) 36.2% increase or \$4,183 (Heating Oil)

Fournier Building (197) no change

Fire Dept (220) 9.2% increase or \$2,949 (Gasoline)

Firemans Bldg. (221) 200% increase or \$2,000 (Heating Oil)

Street Lights (424) 13.2% decrease or \$900 due to savings by going to new way of purchasing electricity (Thanks Tom Spiro)

Holiday Tree (693) 69.2% decrease or \$450 due to smaller tree

Also a possible capital article of \$9,000 for new toilets, sinks and flooring at Town Office Building. Comment was made that flooring should include entire downstairs, not just the carpeted area. Was not clear how much more that would cost.

Highway Capital Equipment

- 4X4 all wheel drive backhoe with trade (to replace 1993 CAT) \$75,000
- Wood chipper \$25,000
- Multi-purpose all-season dump body (to reconfigure 2004 International so sander is before back wheels instead of behind back wheels to give traction) \$30,000
- Over fence 4X4 tractor (cost is for upgrade to 4X4 only – Northeast Utilities pays for the tractor and the mower for \$70-90K. In an arrangement with 5 other towns, newest tractor gets shared around 5 towns, and every 5 years, one of the towns gets a new tractor. This year is Conway's turn, and in 5 years, this tractor will be our own.)
- Tanker Truck \$155,000 (new cab and chassis with our stainless steel

- tank. Or, spend \$175,000 for a whole new setup with a modern plastic tank. Existing tanker is a 1984 and was cheapest at the time.)
- From Road Machinery Earnings (towns hire-out/charge off equipment used during CH90 projects and the funds come into this account). Balance of \$12,221.74 available. \$4100 for a 10ft one-way reversible snow plow, and \$7800 for an 11ft vortex reversible half butterfly snow plow.

Ambulance – Line item increase in salary due to increase in number of calls from around 65/year to 100/year. Ambulance account is generating revenues sufficient to fund itself. Capital request submitted for an electronic record-keeping system which is being mandated by the state. Final decision was to continue to fund the ambulance by \$15,000 with a separate article at town meeting, but the new computer system will be purchased out of Ambulance revolving funds.

Police – 9.0% increase over FY08 or \$7,811. Mostly due to \$5,000 for gasoline that was previously in the Highway budget.

Town Accountant – 1.2% increase over FY08 or \$223. Accountant recommends the article for a payroll software application module, to take payroll processing in-house.