

**FINANCE COMMITTEE
TOWN OF CONWAY, MA
MINUTES
Feb. 25, 2008
7:00 PM, Town Office**

Present: Jim Bosman, Tanya Campbell, Amy Louise Pfeffer, Bob Stone

Review of Minutes of 1/28 and 2/4 – Submitted but will be reviewed at next meeting.

Next Meeting – We propose to meet every Monday at 7 pm from March 3rd to March 24th.

Announcements – Corrected dates: Town meeting April 14th, Town election April 17th. Warrant articles due March 24th.

Budget Hearings with SB @ 7:30 PM

Council on Aging - \$500

Emergency Management – There will be a new department and a proposed budget for \$2000. Joe S. will be taking on the role of director of Emergency Management

FRCOG - \$61,853 (possibly part of this goes in Board of Health budget?)

Conservation Commission (171) – Peter Jeswald presented FY08 budget and together we worked up a new \$1,650 budget for FY09.

Grammar School – \$1,460,953 + \$64,169 transportation. Total increase of 3.42%. New 3-year contract has annual wage increases of 2% in first half of year 1 and 1% in second half of year 1 and 1% year 2. Reducing one aide and moving another aide to school choice funds. Oil is budgeted at \$2.75/gal. Heating oil is purchased from LPVEC coop. 18,000 gal/year. \$280K is funded from other sources including \$201K from school choice funds.

Frontier Regional – \$886,987. Capital improvement bond \$96,300. School was refurbished in 1999 for \$23M and that will be paid off in 2017. Supt. Office article \$8,990. This is the final year of the article for the Supt. Office. New life skills program at F.R. and kids are tuitioning in from other districts. Mohawk and Gill-Montague left the insurance group that F.R. is in and joined the State's GIC program. Possibly F.R. will be changing too in the future. Frontier budget would have only increased 4.8% but went up to 6.05% due to impact of one sped kid with residential services. State's special education circuit breaker program provides 72 cents on the dollar over \$35K threshold but it comes 1 year in arrears so F.R. has the full burden this year. F.R. has \$240K free cash certified and will be taking \$140K to decrease the FY09 assessments to district towns.