

**FINANCE COMMITTEE  
TOWN OF CONWAY, MA  
MINUTES  
Mar. 10, 2008  
7:00 PM, Town Office**

**Present:** Jim Bosman, Tanya Campbell, Amy Louise Pfeffer, John Pitzi (arrived late).

**Review of Minutes of 3/3** – We did not review or approve minutes due to lack of quorum.

**Next Meeting** – Monday March 17 at 7 pm at Town Office.

**Announcements** – Tuesday March 18 Highway Garage Committee is meeting at 7 pm to discuss the responses received to the RFQ.

**Meeting with Select Board at 7:30 (John arrived)**

Went through Article 2 line-by-line to reconcile various versions and capture recent changes. See spreadsheet.

Bob Baker explained situation with FY08 Winter Roads budget. Can already project a \$67K overage at year-end. Will be worse if winter doesn't let up soon. This account is special in that you can put the overage on the recap and the shortfall will be raised by taxation. Discussed putting a separate article to fund at least part of the shortfall out of free cash. After more discussion, preliminary decision was to do an article for \$70K to fund the short-fall, and tweak the amount to match the actual shortfall as we get closer to town meeting.

Discussion of capital equipment replacement was next. Joe asked Bob to prioritize his list. After much discussion we arrived at:

\$70K – Fund deficit in winter roads

\$9K – Over-the-fence tractor (this may get moved to operating budget due to the fact that it may be \$9K spread out over 5 years)

\$160K – Tanker Truck for Fire Dept. (split the difference twix two options of re-using old stainless steel tank or going to new plastic tank)

\$50K – Used backhoe with current one offered in trade

Scratched the wood chipper and the multi-purpose dump body.

Bob Baker side notes: \$11K repair just completed on the bucket loader; issue with re-using stainless steel tank is that there is a question of it being able to pass NFPA certification. Fire equipment show in June at Big E. Tankers will be for sale there. Oldest dump truck is 1998. Trying to stretch the life to 15 years. We will be replacing it in the next several years.

Board of Health – decision was to ask BOH to level-fund their budget due to the historical trend of significant funds being left unspent at the end of the year. Jim will contact BOH.

Article for design of highway garage – have about \$29K left over of the \$35K that was voted for the study. May come to town meeting with a request for additional funds to complete design.

All articles (not article 2) will be funded out of free cash except for the ambulance revolving account article and the snowplows out of road machinery earnings.

Jack described how the Community Preservation Act Committee plans to bring an article asking to increase the surcharge from 1.5% to 3% and adding an exemption for the first \$100K of value. Basically this means that for anyone with a place valued at less than \$200K, their CPA surcharge will go down. Everyone else's will go up. This change is due to the fact that the state is changing the funding formula and the state match will drop from 100% to 60% for the 1.5% surcharge. Increasing the surcharge to 3% keeps the match at 100%.