

**FINANCE COMMITTEE  
TOWN OF CONWAY, MA  
MINUTES  
Mar. 26, 2008  
7:30 PM, Town Office**

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

**Next Meeting** – Monday March 31 at 7 pm at Town Office.

**Announcement** – Town-wide pre-town meeting pot-luck dinner will be held 7 pm April 7<sup>th</sup> at the Firehouse. As many from Fin Com should attend as possible in order to explain our recommendations.

**Meeting together with Select Board**

**Review of Article 2**

Made a couple of edits to the newly revised draft presented: Fin Com budget request changed from \$850 to \$500. BOH request changed from \$164,966 to \$159,003 and asterisk removed from Fin Com recommendation. Total changed from \$4,409,510 to \$4,403,197.

Made the rest of the recommendations that were still needed:

**Reserve Fund:** Recommended the \$15,000. Account should expand in relation to expanding town budget, and also to cover tightening of BOH budget.

**Planning Board:** Recommended the \$4,850. Expense is mostly engineering expenses, though no expenses yet this year, there will be expenses coming up and next year associated with the Bardwells Ferry road project.

**Salary Adjustments:** Recommended the \$10,000. Will be adequate to cover possibly increases in part-time police, dump attendant, and highway foreman, and possibly some town office employees.

**Emergency Management Director:** Recommended the \$5,000. This amount is needed to either attract an individual to serve or to show support to fund a regional EM Dir.

**Franklin County Tech:** Recommended the \$127,818. This figure has been confirmed and the increase is largely due to an increase in enrollment from 9 to 11 students.

**Capital Expenditures:** Recommended the \$30,000. It is a conservative annual contribution towards capital planning.

**Review of Other Articles**

The newly revised draft warrant that was presented had “Recommended” for articles that were not even financial. So mostly those all needed to be changed to “No Recommendation” . There were some new articles, several

recommendations were changed from Monday, and some figures were changed and some language was added or changed from Monday, as per below:

7 – Lease of over-the-fence Tractor - \$10,330, plus commitment to a \$21,900 per year lease subject to reimbursement from NU of \$19,834 – Recommended

8 – Tanker Fire Truck - \$80,000 towards the purchase of - Recommended. Assumes another article next year to fund the rest, and the new capital committee would review funding level.

9 – 4X4 Backhoe \$50,000 – **NOT** recommended. Fin Com will make a motion at Town Meeting to appropriate \$25,000 from free cash towards this purchase. Assumes another article next year to fund the rest, and the new capital committee would determine the replacement schedule and funding level, new vs. used, etc.

15 – Rose Field Parking Area - \$10,000 – Recommended. We changed our position on this from No Rec. based on Jack’s explanation that the fill being removed from the Bardwell Ferry Road project will be used for this project making it a win-win for the town, and the total cost will be less than \$10,000.

26 (was 25) – Carpeting and Plumbing for Town Office - \$9,000 – **NOT** recommended. Voted to change our position on this from No Rec. because SB (Christina) asked for a definite up or down on it.

31 – Formation of Capital Planning Committee – tweaked the language and got it moved up to just after the two planning board articles (becomes article #19).

Language:

*To see if the town will vote to establish a 5-member Capital Improvements Planning Committee to be appointed by the Select Board to include one member of the Finance Committee, one member of the Select Board, and three members at-large, and who will study all capital projects and improvements for the purpose of long-range financial planning, and who will develop a multi-year plan for capital improvements, which will be updated annually, approved by the Select Board, and reported at each Town Meeting, or take any action relative thereto.*

33 – Mallery Building purchase negotiations – No recommendation. We decide to leave this for the future capital planning committee.

35 & 36 – Stabilization fund at Franklin County Tech – Recommended. These were new articles we did not see on Monday.