

**FINANCE COMMITTEE
TOWN OF CONWAY, MA
MINUTES
Mar. 31, 2008
7:30 PM, Town Office**

Present: Jim Bosman, Tanya Campbell, Amy Louise Pfeffer

No quorum.

Next Meeting – TBD

Agenda – Go through warrant and prepare crib notes for town meeting, handout on town energy consumption.

Note - 9/27/07 letter from Chris Martin was included with Re-Cap stating “ Fin Com policy is to be conservative in estimating local receipts...” We should be involved in the hearings or meetings associated with the recap, overlay, local receipts estimates, etc.

Crib Notes for Town Meeting

Highway – \$37K of the \$48K increase is driven by diesel, sand, salt, and maintenance. \$5K was transferred to Police Dept for gasoline.

Salary Adjustments – some adjustments may need to be made based on comparisons with other towns and the FRCOG salary survey.

Articles 5 and 6 Fund Shortfalls (recommended) – Selectboard or Assessor will speak about using the overlay surplus to fund these shortages.

Article 8 Fire Truck (recommended) – Initial request was for \$160K for this year. Should the town approve the capital planning committee, we felt this would be best evaluated by that committee. Info we got was that a tanker was needed soon. We felt it was prudent to begin setting aside funds for it now – a two or three-year plan in light of the current economic climate.

Article 9 \$50K Used Backhoe (not recommended) – Initial request was for \$75K for a new one. This was another thing we felt was good for in-depth research by the capital planning committee in light of the current economic climate. It wasn't clear to us and we got conflicting info about the need to replace this. Current unit is safe and functional. *We will make a motion at Town Meeting to appropriate \$25,000 from free cash towards this purchase. Assumes a two or three-year plan, with funding level (used or new) to be determined by the new capital planning committee. .*

Note: There was also an initial request for a 30K dump body to reconfigure the 2004 dump truck with a sander in front of the rear wheels.

Article 12 Payroll software (recommended) – we basically are with Liz on this.

Article 15 Driveway and Parking Area (recommended) – No-brainer because of the economical use of the fill to be excavated from the Bardwells Ferry road project.

Article 19 Capital Improvements Planning Committee – See handout.

Article 22 Garden/Commons Maintenance (recommended) – Oops.

Article 27 Carpeting and Plumbing (not recommended) – Not prudent to invest in a building if there is a question about whether the space will continue to meet the town's needs. Also in light of current economic climate.