

Conway Finance Committee  
Minutes  
Monday, November 11, 2013 7:00 PM  
Town Office

**Members Present:** Jim Bosman, Tanya Campbell, Andrea Llamas, Roy Cohen. Liz Braccia was present but was not voting because she didn't get sworn in yet.

**Next Meeting Date**

Conway all-committee meeting Wednesday November 20<sup>th</sup> 7 PM.  
6 pm before the Special Town Meeting (understood to be planned for either December 9th or 16th).

**Process for Filling Vacancies**

Roy feels it was out of process how Liz got on the committee a recommendation was not made by the committee per se. Roy had someone in mind for the position and he was going to bring him up at the next meeting. Tanya had Andrea noted that Nick Filler appoints whoever approaches him.

**Selectboard Meeting Report**

SB approved the creation of a new FT position of a laborer at \$12 hr. for the Highway Dept. General sense of the meeting with the SB was that the SB had little to no detail on any of the requested articles.

**Special Town Meeting Article Review**

**Article 1** - \$13K for audit. Andrea does not understand why they would need the FY13 audit for going to bond – seems like it will take a long time to get to that point and that they won't be able to start construction until later in FY15. Though it is possible the audit is required for the USDA loan process. USDA has different building specifications but the idea is that it is cheaper to borrow from USDA than to float a bond. Tanya recommended striking mention of “FY2013 funds” to give more leeway in case they need to do a different fiscal year. Voted unanimously to recommend with wording change.

**Article 2** – Used plow truck for \$25K. This would be a dump truck. Andrea indicated that Ron acknowledged that he won't be able to get the truck he wants this winter. We all feel that we need to see the vehicle replacement plan updated. We understand the need for having an extra plow truck as backup in case one fails. Andrea doesn't feel that it makes sense to purchase an old truck – buying someone else's problem. Jim said he would like to see the ROI for purchasing older truck and cost to repair it in-house compared to the cost of purchasing a new truck. We are also concerned about the amount of time that Ron may be spending as a mechanic repairing the equipment. Andrea noted that Buckland eliminated the mechanic position because it was cheaper to outsource the repairs as-needed than to pay for the wages and benefits for the mechanic. Liz noted that in Greenfield they have in-house mechanics who do their fleet and eventually they tell the city which vehicles have reached end-of-life and need to be replaced. Jim will arrange a meeting with Ron and Tom to update the vehicle replacement plan and work towards an ROI worksheet for Ron's plan. Voted 3-1 not to recommend.

**Article 3** – Trading in the Kodiak and getting a crew-cab pickup truck. Not clear that this needs to be done right now or the need. See notes on Article 2 above as these were discussed together. Voted unanimously not to recommend.

**Article 4** - \$68K for accrued vacation and sick hours. Liz said Jan would pay it out over three years rather than waiting until they retire. Andrea noted that if we wait until May, we could use other funding sources for this such as raise and appropriate. Tanya noted that you might be able to put it in a special revenue fund so that they can take it when they retire or whenever they want to take it. Understanding is that Jan wants to pay it out to get it off the books. Tanya thinks you can't just pay it out unless you enter into some kind of agreement. Andrea thinks this needs to be run by legal counsel. Voted

unanimously not to recommend in current state.

**Article 5** – 2002 copier is becoming problematic. Voted unanimously to recommend.

**Article 6** - \$10K for plans to redevelop the old garage SITE. They don't have quotes. Can't understand why this needs to be on the December meeting warrant. The new garage isn't even approved yet. Voted unanimously not to recommend.

**Article 7** - \$10K for site review for possible water and sewer development. They don't have quotes. Voted unanimously not to recommend.

**Article 8 and 9** – These are not really financial articles. There might be a question of liability insurance. Voted to have no recommendation on these because they are not financial articles.

**Article 10** - \$150 free cash to lower tax rate. Some felt that the money should be put into stabilization for the Garage. Others want to give people the option to choose to put the money towards the garage. Voted 2-2 tie on recommending or not recommending this article. Discussion about asking the SB to put another article on to put the money against the garage instead. Roy asked could they add a second article next to this one, to put the \$150K in garage stabilization.

**Article 11** - \$15K for mapping locations of public easements. Unfortunately, we have no information as to what this is about. Voted unanimously not to recommend.

**Article 12** – Voted to have no recommendation on this because it is not a financial article.

**Adjourned at 9:30 pm**