

Conway Finance Committee
Draft Minutes
Monday, February 24th, 2014 7:30 PM
Town Office

Members Present: Jim Bosman, Tanya Campbell, Andrea Llamas, Liz Braccia (Bob Stone and Roy Cohen absent). Met jointly with SB for first part of the evening. Lee Whitcomb and Tom Hutcheson were present during that time.

Next Meeting Dates

Wednesday, February 26th Conway Grammar School budget hearing

Thursday, February 27th Frontier Capital Committee meeting

Monday March 3rd, 7 PM Joint Hearing with SB to discuss Highway with Ron Sweet

Monday March 3rd 8 PM Town Caucus

Monday March 10th, 7:30 PM Joint Hearing with SB to discuss Board of Health and Capital Articles
Schools meeting date TBD.

April 14th Tom hopes to close the warrant.

Joint Meeting with Selectboard

Tom quickly reviewed a number of questions that came out of the last Fin Com meeting and provided several updates to Article 2.

Andrea asked about the number in Tom's narrative stating 18% of taxable property fully tax exempt (church properties, Tibetan center, Smith College property, TTOR, Audubon, etc. Lee lead discussion about how conservation properties are valued.

Assessors

\$20-25K estimated for New Growth

Underspending on FY13 was due in part to maternity leave for clerk and the vendor that did the tax map stopped doing it.

Fin Com Meeting

Capital Requests

We would like to have Tom send out a communication that Fin Com needs a capital request form filled out for each request or we won't consider them.

Looks like the replacement for the Fire Dept can wait 1-2 years until after the Highway Dept moves out of the existing garage. Need a formal capital request for this though anyways.

Mapping of public easements (road right of way) - \$25K. \$25K/year for four years. Andrea is questioning why a small town needs this detailed info. What is the value of having this information? It sounds like this request is coming from Lee Whitcomb? What is driving this request?

Partial funding of pay-outs for accrued vacation and sick hours \$20K. We don't want to see this paid out right now. It should be paid out when they leave. This article should include the establishment of the fund and the initial funding.

We want to ask Jan about PILOT payments from the Tibetan center.

Garage redevelopment and water and sewer requests should be broken out as two requests. Also remind Planning Board that we wanted specifics on the scope of these reviews.

Unreimbursed grant – we'd like to know exactly why this grant money was not received. Jim would like any grant related activities to be watched by Town Administrator so that there is no trouble with the paperwork or deadlines.

\$10K for tax title takings – no concerns

\$7500 for reval – no concerns

We need to know what is available from overlay surplus.

\$6K – copier is out of support and parts are not available anymore.

Past years debts – we need more detail.

What can we spend our \$40K reserve fund on? Sounds like it is possible to spend it on the fire equipment debt and the past years debts.

Wired West Dues - \$1K. Need someone to explain this to us. Bob Armstrong or

Grammar School requests – we will see on Wednesday. Jim will follow up on the status of the HVAC request.

Senior Housing – conceptual design and cost estimate. Who is this coming from? Need someone to explain this to us. What is the dollar amount? Do they have any quotes?

Looks like there is going to be a request for website services like the one that was submitted last year. Need to see a request for that.

The OPEB thing could make sense if it really helps our bond rating. Tom said that Jan is looking into it.

Police they all make \$16 something an hour. 40 hours per week of shifts is made up by other officers. Randall is benefited, 20-hour per week permanent position. The other 20 are done by other officers, but sometimes they can't fill the shifts so it gets underspent. This has happened the past couple of years and they look like they will be about \$9K under again for FY15 based on the year to date.

We need to figure out where we stand on the across the board salary and wage increases or COLA. The CPI that is used for Social Security is about 1.5%. Jim moved 1.5%. Liz seconded. All in favor. This will be the starting point when we negotiate with the SB.

Diversified Project Management now negotiating agreement with Weston & Sampson. Expect to have the contract at the end of this week. And then they can negotiate the design agreement. The garage will be addressed at a special town meeting. They want enough time to get the numbers right. They also want to have enough time to discuss this project.

Review of Minutes

None reviewed.

Adjourned at 9:45 pm