

Conway Finance Committee
Draft Minutes
March 31st, 2014 7:00 PM
Town Office

Members Present: Jim Bosman, Tanya Campbell, Liz Braccia, Roy Cohen (Andrea Llamas and Bob Stone absent). Guest Jan Warner.

Next Meeting Dates

Monday, April 7th, Joint Meeting with SB. Time TBD.

April 14th Tom hopes to close the warrant.

May 12th Town Meeting

Jan Warner

Jan presented a sheet outlining the costs for various percentages of salary/wage increases. Jan also presented a ~\$1900 net increase to her budget for addition of new software package for cash reconciliation.

Article 2

Reviewed the spreadsheet and Tom's draft warrant and our notes from earlier meetings. We found that the total for FY15 listed on the Word document was \$3K off from the math of adding up all of the lines. Then we made several changes – see spreadsheet for numbers. Voted 4-0 to recommend Article 2 at a total of \$4,903,205.

Capital Articles

Article 3 – Mapping Easements - Voted 4-0 to NOT RECOMMEND (Free Cash).

Article 4 – OPEB – Voted 4-0 to RECOMMEND this article at \$20K not \$40K (Free Cash).

Article 5 – Ambulance – Voted 4-0 to RECOMMEND transfer of \$28,354 from Receipts Reserved to Ambulance Operations. The \$10K from Free Cash does not make any sense to us. The funding is \$15K from Article 2 plus the \$28K from RR and that makes the total they need for the budget. We recommend Tom look to last year's warrant for the correct language for this article.

Article 6 – Used Plow Truck – Voted 4-0 to RECOMMEND (Capital Stabilization).

Article 7 – Accrued Vacation and Sick Time - Need to split this into two articles, one to create a special account to hold this money, and a second to vote \$25K into that account. (Free Cash). We would like to note that this is not to pay the people right away. It is to pay them in the future when they leave or retire (or earlier if they want). Voted 4-0 to RECOMMEND as modified.

Article 8 – Fire Equipment Grant – Tom please double-check when the spending happened. Article says it was in the past year. Andrea was suggesting we fund this from Reserve. Tanya and Liz don't think this has to be done at Town Meeting since it is Reserve fund, but we all agree that it should be brought before the town. This is \$15K and we have \$40K in reserve. If we get a surprise hit to the reserve account prior to Town Meeting, we could still change the funding source for this on town meeting floor. Voted 4-0 to RECOMMEND (Reserve Fund).

Article 9 – Site Review for Water and Sewer – \$12,000 - Several questions about the reason for this. There are solutions that don't require an area-wide system. Jim noted that this is being driven by the planning board and Dave Chichester used to be on the Board of Health. Voted 3-1 to NOT

RECOMMEND (Free Cash).

Article 10 - \$10K for 250th Celebration – Voted 3-0 to RECOMMEND (1 abstention). (Free Cash)

Article 11 – \$10K Tax Lien Foreclosures – Voted 4-0 to RECOMMEND (Free Cash)

Article 12 – \$7,500 Reval - Voted 4-0 to RECOMMEND (Free Cash)

Article 13 – \$7,000 Copier - Voted 4-0 to RECOMMEND (Free Cash)

Article 14 – \$5,500 Web Site - Voted 4-0 to RECOMMEND (Free Cash)

Article 15 – \$5,500 Police Computer - Voted 4-0 to RECOMMEND (Free Cash)

Article 16 – \$351.78 Tree Warden stipends from prior years. Voted 4-0 to RECOMMEND (Reserve Fund).

We discussed whether or not we should use Overlay Surplus. About \$8K available but maybe better to let it ride for another year and not use it.

Article 17 - \$16,900 for maintenance at the grammar school. Voted 4-0 to RECOMMEND (Free Cash)

Article 18 - \$50K to Grammar School Stabilization. Voted 4-0 to RECOMMEND (Free Cash).

Article 19 - General Stabilization - Voted 4-0 to put the money in other accounts instead. No money needed towards General Stabilization this year.

Article 20 - Capital Stabilization. Jim noted that \$120K is needed to fund the vehicle replacements plan. Tanya requested to make it a round \$125K. Voted 4-0 to RECOMMEND at \$125K (Free Cash)

Article 21 - Garage Stabilization. Jim suggested the garage is the top priority now. If we put \$175K it will give us a total of \$350K to Stabilization accounts. Voted 4-0 to RECOMMEND at \$175K (Free Cash)

This is a total of \$350K to stabilization. Someone needs to verify that this is within our limit of what we can put in stabilization in a given year.

No recommendations on any of the other articles.

Review of Minutes

None reviewed.

Adjourned at 9:10 pm