

March 3rd, 2025 Town Administrator Update:

Boards & Committees

Community Preservation Committee has met and elected George Forcier as chair. The CPC is still missing one rep from Parks & Recreation and one at-large rep.

Financial

The Governor's visit on transportation was a great success with almost every town administrator in Franklin County attending to discuss the needs of the towns and challenges we face with respect to roads, bridges and culverts. We received our notification today from the Governor's office telling us that once the bill she filed has been enacted, Conway's Chapter 90 funds will increase to

Grants updates

1. MVP 2.0 – Conway and Ashfield were awarded \$175,000 for work on updating our plan and creating a pilot project. Town administrator Paul McLatchy III and I will be working on this together; Conway is the lead town.
2. MVP FY26 – the team, which includes Nic Miller, the FRCOG and GZA will be meeting on March 5th to discuss the RFR and next steps.
3. Green Communities – application deadline April 4th. The Sustainability committee is taking the lead and we are working with Eversource, FRCOG and RTE to finalize the grant application on the acquisition and switch to LED for our streetlights.
4. MassWorks – we are still working on finalizing the budget and contract with MassWorks.
5. PROTECT (federal) – The latest update is that MassDOT will have this posted in the spring.
6. MOD – for a LULA lift for town hall; application due May 1st
7. Hazard Mitigation Plan update (FEMA funding)– 1st application filled out, second step due March 10th.
8. EOTSS Cyber Security Awareness grant for calendar year 2025. Adam and I have taken the training and will be starting up soon.
9. Pre-Hazard Mitigation grant (FEMA/EMMA) on Delabarre Ave. Postponed but will be starting this construction season in conjunction with the work on Upper Baptist, Pine Hill and Baptist roads.

Miscellaneous

Chris and I met with the FRCOG to discuss how to move forward on senior housing. We learned about a new development happening in Erving with 26 units, and found that Conway could only expect to be able to interest a developer in building 25-40 units. Also, the state is moving to mixed housing with age restrictions being in most but not all units. There are complications because Conway is all well and all septic, without public transportation, so this would likely be a long process. The first step would be to identify a piece of land the town could purchase, probably with CPA funds.