

April 27 – May 4, 2026 Town Administrator Update

Boards, Committees & Departments

IT I have closed out the migration project as complete. Now Conway will receive help through the ticketing system alone, and I believe everything has been done which was contracted to accomplish. Conway will still need some new equipment to create a more secure system, so I will be working with Sourcepass to apply for a Community Compact IT grant next year to complete this.

Parks & Recreation Conway did have a low quote come in and I will be working with Jan Warner on a contract next week for finishing the new pickleball courts.

Grants

MVP 2.0 It was decided to cancel Conway's meeting at the Sportsmen's Club both because the RSVP number was low but also because there was a table at the CGS Spring Fling which got a lot of replies to the priorities survey. The core team will be working on developing a seed project over the next month.

MassWorks I will be submitting for partial reimbursement this week, and Ron Sweet and the Highway Department are hard at work on this project and will be until the project closes at the end of June.

Streetlights/Green Communities I will be working with town counsel on the Purchase and Sale Agreement.

Meetings

- The **Public Employee Committee (PEC)** which is negotiating with the town over the change to the health insurance plan slated for 7/1/26 met several times over the last few weeks. The Unions and Retiree Representatives have agreed to the mitigation amount and would prefer a check rather than deduction from payment. Sean and I have sent out letters to all affected employees explaining the new plan, and this was done before the 60-day deadline.
- I recently met with a representative from Comcast, in a new division of theirs which deals strictly with government and education accounts. I learned about the MAITT72 contract which is available through COMMBUYS and will likely save us money as we will no longer have to pay taxes and fees which get added to commercial and residential accounts. We may not be able to switch just yet, I am waiting for my contact to get back to me with our contract end dates and details.
- I attended the Rural and Western Mass conference on Saturday, which included the Lieutenant Governor, and several state representatives and senators, as well as MMA officials. Several issues of great importance to Conway were discussed, such as PILOTs (the new PILOT commission has been set up and will begin meeting soon), Chapter 70 formulas and the fact that a town can have one or two millionaires move to town and this skews the formula thereby reducing payments such as Rural Aid (many other towns have this issue). The final session was on the new energy siting regulations, and it was disclosed that the chief administrative officer (town administrator) will be required to be the one to oversee the permitting process, and that the Selectboard will need to vote on whether to start with the new solar regulations on July 1st, or wait until October 1st, at which point all municipalities must use the new system.
- Jan Ameen is planning a fixit repair event, which this time will be held in Conway, at the Grammar School. More information will be forthcoming.