



Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
**Town of Conway, Massachusetts**

**Annual Town Meeting  
 June 1, 2024**

**A**T A LEGAL TOWN MEETING of the inhabitants of the Town of Conway qualified to vote in town affairs, convened at the time and place and for the purpose specified in the warrant, 143 voters were checked at the door and issued electronic voting clickers for the purpose of voting. Tammy Bennett and Sarah Newman served as checkers. The meeting was called to order by the Moderator James Recore, and it was unanimously voted to dispense with the formality of having the warrant read by the Town Clerk. The following actions were taken by those persons in attendance:

**ARTICLE 1:** Voted that Town Meeting accept the town reports as printed in the Town Annual Report.

**ARTICLE 2:**

**Section A:** Voted that the Town approve line items 114 through 900 of Article 2 as presented in the warrant, for a subtotal of **\$3,017,104**.

**Section B:** Voted that the Town approve line items 300A and 300B of Article 2 as presented in the warrant, for a subtotal of **\$2,209,486**.

**Section C:** Voted that the Town approve line items 310A, 310B and 310C of Article 2 as presented in the warrant for a subtotal of **\$1,687,474**.

**Section D:** Voted that the Town approve line items 320A, 320B and 320C of Article 2 as presented in the warrant for a subtotal of **\$138,269**.

**Section E:** Voted that the Town approve line items 330A and 330B of Article 2 as presented in the warrant for a subtotal of **\$0**, and a total in Article 2 of **\$7,052,333**.

DEPT #	DEPARTMENT NAME	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025 REC.*	FY24 - 25 CHANGE
114	MODERATOR	\$350	\$350	\$350	\$0
122	SELECTBOARD	\$6,500	\$6,500	\$6,500	\$0
131	FINANCE COMMITTEE	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$0
132	RESERVE FUND	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$0
135	ACCOUNTING/AUDITS	\$1	\$10,000	\$49,608	\$39,608
141	ASSESSORS	\$12,075	\$15,703	\$62,769	\$47,066
141	ASSESSORS WAGES	\$60,002	\$54,318	\$7,500	-\$46,818
145	TREASURER-COLLECTOR	\$20,919	\$19,795	\$22,155	\$2,360
145	TREASURER-COLLECTOR WAGES	\$66,531	\$67,861	\$72,252	\$4,391
150	TOWN ADMINISTRATION	\$20,600	\$18,200	\$19,350	\$1,150
150	TOWN ADMINISTRATION WAGES	\$92,040	\$94,942	\$100,808	\$5,866
151	LEGAL	\$11,000	\$10,000	\$15,000	\$5,000
159	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	\$42,742	\$44,825	\$44,876	\$51
161	TOWN CLERK	\$7,750	\$7,350	\$9,050	\$1,700
161	TOWN CLERK WAGES	\$40,382	\$39,398	\$41,368	\$1,970
162	REGISTRARS	\$1,700	\$1,700	\$1,700	\$0
163	ELECTIONS	\$4,500	\$5,000	\$6,000	\$1,000
163	ELECTIONS WAGES	\$5,100	\$5,000	\$7,000	\$2,000
170	OPEN SPACE	\$3,100	\$3,100	\$3,100	\$0
171	CONSERVATION COMMISSION	\$807	\$1,061	\$1,065	\$4
172	AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION	\$1	\$1	\$1	\$0
175	PLANNING BOARD	\$2,250	\$2,350	\$2,350	\$0
176	ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS	\$200	\$325	\$325	\$0
190	PERSONNEL COMMITTEE	\$0	\$1	\$1,500	\$1,499
192	BUILDING MAINTENANCE	\$73,500	\$82,500	\$78,500	-\$4,000
193	TOWN INSURANCE	\$89,053	\$89,532	\$95,065	\$5,533
210	POLICE	\$19,975	\$21,725	\$23,500	\$1,775

Annual Town Meeting, June 1, 2024

210	POLICE WAGES	\$119,707	\$120,539	\$124,589	\$4,049
220	FIRE	\$42,005	\$40,255	\$42,850	\$2,595
220	FIRE WAGES	\$41,697	\$41,548	\$43,626	\$2,077
231	AMBULANCE	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$0
291	EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	\$4,250	\$4,250	\$4,350	\$100
292	ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER	\$4,169	\$5,305	\$5,742	\$438
294	TREE WARDEN	\$300	\$510	\$510	\$0
422	HIGHWAY	\$293,300	\$342,800	\$331,000	-\$11,800
422	HIGHWAY WAGES	\$312,883	\$319,140	\$362,847	\$43,708
423	SNOW & ICE	\$103,000	\$108,000	\$108,000	\$0
423	SNOW & ICE WAGES	\$23,922	\$21,888	\$32,697	\$10,808
433	TRANSFER STATION	\$135,048	\$148,148	\$139,851	-\$8,297
433	TRANSFER STATION WAGES	\$43,260	\$45,800	\$51,600	\$5,800
491	CEMETERY	\$600	\$600	\$600	\$0
512	BOARD OF HEALTH	\$17,992	\$17,650	\$17,700	\$50
512	BOARD OF HEALTH WAGES	\$22,423	\$15,974	\$24,506	\$8,532
541	COUNCIL ON AGING	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$3,000	\$1,800
543	VETERANS	\$11,245	\$9,474	\$9,715	\$241
630	PARKS & RECREATION	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$9,000	\$1,000
635	FOREST & TRAILS	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$0
650	TOWN NEWSLETTER	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$0
691	HISTORICAL COMMISSION	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$0
710	DEBT SERVICE	\$52,133	\$108,189	\$109,245	\$1,056
751	DEBT SERVICE INTEREST	\$19,119	\$21,473	\$18,712	-\$2,761
752	SHORT TERM INTEREST	\$100	\$101	\$101	\$0
830	FRCOG (Town Nurse under Board of Health)	\$56,590	\$58,439	\$24,937	-\$33,502
900	EMPLOYEE COSTS	\$726,161	\$764,386	\$808,136	\$43,750
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,692,281</b>	<b>\$2,877,305</b>	<b>\$3,017,104</b>	<b>\$139,799</b>

300A	GRAM SCH OPERATING	\$2,016,647	\$2,060,585	\$2,113,936	\$53,351
300B	GRAM SCH TRANSPORT	\$69,660	\$75,000	\$95,550	\$20,550
	<b>TOTAL CGS</b>	<b>\$2,086,307</b>	<b>\$2,135,585</b>	<b>\$2,209,486</b>	<b>\$73,901</b>

310A	FRONTIER REG OPERATING	\$1,532,073	\$1,568,585	\$1,654,697	\$86,112
310B	FRONTIER TRANSPORTATION	\$26,759	\$32,563	\$32,777	\$214
310C	FRONTIER CAPITAL ASSESSMENT	\$12,827	\$3,817	\$0	-\$3,817
	<b>TOTAL FRONTIER</b>	<b>\$1,571,659</b>	<b>\$1,604,965</b>	<b>\$1,687,474</b>	<b>\$82,509</b>

320A	FRANKLIN COUNTY TECHNICAL SCHOOL	\$169,670	\$159,930	\$125,754	-\$34,176
320B	FCTS TRANSPORTATION	\$7,049	\$5,198	\$6,248	\$1,050
320c	FCTS CAPITAL ASSESSMENT	\$6,542	\$6,144	\$6,267	\$123
	<b>TOTAL FRANKLIN TECH</b>	<b>\$183,261</b>	<b>\$171,272</b>	<b>\$138,269</b>	<b>-\$33,003</b>

330A	OTHER TECHNICAL SCHOOLS	\$49,344	\$25,906		-\$25,906
330B	OTHER TECH SCHOOLS TRANSPORTATION	\$27,000	\$27,000		-\$27,000
	<b>TOTAL OTHER TECH</b>	<b>\$76,344</b>	<b>\$52,906</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>-\$52,906</b>

<b>FY 23 to 24:</b> <b>\$229,155.62</b> <b>3.49%</b>	<b>GRAND TOTAL for Operating Budget:</b>	<b>6,609,852</b>	<b>6,842,033</b>	<b>7,052,333</b>	<b>FY 24-25</b> <b>\$210,300</b> <b>2.98%</b>
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**Annual Town Meeting, June 1, 2024**

**ARTICLE 3:** Voted that the Town set the salaries of elected officials as provided by M.G.L. c. 41, section 108 to be made effective from July 1, 2025 as presented in the budget.

**ARTICLE 4:** Voted that the Town transfer \$16,000 from the Conway Grammar School Stabilization Fund for a new phone system for the Conway Grammar School. *(Two-thirds vote.)*

**ARTICLE 5:** Voted that the Town transfer \$20,000 from the Conway Grammar School Stabilization Fund for a video surveillance system for the Conway Grammar School. *(Two-thirds vote.)*

**ARTICLE 6:** Voted that the Town transfer \$17,700 from the Conway Grammar School Stabilization Fund to provide mini-splits for the Conway Grammar School. *(Two-thirds vote.)*

**ARTICLE 7:** Voted that the Town transfer from Free Cash \$53,700 to the Conway Grammar School Capital Stabilization Fund.

*Note: The \$17,700 for mini-splits, which are part of this transfer, were funds rebated to the town after the last purchase of mini-splits but which then had to revert to the general fund. Therefore \$17,700 of this amount would be a reimbursement to the school for the rebate they secured.*

***Motion carried that the Town move Article 27 forward.***

**ARTICLE 27:** Voted that the Town appropriate, or reserve for later appropriation, monies from the **Community Preservation Fund**, with each item considered a separate appropriation, or take any other action relative thereto:

- A. \$150,000 from the Community Preservation Fund, specifically from the Community Preservation Budgeted Reserve Account, to the Town of Conway Parks and Recreation Committee for the construction of four pickleball courts behind the Conway Grammar School for community use.

***Motion carried that the Town amend Article 27B as below.***

- B. From FY 2025 Annual Revenue (estimated):
  - 10% to the Community Preservation Historical Resources Reserve (\$10,199.71, estimated);
  - 10% to the Community Preservation Community Housing Reserve (\$10,199.71, estimated);
  - 10% to the Community Preservation Open Space Reserve (\$10,199.71, estimated);
  - 10% to the Community Preservation Outdoor Recreation Reserve (\$10,199.71, estimated);**
  - 5% from FY 2024 Annual Revenues for Administration of the Community Preservation Committee (\$5,099.85, estimated); and
  - the remainder to the Community Preservation Budgeted Reserve (\$56,098.39, estimated)

**ARTICLE 8:** Voted that the Town transfer from Free Cash \$100,000 to the **Fire Truck Stabilization fund** as follows: Fire Department – \$100,000 to **save for a new rescue pumper** *(expected purchase in 2028)*.

**ARTICLE 9:** Voted that the Town transfer from Free Cash \$100,000 for the purchase of a **side entry/exit, rubber tire Compact Loader**.

**ARTICLE 10:** Voted that the Town transfer from Free Cash \$100,000 for the purchase of a **Plow Truck (one ton four-door shortbed, 6 cylinder, diesel, with new V plow)**.

**ARTICLE 11:** Voted that the Town transfer \$85,000 from Capital Stabilization, or otherwise provide for a Police Cruiser, (includes upfitting. *(Two-thirds vote.)*)

**ARTICLE 12:** Voted that the Town transfer from Free Cash \$50,000 to the General Stabilization Fund.

**ARTICLE 13:** Voted that the Town transfer from Free Cash \$100,000 to the Ambulance Stabilization fund towards the purchase of an new ambulance.

**ARTICLE 14:** Voted that the Town transfer \$36,646 from the **Ambulance Receipts fund** to the Ambulance Department operational expenses account for a **partial payment** for these expenses.

**ARTICLE 15:** Voted that the Town transfer from Free Cash \$9,950 for preliminary study of town streetlights by an energy consultant, with the goal of saving money and reducing our carbon footprint.

**ARTICLE 16:** Voted that the Town authorize the following FY '25 expenditure limits for the Town of Conway Revolving Funds pursuant to M.G.L. c. 44, section 53 ½ and the Town of Conway Bylaw:

- up to \$5,000 from the Medicaid Revolving fund;
- up to \$6,000 from the Dog Licenses fund;
- up to \$10,000 from the Newsletter Revolving fund; and
- up to \$20,000 from the Conway Youth Sports Program Revolving fund

## Annual Town Meeting, June 1, 2024

**ARTICLE 17:** Voted that the Town revoke the Opioid Settlement Stabilization Fund and transfer any dedicated funds to the Opioid Settlement Special Revenue Fund as per the Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53, Clause 4; and, as authorized by the Department of Revenue, Division of Local Services' Director of Accounts. *(Two-thirds vote.)*

**ARTICLE 18:** Voted that the Town transfer \$20,000 from Free Cash into the **OPEB Trust Fund**.

**ARTICLE 19:** Voted that the Town transfer \$11,755 from Free Cash to the **debt service for the Highway Garage Facility as a partial payment for that debt service.**

**ARTICLE 20:** Voted that the Town authorize the **Treasurer and Collector to enter into compensating balance agreements** for Fiscal Year 2025 as permitted by M.G.L. c. 44, section 53F.

**ARTICLE 21:** Voted that the Town transfer from Free Cash \$6,000 as a partial contribution for the **future revaluation work account.**

**ARTICLE 22:** Voted that the Town transfer from Free Cash \$2,920 to the **Field Memorial Library** to help ensure its accreditation.

**ARTICLE 23:** Voted that the Town **rescind the appropriation and authorized borrowing of Article 3 of the December 9, 2023 Special Town Meeting which was to pay for the cost of road repair after the July floods or take any action relative thereto.**

*December 9, 2023 Special Town Meeting **ARTICLE 3:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$1.5 million dollars to pay for emergency deficit spending for town road repairs and other flood related expenses, including engineering and design, and to meet said appropriation, authorize the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectboard, to borrow said amount under and pursuant to G.L. c. 44, § 8(9), or any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town; or take any other action relative thereto. (2/3rds vote required).*

**ARTICLE 24:** Voted to allow the Selectboard to apply for, accept, and expend state, federal and other grants, which do not require a town appropriation or town meeting approval.

**ARTICLE 25:** Voted that the Town authorize the Select Board to acquire by purchase, gift, eminent domain, or otherwise for general public way purposes, a permanent easement, consisting of 2,119.00 square feet of land, more or less, for the purpose of rip rap placement and environmental restoration, a permanent easement, consisting of 82.00 square feet of land, more or less, for the purpose of overhead utility easement, and a permanent easement, consisting of 50.00 square feet of land, more or less, for the purpose of overhead utility easement, and a temporary easement, consisting of 11,545.00 square feet of land, more or less, for the purpose of grading, environmental protection/restoration, and temporary overhead utility work, all on the westerly side of North Poland Road, Town of Conway, Franklin County, Massachusetts, from Debra J. Craven and Willis D. Burnett, heirs and devisees of the Estate of Josephine L. Burnett (Franklin Probate Docket No. FR18P0060EA), for the North Poland Road over Poland Brook bridge replacement (Bridge No. C-20-004), said land is more specifically shown as "**Parcels DE-1, PUE-1, PUE-2, and TE-1**" on a set of plans, to be recorded, entitled "Easement Plan of Land North Poland Road Over Poland Brook Conway, Massachusetts," prepared by Green International Affiliates, Inc., dated April 2, 2024, and as amended. Said plans are also filed with the Town of Conway Town Clerk.

**ARTICLE 26:** Voted that the Town authorize the Select Board to acquire by purchase, gift, eminent domain, or otherwise for general public way purposes, a permanent easement, consisting of 529.00 square feet of land, more or less, for the purpose of overhead utility easement, a permanent easement, consisting of 49.00 square feet of land, more or less, for the purpose of overhead utility easement, and a permanent easement, consisting of 386.00 square feet of land, more or less, for the purpose of overhead utility easement, and a temporary easement, consisting of 1,834.00 square feet of land, more or less, for the purpose of grading, tree trimming, and driveway work, and a temporary easement, consisting of 12,869.00 square feet of land, more or less, for the purpose of grading, tree trimming, and bridge construction equipment swing radii work area, all on the easterly side of North Poland Road, Town of Conway, Franklin County, Massachusetts, from Debra J. Craven and Willis D. Burnett, heirs and devisees of the Estate of Josephine L. Burnett (Franklin Probate Docket No. FR18P0060EA), for the North Poland Road over Poland Brook bridge replacement (Bridge No. C-20-004), said land is more specifically shown as "**Parcels PUE-3, PUE-4, PUE-5, TE-3, and TE-4**" on a set of plans, to be recorded, entitled "Easement Plan of Land North Poland Road Over Poland Brook Conway, Massachusetts," prepared by Green International Affiliates, Inc., dated April 2, 2024, and as amended. Said plans are also filed with the Town of Conway Town Clerk.

**ARTICLE 28:** Voted that the Town to amend the Town of Conway Revolving Funds Bylaw by adding the following fund.

**Annual Town Meeting, June 1, 2024**

<b>Revolving Fund</b>	<b>Entity Authorized to Spend from Fund</b>	<b>Fee, Charges, or Receipts Credited to Fund</b>	<b>Program or Activity Expenses Payable from Fund</b>	<b>Restrictions or Conditions on Expenses Payable from Fund</b>	<b>Other Requirements/ Reports</b>	<b>Fiscal Years</b>
Transfer Station	Town Administrator	Income to the transfer station from fees charged for materials deposited at the transfer station.	Expenses Related to the administration of the transfer station.	Limit of \$10,000.00 Per Fiscal Year	None	Fiscal Year 2025 and Subsequent Years

**ARTICLE 29:** Vote failed that the Town amend the General Bylaws of the Town of Conway, Bylaw TOWN OFFICERS, BOARDS AND COMMITTEES Section 2 as follows.

**TOWN OFFICERS, BOARDS AND COMMITTEES**

**Section 2:** Only Conway residents shall be allowed to serve as voting members of Boards, Committees, and Commissions; however appointed associate members of town boards will be allowed to serve and vote, whether town residents or not (Amended- Annual Meeting - 09 May 2016)

**ARTICLE 30:** Voted that the Town amend the Zoning Bylaws of the Town of Conway, ARTICLE 6: ADMINISTRATION, Section 62 as follows.

**ARTICLE 6: ADMINISTRATION**

**SECTION 62: Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals**

The Planning Board shall consist of five elected members and one appointed associate member, which Board shall act on all matters within its jurisdiction under this Bylaw and Chapter 40A of the General Laws in the manner prescribed by the said law and by this Bylaw.

There is hereby established a Zoning Board of Appeals of three members and two associate members, to be appointed by the Selectboard, which Board of Appeals shall act on all matters within its jurisdiction under this Bylaw and Chapter 40A of the General Laws in the manner prescribed by the said law and by this Bylaw. (Amended 5 Jun 2021).

**ARTICLE 31:** Voted that the Town authorize and request the Selectboard to petition the General Court of the Commonwealth for Home Rule Legislation to establish a special fund for the Festival of the Hills Receipts for the Town of Conway and further to approve any recommended changes from Senate or House Counsel or senator or local representative, the text of the special legislation is available at the Town Clerk’s office and will be at Town Meeting.

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A SPECIAL FUND FOR THE FESTIVAL OF THE HILLS RECEIPTS FOR THE TOWN OF CONWAY**

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

**SECTION 1. (a)** Notwithstanding section 53 of chapter 44 of the General Laws or any other general or special law to the contrary, the town of Conway may establish a special fund for the deposit of any proceeds from the annual Festival of the Hills, any state, federal or other grants and any local appropriations for such purpose. Interest earned on the fund shall be treated as general fund revenue for the town. Any balance remaining at the end of the fiscal year shall carry over to the next fiscal year and thereafter if not then expended for the purposes set forth in this act.

(b) Proceeds from the fund shall be used at the discretion of the Festival of the Hills Committee of the town of Conway without further appropriation first (1) to pay all expenses for the Festival of the Hills event in the town of Conway; and (2) thereafter a portion or all of the remaining net balance in the fund in any given year may be expended at the discretion of the Festival of the Hills Committee as scholarship grants to graduating high school seniors in the town of Conway to further their education or training provided that no funds received pursuant to local appropriation shall be used for scholarship purposes; and (3) any remaining balance to be used for the purposes set forth above.

**SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect upon its passage.

**Annual Town Meeting, June 1, 2024**

**ARTICLE 32:** Voted that the Town adopt the following General Bylaw establishing a Festival of the Hills Committee for the Town:

**Festival of the Hills Committee Bylaw**

Section 1. There shall be a Festival of the Hills Committee of the Town of Conway consisting of up to seven citizens of the Town. The Selectboard shall appoint members to the committee for terms not to exceed three years, full terms to begin on the first day of July. The original members shall be appointed for terms so as to stagger the terms of office, 3 members to be appointed for a term of three years, 2 members to be appointed for a term of two years, and 2 members to be appointed for a term of one year, thereafter appointments shall be for three year terms. The Festival of the Hills Committee shall elect its own officers. The Committee shall serve without salary. The Committee shall hold scheduled meetings at least once in every two months of the calendar years and more if necessary. A member absent from one third of the meetings in any year of his/her term or for other cause may be removed by a majority vote of the Selectboard after due notice to that member of the impending removal action.

Section 2. In the event of any vacancy in its membership, the Festival of the Hills Committee shall notify the Selectboard in writing, and the Selectboard and Committee shall fill the vacancy pursuant to M.G.L. c. 41, section 11. Such appointee shall serve the remaining portion of the term of the prior member.

Section 3. The Festival of the Hills Committee shall be responsible for planning, organizing and facilitating the Festival of the Hills in the Town of Conway annually. The Committee shall furnish for the Report for each annual Town Meeting a statement of the doings of the Committee for the fiscal year last closed and an accounting of the funds received and expended from the Festival of the Hills special fund for the fiscal year last closed.

Section 4. The Committee shall have authority and control over the Festival of the Hills special fund.

Section 5. A quorum of members will be a majority of the appointed members at the time of any meeting. Each vote taken shall require a quorum and a majority vote of the quorum to be effective.

***Motion carried that the Town amend Article 33 as below.***

**ARTICLE 33:** Voted that the Town authorize and request the Selectboard to petition the General Court of the Commonwealth for Home Rule Legislation to allow any citizens in the Town of Conway, notwithstanding the provisions of M.G.L. 51, Sections 1, and Section 47A, who have reached the age of 16 or older, to register and vote in municipal elections *and town meetings* within the Town.

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At 12:50 p.m., the meeting adjourned until Thursday, June 8, 2023, to the Town Hall between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m., to bring in their votes for various Town Officers as set forth in the town warrant.

A true record of the Meeting,  
Attest:

  
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Laurie L. Lucier, Town Clerk

