

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TOWN OF CONWAY, MA
MINUTES
March 12, 2007

Meeting Open: 7:30

Present: Joe Strzegowski, Christina Conklin, Jack Lochhead, Tom Spiro

Appointments

7:30 Festival of the Hills Committee – Tricia Donovan, Phyllis Jeswald, Kate-Clayton Jones

It was announced that Kate will take over as Chair in May.

The committee wanted to understand its relationship to the town. Jack suggested the issue may be that town activities must be pre-approved at town meeting and that expenses are only allowed in fixed categories. Tricia asked if the festival was a town function or not, and a comparison was made to the Fireman's Association as an independent organization. It was also asked whether a quazi-private group can get support from the town. Questions were raised concerning how to continue the festival with limited volunteers.

The Committee will look at the ball field once the snow has melted to view any remaining damage that may be in need of repair.

8:00 Finance Committee – Roy Cohen, Jim Bowman, Tanya Campbell, Amy-Louise Pfeffer, Bob Stone, John Pitzi

Conway's percentage of operating budget has dropped at Frontier and hence the cost of Conway will only increase approximately \$10,000. The Selectboard suggested that although the town's increase is small, other towns had a huge increase, and that Conway should stand with other towns against a seemingly perpetual 9 percent annual increase. The Finance Committee agreed to look into this, as well as the cost of un-mandated from government.

The Committee asked questions about the Stabilization Fund, free cash and other long range planned expenses. They asked the SB if they supported the creation of a long-term capital improvements budget. The SB was in favor of this proposal with the caveat that the Committee spearhead this effort. They also asked about the use of Chapter 90 monies and the SB explained that it is used for road repair.

The Committee recommended that the SB appoint a Personnel Committee to study salary raises. The Finance Committee wanted to see a 3 ½ percent raise for town employees. They also wanted to review existing stipends and volunteers that currently get no stipend. There was a general lack of consensus concerning how to determine salaries. There was also debate as to whether to present the next warrant with differing salary recommendations at town meeting.

The current draft warrant was reviewed and revised to include some missing figures for Article # 2 and others.

Meeting Items

- § Approved minutes of 3/5/07
- § SB re-signed a legal document releasing some of D. Osterman's land currently in Chapter 61A.
- § Joe signed an electric supply contract between the HCOG and Conway.

Mail and Other Items

- § Warrant as per agenda
- § Other mail items as per agenda

8:15 PM

Motion to adjourn by Christina, 2nd by Jack, all in favor.