

BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
TOWN OF CONWAY, MA  
MINUTES  
January 7, 2008

Mark McClusky, P.E.

**Meeting Open: 7:30**

**Present:** Christina Conklin, Jack Lochhead, Joe Strzegowski, Tom Spiro - AA

**Appointments**

**7:45 Adam Baker** – Temporary hire for road crew: Rick Sumner

The Board asked Adam if he had his CDL and his response was not yet. They agreed to hire him as a part-time employee until there is a permanent decision made on the DPW opening. Adam noted that he had to give his current boss notice right away if they were to hire him. Joe noted that he could be appointed as a conditional full-time employee based on passage of Adam's CDL in a reasonable amount of time. It was agreed that an ad would be run in the newspaper and there would be a decision made by Monday, January 14 at 7:00PM at which point a hire would be made.

**8:00 Finance Committee** – Budget Hearing: Roy Cohen, Jim Bosman, Tanya Campbell, Amy-Louise Pfeffer, John Pitzzi, Bob Stone; Liz Braccia.

Roy submitted a letter from the committee regarding recommendations on establishing a separate personnel committee. Amy-Louise noted that she contacted the FRCOG who told her that there is a consultant from Northeast Employer's Association (NEEA) who is currently under contract and is available to perform work for the town at no charge. The contact with NEEA in Conway is Joe. Joe said that some work had been done with this consultant some years ago but their expertise was limited with regard to municipalities. Joe recommended that we look into how well equipped they are now.

The existence of the Stabilization Fund was unclear to the committee. Joe described that it was more or less a rainy day fund. The balance was stated as currently \$489,126.00. It can be used for anything that necessitates borrowing. There was discussion regarding the Reserve and Capital Planning Fund.

Roy asked for a brief history of the plans for the new town garage. Joe explained that there was a study done 30 years ago that claimed we should have a new garage. The current Garage Committee is the third one. The current committee has developed an RFQ that will go out for bid shortly, but the land for the garage was already purchased and easements were put in place for the access road. Jim asked if, given previous statements, it was possible that the current funding for the initial research for the garage would not be adequate and if there may be another request for additional funding at town meeting.

The ambulance fund was at \$30,000.00 after the expense of a new vehicle.

Joe and Christina brought up the idea of buying the Mallery property and to use it as storage space instead of parking. This was an outgrowth of a Master Plan Committee meeting that occurred recently. The notion of creating a secure space was discussed. Jack noted that the Rose Field was also a possible building site with several possibilities. Jack also talked about housing needs.

Joe asked for recommendations regarding this year's general wage adjustment (formerly known as the cola). Amy-Louise noted that the FRCOG's level for this year will be 3.5%. There was a discussion about this matter and it was determined that the Finance Committee would make its recommendation as to a suitable level of increase shortly.

There was also a discussion regarding school funding. Some comments were made regarding salaries, and cost increases each year. The state is not likely to add funds.

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**Meeting Items**

- approved minutes of 1/2/07
- Ginny's memo was discussed. It was decided that she will be asked as to when, during the next month, painting would be convenient so as not to interfere with elections.
- It was noted that Greg Rose may ask for back rent for his storage space in the Sheep Barn.
- Kendall Clark will not be taking the position of liaison with the Fred G. Wells Trust. This position will revert to Liz Braccia's responsibility after review of the trustees.
- Tom will try to find alternative storage space to the sheep barn on Fournier Road as a precaution in lieu of negotiations with Greg Rose.

**Mail and Other Items**

- warrants signed as per agenda
- other mail items as per agenda

**10:05 PM**

Motion to adjourn by Jack, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Christina, all in favor.