

BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
TOWN OF CONWAY, MA  
MINUTES  
February 25, 2008

**Meeting Open: 7:30**

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

Finance Committee: Jim Bosman, Tanya Campbell, Amy-Louise Pfeffer, Bob Stone

**Appointments** (budget hearings)

**7:30 Council on Aging** – Lois Vight

Lois reported that membership was dropping off due to various reasons. She explained that their grant money was to be used for a periodic foot clinic and bus route. She asked for ideas on improving membership. The COA surveyed residents for ideas and got a very small response. The Council asked for \$500 which was \$300 less than last year. She noted that Pat Lynch was ill and could not be in attendance tonight.

**8:30 Conservation Commission** – Peter Jeswald

Peter noted that the FCCIP wanted all towns to sign off on building permits. The Commission voted to approve that policy for Conway as they felt it was beneficial. This would apply to almost all ground-breaking projects. Peter noted that his new budget had more money for training of new members, more for mowing, but not anything for technical services. Jack said that there would be upcoming expenses from the Land Use Committee with regard to the Rose Field, and the Commission might want to increase this line. The line items were all updated and the total budget request was \$1,650.00.

**9:00 School Committees** – Don Scott, Regina Nash, Cindy Ouimette, Judy Siciliano, Martha Barrett.

Don gave a report on the Grammar School for the proposed FY09 budget. This included costs for personnel, fixed costs, and new accounting software to migrate from Fund Sense. There were no new initiatives. Regina noted that there will be several new staff members and some retirements where openings will not be filled. Don also noted alternative revenue sources. Jim asked about the movement of Teacher's Aides and how that movement reflected on the choice program budget. New choice students accounted for an increase of \$157,000. Don was asked to review the cherry sheet information. Jim asked about the \$2.75 p/gal cost of oil. Don said that the school contracted with the Lower Valley Educational Cooperative, as opposed to Conway where our contract was through the FRCOG.

The Frontier budget was reviewed. The cola was set at a 4% increase, which included an increase in health care cost shares for teachers from 90% to 85% (teacher's cost was now 15%). Don noted that there will be a \$75,000 swing based on Circuit breaker monies. A large increase was due to out of district and summer SPED costs that will be offset partially by grant money. Don noted that Aides would be paid for an additional 7 holidays to compensate for the possibility of unionization. He also went over assessments. It was noted that there will be changes for FY 2010 due to schools such as Mohawk and Turners Falls negotiating their own contracts, which would lead to a different way of budgeting for next year.

Amy- Louise noted that half of the graduating class of the grammar school does not currently attend Frontier.

**General Budget Discussions:**

Jim asked what departments requested a salary increase. They were the police, the transfer station, and the ambulance.

**Meeting Items**

- approved minutes of 2/19/07

BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
TOWN OF CONWAY, MA  
MINUTES  
February 25, 2008

- Christina noted that the Ambulance Department should carry a release form that must be signed to make them responsible for excess costs. This will be passed by the town council for his thoughts.
- There was a brief discussion regarding the Town Accountant and his role in fulfilling his responsibilities with regard to Schedule A and other issues.
- Tom was asked to research the new EMD budget.
- Jack noted that Peter Freisem will submit information regarding potential attendees to a craft fair to be run once a month. This list will be analyzed and a final decision will be made determining the viability of such a fair.
- Tom highlighted the "Munici-bid" program, and noted for possible use in the future to procure used equipment and town vehicles.

**Mail and Other Items**

- other mail items as per agenda

**9:50 PM**

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