

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TOWN OF CONWAY, MA
MINUTES
February 28, 2011

Meeting Open: 7:00PM

Present: Maureen Chase, Jim Moore, Tom Spiro

Finance Committee: Roy Cohen, John O'Rourke, James Cabral

Others present: Kathryn Palmer

Appointments

Budget Hearings:

7:00 School Committee – Don Scott, Regina Nash, Judi Siciliano, Meg Burch, Martha Barrett. Don gave a report on changes to the FY2012 budget for the grammar school. This included salary and operations adjustments. John O'Rourke asked about the availability of federal grant money. Don noted that we had a moderate amount of federal funding including ARRA money and that this money had mostly been used in FY2011. Some efficiency estimates were based on the energy envelope repairs done at the grammar school. Don also said that the number of School Choice students choosing Conway Grammar School would be decreased with 6 graduating this year. No new school choice students have replaced these students as of now. James asked if there were any initiatives promoted by the school that had not been addressed, and Judy said no and that she was confident the school will remain strong.

Don then spoke about the Frontier Regional School. The Frontier School Committee had passed a budget that would require cutting the operating budget. He noted that the operating assessment is based on the state mandate which are based on aggregate wealth analysis or per capita income for each town. This formulation caused Conway to have its assessment raised. There was a discussion about this formula and state revenue. There was a shortfall of \$182,557.00 of which Conway will pay 33%.

8:00 Town Clerk/Registrar/Elections – Virginia Knowlton

Ginny requested level funding for the Board of Registrars. The Elections budget was decreased because there were now less appointed/elected officials and this is not a major election year. The Clerk's budget was increased due to advertising and the dues line because she was becoming a notary public, in coordination with the Treasurer. There was also a 3% salary increase in the budget.

8:30 Fire Department/Building Maintenance – Bob Baker

Bob spoke about the holiday tree account which was level funded. He asked for level funding for the Town Hall and Town Office accounts with the exception of 3% increases for salaries. The Board and Finance Committee agreed that the fuel line items for both would be increased due to the rise and expected continued raising in fuel prices.

The Fireman's building account was increased due to fuel costs. The Fire Department increased due to the cell phone, new and replacement equipment, and fuel costs. The line item for salaries was also increased as there were many additional fire calls over the last year, and a continued increase was possible.

Bob also projected that the Winter Roads account would be short by \$5,900.00 and would likely need to ask for monies to cover the shortfall from the Reserve account.

Additional Accounts – Tom

Tom listed funding levels for operations accounts not yet discussed. Most were level funded, but some increased such as the Veteran's account due to changes made by the state.

meeting items

- Warrants were signed.
- The minutes from 2/22/11 were not reviewed.
- The Board authorized payment to A. Pereira for construction on the Gabion Wall project.

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- The Board re-stating that Beverly Cooper was hired on January 10, 2011 at \$30.00 per hour and that Tom would be paid for accounting work at his base salary for work he performed before Beverly was hired. He would be paid from the accountant's salary line.
- The Board discussed the possibility of hiring Melanson & Heath to audit FY2010. Maureen recommended that the Town hire them again at \$15,000.00 with the caveat that they not charge for anything beyond this amount. Chuck felt that it might be best to go with Tom Scanlon after all, as Kevin Fox had been less than cordial. Chuck told Tom to put out the job to bid and the rest of the Board agreed to this action.
- The Board agreed to allow a daisy to be planted on the Town common but Tom will ask if this could be planted in a flower bed or somewhere that would not endanger the plant from lawn maintenance.
- The Board spoke about Mike Kurkulonis' request for a meeting with him and his lawyer. They agreed that they would hear what he had to say, and possibly see if this issue should go before the Planning Board or Town counsel. Tom was asked to invite Lee Whitcomb to this meeting.
- The Board agreed to create cold storage for old files to be located behind the Town Office building. Chuck will send Tom information on storage units and cost.
- The Board approved a draft RFP to replace the boiler at the Town Hall in conjunction with EECGB money. Tom was asked to change the RFP to reflect that bids will be only for one boiler. The boiler in the Town Office will be replaced at Town cost and will be added to the Town warrant.
- Maureen reviewed the existing issues with CPA fund balances. She explained what had happened and noted that Janet Chayes will be invited back in to discuss this.

Mail and Other Items

- Mail items were reviewed.

11:30 PM Motion to adjourn meeting was made by Maureen, seconded by Chuck, all in favor.