

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TOWN OF CONWAY, MA
MINUTES
July 6, 2009

Meeting Open: 7:00

Present: Maureen Chase, Jack Lochhead, Chuck Trombley, Tom Spiro

Also Present:

Appointments

7:00 *Selectboard adjourns*

7:01 **Planning Board Fenwick Special Permit hearing** – Whitty Sanford, Mike Kurkulonis, Mark Fenwick, Sheila Adams, Laurie Vondung, Kate Moore, Klaus Postler, Sue McFarland.

Mark noted that he will be holding an art opening on July 11 and 12, 2009 at 33 Main Street from Noon to 4:00PM each day. He estimated that he may have approximately 15 people in attendance per hour at the most, but felt that this would not cause any parking problems. Sue noted that there is parking in back of the Town Office. There will be music but at a very low level. The Board was of the opinion that these activities would not cause neighbors any disturbance and granted Mr. Fenwick a Special Permit for this event.

7:15 **Planning Board plot plan review** - Matthew Boyden

Matt noted that his family was going to divide their land, located along Boyden Road, creating a separate 7.187 acre lot section enabling Matt to build a house. The Board reviewed the new plot plan and asked about abutting locations. The lot was laid out with irregularly shaped borders to allow for natural boundaries. The Planning Board approved the new plan.

The Planning Board spoke in general about its duties and the role of a Planning Board. Whitty read guidelines written by the Citizen Planning Committee on this matter. She noted that they suggested that the Board could focus on master planning, zoning, an official map, capital improvements as well as many other items. Whitty felt that it was wise to combine current work from various Town committees under the auspices of the Planning Board for continuity sake. She also felt that the Board could work on educating the community on planning issues. Chuck felt that much of the possible planning tasks that Whitty mentioned were already completed. There was discussion about the duties and responsibilities of the Town Clerk and what information the Town committees had and did not have available to them. Chuck spoke about continuity on Boards, committees and staff positions. Mike thought that the Town may move to a mayoral form of government, and also questioned how the Master Plan Committee had performed so far. Whitty updated everyone on the work of the committee and explained how their work was mainly mandated by the State, and discussed the impending draft master plan. She stated that the Master Plan would be submitted for review as soon as it was formally written and printed. Mike then asked about a joint meeting with the Zoning Board of Appeals, as well as research into re-writing some of the Zoning Bylaws as needed. Mike will draft one change to the zoning Bylaws for the next meeting. Whitty suggested that the Board could spend time reviewing all of the Bylaws over time. Jack noted that the committee could work on the project incorporating Oesco (formerly Orchard Equipment) and the possible re-development of the current Town garage property.

8:10 *Selectboard re-convenes*

8:00 **Bob Baker** – Fire truck purchase

Bob felt that now was the time to post an RFP for a new fire truck to take advantage of the best and current prices. Jack asked if a new truck would be grandfathered in for any new State requirements for equipment. Jack then asked if it might be wise to wait to purchase the truck until any new features out on the market might be desirable. Bob said this was not a consideration. Maureen noted that the CIPC was interested in the current vehicle's viability and were still interested in having it examined by a mechanic. She asked if the tanker had been inspected. Bob reminded the Board that David Potter had originally said that the truck needed replacing. Chuck stated that he felt that the Town had voted for a new truck and there should not be a second thought now as to its purchase. Maureen and Jack explained that the money was appropriated for purchase at a future date and therefore did not have to be purchased immediately. They also wanted the current truck to be looked at for evaluation before a purchase was made., Maureen and Jack felt that the bids could still be posted and it was noted that bids could also be unacceptable or above the amount approved for purchase so far. There was more discussion based on the need to do more research versus no research. It was agreed that there would be more information gathered on the current equipment. The Selectboard asked the Capital

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Improvements Planning Committee to move quickly regarding this research so as not to lose the opportunity to buy a new tanker truck at a good price. Chuck expressed concern about who would make the analysis. He also questioned liability if the inspection recommended the truck could remain in service and the unit suddenly failed. There was more discussion regarding this inspection and the roll of the CIPC should take in this process. Tom will put the specs out to bid during this process and look into finding a garage or on site inspection of the current tanker.

Bob looked into the repair of the backhoe. He found that it would cost \$12,820.00 and could be fixed in 7-10 days. Maureen stated that at the last meeting of the Capital Improvements Committee it had been agreed that repairs in that price range were reasonable if the backhoe would return to service and end the current rental of a backhoe. The repairs were approved by the Board.

Bob requested to hire a blaster again on the Bardwells Ferry Road improvement project. He also made an additional budget request for approximately \$2,000. This would increase his recently approved budget for paving for FY2010. The Board approved these expenses.

There was a discussion about the progress of Weston & Sampson's work on the slope failure on Bardwells Ferry Road. It was said that they would write any easements needed. Jack reported that the camera examination of the current culvert showed the pipe was in good repair for the majority of distance covered with minor damage on the ends of the pipe. This was good news and the Board was happy to hear that. The Town will arrange a 75% hearing and notify the abutters when Jack advises Tom.

meeting items

- meeting minutes for 6/29/09 were approved as amended.
- the warrants were signed.
- Maureen reported that she believed a man was conducting classes on repelling off the bridge at Bardwells Ferry Road. She had seen him with two different groups of people going off the bridge using repelling gear with him stating to her that he was experienced to do this. The Board agreed to post signage making this activity and others not allowed due to the dangers involved and to cover any Town liability if someone should fall. Maureen stated she felt it could turn into a legal matter should someone get hurt as happened at the Shelburne Falls Potholes. Chuck would check with the Town of Deerfield to see who would supply Conway with a sign similar to the one posted at Stillwater bridge. It was also noted that no parking signs are to be posted along the road leading to the bridge.
- Jack asked Maureen if the Board of Health kept septic system records, as he needed information about Bob Van Gelder's system. Maureen noted that there should be a record but that there were some records lost in the 1970s. Jack will check with the Board of Health and Ginny to get information to finish the RDA requested by the Conservation Commission.
- There was discussion regarding paperwork that the Treasurer had requested regarding time sheets from Ambulance Department personnel. This issue had already been resolved.
- The Board decided to notify Joe Strzegowski that he cannot encumber funds from FY2009 as per his request as there were no pending purchases from FY2009.
- The Board approved paying MMA dues for FY2010
- The Board reviewed the minutes from the Finance Committee and the Broadband Committee.
- Tom explained that the DOR suggested that Conway change audit firms to gain a fresh look at its books, and noted that he would continue to research new firms seeing as one firm had already submitted a proposal and presented it.

Mail and Other Items

- other mail items as per agenda

10:10 PM

Motion to adjourn by Maureen, 2nd by Chuck, all in favor.