

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TOWN OF CONWAY, MA
MINUTES
November 9, 2009

Meeting Open: 7:00PM

Present: Maureen Chase, Chuck Trombley, Tom Spiro

Others Present:

Appointments

7:15 Thomas Williams – Emergency preparedness planning

Tom explained that Mr. Williams was invited to speak about emergency preparedness planning for Conway because no definite response on the CEMP update as of yet, and no definite general coordination efforts. Mr. Williams said that Conway was already a step beyond many towns with regard to our response team and planning. Chuck and Maureen noted that there was already a structure of response in place, and Mr. Williams mentioned that possibly more detail could be brought into backup planning with more face to face meetings between all departments that answer emergency situations. There was some discussion about how much longer Joe Strzegowski would continue working as the EMD, because he wants to step down and retire. Bob Baker came in and was given a description of the Emergency Response Coordinator position. He was asked to stay in that position, and he agreed to continue in that capacity. Mr. Williams left the meeting after reminding that he was always available for consultation. Bob stated that he might be willing to volunteer to take the EMD's position as replacement for Joe, and Chuck and Maureen welcomed this possibility. Chuck noted that Mr. Williams stated there may be MEMA money to supplement the stipend for this job. Tom will gather more information about this possible stipend and get back to all.

7:50 Bob Baker – new Highway Department position

Bob suggested that he would like to have someone onboard as his assistant as soon as was possible. Chuck and Maureen stated that the Board understood how the Department needed another person for the snow season but they had every intention to take their time and make sure that the right candidate was chosen. It was repeated that there no longer was a Forman's position and it was also noted that the assistant position did not necessarily mean that if and when Bob resigned or retired that the assistant would automatically move up to Highway Superintendent. All reviewed resumes that had been received. There was some discussion about the applicants and what type of responsibilities would be designated to this position. They agreed to begin interviewing when Jack returned from his trip. The Board spoke about the need to hire someone to snowplow, and Chuck noted his availability to work in this capacity if needed. Tom will call Dennis Patterson to come in for an appointment on November 23rd.

8:30 Tom and Kate Winan – subordination agreement for septic system repair

The Winans came in to speak about getting approval from the Board regarding their request for approval of a new subordination agreement. They noted that their lawyer had previously told them getting approval would be "straight forward". They said that had paid off a home equity mortgage. Maureen noted that the new agreement would move the town up into second place over the previous third position in the previous agreement. Chuck noted that the Board had not previously been given all of the information relevant in this case, and it was now clearer that their request be granted. He also said that he was unclear as to why this loan was granted from the Guilford fund instead of the septic repair loan program, administered by the HRA. It was discussed and because the septic loans were administered outside of town the Board, at that time, felt it prudent to establish its own loan program using the Guilford fund. The Board voted to sign the agreement.

9:00 David Chichester – various

David announced that there were several flu clinics now scheduled around town. There was also a clinic for emergency personnel. The Council on Aging had a 400 percent increase in attendance to their event from the previous year. There was another event for newborn children. These clinics dispensed vaccine for both seasonal and H1N1 flu viruses. There will be future clinics at each elementary school this week. Conway will vaccinate 3rd grade level and down. David spent some time with the school principal and regional director in a coordination attempt. He said he wanted to get the school committee more involved.

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Dave noted that the state is one of a handful that does not have county health departments and the FRCOG has served in that capacity to some degree up until now. He said there had been instances where experienced personnel was not on hand when needed. Dave said that the FRCOG could be utilized through Phoebe Walker's office using a potential new regional program. He explained that the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation had given the FRCOG a grant to create a centralized organization that would supplement some of these needs for healthcare expertise. Dave read excerpts from the FRCOG proposal regarding the needs of local Boards of Health including unfunded mandates. He added that Conway would have to send one Board member to meetings at least six times per year as a representative. He said that the Board of Health had signed a letter of support at their meeting. Maureen asked if it would cost money for the Town, and would the Town be able to withdraw from the program if it was decided that it wasn't working well. Dave noted that it would not cost anything and we could walk away from the program easily if so decided. David asked if the Selectboard would sign and send a letter of support by this Wednesday to Phoebe Walker. The Board agreed. Tom wrote this letter from a sample given to him by David, the Board signed it, and it was given to David to present to Ms. Walker.

meeting items

- Meeting minutes from 11/02/09 were approved as amended.
- There was some discussion about the Winan's request for subordination and what factors had been involved in their decision to approve the request.
- The Board appointed Bob Baker to be the Town's Emergency Response Coordinator for another year.
- Tom gave a report on a new phone system that he proposed replace the current one. The Board approved the new system with the provision that other employees, who use the system, be surveyed to gain their comments, in-pur and agreement with the proposed system.
- A letter announcing an available grant for this purpose was reviewed and it was decided to have Tom research engineering costs for a compact septic system that might be supplemented by grants from the USDA in the future.
- The Board decided that the staff should choose the date for the holiday party.
- The Board approved of the draft budget hearing schedule for FY2010.
- There was some discussion regarding the BFR slope project. There were new drawings and samples from the engineer to be sent with letters to the abutters with the hope that progress could be made with this project.
- The Board discussed possibly suspending Planning Board meetings until after budget hearing season due to the many hours needed for the budgeting process. It will be discussed with at the next planning board meeting.

Mail and Other Items

- other mail items as per agenda

9:55 PM

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