

BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
TOWN OF CONWAY, MA  
MINUTES  
December 7, 2009

**Meeting Open: 7:00PM**

**Present:** Maureen Chase, Jack Lockhead, Chuck Trombley, Tom Spiro

**Others Present:**

**7:01-8:00      Planning Board**

**Appointments**

**8:01    Highway Department opening – Dale Sherman**

Mr. Sherman was asked why he was applying for this position he said he was laid off and to go back to work. He said he left Savoy Highway Department because they were cutting back on personnel and as superintendent he felt it was not reasonable to do so. Chuck asked if he had all of needed licenses as stated in the advertisement as well as any mechanical ability. He answered that he had all licenses and had worked for several employers where he did mechanical and welding work. He can no longer do engine or transmission overhauls because of onboard computer systems. Chuck said that it was important to understand truck mechanics especially during an emergency. He mentioned that Bob may retire soon and that there was a need to train someone so that he could be replaced. This training would mostly revolve around Bob's administrative work. Mr. Sherman said he had experience with applying for Chapter 90 monies. He said he had been working at least an hour a day on FEMA paperwork and other similar matters. Bob asked how much advanced notice he needed to show up for storms. Mr. Sherman noted that in the past he was always on the road before his boss had notified him to come in. He was on his own to come in. Bob asked if someone would be home available to verify that he was coming in and he said yes. Mr. Sherman said that he had gone through the same issues when he worked in Savoy and he was always there early. He spoke about scheduling for snow storms and how he had arranged coverage for this. It was stated that he was physically capable of performing this job. Chuck said that he admired that he was not concerned with being paid for each hour. He gave an example where Conway employees had expected has extra money for what was, in fact part of their job. Chuck explained that the foreman's position was the only budgeted monies available until the next fiscal year, which left \$18.81 per hour available for the new position this fiscal year. He was asked what he expected for a salary. He stated \$20.00 per hour would be reasonable. Mr. Sherman mentioned that he had another interview on Thursday but would he be available to Conway should he not take that position.

Bob was asked if he felt Mr. Sherman was a good candidate and Bob he said he felt he was well qualified for the position but said he was concerned on the distance factor should a major storm developed. Tom offered to call references but Bob said that he would do that.

**8:30    Elizabeth Braccia – unbudgeted school payments**

Elizabeth noted that there was a family with one child who was attending Smith Vocational that moved to Conway after budgets were in place for the current fiscal year. This student's tuition was \$13,365.00 and was now Conway's responsibility. She suggested that the reserve fund be used for the first two quarterly payments and to put the rest on the Town Warrant. She explained that the student normally would have been placed in Franklin Tech but after much consideration it was decided the student would be better at Smith Vocational School based on the student's needs and similar tuition costs to those of Franklin Technical School. The parents agreed to provide the necessary transportation to Smith. The Selectboard asked if it might be possible to ask if Smith Vocational might accept one quarter payment now, to be taken from the reserve fund, and to wait until the balance would be approved at the annual Conway Town Meeting. Tom will call to ask Smith if this would be an acceptable arrangement.

Elizabeth asked for a memo to be sent to department heads regarding fiscal responsibility while creating FY2011 budgets. However, the Board decided that would be discussed with the Finance Committee next week.

There was more discussion regarding borrowing for the school roof. Elizabeth had done research on the impact of borrowing money and what options there were. She asked Unibank for their

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recommendations. As a result she has scheduled the newly established annual audit for just after Town Meeting. Jack gave a short history of how the school had been designed and spoke of input by Peter Jeswald and Walter Goodrich. He said that their recommendations were not heeded regarding insulation, and how the school building committee had hired a poor clerk of the works who may not have done a good job. He said that this illustrated why this and future major maintenance projects for the school should not be left just to the School Committee but should be a joint cooperation including at least the Selectboard. He noted that state law said that the School Committee's fiscal responsibility did not extend to capital projects and therefore the Selectboard could and should have input on large projects. There was more discussion about greater input on approvals for these projects. Jack also said that any input given on the school roof project had to be done fast to keep construction on schedule. There was discussion about how to gain access to the process without stalling the project, and how the previous repair work was done. The Selectboard agreed that the key was hiring a good clerk of the works and keeping a close watch over the works. Jack said that there was a need to have someone look at the report given by the chosen engineer and determine if it was a good plan. Jack will check with Town Council on what our options were in terms of how much input the Selectboard should have. Jack also brought up the idea of future thinking with regard to durable and efficient construction.

**meeting items**

- Meeting minutes from 11/30/09 were approved as amended.
- Jack noted that his logging project had created the need to fix the road where the trucks had been. He suggested that a land owner be charged for any repairs to public roads. He said that the Board could create a policy towards this. Chuck said that because this was an unimproved road and as such, Jack's suggestion could not be followed.
- Jack signed the pesticide application form.
- Chuck noted that he had reviewed the decorations at the Town Hall and that they should stay in place for the holidays. The Board agreed.
- There was discussion about committee membership on residents and non-residents. There was discussion about examples of how this helped and hurt committees. The Board voted to allow only residents and full-time workers to become voting members on Town committees. Tom suggested that a new Bylaw should be written and the Board agreed. This item will go on the Town warrant.
- The FRCOG survey was discussed. It was decided that the survey would not be filled out based on the lack of interest for many reasons, mainly inconvenience during weather problems, of sharing Town equipment.
- Tom gave an update on the Bardwells Ferry Road project. He noted that only 1 of the 4 abutters had signed the release form that would allow work to begin. It was agreed that Tom would draft a letter to the rest of the abutters to alert them of a deadline to respond.

**Mail and Other Items**

- other mail items as per agenda

**9:55 PM**

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