

Minutes
CONWAY SELECT BOARD
Town Office, 32 Main Street
August 24, 2015, 7:00 p.m.

Select Board members present: John O'Rourke, Chair; Jim Moore, Clerk; Robert Baker

Others present: Liz Jacobson-Carroll, Assistant to the TA; John Prosperi, FCAT; Ron Sweet, Highway Department

Minutes

Robert Baker asked that the SB members be referred to by their full names, not simply their last names, in future minutes, as a matter of respect. John O'Rourke referred the matter to Tom Hutcheson and Liz Jacobson-Carroll.

- **On a motion from John O'Rourke, seconded by Jim Moore, to accept the minutes of August 10, 2015, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

Warrants

- **On a motion from John O'Rourke, seconded by Jim Moore, to sign the vendor warrant for \$70,265.20, the payroll warrant for \$70,649.62, and the payroll deduction warrant for \$18,064.41, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

Meetings Attended by Select Board Members

None.

Citizens' Concerns

None.

Old Business

- *Review and signing of permit applications (Natural Heritage and DEP) for the South River restoration project*
The applications were not received; the item was tabled.
- *Highway Department*
 - *Truck trade-in plan*
John O'Rourke read a message from Capital Investment Planning Committee member Tom Pleasant requesting that the Select Board postpone the discussion until the CIPC has had a chance to complete a full assessment of the department's equipment. John O'Rourke tabled the discussion, indicating that he will ask Tom Hutcheson to determine whether the CIPC can complete their assessment in time for Ron Sweet to prepare for winter; if they are able to do so, the Select Board will wait for their recommendations.
 - *Chapter 90 request for Main Poland Road*
Ron Sweet explained his plan to do a full-depth reclamation, to add 12 inches of gravel, and to lay down 2.5 inches of hot mix asphalt for slightly less than \$140,000 – then cap it within the next 2-4 years.
 - **On a motion from John O'Rourke, seconded by Jim Moore, to approve the request for Chapter 90 funds for work on Main Poland Road, the vote was unanimous in favor.**In response to a question from Robert Baker, Ron Sweet reported that well over \$400,000 remains in Chapter 90 funds.
 - *Chapter 90 request for North Poland Road*
Ron Sweet explained his plan to do a full-depth reclamation and to add 2.5 inches of hot mix asphalt to a section of the road between Bridge 2 and Bridge 3.
 - **On a motion from John O'Rourke, seconded by Jim Moore, to approve the request for Chapter 90 funds for work on North Poland Road, the vote was unanimous in favor.**In response to a question from Robert Baker, Ron Sweet indicated that he will work with the accountant to resolve confusion resulting from past changes in sub-account numbers that were not adequately conveyed to the Select Board.

New Business

- *Sign letter of recognition to Police Officer David Johnson, who has served for 10 years*
 - **On a motion from John O'Rourke, seconded by Jim Moore, to sign a letter of recognition to Police Officer David Johnson for 10 years of service, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

Items Not Anticipated 48 Hours in Advance of the Meeting

- *Appointment of Ronald Hawkes to the Broadband Committee*
Recalling that Mr. Hawkes had previously been a member of the committee, John O'Rourke expressed his appreciation for Ronald Hawkes' expertise.
 - **On a motion from John O'Rourke, seconded by Jim Moore, to appoint Ronald Hawkes to the Broadband Committee, the vote was unanimous in favor.**
- *Sign letter of support for Ashfield's application for a MassWorks Infrastructure Grant to improve community recreation fields and repair the Ashfield Lake dam*
Select Board members acknowledged their awareness of the potential detriment to Conway of a failure of the Ashfield Lake dam.
 - **On a motion from John O'Rourke, seconded by Jim Moore, to sign a letter of support for Ashfield's application for a MassWorks Infrastructure Grant, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

Town Administrator Update (in the absence of Town Administrator Hutcheson, O'Rourke presented the Update)

- *Committees and Boards*
 - Because all of the original bids we received were higher than expected, the Energy Committee is re-working its scope of work for the Town Hall air sealing and insulation project, and will be working with DOER and our engineer to have a biddable plan by this fall.
 - Following a Town Meeting vote to add the position, the Planning Board has appointed Andrew Jaffe as Associate Member.
- *Departments*
 - The Select Board has been asked to consider signing a memorandum of agreement with the Franklin Regional Transit Authority for transportation services in case of emergency. Town Administrator Hutcheson forwarded the agreement to our Emergency Management Director, who generally approves, but who has, as does the Town Administrator, problems with the insurance section. The Town Administrator says that our insurer, MIIA, is looking it over, and cautions us against waiving any rights; FRTA is asking that all activities be covered under the Town's insurance. MIIA will have further feedback soon. We will also consult Town Counsel.
 - Town Administrator Hutcheson will be meeting sometime soon (probably in late September or early October) with Paul Dunphy, staff for Representative Kulik, and someone from MassDOT, along with our Highway Superintendent, regarding a timeline and funding for replacing the bridge on North Poland Road – an important project.
 - The Town Office should have a reliable fax line soon. This may seem like a small item, but it has apparently been unreliable for several years, and the Town Administrator has been working on it actively for several months. He has an order with Verizon to provide us fax service to the same number on a non-VOIP line, which was finally identified as the cause of random errors.
 - As part of the annual renewal with MIIA, the Town Administrator was asked to provide valuations on Town properties. They were not up to date, so he asked our assessor to provide the values for the properties. These came in well over the values MIIA had, so he has let MIIA know, and they will provide their own valuation, which he assumes will come in over the current amount, which seems to have been carried over for some time without revaluation. If MIIA's recommendation is to raise the coverage, and if the fee increase is not substantial, Hutcheson will ask for a reserve fund transfer. If it is substantial, and would result in a substantial fee increase, we might consider a supplemental appropriation.
- *Other*
 - Bill Storti from Weston and Sampson, the engineer now in charge of the ball field project, should be attending the Conservation Commission meeting Tuesday, August 25, for a final sign-off on the conservation aspects of the work done. If anyone wants to speak with him, that would be a good opportunity. Selectman Baker expressed an interest in doing so.
 - Following up on an earlier item, there are currently two bills regarding funding for out-of-district technical school students; one is quite narrow, and filed in the Senate, the other is a broad House bill setting up a study commission on a number of areas.

Concerns of the Selectmen

- Jim Moore expressed his continuing concern regarding the proposed pipeline as well as his disappointment in the failure of our representatives to state and federal agencies to affect the matter about which “we the people” feel so strongly He has reminded a couple of them that approximately 60 percent of residents of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts do not want the pipeline to be constructed. He is hopeful that the thousands of existing leaks in the pipeline will be repaired in order to conserve gas and prevent possible catastrophes.

Mail

- Christina Lankarge sent a thank you note for the Mark and Mildred Boice Germain Scholarship, which she will be using to further her studies at Westfield State University. Selectman Baker expressed his appreciation for the note.
- The Franklin County Selectmen’s Association sent an announcement regarding their next quarterly meeting on Thursday, September 17, 2015 at the Polish-American Club in South Deerfield beginning with a social at 5:30 PM. Chairman O’Rourke and Selectman Moore are planning to attend.
- TGP/Kinder Morgan sent an August 2015 Northeast Energy Direct Newsletter, which Selectman Moore will read.

Announcements

None.

Documents and Other Exhibits Used at the Meeting

- Letter to HED Secretary Jay Ash in support of Ashfield’s application for a MassWorks Infrastructure Grant
- Chapter 90 Project request forms pertaining to Main Poland Road and North Poland Road

Next Meeting

- *Scheduled for **Tuesday, September 8, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Office, 32 Main Street***

On a motion from John O’Rourke, seconded by Jim Moore, to adjourn the meeting at 7:26 p.m., the vote was unanimous in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Moore