

Minutes  
CONWAY SELECTBOARD  
Town Office, 32 Main Street  
Monday, November 16, 2015 7:00 p.m.

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

Others present: Tom Hutcheson, Town Administrator; Liz Jacobson-Carroll, Assistant to the TA; Lacey Arnold, Ben Tillona, FCAT; Michael Kurkulonis; Peter Martin.

*Minutes*

- **On a motion from John O'Rourke to accept the minutes of November 2, 2015, seconded by Jim Moore, the vote was unanimous in favor.** Both noted the professionalism of minutes recorded by Liz Jacobson-Carroll.

*Warrants*

- **On a motion from John O'Rourke to sign the vendor warrant for \$123,685.55, the payroll warrant for \$99,581.05, and the payroll deduction warrant for \$26,056.92, seconded by Jim Moore, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

*Meetings Attended by Selectboard Members*

Jim Moore attended the FRTA meeting last week, noting that most of the discussion pertained to fares and routes. The standard fares will be \$1.25; for seniors, veterans and students it will be \$0.60.) It is possible for a bus to serve Conway as part of its route including Buckland and Shelburne.

*Citizens' Concerns*

None.

*Old Business*

*FY 2017 Budget*

Hutcheson reported he sent a memo regarding the timeline, along with capital request forms, to departments and committees. He will soon send budget worksheets, which will include figures from the 3 past years in addition to the current fiscal year. He noted Liz Jacobson-Carroll is creating a related spreadsheet to include figures back to fiscal year 2011 or 2012; going forward, documentation will be stronger. Hutcheson's budget document will be more complete this year than last year, based on training sponsored by the Mass Association of Regional Planning Agencies which he attended recently. He has been in touch with the Finance Committee regarding the work ahead; they are aware that they need to appoint a chair promptly.

*New Business*

*Proposal for Town participation in regional sports*

Mike Kurkulonis proposed that the Town oversee youth sports in Conway by appointing a head of youth sports and coordinators for soccer, basketball and baseball; he volunteered to manage the latter through the Cal Ripkin program, with which he is already involved. He noted having investigated the possibility of creating a non-profit organization to run the program, but believes that is prohibitively complicated. He said that the Town of Whately, among others small towns in the area, oversees youth programs in the manner he is proposing. Discussion included reference to the lack of a successor to the former self-appointed director Patrick Falla, and the inadvisability of a program run by a private individual. Tom Hutcheson explained that the Town would require volunteers and coaches to go through CORI checks and training so as to avoid claims of negligence and liability. John O'Rourke mentioned having spoken with Jonathan Edwards of Whately at the Franklin County Selectmen's Association regarding the possibility of regional organization of youth sports. Select Board members agreed that if the Town takes on the coordination, it should do so through a sub-committee of the Parks, Recreation and Trails Committee. John O'Rourke and Tom Hutcheson will investigate the structure of programs in Whately, Sunderland and Deerfield; establishing a structure will precede the recruiting of coaches. Mike Kurkulonis re-iterated that he is not asking the Town to fund youth sports, but to provide an organizational vehicle.

*Liquor license renewals: Conway Inn, Sunset Trail Package Store*

- **On a motion from John O'Rourke to approve requests for liquor license renewals for the Conway Inn and the Sunset Trail Package Store, seconded by Jim Moore, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

*Energy Committee proposal to join Solarize Massachusetts*

Peter Martin proposed that Conway join with the towns of Shelburne and Colrain to apply for participation in the Clean Energy Center's (CEC) "Solarize Mass" program. He noted that CEC has changed its rules since the last time the Energy Committee considered this program and chose not to participate; now it gives the Town much more autonomy in choosing a solar provider. Citing bureaucratic hurdles and the expiration of federal tax incentives (30%) in December 2016, he stressed the importance of prompt action. He explained that participation in the CEC program could bring up to \$5000 in grant funds to Town; \$1000 of this would be used to pay a "solarize coach," while the remaining \$4000 would be used to promote the program to residents. The Energy Committee would appoint the coach (Brice Hereford) and manage the marketing, he said, but the Select Board would issue the RFP and contract with the solar provider, perhaps with the assistance of Town Counsel. In return for the Town's efforts in marketing the program, the solar provider would offer a 20% discount on the purchase/install price to homeowners (separate from, but in addition to the 30% tax federal credit.) The Town would not incur any expenses by participating in the program. While the Energy Committee is busy with 3 other significant projects and hesitated before deciding to pursue the program, members determined that it would be unfair to residents to deny them possible participation, he said, and mentioned the success of the program currently underway in Plainfield, Ashfield and Buckland (despite that group's lack of authority to choose a provider.) Peter Martin also mentioned the success of the program in Amherst, noting that they contracted with a local provider. John O'Rourke stated that he sees no downside to participation in the program, despite the perception of competition for participation with the Energy Committee's Community Solar project.

- **The Conway Selectboard, contingent upon approval of the Conway Energy Committee, endorses the Energy Committee's efforts to forge a partnership with local towns (currently Shelburne and Colrain) to apply collectively to the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center to become a "Solarize Mass Partnership."**

*Items Not Anticipated 48 Hours in Advance of the Meeting*      None.

*Town Administrator Update  
Committees and Boards*

- There seems to be some dissension within the Agricultural Commission, which seems to center on the previously proposed Right-to-Farm by-law. As you recalled, that was tabled at the last Town Meeting due to concerns raised by Will Cote. Will was subsequently invited on to the Commission, and there may be some irreconcilable views. I've asked that they be dealt with within the Ag Commission as far as possible, but will keep you apprised if that becomes too difficult. I am distributing some e-mails to let you know about some of the factors, though there isn't much discussion of substantive topics.
- Lee Whitcomb notes that a lease for a cell tower off Boyden Road on land owned by Dean Rankin (not a Conway resident) was recorded at the Registry of Deeds. The land is under Chapter 61. Joe Strzegowski has pointed out that there is also a Planning Board process in place for dealing with cell towers, and Lee and I are planning to convene a meeting of various committee chairs to review the facts and see whether we might initiate some communication to make sure due process is observed. The proposed location is approximately halfway between the town center and the grammar school.

*Other*

- We are getting closer to being ready to submit a proposal for a Community Compact. At this point, with the loss of the chair of the Capital Improvement Planning Committee, I believe we might well include creating and instituting a capital planning process in our proposal, along with cyber-security and determining some GIS best practices for the Town. We want to make sure that we get it right at the beginning; it is worth some extra planning.
- I would like to present a proposal for a web-based, graphic presentation of Conway finances, from ClearGov.com, on the next agenda. We have a very attractive offer on the table, but would need perhaps \$1,500 to move it forward, which could come from the Reserve Fund if the Finance Committee approves. It would be possible to meet with the founder of the operation, if you like, though perhaps a simpler

introduction would be sufficient. I will distribute some materials well in advance of the meeting. . [Hutcheson directed those present to a prototype for all of the cities and town in MA, noting that Conway would save money by getting in early. He explained that the organization would get Conway data directly from the DOR, and that users would be able to drill down for detailed information; taxpayers, for example, could see a breakdown of how their payments are being spent. O'Rourke said that he was impressed by a presentation of Arlington finances using a similar system, and supported the idea of using reserve funds.]

- As a heads up, for the next agenda I'll have landowner agreement letters regarding the South River project for the Select Board to consider and sign, and there will be a presentation by Chris Gray from Ashfield on downtown wireless internet service. Gray wants to compete with Comcast for business from Conway residents, and will propose putting a transmitter on top of Town Hall in order to do so. [In response to a question from John O'Rourke, he indicated that if Gray is interested in using the fiber cabling in Town, he would have to negotiate that MBI, which owns the cabling.]

#### *Concerns of the Selectmen*

Bob Baker reported that Dana Goodfield has arranged an auction with Dillon Chevrolet, and will accompany Ron, to auction the old Highway Department truck.

#### *Mail*

- Copies of 11/16/15 email messages between Agricultural Commission members Tami Borton and Will Cote
- Email from Tom Fydenkevez, Sunderland Select Board member, regarding his appointment as municipal representative to the Frontier School Committee bargaining committee. [O'Rourke expressed his support for the appointment.]
- An announcement about an event to raise funds for the effort to stop the construction of the NED pipeline. [Jim Moore may attend.]
- Copy of letter from FRCOG to the Ashfield Select Board in response to Ashfield's withdrawal from the Regional Pipeline Advisory Committee
- 11/8/15 Letter from Tom Pleasant in which he resigns from Conway's Zoning Board, Capital Planning Committee, 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee, and Emergency Management Committee
- Letter from Mediation & Training Collaborative regarding seminar on Managing Conflict on Town Boards, co-sponsored by FRCOG, on Wednesday, 11/18/15, 7-9:00 p.m. at Olver Transit Center, Greenfield. [John O'Rourke will try to attend.]

#### *Announcements*

None.

#### *Documents and Other Exhibits Used at the Meeting*

- A proposal for Conway to join, along with Shelburne and Colrain, Clean Energy Center's Solarize Mass program

#### *Next Meeting*

- *Scheduled for Monday, November 30, 2015 at 7:59 p.m. at the Town Office, 32 Main Street*
- *On a motion from John O'Rourke, seconded by Jim Moore, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Moore