

Minutes
CONWAY SELECTBOARD
Town Office, 32 Main Street
April 4, 2016, 7:00 p.m.

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; Dana Goodfield, Capital Improvement Planning Committee

Minutes

- **On a motion from John O'Rourke to accept the minutes of March 14, 2016, seconded by Jim Moore, the vote was unanimous in favor.**
- **On a motion from John O'Rourke to accept the minutes of March 21, 2016, seconded by Jim Moore, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

Warrants

- **On a motion from John O'Rourke to sign the vendor warrant for \$17,496.57, the payroll warrant for \$98,595.72, and the payroll deduction warrant for \$25,816.45, seconded by Jim Moore, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

Meetings Attended by Selectboard Members

- Jim Moore and John O'Rourke attended meeting Franklin County Selectmen's Association; Sec. Ash, Rep. Kulik, Linda Dunfee attended. Discussion included issues pertaining to broadband and charter schools, but the answers did not satisfy many of those that were there. Sec. Ash's comments resembled a campaign speech.
- Jim Moore attended a DPU pipeline hearing, along with other residents, and DPU's approval of eminent domain.
- Jim Moore and Bob Baker attended a meeting Tuesday night in Ashfield about the South River and a corridor management plan, sponsored by the Franklin Regional Council of Governments. With the plan completed, the FRCOG is trying to find money for future projects to more fully implement the plan.

Citizens' Concerns

Robert Baker noted that drivers going to 89 High Meadow Drive are going instead to Steve Snyder at 85/87 Whately Road to deliver oil. He requested that the Selectmen ask Mr. Goldsher to put up a sign for 89 High Meadow Drive. Tom Hutcheson will draft a letter to Mr. Goldsher.

Old Business

- *Final approval of warrant for the May 9, 2016 annual Town Meeting; sign warrant*
Articles 3 and 4: Dana Goodfield reported on negotiations which he and the Fire Chief held with the manufacturer of the pumper. He described the confusion regarding the earlier mis-quote, which was the dealer's price, then described the additional features that come along with the additional cost. He has not been unable to get adequate information on leasing a pumper, but believes the Town should consider this option further, given the high price of the pumper. The vehicle is more than a fire truck; it is more of an emergency response vehicle, and that this will have to be conveyed to residents to justify the pricetag of over \$400,000. If townspeople approve everything on the warrant, their taxes will go up \$2 per thousand; people should know that beforehand. Robert Baker recused himself from deliberations on the matter. Dana Goodfield described two potential discounts (totaling almost \$14,000) available to the Town if it uses particular payment methods – a prepay discount and a return on interest of the cost of the chassis by paying for it when placing the order. Is the Town is better off borrowing the money, or using capital stabilization funds; how much interest is the capital stabilization account earning, he asked? Tom Hutcheson will get that information from Treasurer Jan Warner. Dana Goodfield noted the Town would save an additional \$4800 by paying the whole cost up front, though the simplest thing would be to pay for half of it. Tom Hutcheson noted the Town would save almost \$5k more by paying the entire amount.
 - **On a motion from John O'Rourke to accept Article 3, borrowing to pay a portion of the cost, seconded by Jim Moore, the vote was 2-0-1, with Robert Baker recusing himself.**
 - **On a motion from John O'Rourke to accept Article 4, transferring \$285,000 from Capital Stabilization Fund to cover a portion of the cost, seconded by Jim Moore, the vote was 2-0-1, with Robert Baker recusing himself.**

- **On a motion from John O'Rourke to sign a warrant for annual town meeting as presented, seconded by Jim Moore, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

New Business

- *Sign employee recognition letter for Daniel Blakeslee, Fire Department, 5 years*
 - **On a motion from John O'Rourke to sign an employee recognition letter for Daniel Blakeslee (5 years in the Fire Department), seconded by Jim Moore, the vote was unanimous in favor.**
- *Set date for pole petition hearing*
 - **On a motion from John O'Rourke, in accordance with the advice from the Town Administrator, to set a pole petition hearing for April 18th, seconded by Jim Moore, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

Items Not Anticipated 48 Hours in Advance of the Meeting

None.

Town Administrator Update

- **Committees:** The META request for proposals was successful, but the principals have started a new firm and will re-submit under the new name. We will give the original company, Co-op Power, the opportunity to re-submit also. We can't accept it as is. [Robert Baker asked whether both companies should re-bid in order to give both companies a fair shot. John O'Rourke asked Tom Hutcheson to get an opinion from Town Counsel.]
- **Departments**
 - We have received word that the Town is slated to receive \$268,146 in Chapter 90 money.
 - At the request of Dana Goodfield, and others from past years, I have put together a sheet outlining Town expenses and taxes. Please let me know any suggestions for improving it.
 - Jim Moore, Robert Baker, and I met with FCTS Superintendent Richard Martin on Wednesday, March 30. Jim and I toured the town with Brian Kuzmeskus, focusing on the FCTS bus routes, and met with Robert Baker afterwards. [The Superintendent was surprised to see the difficulty of the roads.]
- **Other**
 - I received word from The Conway School of Landscape Design is continuing its move to Easthampton. They are unsure whether they will maintain ownership of their current property, but have promised to stay in touch. [Robert Baker described a similar conversation he had with Molly Babize, a member of the CSLD staff.]
 - Peggy Sloan, Director of Planning and Development for the FRCOG, will be in on May 2 to give a presentation on the Woodlands Partnership. [Tom Hutcheson will talk to her regarding a possible change in date, as 5/2/16 is the night of the pre-town meeting.]

Concerns of the Selectmen

Mail

- Rep. Kulik informed the Town of our projected receipt of Chapter 90 money [Discussion turned to issues pertaining to the funding of charter schools and school choice, and the impact on traditional schools educating resident children. Tom Hutcheson pointed out that the state needs to review its charter school financing policies.]

Announcements

None.

Documents and Other Exhibits Used at the Meeting

- Annual Town Meeting Warrant, May 9, 2016 DRAFT
- Quote sheet from Capital Improvement Planning Committee
- **On a motion from John O'Rourke, seconded by Jim Moore, the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.**

Next Meeting: Scheduled for Monday, April 11, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Office, 32 Main Street

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Moore