

Minutes  
CONWAY SELECTBOARD  
Conway Grammar School, Fournier Road  
May 9, 2016, 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; Peter Freisem

*Minutes*

- **On a motion from John O'Rourke to accept the minutes of May 2, 2016, seconded by Jim Moore, the vote was unanimous in favor.**
- **On a motion from John O'Rourke to accept the minutes of May 6, 2016, seconded by Robert Baker, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

*Meetings Attended by Selectboard Members*

- Jim Moore attending a hearing in Boston on legislation pertaining to the pipeline proposal.

*Citizens' Concerns*

None

*Old Business*

- Peter Freisem: continued use of C. S. Boyden trust funds for cemetery work  
Peter Freisem provided an update on his work thus far toward researching, recording and mapping graves in Town-owned and privately owned cemeteries, then indicated that he would like Select Board approval to continue this work with payment for his time (previously paid for with Community Preservation Funds), at \$15/hour, from the C. S. Boyden Trust funds. He described possibility of using ground-penetrating radar, courtesy of UMass, to identify empty plots which the Town could sell. Robert Baker encouraged the inclusion of burial plots on family land in the project scope, indicated his general support of the project, and asked Freisem to come back to the Select Board with an estimate.
- *Sign contract for botanical inventory of Rose Field (Open Space Committee)*  
John O'Rourke explained that the Select Board had approved the project at an earlier meeting, and need only sign the contract.
  - **On a motion from John O'Rourke to sign the contract for the botanical inventory of Rose Field, as recommended by the Open Space Committee, seconded by Jim Moore, the vote was unanimous in favor.**
- *Final motions for Town Meeting warrant articles*  
Tom Hutcheson reviewed revisions to warrant articles for the Town Meeting immediately following the Select Board meeting, as indicated in "Motions, May 9, 2016," which he handed out. He drew Select Board members' attention to the expansion of the allowable use of funds (previously allocated to assist Conway in resisting the building of the pipeline) in Article 21; to the increase in the Ambulance operating expenses, in Article 12, to allow for the 2% increase in compensation provided to all other Town employees; and to the need for a two-thirds vote of approval for Article 10 to pass. Further, he noted that the Wastewater Committee will make a motion to provide a verbal report, and that Assessor Natalie Whitcomb has just reported a marked increase in revenue due to new growth which will cause a decrease in the tax rate to approximately \$18.61.

*New Business*

None

*Items Not Anticipated 48 Hours in Advance of the Meeting*

- Appoint Susan MacDonald to the Festival of the Hills Committee for a term ending 6/30/16 (correcting previous week's erroneous appointment)
  - **On a motion from John O'Rourke to appoint Susan MacDonald to the Festival of the Hills Committee for a term ending 6/30/16, seconded by Jim Moore, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

- Decisions on Scholarships – tabled, as these were made at a 5/6/16 meeting.

*Town Administrator Update*

- Committees and Boards
  - Regarding Parks and Rec, I've had two requests regarding the ball field: bring the porta-potty down to the field, and have the field rolled to smooth it out (which should probably be an annual process). I'm working on both those items.
  - For the Select Board, I have included in the mail items an invitation to DOR's New Finance Officials Forum, which I mentioned before; registrations must be received by May 23. There is also an e-mail regarding several upcoming FRCOG workshops. I'll see that the new Select Board member gets copies of both.
  - Regarding FRCOG work on the pipeline, they did not receive any proposals for the RFP previously issued, and they have not reissued the RFPs. They have suspended work until they see what happens on May 26<sup>th</sup>.
- Departments
  - The Treasurer has prepared a list of current special revenue accounts from Town Meeting articles. We are reviewing it and updating the status of each account in preparation for requesting that articles whose purpose has been met, but for which there are still funds, be closed out to the general fund. This will help our free cash situation next year, but probably only in a minor way.
  - I have received the Police and Fire IOD agreement with MIIA and am circulating it to Fire and Police for their review; I hope to have it for you to sign soon.

*Concerns of the Selectmen*

None

*Mail*

- Letter from an area resident (and Greenfield police officer) regarding Lieutenant Peramba's exemplary work, as a first responder, to save an individual's life following a recent tree-removal accident in Montague Center
- Letter from the Board of Assessors regarding its vote on 5/5/16 to release \$14,000 from the Overlay Reserve (\$7,800 from 2013, \$6,200 from 2014) to Overlay Surplus.
- Press release from Mass. Bar Association regarding the semi-annual opportunity for residents to receive free legal advice for residents; the Dial-A-Lawyer program will be held on Wednesday, 5/25/16, 4-7 p.m. at 413-782-1659.
- Letter from Eileen Sauvageau, Chair of Board of Selectmen in Colrain, to Governor Baker regarding voters' approval of a bond authorization and a Proposition 2 ½ debt exclusion to provide funding to construct a fiber optic network, and urging the state to start the build out immediately.
- Press release from State regarding Baker-Polito new leadership to for last mile broadband project.
- Letter of thanks from Michael Kurkulonis for hosting the recent Cal Ripken Opening Day festivities in Town.
- Letter from FRCOG Executive Director Linda Dunlavy regarding the imminent distribution of historic bronze Franklin County Courthouse doorknobs to area Historical Societies.
- Email from FRCOG regarding upcoming workshops on marijuana in our communities, Community Development Block Grants, and municipal law basics for Select Boards and town administrators.
- New Officials Finance Forum 2016 Registration Form – 6/1/16 at College of the Holy Cross, Worcester.

*Announcements*

None

*Documents and Other Exhibits Used at the Meeting*

- Motions, May 9, 2016

*Executive Session*

None

**On a motion from John O'Rourke, seconded by Jim Moore, the meeting was adjourned at 6:58 PM.**

*Next Meeting*

- *Scheduled for Monday, May 16, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Office, 32 Main Street.*

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Moore