

Minutes
CONWAY SELECT BOARD
Town Office, 32 Main Street
Monday, June 27, 2016 7:00 p.m.

Selectboard present: John P. O'Rourke, Chair; Robert Baker; Bob Armstrong

Others present: Peggy Sloan, FRCOG; Bob O'Connor, Executive Office of Environmental and Energy Affairs; Wendy Ferris, Franklin Land Trust; Tony Borton; Heidi Flanders and Kate French (250th Anniversary Committee); Brice Hereford (Energy Committee); Dan Thompson, FCAT; Tom Hutcheson, Town Administrator

Minutes

On a motion from John O'Rourke to approve the minutes of June 13, 2016, seconded by Robert Baker, the vote was unanimous in favor.

Warrants

On a motion from John O'Rourke to approve the vendor warrant for FY16 of \$53,749.76; the vendor warrant for FY17 of \$53,910.86; the payroll warrant of \$101,756.76; and the payroll deduction warrant: \$22,433.53, seconded by Robert Baker, the vote was unanimous in favor.

Meetings Attended by Select Board Members

Bob Armstrong reported on a meeting of the Municipal Coalition Against the Pipeline, which is deciding how to proceed now that the Northeast Direct project has been withdrawn; they could broaden their focus to other pipelines. The Board clarified that any Town support of MCAP initiatives would have to come from the Board as a whole.

Citizens' concerns *None.*

Old Business *None.*

New Business

FRCOG: Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership presentation and discussion

Peggy Sloan from the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, Bob O'Connor from the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, and Wendy Ferris from the Franklin Land Trust came in to present the Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership Plan. Peggy Sloan explained the history and development of the plan, and the many public meetings held which helped shape the idea into an innovative project suitable as a model for others, including the formation of an Advisory Committee that did not want Federal ownership of land. The Plan is meant to be implemented mainly through conservation restrictions, though it is recognized this is a burden on municipal budgets, and there is a mechanism for funding assistance. The Framework and Recommendations include a multi-use visitors' center; research and development; marketing; and education. Town can opt in to the Plan, either through a Select Board vote or, if the Select Board wishes, through a Town Meeting vote. Towns with a good deal of land already protected might be more interested in the economic development aspects of the Plan. There is also a draft business plan as an aid to long-term success. The partnership idea is important, especially regarding entities such as the Franklin County Community Development Corporation for managing the proposed revolving loan fund. Special legislation to implement the plan has been developed with Representatives Kulik and Mark, and is being looked at by legislative counsel. Peggy Sloan asked the Select Board to support the legislation via a letter (she will forward a template). Bob O'Connor described the project in more detail and emphasized the ability of Towns to opt in to the project. **On a motion from John O'Rourke to provide a letter of support for the draft legislation, seconded by Robert Baker, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

Emergency Management: Multi-Agency Coordinating Center proposal

Tom Hutcheson presented the basics of the FRCOG proposal to coordinate regional-scale emergency management resources, which would be funded by Homeland Security money through the Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council. Robert Baker noted that this effort was in response to the regional needs seen during Hurricane Irene. John O'Rourke emphasized that his is just a coordinating role; no authority is being granted. **On a motion from John O'Rourke to sign the Memorandum of Understanding, seconded by Robert Baker, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

250th Anniversary Committee

Heidi Flanders and Kate French presented the program so far for the three-day event weekend, June 16-18, 2017, starting with fireworks at 9 p.m. The Rose field, the Zobrio's, and the cemetery would be blocked off with snow fencing. They have met with the Fire Chief and the Police Chief, and will contact all residents within that area. Fireworks will be viewable from Main Street. They are also planning a block party in the center of town and hope to shut down Route 116 between Academy Hill Road and Shelburne Falls Road. An alternate plan is to shut down roads by the Library and Academy Hill Road to the parking lot.

Parking is a major concern, and they suggested parking both behind the salt shed for Grammar School events and on the Rose property for town events Saturday and Sunday (after the fireworks). There were questions about what would have to be done to make parking possible in those locations.

They are planning to present a play on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

Other events include cemetery tours with interpreters; music on the ball field for the entire weekend (though being sure to shut down at a reasonable hour for the neighbors). They are using Pumpkin Hollow for a Civil War re-enactment camp, and the Conway Grammar School for a car, tractor, an engine show on Saturday and Sunday; a "Teamster's Challenge," which is a horse-team obstacle course, an art show at the Historical Society, and highlighting Natural Roots as a working farm.

They will be serving beer from the BBC and four other brewers, and are contacting MassDOT for permission to put a banner across Rt. 116 downtown. They had some liability questions around the parade, the alcohol, and the fireworks. They have a sign they'd like up through September 30th, on the Town Hall and Town Office. **On a motion from John O'Rourke to permit the 250th Anniversary Committee to hang a banner from the Town Hall and Town Office, seconded by Robert Baker, the vote was unanimous.**

They would like some informational packets sent to Town residents, and thought that something might be included in the tax bill mailing. Tom Hutcheson will check with the Treasurer/Collector about that. They'd also like to have full bathroom capability in the Town Hall, though others expressed that porta-potties should be able to provide for visitors, and that the Town Hall would likely be used just for the art show. They would like the Select Board to be part of the parade; the Board thought that walking would be best. There is a beard-growing contest, with entries accepted until July 9—anyone can enter for a \$10 fee. They are coordinating with the Garden Club for sprucing up downtown, and would like to create a time capsule. They plan to sell memorial bricks for the Memorial Park garden as a fundraiser. They estimate between 6,000 and 8,000 people could attend. They asked how far tent stakes could be driven into the ball field; Tom Hutcheson will work on finding that out.

They presented a letter from the Girl Scouts proposing floral plantings. **On a motion from John O'Rourke to support the proposal from the Girls Scouts for their plantings on the Town Common at Shelburne Falls Road and Route 116, seconded by Robert Baker, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

In response to a request for a one-day liquor license for the Chesbro Challenge, **on a motion from John O'Rourke to grant them a one-day liquor license for beer and wine, seconded by Robert Baker, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

Energy Committee: request to hang Solarize banner on Town Hall

Brice Hereford of the Energy Committee, and Conway Solarize coach, said that residents have till September 30th to sign up to be part of this aggregated program. He would like to hang a banner publicizing the program on the Town Hall, and then move it to the Town Office. **On a motion from John O'Rourke to permit the banner to be hung from the Town Hall, and then from the Town Office, seconded by Robert Baker, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

Sign employee stipend forms

On a motion from John O'Rourke to approve end-of-year employee stipends, seconded by Robert Baker, the vote was unanimous in favor.

Approve revised injured on duty quote

John O'Rourke gave the background on the issue; this is simply a revised proposal based on new information from the Fire Chief. **On a motion from John O'Rourke to approve the revised quote for police and fire injured on duty, seconded by Bob Armstrong, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

Consider Treasurer's request for policy change to bring Town policy into alignment with State law

Tom Hutcheson explained that the Town's personnel policy is based on an old understanding of the law, and that a recent court case regarding a similar policy in Erving, which the town lost, showed the policy to be flawed. **On a motion from Jon O'Rourke to approve the policy in order to bring it into compliance with the law, seconded by Robert Baker, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

Approve participation in regional sign-making program

Tom Hutcheson explained that the FRCOG has procured sign-making equipment and offered member towns a memorandum of agreement to use the equipment. John O'Rourke noted that the equipment is housed in the Greenfield DPW, and will save towns money. **On a motion from John O'Rourke to approve the Town's joining the regional sign-making program, seconded by Robert Baker, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

Recognition of past Select Board member, town resident

On a motion from John O'Rourke to approve modest expenses related to the recognition of a past Select Board member and a Town resident, seconded by Robert Baker, the vote was unanimous in favor.

Appointments

On a motion from John O'Rourke to make the following appointments, seconded by Bob Armstrong, the vote was unanimous in favor.

- Regional through June 30, 2017: FCCIP Representative: Tom Hutcheson; Sign-Making Program Advisory Council Representative: Ron Sweet; Franklin County Emergency Dispatch Representative: Robert Baker, Ken Ouimette, Gemma Vanderheld
- Staff through June 30, 2017: Animal Control Officer: Joseph Colucci; Board of Assessors Clerk: Laura Dove; Board of Registrars: Virginia Knowlton; Election Worker: Winona Corse, Debra Craven, Phylis Dacey, Lora Hanas, Dorothee Harris, Danielle Lochhead, John Lochhead, Sydney Ramey, Katherine Whitcomb, Natalie Whitcomb; Custodian: Debra Craven; Highway Department: Superintendent: Ronald Sweet, Laborer: Bradley Wallace, Truck Driver/Laborer: Adam Baker, Jason Stone, Nicholas Sweet, Truck Driver/Laborer/Substitute: Randall Williams; Transfer Station Attendant: James Allyn, Leland Gray, Paul Lloyd, Leroy Rose, James Wakefield; Assistant to the Town Administrator: Elizabeth Jacobson-Carroll; Treasurer/Collector: Jan Warner; Assistant Treasurer/Collector: Lynn Kane; Veterans' Grave Officer: Leroy Rose
- Public Safety Staff through June 30, 2017:
 - Ambulance Department: Director: Gemma Vanderheld, Assistant Director: Christopher Herrmann, Clerk: Jesse Sobek-Rosnick, EMT: Robert Armstrong, Adam Baker, Robert Benson, Conan Pelc, Jesse Sobek-Rosnick, Alexandra Williams, Randall Williams;
 - Emergency Management Director: David Chichester; Enhanced 911 Coordinator: Robert Baker;
 - Fire Department: Chief: Robert Baker, Captain: Christopher Herrmann and Matt Boyden, Deputy Chief: Adam Baker, Deputy Chief and Deputy Warden: Ronald Hawkes; Lieutenant: Joseph Peramba; Clerk: Laura Dove; Firefighter: Robert Armstrong, Helen Baker, Daniel Blakeslee, Howard Boyden, Willis Burnett, Collin Burt, John Conant II, Debra Craven, Doug Deane, Amanda Dunnell, Christine Lankarge, Conan Pelc, Thomas Romanovicz, Stephen Scala, Jesse Sobek-Rosnick, Matthew Sweet, Gemma Vanderheld, Nickolaus Vanderheld; Junior Firefighter: Trevor Beaudet, Alexis Deane, Dakota Deane, Michael O'Connell, Brooke Romanovicz, Fisher Talbot-Hills, Olivia Vecellio
 - Police Department: Chief: Ken Ouimette; Reserve Officers: Donald Bates, James Bernier, Christina Conklin, Ronald Hawkes, Nathan Jackman, David Johnson, Charles Wilder, Randall Williams

Items Not Anticipated 48 Hours In Advance of the Meeting

John O'Rourke noted the resignation of Historical Commission member Mary Merrian, and at the unanimous request of the Historical Commission, **John O'Rourke moved, and Robert Baker seconded, the appointment of Willis Burnett as a Historical Commission member; the vote was unanimous in favor.**

Town Administrator update

I'm sure you've noted the new desk arrangement in this office. The ell-shaped desk that was here is now Ron's, upstairs, and his desk is being readied for double duty for the Emergency Management Director and the Highway clerk. Regarding the Highway clerk, a notice will be included in the upcoming Visitor, and we hope to have several applicants.

Roy Cohen has been working with Dave Chichester on a revised web portal for signing up for emergency notifications, which is now on the web site and functioning.

It looks as though we will not need to make any end-of-year transfers between departments. Nonetheless, please note that we have until July 15 to correct any deficiencies in Departmental budgets, including one more round of FY16 invoices (on July 11).

We have all gotten an e-mail from Janet Chayes of the Open Space Committee: “You are all cordially invited to tour the invasive plants on the Rose Field with us this Wed at 6 pm. Specifically we’re concerned about the areas outside the flood plain site. And will be making recommendations (which will surely cost some town/grant monies). It would be really helpful if you can come SEE what we’ll be talking more about!”

Concerns of the Selectmen

Robert Baked asked Tom Hutcheson to get the three bushes trimmed surrounding the large conifer in the triangle in front of the Library. Tom Hutcheson will contact the Garden Club.

Mail

A letter from MassDOT notes that since the western part of the Mass. Turnpike is not in satisfactory condition, tolls will remain in place.

Announcements

There will be a meeting of the Franklin County Selectman’s Association this coming Thursday, covering roads and bridges.

Next Meeting

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

On a motion at 8:36 p.m. from John O’Rourke to adjourn, seconded by Robert Baker, the vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Baker, Clerk