

*Minutes*  
CONWAY SELECT BOARD  
Town Office, 32 Main Street  
Monday, August 8, 2016 7:00 p.m.

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Select Board present: John O'Rourke (chair); Robert Baker, Bob Armstrong

Others present: Diane Jensen-Olszewski; James Olszewski; Rebecca Stone; Gary Fentin, Tom Hutcheson

John O'Rourke called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

*Minutes*

**On a motion from Robert Baker to approve the minutes of July 25, 2016, seconded by Bob Armstrong, the vote was two to nothing, with John O'Rourke abstaining.**

*Warrants*

**On a motion from John O'Rourke to approve the vendor warrant of \$39,862.86, the payroll warrant of \$98,621.22, and the payroll deduction warrant of \$26,056.67, seconded by Robert Baker, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

*Meetings Attended by Select Board Members*

Robert Baker and Tom Hutcheson attended a meeting with Joe Strzegowski (Planning Board) and Pixie Holbrook (Housing Committee) regarding some parcels of land near the town center that are coming onto the market, with a fair amount of acreage. Tom Hutcheson noted that the best use for the property would probably be for housing.

Bob Armstrong, Robert Baker, and Tom Hutcheson attended a meeting the Planning Board held to being coordinating the land needs of various interests in town, including the Highway Department, the public safety services, the Housing Committee, the Energy Committee, and the Wastewater Committee.

*Citizens' concerns*

None.

*Old Business*

On a motion from John O'Rourke to appoint Melissa Patterson to the Open Space Committee to 6/30/17, seconded by Robert Baker, the vote was unanimous in favor. She was unable to attend this evening; Tom Hutcheson will invite her to the Select Board meeting on Monday, August 22 to introduce herself.

*New Business*

*Presentation: Diane Jensen-Olszewski on the Save Our Public Schools initiative*

Diane Jensen-Olszewski introduced herself and said she is working for the Massachusetts Teachers' Association, and has been a special education teacher. She explained ballot question #2, to increase the cap on the number of charter schools, and argued against it. Cities and towns are losing \$413 million per year to charter schools, with no accountability from those schools for their decisions. There is a broad coalition for keeping the cap. She asked the Select Board to sign a resolution opposing the cap based on four arguments: the amount of money being lost; the lack of local control over the geographic placement of new charter schools; the number of students who would be leaving public schools; and the amount of discretion given charter schools that is not given to public schools in accepting students. More information is available at [massteachers.org](http://massteachers.org). John O'Rourke said that the Select Board would bring the matter to a fall Town Meeting if one were held.

*Update from Treasurer on tax delinquencies: tabled.*

*Appointment of Assistant to the Town Administrator*

Rebecca (Becky) Stone introduced herself. Tom Hutcheson presented the situation and process for hiring, noting there were six applicants. Hiring Becky Stone was the unanimous recommendation of the committee, which was made up of Tom Hutcheson, Robert Baker, and Virginia Knowlton. **On a motion from John O'Rourke to appoint Rebecca Stone as Assistant to the Town Administrator until June 30, 2017, with a starting wage of \$15.68, subject to completion of a physical examination, the submission of an I-9 form, and the successful completion of a three-month probationary period, seconded by Robert Baker, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

*Appointment to ZBA: Gary Fentin*

Gary Fentin introduced himself. John O'Rourke noted that the Select Board had received a letter from ZBA member Mark Silverman proposing Gary Fentin as a ZBA member. John O'Rourke noted that he also served on the ZBA and so recused himself from the vote. **On a motion from Robert Baker to appoint Gary Fentin to the Zoning Board of Appeals, seconded by Bob Armstrong, the vote was two to nothing, with John O'Rourke recused.**

*Sign election warrant for the State Primary on Thursday, September 8, 2016*

John O'Rourke read the offices up for election. On a motion from John O'Rourke to sign the warrant, seconded by Robert Baker, the vote was unanimous in favor.

*Consider request from the Town of Shelburne to contribute \$229.16 to Solarize legal fees*

John O'Rourke explained that this will be covered by the Solarize grant to the Energy Committee.

*South River project*

*Update; sign change order for Davenport/ extending non-field work past October 1*

Tom Hutcheson reported that the South River project is moving ahead as planned. Davenport will be installing some erosion-control features, and the Conservation Commission will do a walk-through before construction starts. Davenport anticipates about 30 days of mobilization. Instead of a change order, they prefer a contract amendment, which has still to be received—this will be to extend the date for completed the project paperwork past October 1, when the field work has to be completed, though not extend it so far that the payment of the retainage will be overly delayed. John O'Rourke and Robert Baker agreed that the Select Board could meet before August 22 if necessary to sign the amended contract.

*Approve text for public service announcement to be mailed along with September tax bills*

Tom Hutcheson reported that there were no submissions.

*Employee Recognition: Leland Gray, Transfer Station Attendant, 5 years*

On a motion from John O'Rourke to sign the employee recognition letter, seconded by Robert Baker, the vote was unanimous in favor.

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

None.

*Town Administrator update*

**Committees and Boards**

There is some land for sale in center of town, which the owners would like to offer to the Town first. The Planning Board, in its capacity as the organization sorting out town space needs and functions, has had a preliminary conversation with the owners, along with representatives from public safety services and the Housing Committee. I am getting additional details from the Administrative Assessor and hope to have a presentation for you soon.

**Departments**

FY 2017 free cash has been certified at \$205,332. We will have a tax rate set after an open-book and comment period, we hope by the end of the month.

**Other**

The Farmers' Market is moving to the bank parking lot.

The Franklin Land Trust is sponsoring a bike ride Saturday, August 20<sup>th</sup>, and will be using the ball field as watering station.

*Concerns of the Selectmen*

None.

*Mail*

John O'Rourke noted a mailing by Solarize Conway, and the deadline of September 30 for signing up.

*Announcements*

None.

*Next Meeting*

Scheduled for Monday, August 22, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Office, 32 Main Street

*Executive Session*

**On a motion at 7:55 p.m. from John O'Rourke to go into Executive Session for Reason #2, to conduct negotiating sessions with non-union personnel, then to immediately adjourn from open session, seconded by Robert Baker, Bob Armstrong voted yes, Robert Baker voted yes, and John O'Rourke voted yes.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert Baker, Clerk