

Minutes
CONWAY SELECT BOARD
Town Office, 32 Main Street
Monday, November 28, 2016 7:00 p.m.

Select Board present: John O'Rourke, Chair; Robert Baker; Bob Anderson

Others present: Joe Zinan, FCAT; Tom Hutcheson

Minutes

On a motion from John O'Rourke to approve the minutes of November 21, 2016, seconded by Robert Baker, the vote was unanimous in favor.

Warrants

On a motion from John O'Rourke to approve the vendor warrant of \$82,502.26, the payroll warrant of \$105,833.95, and the payroll deduction warrant of \$26,893.14, seconded by Robert Baker, the vote was unanimous in favor.

Meetings Attended by Select Board Members: None.

Citizens' concerns: None.

Old Business (deferred to after New Business)

New Business

Open Space Committee: request to install bird boxes on the Rose property

Janet Chayes explained the Open Space Committee's program for bird boxes on the Rose property, especially for blue birds, tree swallows, and kestrels, and requested that the Select Board approve their plan. After obtaining assurances that the boxes would not interfere with the agricultural use of the land, **on a motion from John O'Rourke to approve the Open Space Committee plan to put up bird boxes on the Shelburne Falls Road property, seconded by Robert Baker, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

Approve liquor licenses: Conway Inn, Sunset Package

There were no questions on either application. **On a motion from John O'Rourke to approve the liquor licenses for the Conway Inn and Sunset Trail Package Store, seconded by Robert Baker, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

Request from Wired West to withdraw from the cooperative

John O'Rourke asked Bob Armstrong to discuss the background of the matter. Bob Armstrong said that when Governor Baker assumed office, he split the municipal expansion of broadband into two categories: those towns which were partially served by a cable television company, and those that had no service. In August, the state signed a contract with Comcast regarding the partially-served towns (and he expects a map showing the build-out for Conway sometime in December). As a result of this, many towns partially served by cable ceased attending Wired West meetings, which led to a problem reaching quorum. Now, as once before, Wired West is asking the partially served towns to withdraw from membership so that Wired West meetings can more easily reach their required quorums. While he regrets having to withdraw, partly because he named the consortium, he recommended signing the withdrawal form. **On a motion from John O'Rourke to withdraw Town membership from Wired West, seconded by Robert Baker, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

Set date for annual holiday party

Noting that the School Committee meets on Thursday, December 15, the Select Board agreed on Thursday, December 22, from 5-7 p.m., as the time and date for the annual holiday party.

Consider requesting the Planning Board to hold a hearing on a by-law for a moratorium on marijuana shops

Tom Hutcheson reported that he had met with Joe Strzegowski, co-chair of the Planning Board, and recommended that due to the possibility of the Massachusetts Legislature delaying the sale of recreational marijuana, a request to the Planning Board for a hearing on a moratorium—which must be acted on within sixty-five days—should be delayed until the end of the current legislative session. He will place the item on the agenda again when the uncertainties have been resolved.

Old Business (deferred to after New Business)

FY 2018 budget

Tom Hutcheson reported that 16 FY 2018 budget worksheets have been received, about a third of the total. He is planning to substantially raise the Animal Control Officer's stipend, as well as the hourly rate of the Assistant to the Town Administrator, to \$18. The last long-term assistant left for a comparable job at \$22 per hour. Robert Baker asked that copies of the FRCOG FY 2016 salary survey be presented.

Update: Tree Warden; possible appointment

Tom Hutcheson said he had e-mailed Walter Goodridge, let him know the basics of the job, and suggested he get in touch with Ron Sweet, as he would be working most closely with Ron. Tom Hutcheson has not heard back from Walter Goodridge yet.

Items Not Anticipated 48 Hours In Advance of the Meeting: None.

Town Administrator update

Departments

The Treasurer reports progress on the loan for the fire truck; we should know within a week or two.

We've had an uptick in public records requests—one from a builder asking for building inspection records, which we do have copies of, and one for financial data from researchers looking at the decline in state aid across Massachusetts.

After having come in last week, my assistant had a relapse and will be seeing a specialist this week. She regrets her absence and is grateful for the patience we have shown, but she is not in a condition to come back in yet.

I believe we have the FCAT agreement situation sorted out. I believe Doug Finn had been the driver of the original proposal, and of course he is long gone. As you recall, the proposal had included a clause that would have had Comcast's PEG Access money go straight to FCAT; all of the towns said that even if they gave all the money to FCAT, and didn't reserve any for web-based information, they still needed the money to pass through the Town's account first. The proposal stalled, but for some reason the interim Town Administrator in Deerfield picked it up again and circulated a revised copy, which still had some problems, so the current proposal is also stalled, and as we heard, FCAT is not pushing for one, so we can safely leave it for now.

Concerns of the Selectmen: None.

Mail: The Massachusetts Historical Commission has asked for additional information regarding the Town Hall insulation project.

Marshall Field V regrets that he will not be able to attend the Town's celebration.

Announcements: None.

Next Meeting

Scheduled for Monday, December 5 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Office, 32 Main Street.

Executive Session

To be held under Reason # 2, to conduct negotiating sessions with non-union personnel.

On a motion at 7:45 from John O'Rourke to go into executive session under Reason # 2, to conduct negotiating sessions with non-union personnel, and to adjourn directly therefrom, seconded by Bob Armstrong voted yes, Robert Baker voted yes, and John O'Rourke voted yes.