

*Minutes*  
CONWAY SELECT BOARD  
Town Office, 32 Main Street  
Monday, December 12, 2016 7:00 p.m.

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*Select Board Present:* John O'Rourke, Chair; Robert Baker; Robert Armstrong

*Others present:* Brian Kuzmeskus; Pixie Holbrook; Donna Crabtree; Ellen Lamastro; Joe Strzegowski; Mary McClintock; Jack Lochhead; Ruth Parnall; Andy Jaffe; Lynn Manley; Paul Jenkins; Ruth Bowman; Jen Boyden; Jen Self; Joe Zinan (FCAT), Mark Zinan; Tom Hutcheson

*Minutes*

Robert Baker noted an "Anderson" should be an "Armstrong." **On a motion from Bob Armstrong to approve the minutes of December 5 as amended, seconded by Robert Baker, 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 \$69,269.01, the payroll warrant of \$114,763.04, and the payroll deduction warrant of \$29,291.59, seconded by Robert Baker, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

*Meetings Attended by Select Board Members*

Bob Armstrong reported on the Franklin County Selectman's Association quarterly meeting, which covered western Massachusetts the economic situation, including jobs; Berkshire East was the featured guest.

*Citizens' concerns*

Brian Kuzmeskus lodged a complaint against the treatment of the road; he would prefer to see more sand, and no pebbles, and more plowing—the snow continued to fall after the plows went by. He also did not the Town Administrator's observation that the phone call he made was "breaking up," as claimed, as he was calling from a land line. Tom Hutcheson will talk with the Highway Superintendent to confirm the standard protocols for treating the roads in winter, see whether they should be changed, and will communicate back to Brian Kuzmeskus.

*Old Business*

*FY 2018 budget*

Tom Hutcheson reported there was no new information about the budget.

*New Business*

*Appoint Walter Goodridge as Tree Warden*

**On a motion from John O'Rourke to appoint Walter Goodridge to the position of Tree Warden, seconded by Robert Baker, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

*Appoint Jacob Lowell as Highway Laborer*

As Jacob Lowell was unavailable to meet tonight, the vote was postponed.

*Housing Committee: update on proposals for senior housing*

Pixie Holbrook recapitulated the efforts of the Housing committee and brought the Select Board up to their present work. The town-owned land considered earlier did not work out; it would have required \$750,000 in specialized fill, which would have driven the cost of the units too high. She saw the Sheehan property; the house is considered a tear-down. It is currently perked for a three-bedroom house, but would have to perk for 12 (and would need an appraisal and wetlands delineation). They would need to do the test as soon as possible and are looking at funding within the requirements of 44B (Community Preservation) and 30B (Uniform Procurement). If it were purchased, it would then need a developer. There is strong evidence for demand for the units; out of about 300 people surveyed, 97 responded, for a 43% return rate, and 24% were highly interested. Sunderland, Goshen, and Deerfield are all moving ahead. The Housing

Committee is standing by its principle of not using Town funds. They are looking for a general support from the Select Board. The Select Board indicated strong support for their work.

*Proposal to change phone service*

Roy Cohen of Network Advantage presented a plan for phone service. He explained how his service would differ from the current provider's both in service and in price (\$17/mo. per extension, plus FCC fees, versus \$250.75 for ten lines), and described some features that showed how flexible the system would be. **On a motion from John O'Rourke to accept the proposal of Network Advantage, seconded by Robert Baker, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

*Approve Chapter 90 requests:*

*Bridge on North Poland Road: engineering for repair*

*Reclamation and paving on East Guinea Road*

*Milling and paving overlay on South Ashfield Road/Williamsburg Road*

As the paperwork for the items is not ready, the topic was tabled.

*Approve licenses:*

*Baker: common victualer; selling diesel, gasoline and oil products; packaged goods store*

*Vight: Class II and Class III licenses*

*Langevin: used auto; packaged goods store*

*(Others if available)*

A license renewal application from OESCO was received after the agenda was posted.

**On a motion from John O'Rourke to approve the licenses for Baker, seconded by Bob Armstrong, the vote was 2 – 0, with Robert Baker abstaining.**

**On a motion from John O'Rourke to approve licenses for Vight, Langevin, and OESCO, seconded by Bob Armstrong, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

*Massachusetts Municipal Association:*

*Support MMA request to legislators to delay implementation of recreational marijuana law*

Tom Hutcheson explained that the Massachusetts Municipal Association had urged cities and towns to request changes to the law passed as Ballot Question #4., and that he had prepared a letter supporting the MMA's proposals. **On a motion from John O'Rourke to sign the letter, seconded by Robert Baker, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

*Proposed resolutions for the January annual meeting*

Tom Hutcheson explained that the MMA typically requests cities and towns to support various policy statements at its annual meeting. The two this year concern "a strong and enduring fiscal partnership" between the state and municipalities, and a "strong and productive role" for municipalities in promoting "effective planning and land use policies and practices." **On a motion from John O'Rourke to support the resolutions, seconded by Robert Baker, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

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

None.

*Town Administrator update*

**Departments**

Correction: the \$375 mentioned at the last meeting in the FRCOG report for the Animal Control Officer is the whole budget; the stipend is \$300. I am not sure whether this holds true for any other towns; it depends on the reporter.

We are planning to bid for the five-year note for the fire truck on Wednesday Dec. 14, from 8 to 11 a.m. We expect to pay on the order of 2 to 2 ½ percent. The cost of the legal work for borrowing will be about \$1,100, which will be paid for out of the reserve fund.

**FY 2018 Town Meeting**

I have forwarded three capital requests to the Capital Improvement Planning Committee. The first is a second request from me for partial paving for the back of the Town Office, which currently, in my view, constitutes a

safety hazard. There are two from the Highway Superintendent as well—one for \$20,000 for a used hydraulic boom lift for trimming trees and doing higher elevation building projects, and one for \$300,000 for a new grader. The current one has a transmission problem that could cost \$40,000 to replace, and with a good transmission, that would be about the cost of a trade-in.

### **Projects**

I have spoken with Town Counsel about three items in the ball field work that are not satisfactory: 1) the basketball half-courts and tennis court, which still pools water; 2) the soil in the infield of the ball field, which was not suitable for local conditions; and 3) the pitch of the outfield of the ball field, which is pitched in, to the infield, rather than out, resulting in pooled water after rains. He has asked for a copy of the contract, which will probably require arbitration. In any case, he says it will likely be expensive, and will require an expert witness, which we have identified for the ball field problems.

We are almost finished with the South River project. I expect two more invoices: one for work completed, and the other for retainage—both Weston and Sampson and the FRCOG agree that the retainage can be paid.

### *Concerns of the Selectmen*

Robert Baker asked Tom Hutcheson when bands for the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Parade should submit their invoices, as they expect to be paid immediately upon the conclusion of their performance. Tom Hutcheson said getting them a month in advance would allow for them to be paid through our regular warrant process.

*Mail:* None.

*Announcements:* None.

### *Next Meeting*

Scheduled for Monday, December 19 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Office, 32 Main Street.

**On a motion at 7:55 p.m. from John O'Rourke to adjourn, seconded by Robert baker, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

### *Executive Session*

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

Tabled.