

Minutes  
CONWAY SELECTBOARD  
Town Office, 32 Main Street  
March 13, 2017, 6:00 p.m.

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Select Board members present: John O'Rourke, Chair; Robert Baker, Clerk; Bob Armstrong

Others present: Tom Hutcheson, Town Administrator; Lisa Turowsky, Assistant to the TA; Peter Martin, Energy Committee; Sue Bridge, Energy Committee; John Cordes, Resident

John O'Rourke called the meeting to order at 6PM.

*Minutes*

- **On a motion from John O'Rourke to accept the minutes of March 6, 2017, seconded by Robert Baker, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

*Meetings Attended by Selectboard Members*

Board attended BBC fundraiser for tornado relief fund. The Board also attended an After-Action meeting which was held to discuss emergency management procedures; MEMA, DCR, and others were there, and Trish Vinchesi sent a report. Board members also went to Town Caucus. Bob Armstrong attended a Mass Municipal Lawyers Association (MMLA) meeting about marijuana sales. MMLA talked about how to keep marijuana dispensaries out of your town. John O'Rourke went to legislative breakfast in Lenox; got more views on what's going on with state budget and marijuana law.

*Citizens' Concerns*

*None*

*Old Business*

*Climate Change Resolution*

Peter Martin on behalf of the Energy Committee said he would like to see the Climate Change Resolution on the Town Meeting warrant. Robert Baker expressed concerns about the operational cost. The intent of the resolution in support of potential carbon fee and dividend is to reduce individuals' energy costs by charging a fee for fossil fuels at the vendor. However, the scheme could result in vendors charging more. This is an alternative to cap and trade plans that has merit. It's in early stages. The proposed Resolution is non-binding and would simply present Town residents with a chance to express their interest in such an idea.

- **On a motion from John O'Rourke to put the Climate Change Resolution on Town Meeting warrant, seconded by Robert Baker, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

*New Business*

*Request for warrant article concerning a resolution in support of Anti-Corruption Act – John Cordes*

John Cordes, a member of a working group that is addressing money in politics, has brought in a draft resolution modeled on similar resolutions put forth by a group called Represent.us, which seeks to get money out of politics. Their strategy is to get as many Massachusetts towns who have town meeting structure as possible to pass similar non-binding resolutions; getting enough towns will encourage representatives in the state to use citizen support as political leverage. There have been two bills proposed at the state level looking at campaign finance reform. Not all funding would be removed from political campaigns but such legislation would limit sources of financing and increase transparency. It would also be harder for people to work as lobbyists after leaving elected office. Board members would not be voting their personal support for the resolution but merely place setting it for putting it on the warrant. Bob Armstrong asked whether other towns are doing this; John Cordes wasn't aware of other towns in western Mass. John O'Rourke said the basic idea is good one.

- **On a motion from John O'Rourke to put this non-binding campaign finance reform resolution on Town Meeting warrant, seconded by Robert Baker, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

*Old Business (cont'd)*

*Sign change order for Town Hall insulation contract*

Goss Construction proposal for interior insulation at Town Hall was discussed. The green energy grant would be used to fund this. The project would put insulation in to get R values up where they should be. Robert Baker questioned whether this project is wasting the taxpayers' money; he believes the cost of doing it may be more than what can be saved. Peter Martin said this is what would bring the building up to code. Green energy proposal covers only insulation of heating, not hot water, pipes. There was a question about whether air sealing would apply to gym walls which are very drafty. Peter Martin will get information about air sealing per Robert Baker's request. Tom Hutcheson reminded the Board that this is a change order to what was already put out to bid and that it passes procurement laws. Energy Committee recommends that the change order be signed.

- **On a motion from John O'Rourke to approve the amendment to original contract for insulation and heating improvements to Town Hall, seconded by Robert Baker, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

*Sign contract for design of solar field*

Contract to develop design criteria for solar farm, went out for bid, and four bids came back. PV2 was the low bid; Energy Committee backs them because they were the low bid, because they're local, and because they have their own engineer. Energy Committee found out FRCOG can do the RFPs. The numbers are all over the place. This contract is solely for the design, so that RFPs can go forward. Only voting to spend metagrant money in the amount of \$1248. Project won't be ready for this town meeting.

- **On a motion from John O'Rourke to approve the agreement with PV2 for \$1248 to give design and specs for community solar field, seconded by Robert Baker, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

*Sign amended contract (extended date) with Community Action to provide Energy Efficient Services*

This is a structural effort to give them money we're already contracted to give them. Tom Hutcheson said we can get an accounting for how they used the money before paying the \$30,000.

- **On a motion from John O'Rourke extending the contract date to allow payment of \$30,000 which was previously contracted, seconded by Robert Baker, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

*FY 2018 Budget and Town Meeting Warrant – Close Warrant*

Notes on Article 2 as presented in draft FY 2018 budget: estimate of \$24,000 in new growth; budget leaves \$30,332 in free cash unspent as hedge against contingencies. On expense side, some errors were made in entering figures for building maintenance wages and highway expenses. Wastewater engineering and design amount of \$1100 will need to be borrowed, it can't come from the Community Preservation funds as previously intended. Total of \$10,300 expenses to be deducted from \$34,332 on the revenue side.

Other spending Articles were discussed, among them, Article 19 placeholder if we need money for tornado-related expenses; Article 23 and 24 which amend two different parts of protective bylaws; Article 25 which relates to allowing senior housing in Conway; then the two resolutions voted tonight. Articles for right-to-farm bylaw text and wastewater engineering study as a borrowing article are still needed.

- **On a motion from John O'Rourke to close the warrant, seconded by Robert Baker, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

*Items Not Anticipated*

None.

*Town Administrator Update*

Lots of emergency-related work; possibility of a sub-regional ICS 100/700 training, if we can get 20 people signed up. I've asked Deerfield, Buckland, and Goshen if they might be interested. I'm thinking of a daytime training so Highway staff could attend. Also, I got in touch with MIIA and the inspector I had not originally heard about from them was indeed one of their adjusters, and is now working on getting a contractor here.

For the next meeting, Lynn Carey will be in at 6 p.m., for a joint meeting with the Finance Committee and Conway Grammar School; she's coming back from a meeting in Eastern Mass. and will have to come back to the area early even for a 6 p.m. meeting. I still have the Select Board meeting at 5:30 p.m., and there are a few items to cover before 6 p.m., including an update from the church on progress toward insurance and repair.

There will be an Eversource public officials' dinner March 29: they are looking to include a brief case study of Conway.

Eversource is requesting Town support for rate hike, or at least positive reference—I have the formal request on next week's agenda.

A snow day has been declared for tomorrow. The latest update has the storm swinging a bit further west than before, hitting western and central Massachusetts hardest, instead of central and eastern Mass., and a blizzard warning issued for 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

The Highway Department has advertised for a laborer position; see the listing on both the home page and under "Employment/Volunteer."

*Concerns of the Selectmen*

None.

*Mail*

Public hearings Frontier Regional, rescheduled from March 14 to March 22; Conway Grammar School on March 16;  
Letter from land trust re: self-guided bicycle path;  
Notice from FRCOG about climate change adaptation workshop on March 30;  
Community Action focus group March 30;  
Franklin County CPR (Continuing the Political Revolution) talk on taxes

*Announcements*

None.

*Documents and Other Exhibits Used at the Meeting:*

*Community Action Addendum*

*Conway Design Services Proposal 2.10.17*

*Conway TH CO1 Pricing Rev 4 2-13-17*

*DRAFT FY 2018 Town Warrant 03-10-17*

*Proposal for Anti-Corruption Resolution for Town Meeting; text of draft resolution*

*Proposed Climate Change Res Feb. 23, 2017*

*Next Meeting*

- *Scheduled for Wednesday, March 15 at 5:30 p.m. at the Town Hall, 5 Academy Hill Road*

**On a motion from John O'Rourke, seconded by Robert Baker, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Baker, Clerk