

Minutes
CONWAY SELECT BOARD
Town Office, 32 Main Street
April 10, 2017, 6:00 p.m.

Select Board members present: John Rourke, Robert Baker, Bob Armstrong

Others present: Tom Hutcheson, Town Administrator; Lisa Turowsky, Assistant to the TA; Joe Zinan, FCAT; Ron Sweet, Highway Department; Dana Goodfield, Capital Improvements Planning Committee; Russell French, Capital Improvements Planning Committee; Brian Kuzmeskus, Capital Improvements Planning Committee Cindy Ouimette, Franklin Regional School Committee; Joe Markarian, FRCOG; Peter Wingate, Community Action; Sue Bridge, Energy Committee; Peter Martin, Energy Committee; Ron Sweet, Highway Department; Dana Goodfield, Capital Improvements Planning Committee; Joe Strzegowski, Wastewater Study Committee; Dave Chichester, Wastewater Study Committee; Jim Bosman, Finance Committee; Roy Cohen, Finance Committee; Bob Stone, Finance Committee

John O'Rourke called the meeting to order at 6PM after establishing that only FCAT was recording the meeting.

Minutes

- **On a motion from John O'Rourke to accept the minutes of April 3, 2017, seconded by Robert Baker, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

Meetings Attended by Selectboard Members

Bob Armstrong attended a Housing Committee meeting where potential site for senior housing, behind Conway Grammar School, was discussed; and FCAT Board meeting. John O'Rourke attended the Grand Opening of the Franklin County Justice Center. Robert Baker met with people from Town Hall insulation project.

Citizens' Concerns

None.

Old Business

Community Action report on public-private weatherization program

Peter Wingate read a letter to the Select Board, Town Administrator, and Sue Bridge of the Energy Committee commending the Town for its collaboration with Community Action. The collaboration led to greater energy affordability and home safety to many Town residents. He reminded the Board that there are still federal funds available to assist Conway residents who qualify. He will forward a written report on the three-year project soon.

New Business

Appoint Jeremy ("Jake") Purinton to Laborer position at a starting hourly rate of \$15.00/hr.

Ron Sweet recommended Jake Purinton for the Highway Laborer position. Jake Purinton has snow plowing experience with the Town of Buckland and has his CDL license.

- **On a motion from John O'Rourke to appoint Jeremy Purinton to the Highway Department Laborer position, seconded by Robert Baker, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

Items Not Anticipated 48 Hours in Advance of the Meeting

Schedule meeting with Town Counsel regarding United Congregational Church tornado damage

UCC legal counsel wants to meet with Select Board. A preliminary meeting was scheduled for April 20, 6 p.m. at Town Office with Town Counsel to prepare for that meeting.

Town Administrator Update

Committees

Work is progressing on insulating upstairs. Town Hall will have to be closed tomorrow; we've made arrangements with the Assessors and groups that were slated to meet there.

Departments

Summer hours for the Highway Department will start this week.

The Town Report should be set to go to the printer tomorrow along with the warrant; there will be two inserts, one explaining about the changes in Article 2 and one on the wastewater proposal.

The United States flag at the Veterans' Memorial was in particularly bad shape; I've temporarily fixed it and have ordered a new one.

Town Meeting

Pre-Town Meeting will be Monday, May 1 at 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Concerns of the Selectmen

Robert Baker brought up a request by a resident to clear brush and debris from the former Town Pound in advance of the 250th Anniversary Celebration.

- **On a motion from Robert Baker to permit clearing of former Town Pound, seconded by John O'Rourke, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

Robert Baker noted that the Fire Department is due to receive the new truck soon, probably in May. Tom Hutcheson will notify the Treasurer that delivery is expected soon.

Mail

Tom Hutcheson received notification that the oil spill in a building on Main Street has been cleaned up. Notice was given that helicopters will be flying over Conway as part of transmission line clean-up.

New Business (continued)

Meet Kevin C. Farr, Superintendent, and Michael Cahillane, Chair, Board of Trustees, of Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School

Kevin Farr and Michael Cahillane spoke about the successes of Smith Voc/Ag High School. The school, which has close to 500 students, is the only school west of 495 with a working farm. Kevin Farr noted that agricultural education needs to be accentuated. The school also has a popular Criminal Justice program and courses in building trades. Tuition this year is about \$16,728. Many students go on to college or to Stockbridge upon graduating. Adult Continuing Education in the evenings is also offered.

6:30 JOINT MEETING WITH FINANCE COMMITTEE AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PLANNING COMMITTEE

FY 2018 Town budget and annual Town Meeting warrant:

Review recommendations for Highway Department request for a hydraulic boom

There was discussion of Finance Committee's decision to make no recommendation on Article 9 of the warrant providing for purchase of hydraulic boom lift. Ron Sweet gave a summary of the reasons he has asked for this piece of equipment. In his opinion this method of tree trimming would be safer than what's being done now, and it could also be used for outside building maintenance. Robert Baker expressed concerns about safety of the operators. Dana Goodfield said he thought these questions had already been answered when the Capital Improvements Planning Committee heard from Ron Sweet; they voted unanimously to recommend this piece of equipment. Roy Cohen brought up concerns about liability if an accident should occur; Tom Hutcheson reported that he learned that the cost of workers' comp insurance would not go up if the Town purchased the hydraulic boom lift. Roy Cohen still believed that there would be an increase of insurance rates if an accident occurred. A vote was taken by the Finance Committee.

- **On a motion from Jim Bosman to recommend Article 9 purchase of hydraulic boom lift, seconded by Tom Donovan, the vote was 2 in favor, 2 against.**
- **On a motion from John O'Rourke to recommend Article 9 purchase of hydraulic boom lift, seconded by Bob Armstrong, the vote was 2 in favor, 1 against.**

Review recommendations for Wastewater Committee article

Joe Strzegowski and Dave Chichester voiced their disappointment with the Finance Committee's unanimous vote against Article 3 of the warrant providing for borrowing \$130,000 for design and engineering plan for a wastewater system. Roy Cohen sought to clarify the Finance Committee's position

that they weren't recommending this expenditure at this time because of concerns about the Town's financial straits. Joe Strzegowski detailed efforts to survey households in Conway to find out how many households would be interested in connecting to a wastewater system in the center of town. Joe Strzegowski pointed out that no development can happen in the Town center without a wastewater system. There were questions about whether the system would benefit the whole town. Robert Baker was doubtful that there would be enough households who wanted to connect, so it didn't make sense to tax residents for a design and engineering plan. It was pointed out that the only way to firm up the cost of a system is to spend some money for design and engineering plan.

- **On a motion from Jim Bosman to recommend Article 3, borrowing for design and engineering plan for wastewater system, seconded by Roy Cohen, the vote was 1 in favor, 1 against, 2 abstentions.**

Review articles as necessary

No other Articles were reviewed.

Sign warrant (Select Board)

- **On a motion from John O'Rourke to accept the warrant, seconded by Bob Armstrong, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

Presentation and discussion: draft long-term financial plan – Commonwealth Community project

Joe Markarian presented the Town of Conway FY2018 Financial & Capital Plan (a/k/a Long-Term Financial Plan) that he and Tom Hutcheson have been working on. Joe Markarian said that the budget that Tom Hutcheson has put together reflects the principles of the long-term financial plan, which establishes best practices for municipalities. This long-term financial plan is a "workbook" for the Select Board, Capital Improvements Planning Committee, and Finance Committee to try to do some planning instead of responding to crises. The Select Board and Committees were asked to look through the documents and make comments.

Announcements

None.

Documents and Other Exhibits Used at the Meeting

Town of Conway FY2018 Financial & Capital Plan

Memo re: Jake Purinton

Community Action letter re: energy conservation

Town Meeting Warrant

- *Scheduled for Tuesday, April 18, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Office, 32 Main Street*
- **On a motion from John O'Rourke, seconded by Robert Baker, the meeting was adjourned at 8:07 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Baker, Clerk