

Minutes
CONWAY SELECT BOARD
Town Office, 32 Main Street
Monday, August 7, 2017 6 p.m.

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

Others present: Tom Hutcheson, Town Administrator; Lisa Turowsky, Assistant to the Town Administrator; Alyssa Tan, FCAT; Ron Sweet, Highway Superintendent; Jan Warner, Treasurer; Peter Rosnick, Energy Committee; Linda Baker, representing retired municipal employees; Rev. Candi Ashenden, UCC; Michele Novak, UCC; Lois Vight, UCC, Bill Leno, UCC; Don Allison, Esq., UCC attorney

John O'Rourke, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Minutes

On a motion from John O'Rourke that the Select Board approve the minutes from July 24th, seconded by Bob Armstrong, the vote was unanimous in favor.

Warrants

On a motion from John O'Rourke to approve the FY 2018 vendor warrant of \$310,216.97; the FY 2018 payroll warrant of \$95,152.18; and the FY 2018 payroll deduction warrant of \$24,585.46, seconded by Bob Armstrong, the vote was unanimous in favor.

Meetings Attended by Select Board Members

John O'Rourke attended FRCOG executive session meeting.

Citizens' concerns

None.

Old Business

Garage Committee

Appoint Ken Ouimette, Olivia Wyatt, Ron Sweet, Brice Hereford

John O'Rourke reminded people that all except Brice Hereford have been on this committee before. Brice Hereford may have ideas on how to save money, said Tom Hutcheson. **On a motion from John O'Rourke to appoint Ken Ouimette, Olivia Wyatt, Ron Sweet, and Brice Hereford to the Highway Garage committee, seconded by Bob Armstrong, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

Energy Committee update: municipal solar project progress

Peter Rosnick gave a progress report. The Energy Committee a final report from PV2. A bid would be contingent on funding by Town Meeting. Some unknowns are what is the final cost? The value will fluctuate over 20 years. Also, what form will State incentives take? We'll have a better sense of this in October—probably less support per year over more years, is the current thinking. When Energy and Finance Committee and Planning Board met, some people felt that year-by-year the Town should not show any red, and that savings should be able to pay for the debt service. Earning per Kw hour would be 7 or 8 cents projected, for twice as much time. Going out to bid would give a number to Finance and Capital Improvements Planning Committees. FRCOG would be paid to prepare the bid using META grant. This project is now 385 Kw—PV2 consultant said they're thinking about it differently than last consultant did, focussing on solar capacity to cover the total bill the Town is paying. Array would be behind the school's meter. Much of the value of power would be credits that would go against bill. The Town would own the array. The other issue is right-of-way to Mr. Lisewski's land. It would not be problematic to get the right-of-way agreement before October if a special town meeting has to be held. This project would preclude use of the land nearby for senior housing. It has been pushed back from the school to allow for addition to school and for increased septic, issues that were brought up before.

New Business

Approve MMA contacting Conway Grammar School for poster and essay contest:

The MMA is offering an 8th grade essay, and a 3rd grade poster, contest. **On a motion from John O'Rourke to allow MMA to contact Conway Grammar School regarding the contest, seconded by Bob Armstrong, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

Set date for all-committee meeting:

Dates for the all-committee meeting were discussed. The tentative date is October 2nd.

Town Administrator update

Committees

There are now two slots for the Moderator to fill on the Finance Committee. Both Jim Bosman and Sheila Harrington have resigned. Please let me or our Moderator, Nick Filler, know of anyone who might be interested.

Departments

Thanks to Lisa's good work, we are almost finished implementing the non-criminal disposition procedure approved by Town Meeting. The printing of tickets is in process, using the Franklin County Jail printing facility. That said, I believe the Town needs more nuanced fees. Ultimately, we should have a by-laws committee, but I can get started on proposing some simple codification anyway, which will make it much easier to read the by-laws, and also to revise them.

Also, Lisa is now a notary public, for anyone interested in her services. Congratulations to Lisa, and many thanks for her public-mindedness.

I am finalizing the long-term financial planning spreadsheets with Joe Markarian, one for operating expenses projections and one for revenue projections. There is also a summary sheet with the basic figures and a bottom line. This will be an excellent tool for the Town.

I expect the final report on facility accessibility soon. I understand the priority recommendation to be to make the police department accessible.

I have continued the work done earlier in resolving old special revenue accounts for which we no longer have a purpose. Many of these accounts have very little money in them—the smallest has just 17 cents—but some are more substantial, up to \$13,750, so I am working with the accountant to identify and close out any we no longer need.

We have flagged the land close to the school for cleaning up the tornado damage, and I have notified the abutter, who has a ten-day minimum notification period. I also suggested he might want to avail himself of the logger the Town procures after the Town work is done. This work will be done under emergency deficit spending, and will be put on the FY 2019 tax rate. I am now looking for logging references and hope to start work on or about August 21.

Old Business (cont'd)

Hear report on Hampshire County Group Insurance Trust (HCGIT) vote on new health plan (no vote)

Jan Warner gave a report on HCGIT vote. The long-awaited proposal was made on July 26th. Jan Warner said this won't affect retirees much. No minimum retirement age, just looks at when the employee is vested after 20 years. This evening discussing HMO and PPO plans only, not retirement (MedX) plan. Proposed changes are to bring them to similar co-pays as those under state group plan. HCGIT is also proposing deductible for prescription part. Co-pays are proposed to go up to \$60 for specialists, which could really hurt some people. Drugs would be \$100 deductible/\$200 deductible per family; this does not cover mail-order prescriptions. HCGIT won't know about any changes to premiums until December. There was no other choice presented by HCGIT to the teachers. It was voted 46.88 yes and a little over 28 no. Jan was one of the 'no's' as she felt they didn't have enough information. Three of four towns voted 'no', one voted 'yes.' John O'Rourke asked if there was a typical increase for a typical insured; Jan Warner said no. Joe Shea from HCGIT said he would come out to talk to people if needed. The Select Board will have to hold a meeting to vote on approving the HCGIT proposal. If they don't approve it, the Town will have to search for a different plan, which would probably involve a higher premium. If the Select Board wants to accept the changes and stay with the trust, the Select Board will have now to vote on it. Jan Warner was asked to get numbers for PPO changes; only the HMO changes were available. Keeping no

deduction for medical is huge. The changes would take place July 1, 2018. The rep from Union 38 will be changing; Jan Warner doesn't have a contact yet. The changes are reasonable, so she recommends we stay with the plan. The next step is to vote with the union representative present.

United Congregational Church

Repayment of Community Preservation funds

Donald Allison, the UCC's attorney, said they would turn over two checks totaling \$100,000. John O'Rourke spoke to Jack Fitz-Gibbon about the repayment, who recommended that the Select Board approve the agreement releasing the historic preservation restriction. The checks were turned over.

- **On a motion from John O'Rourke for the Town to sign the release, seconded by Bob Armstrong, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

Items Not Anticipated 48 Hours in Advance of the Meeting

Our accountant, Stacey, has requested that the week of September 4 (Labor Day), the Select Board meet on Wednesday, Sept. 6 rather than Tuesday, Sept. 5, due to other work requirements. John O'Rourke will check that date out, and suggested starting at 5:30pm.

Concerns of the Selectmen: *None.*

Mail:

Copy of agreement with FRCOG inspection program. Comcast licensing notices. Census documents from US Dept. of Commerce. Sen. Hinds acknowledged receipt of Town Meeting resolutions. The next in the FRCOG "essentials" workshop series will be municipal options under the new law legalizing marijuana.

Announcements

None.

Documents and Other Exhibits Used at the Meeting

Vendor, Payroll, and Payroll Deduction Warrants (FY 2018)

Health insurance comparisons by HCGIT

Historic Preservation Release

MMA Grammar School Contact for Contest

Next Meeting

Scheduled for Monday, August 21, 2017 at the Town Office, 32 Main Street.

- **At 6:58pm, on a motion from John O'Rourke to adjourn regular session, Bob Armstrong voted in favor, and John O'Rourke voted in favor.**