

Minutes
SELECT BOARD
Tuesday, April 17, 2018 6:00 p.m.
Town Office, 32 Main Street

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

Others present: Alyssa Tan, FCAT; Tom Hutcheson, Town Administrator; Lisa Turowsky, Assistant to the Town Administrator.

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

Minutes

- **On a motion from John O'Rourke to approve the minutes of Monday April 9, 2018, seconded by Robert Baker, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

Warrants

- **On a motion from John O'Rourke to approve the vendor warrant of \$122,604.27; the payroll warrant of \$104,781.03; and the payroll deduction warrant of \$25,897.09; seconded by Robert Baker, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

Meetings Attended by Select Board Members

Bob Armstrong and Tom Hutcheson went to the resilience workshop with Ashfield which was run by the FRCOG. The meeting was long, but participants still didn't have enough time to do everything they wanted to do. The towns' response to some recent storms was discussed related to South River and Ashfield Lake. When FRCOG produces a plan, Conway will be eligible for some grant funding. Robert Baker met with the maintenance committee at Frontier Regional; see report below. John O'Rourke attended the following meetings: Hampshire Group Insurance Trust meeting (they are going to leave the plan as it is but raising premiums; there were several towns that didn't follow necessary procedure); MMA board meeting (state budget and increased tax revenue were discussed); local government advisory commission meeting with people from DOR etc. (Lt. Gov. talked about how well they're doing with green communities and community compact); FRCOG executive committee meeting (changes in personnel were discussed).

Citizens' concerns

None.

Old Business

Annual Town Meeting warrant - Review warrant motions and funding sources

Tom Hutcheson discussed the warrant motions. Hutcheson pointed out that the general stabilization fund is very healthy. Some items for raise and appropriate are: highway garage stabilization; funding for an administrative assistant for permitting bodies; and support for the flag fund and Christmas tree fund. Some capital stabilization items that were noted: excavator, hydraulic boom lift, and tractor/snow blower. Article 23 (Community Preservation) numbers are still in flux; Hutcheson hasn't gotten the final figure from Lee Whitcomb, but he will hand out an explanation of the difference in the numbers at Town Meeting. An article will be introduced to stop the mailing of the Annual Town Report to all residents, as by next year almost everyone will have internet and can access the report online (there will be an option for hard copies).

New Business

Appoint Sarah Newman to the Board of Registrars

Tabled.

Discussion: H2913, an Act relative to environmental justice and toxics reduction; opportunity to sign letter

The Select Board got a copy of the bill to read. John O'Rourke is basically in agreement with it. Tom Hutcheson will email the link to them if they want to sign it.

- **On a motion from John O'Rourke to approve signing of the bill, seconded by Robert Baker, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

Health care plan change update

Tom Hutcheson stated there will be no change in the plan this year, just a small increase in premiums of around 4%. HCGIT will draw down from their reserve. Mass Teachers Union was questioning how much HCGIT has in reserve.

Item Not Anticipated 48 Hours in Advance of the Meeting

Robert Baker reported that the Frontier renovation committee has put together a proposal with Joe Markarian's assistance and is asking Select Boards and Finance Committees of the member towns to come up with general ideas as to what direction they would like the committee to go. Robert Baker gave the proposal to Tom Hutcheson to distribute to the Finance Committee. Hutcheson will try to schedule a meeting before May 3rd with the Select Board and Finance Committee and will also invite Philip Kantor who's been working on similar issues for Conway Grammar School.

Robert Baker mentioned Greg Rose got an offer for his property for which the Town has the right of first refusal. Once Rose sends in something in writing to start the 90-day period to consider first refusal, the Select Board will hold an executive session to discuss all the details.

Town Administrator update

Committees

Some final air sealing work will be done tomorrow and Thursday on the Town Hall. Once the work is approved by the Building Inspector and the state, this will complete our first Green Communities grant, once the paperwork is done, and we can then apply for competitive grants.

Departments

The oil spill had its final clean-up yesterday, and we should avoid having to pay an extra \$1,500 for going over the 60-day limit mandated by the Department of Environment Protection.

The Town Report is at the printer's, together with the warrant. It will again be sent out in envelopes, as the warrant and Town Report are too large to use sticky tabs. It should be going to the mail house tomorrow, and Lisa is planning to pick them up on Friday for distribution to the three post offices. They should get to people before the pre-Town Meeting, which this year is scheduled for April 30, two weeks prior to Town Meeting.

Town Meeting

Bruce has tentatively set up the Select Board, Moderator, and Finance Committee tables and chairs on the stage to make room for more seats, as there has been at least once standing room only at the annual Town Meeting. The stage is narrow, though, so the tables would have to be angled considerably, and it may not work out. Still, it is better than having to create overflow space—I'm working with Chris Collins to see what it would take to do that. The best case would be to be able to use a classroom, rather than the cafeteria, and I'm checking with the school to see whether that could work.

I have purchased table skirting for the Select Board and Finance Committee tables at Town Meeting.

Concerns of the Selectmen

None.

Mail

The Select Board received an invitation from Darius Modestow to Frontier's graduation on June 1st and 7 p.m. and Class Night on May 30th. Tom Hutcheson will give copies to each of the Select Board members.

Announcements

Bob Armstrong has been working on an aggregation program with local towns through the FRCOG. The bid period ended last week; only one proposal came in, from Colonial.

Next Meeting Scheduled for Monday, April 23, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Office.

At 6:55 p.m., on a motion from John O'Rourke to adjourn, seconded by Robert Baker, the vote was unanimous in favor.