

Minutes
SELECT BOARD
Monday, May 7, 2018 6:00 p.m.
Town Office, 32 Main Street

Select Board members present: Robert Baker; Bob Armstrong

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

Robert Baker called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Minutes

- **On a motion from Robert Baker to approve the minutes of Monday, April 30, 2018, seconded by Bob Armstrong, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

Meetings Attended by Select Board Members

Bob Armstrong attended “pre-town meeting” meeting which was excellent and gave everybody a chance to talk about safe cities resolution. Armstrong went to a meeting at DCU called an “economic summit” where Gov. Charlie Baker and Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito spoke; however, it was not relevant to small/rural towns. Robert Baker also attended pre-town meeting.

Citizens’ concerns

None.

Robert Baker asked about the status of mowing of the town common, the grass is getting high. A new contract is being finalized, according to Tom Hutcheson.

Old Business

Town Meeting items: budget, warrant, motions; discussion of pre-Town Meeting

Tom Hutcheson is thinking of how to get a few more seats into the gym if they’re needed. Good attendance is expected this year. There will be an FCAT video showcasing the 250th Committee. Robert Baker wants a proclamation or official thank-you letter from the Select Board recognizing the 250th Committee; Hutcheson will draft a thank-you letter.

New Business

Revisions to Emergency Procurement Policy

Tom Hutcheson distributed a hand-out with authority for emergency spending being trimmed down so committees don’t have authority for spending. He will add a statement about checking with the Treasurer about cash flow. There will be no further discussion until a meeting when John O’Rourke is present.

Item Not Anticipated 48 Hours in Advance of the Meeting

None.

Town Administrator update

Committees and Boards

The Assessors have been dealing with two property owners regarding the calculation of their taxes. One is a resident, Dr. Roger West, who has put some land into the Chapter 61 program; the Assessors have written him a letter explaining the lag time between having his application accepted and getting the tax benefit. Another, Kurt Peterson, is protesting his 2014 taxes paid on a lot, plus other improvements, based on the determination that the lot was buildable, which it has since been determined is not buildable. The Assessors are scheduled to discuss this at their next meeting.

The Energy Committee has requested an extension for the Municipal Energy Technical Assistance (META) grant. They would like to hire a consultant to see what kinds of opportunities Conway might have with the new state SMART program, the successor to the S-REC-2 solar power subsidy program. The current contract runs out June 30, and it is unlikely we could write and advertise the proposal, and get the analysis completed, in two months.

Departments

I have asked the Ambulance Director whether she would like the Select Board to write a letter of support for a bill allowing an EMT and a first responder to respond to ambulance calls, rather than mandating two EMTs. This has been a concern in rural areas due to the volunteer nature of many rural ambulance services.

The FRCOG is planning a meeting of the towns that use their accountants. As you know, there have been a number of problems getting up to speed with the new accounting software, which was apparently not fully developed when it was offered—a common problem when dealing with software companies, it seems—and the FRCOG will be staying with that software vendor next year (who also supports a very popular program for Treasurers). We seem to be on our way to getting Conway Youth Sports set up with the accounts they need, and are working on the individual Community Preservation accounts.

Concerns of the Selectmen

None.

Mail Tom Hutcheson shared a letter with the Select Board that Walter Goodridge wrote to a resident about a problem with a tree.

Announcements

None.

Next Meeting Scheduled for Thursday, May 10, 2018 at 4:00 p.m. at the Town Office.

Executive Session

Reason Number 6, to consider the purchase of real property, if the chair declares an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the Town's negotiating position.

- **At 6:20 p.m., on a motion from Robert Baker to open Executive Session, to be held under Reason #6, to consider the purchase of real property, if the chair declares an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the Town's negotiating position, Bob Armstrong voted in favor, and Robert Baker voted in favor.**

Adjournment

- **At 6:39 p.m., on a motion from Robert Baker to adjourn from open session, seconded by Bob Armstrong, the vote was unanimous in favor.**