

Minutes
SELECT BOARD
Tuesday, November 13, 2018 5:30 p.m.
Town Office 32 Main Street

Present: Bob Armstrong, Phil Kantor; John O'Rourke, Absent

Also present: Chris Collins, FCAT; Tom Hutcheson, Town Administrator; Lisa Turowsky, Assistant to the Town Administrator

Minutes

October 29, 2018

Corrections by Phil – first paragraph of 10/29 motion to approve minutes 2-0-1; all-committee mtg notes second paragraph on second page, insert statement before last sentence “Kantor requested that a pay-per-bag not be instituted without prior town meeting approval.”

- **On a motion from Kantor to approve the minutes of October 29, 2018 as amended, seconded by Armstrong, the vote was unanimous (2-0) in favor.**

Warrants

On a motion from Kantor to approve the vendor warrant of \$120,582.61, the payroll warrant of \$111,972.06, and the payroll deduction warrant of \$27,502.90, seconded by Armstrong, the vote was unanimous in favor.

Meetings Attended by Select Board Members

Kantor reported he was at three-day DESE conference in conjunction with Mass School Committee Association etc. He learned that state ethics overseers were cracking down on small towns' special town employee designations; if these employees go over 800 hours per year they can't be special town employees. The Administrative Assessor is our main special municipal employee, said Hutcheson.

Armstrong attended the small-town summit in Belchertown to talk about transportation, but it wasn't a very helpful meeting. He went to his first ConComm meeting and attended the Highway Facility Committee meeting on 11/6. Armstrong said Goodridge of the Highway Facility Committee has a lot of good ideas. Armstrong also attended an FCAT meeting and Cable Advisory Committee meeting where they discussed the new FCC rules. Cable Advisory Committee will be meeting again in about two months.

Public Comments *None.*

Old Business

Consultation letter and public review process for electricity aggregation *Tabled.*
Select Board hasn't received the letter from Colonial Power yet so this item was table.

Consider letter opposing expansion of Chinese immersion charter school *Tabled.*
December 3 is the due date for comments. This item will be on the next Select Board agenda.

New Business

Sheep barn: letter from Tom Pleasant *Tabled.*

- **Motion to table by Kantor, seconded by Armstrong.**
Chair of board has requested discussing this in ES.

Licenses:
Costigan
Vight (2)
Maggs
OESCO

- **On a motion from Kantor to approve these licenses, seconded by Armstrong, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

Employee Recognition: Nicholas Sweet

Bob Armstrong

Christina Conklin

Joe Colucci

- **On a motion from Kantor to sign the employee recognition letters, seconded by Armstrong, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

FCC rulemaking: comment development

Chris Collins offered to answer any questions that the Select Board may have about the new FCC rules which deal with the money Comcast and other companies get from cable franchise fees. If this rule goes into effect the cost of those channels can be deducted from the amount that comes in. This would be very harmful to the operations of FCAT and other public access television stations. Collins opined that the only way to stop the FCC rule change is by vote in the US Senate; Ed Markey is going to file an injunction to stop this from happening. Kantor said in this administration they don't even look at comments. He asked who pushed for this. Collins said he heard the rationale is to foster competition between cable companies. This could open up the market for other cable companies to build their own infrastructure. Collins sees it as a way to remove the voice of local people in public access stations. The reality is if funding gets cut, FCAT will have a tough time operating. Some public access stations could lose all their funding. The proposed rules could force the towns to pick up the cost of public access television. The proposed rule change could mean more money for cable companies. This is part of the pattern of deregulation, says Collins.

- **On a motion from Armstrong to approve the comment letter, seconded by Kantor, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

2018 Holiday party date: discuss

Turowsky said that she has contacted Barbara Llamas at the Conway Inn and talked about some dates for the holiday party the week before Christmas. Llamas said the Inn was available on Thursday, December 20th and is now waiting to hear back from Turowsky. The Select Board decided on the 20th from 4:30 to 6:30.

Items Not Anticipated 48 Hours in Advance of the Meeting

None.

Town Administrator update

Committees

The Garage Facility Committee met for a site visit and regular meeting, at which there was a great deal of public comment, and also discussed developing a report regarding the need for a new facility as well as the process to move forward. Their next meeting will be Wednesday, December 5 at 6 p.m. in the Town Hall general purpose room.

The Personnel Committee met and subject to some editing, has recommended a revised version of the employee handbook for your approval. My assistant and I will be making those revisions and bringing it to you as soon as possible. After this we expect to have minor changes on an annual basis.

Two Planning Board members and I interviewed two candidates for Administrative Assistant to boards and committees and will have one to recommend at your next meeting.

Peter Zale has submitted his resignation from the Conservation Commission, and from the Community Preservation Committee, to which he was the Conservation Commission representative. Since he was also chair of the CPC, this leaves quite a hole to be filled. I will contact the CPC and offer to convene a meeting to elect a new chair and assess their membership status.

Departments

There was good coverage in the Recorder for the citizen's academy, though they did not pick up on the change to "Town Academy" as the name Conway will be using. I'll also note that Governor Baker signed the civic education

bill on Thursday, which mandates that each student do a project on civics. I had provided testimony in support of that bill on behalf of the Massachusetts Municipal Management Association, though I also noted that New Hampshire requires high school students to pass a competency assessment of the United States and New Hampshire government and civics, and found it unusual that Massachusetts would let itself fall behind New Hampshire in such education.

The most recent Franklin Regional Planning Board meeting included information on marijuana operations: an ICMA report entitled “Local Impacts of Commercial Cannabis.” Please let me know if you’d like a copy.

I am preparing a budget memo to go out soon; we need final figures for FY 2018 from the accountant plugged in to the budget worksheets.

Select Board Comments *None.*

Mail *None.*

Announcements *None.*

Next Meeting

Monday, November 26, 2018, Town Office, 6:00 p.m.; 6 p.m