

Minutes
SELECT BOARD
Monday, February 11, 2019 6:00 p.m.
JOINT MEETING with the FINANCE COMMITTEE -- 6:30 p.m.
Town Hall, 5 Academy Hill Road

Select Board present: John O'Rourke, chair; Bob Armstrong; Phil Kantor

Others present: John Boschen, FCAT; Ron Sweet, Highway Department; Dana Goodfield, Capital Improvements Planning Committee; Tony Cappabianca, Conservation Commission; Alan Singer, Tom Donovan, Roy Cohen, Finance Committee; 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 O'Rourke to approve the minutes of February 4, 2019, seconded by Armstrong, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

Meetings Attended by Select Board Members

Kantor went to several Frontier budget meetings and a Union 38 negotiating committee meeting.

Public Comments *None*

Old Business

Draft Host Community Agreement for Philip and Leah Bowden

The Select Board will take another week to consider the Bowden's proposal and Hutcheson will ask Town Counsel to review the documents before making their final decision. O'Rourke noted that the proposal was very thorough.

Appointments: correct term expiration for Leah Bowden, Conservation Commission

- **On a motion from O'Rourke to appoint Leah Bowden to the Conservation Commission for a term ending June 30, 2021, seconded by Kantor, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

New Business

Sign caucus warrant

The caucus will take place on March 4 at 8 p.m. in the Town Hall. Select Board asked Hutcheson to do some outreach to improve community awareness of the caucus.

- **On a motion from O'Rourke to approve the warrant, seconded by Kantor, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

John Moore: introduction and review of process re: marijuana community outreach meeting

Moore did not attend the meeting. Select Board asked Hutcheson to follow up with him as necessary.

6:30 JOINT MEETING with the FINANCE COMMITTEE

FY 2020 budget review

Capital requests – Highway, Board of Health, Fire

The Board of Health submitted a capital request for a new trash compactor. The current one is past its useful life. CIPC recommends approval of this request by Select Board.

The Fire Department requested a number of new SCBA units for use on the new fire truck. CIPC recommends that the Select Board approve purchasing six units this year, at a cost of \$55,710 and three or four more next year. Chief Baker agrees with this timeframe.

The Highway Department has five capital requests for the FY2020 budget. CIPC and Highway have not met. The chair and Sweet reviewed the requests with the Select Board:

1. Six-wheel dump truck: this is a replacement for the 21-year-old truck the Highway Dept. currently uses. Sweet doesn't have a firm price or details yet but will have those by Town Meeting;
2. Excavator: this is a replacement for the old excavator. It may be possible to sell the old one and put that money back into capital stabilization fund, or it could be simply traded in. Sweet will know how much he can get on trade-in before Town Meeting;
3. Kaboda tractor: last year \$12,000 was approved by Town Meeting and Sweet is asking for another \$6,000 from free cash to complete the purchase;
4. Compact loader: this piece of equipment is on a five-year replacement schedule; and
5. One-ton pick-up truck: this truck is on a five-year replacement schedule. CIPC will not recommend this purchase to the Select Board as the chair believes Sweet is asking for unnecessary options.

Other Town Meeting and budget business

Some preliminary figures re: the school budget have been discussed at school committee meetings; Kantor will bring more information to the Select Board when it is available. He is skeptical of the state's number of 13 additional Conway students at Frontier next year (from 97 to 110), as projections have been for a slow but steady decline.

Items Not Anticipated 48 Hours in Advance of the Meeting

None

Town Administrator update

Committees and Boards

The Planning Board is requesting legal information from Town Counsel as to the proper method to adopt procedures, rules and fee schedules for the Planning Board, and may have an article for Town Meeting if action there is necessary. They are also in communication with Varsity Wireless, a wireless tower provider to the wireless carrier industry, and have asked Town Counsel for advice on Varsity's status as a provider rather than a carrier, which is what the Town's by-law is based on, and also whether the Planning Board, as the Special Permit Granting Authority, can waive requirements in the by-law (Varsity is requesting a 150-ft. tower, higher than the 120 feet allowed).

The Conservation Commission moved a bit early to appoint two members, as one member who has not been attending is still technically a member until June 30. Bob Armstrong is working with that member to determine the best way to proceed.

Departments

Town Counsel reports that the Town by-law covers bed and breakfast establishments as well as short-term Airbnb's. DOR advises that the rate (as well as the initial acceptance) must be set and accepted by town meeting; the Selectboard cannot unilaterally set the rate. They also confirmed that it would not be proper to set a different rate for a bed-and-breakfast operation than that accepted for a short-term rental (e.g., Airbnb). The question before the Select Board will be to decide whether to move forward in proposing a rate, and if so, what rate.

Colonial Power, the Town's aggregator, reports that Wednesday's public hearing went well; there were no issues or concerns. Their attorney has filed the Town's Return of Service (including proof that they posted and published the public hearing notice). The next step should be for the DPU to issue discovery, or follow-up questions on the Town's plan. Colonial will prepare the answers for those and coordinate responses to the DPU. Then we wait for an official Order; their last 8 DPU Orders took over 6 months from filing to issuance, so that would put us at the end of May. Colonial Power will keep us posted with any developments.

I have received inquiries regarding both a community outreach meeting and a medical marijuana operation. The community outreach meeting, requested by John Moore, is scheduled for Friday, February 22, at the Town Hall.

Since I have not received word from any committee that the Town should exercise its right of first refusal for John Harris' land, I'll put that on the next agenda for a decision.

The one budget item that has changed is the FRCOG line, which will be \$51,992 rather than my estimated \$52,692, or \$700 less. This does not include the BOH's \$8,694 for the Town Nurse.

Select Board Comments *None*

Mail

Copy of complaint to DCR about logging on Cricket Hill
Email from Joe Strzegowski concerning a proposed wireless tower
8th grade essay contest

Announcements *None*

Next Meeting

Tuesday, February 19th, 2019, at the Town Hall, 5 Academy Hill Road, at 6:00 p.m.

- **At 7:20 p.m., on a motion from O'Rourke to adjourn, seconded by Armstrong, the vote was unanimous in favor.**