

Minutes
SELECT BOARD
Monday, July 22, 2019 6:00 p.m.
Town Office, 32 Main Street

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

Others present John Boschen, FCAT; Melissa Allis; Betsy Pawlikowski; Ken Ouimette, Police Chief; Tom Hutcheson, Town Administrator

Minutes

June 24, 2019

- **On a motion from O'Rourke to approve the minutes of June 24, 2019, seconded by Kantor, the vote was two in favor, one abstaining.**

Warrants

On a motion from Armstrong to approve the vendor warrant of \$277,994.06; the payroll warrant of \$99,386.45; the payroll deduction warrant of \$24,661.83; and the Student Activity Fund (FY 2019) warrant of \$2,838.30, seconded by Kantor, the vote was unanimous in favor.

Meetings Attended by Select Board Members None.

Kantor attended the Conway Grammar School Committee meeting; the water tank has been repaired again, which we hope will solve the contamination problems encountered last time. Regarding union negotiations, they are still waiting for a mediation date.

Armstrong attended the Cable Advisory Committee meeting; their counsel is advising against joining with the three other Frontier towns due to uncertainty within the cable industry.

O'Rourke attended the meeting of the MMA's Labor and Personnel Policy Committee; a veterans' services meeting; and a FRCOG Council meeting.

Public Comments

None.

Old Business

Guilford Fund:

Request for additional disbursement: Gary Lisewski requesting funds for electrical work
Tabled.

Melissa Allis requesting funds for dependent medical care

Allis introduced her claim. Since it involves medical care, it was referred to a future executive session for reason number 7, to comply with any general or special law (in this case, HIPAA). She left copies of her materials for the next meeting.

Term correction: Appointment of Denise Storm to Conway Grammar School Committee to May 11, 2020

- **On a motion from O'Rourke to appoint Denise Storm to the Conway Grammar School Committee for a term ending May 11, 2020, seconded by Kantor, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

Kantor asked whether the end date of the appointment could be other than the date of the election to maintain a full complement of school committee members.

New Business

Appointments:

Elizabeth (Betsy) Pawlikowski to the Agricultural Commission, for a term ending June 30, 2022

Pawlikowski introduced herself to the Select Board and the Town.

- **On a motion from O'Rourke to appoint Elizabeth (Betsy) Pawlikowski to the Agricultural Commission for a term ending June 30, 2022, seconded by Armstrong, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

Michael Merritt as Soccer Director, for the FY2020 season

- **On a motion from Kantor to appoint Michael Merritt as Soccer Director, for the FY2020 season, seconded by Armstrong, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

Beth Girshman to Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership Board

- **On a motion from O'Rourke to appoint Beth Girshman to Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership Board for a term ending June 30, 2020, seconded by Kantor, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

Sign contract for procurement work on Town storage barn

Hutcheson noted that a second contract is necessary as there are two distinct projects. The current contract will serve for the maintenance building; this will be for the storage barn.

- **On a motion from O'Rourke to sign the contract for procurement work on the Town storage barn, seconded by Kantor, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

No parking on road at Bardwell's Ferry bridge: signs, towing, and complaints

Patrick Dowd e-mail regarding towing from area where "no parking" signs were missing

Hutcheson reported that the Town had received two communications regarding cars being towed from Bardwells Ferry Road. Chief Ouimette said that a "No Parking" sign had been removed and cars were blocking a lane of traffic. The responding officer offered people a chance to get their cars out; at least one was already on the tow wrecker when the owners came. Eleven cars were towed. Ouimette explained to complainants that the Town does not benefit financially from towing, and no one was cited. The next day, cars were either in the parking lot or off the road at the power lines. Ouimette said that no one can park so that they block a lane.

Approve tax bill insert – publicity for the upcoming Town Academy

Hutcheson presented the publicity notice for the Town Academy. Kantor requested making sure residents knew it was free of charge.

Items not anticipated within 48 hours of the meeting.

Letter to FCC voicing concerns regarding the recent Third Report and Order re: local franchise fees, etc.

Hutcheson noted that there was time pressure regarding this item, as the petition has to be filed by July 25. Kantor requested that the Recorder be notified about the letter.

Town Administrator update

Committee news

The Open Space Committee requested some Highway equipment (a rock sifter) be moved from the "Riverbend Meadow," and Ron has taken care of that. He also plans to spread out the pile of stones and dirt toward Shelburne Falls Road, which should help improve the aesthetics of the entrance to the site.

The Planning Board has requested a joint meeting in late summer or early fall regarding the best way to accomplish access to Planning Board documents currently housed in Town Hall, saying they believe there is value in having historical documents, maps, and files archived in a way in which both the public and Town officials can locate important information. We are also looking at ways of using the space in our vaults most effectively.

Departments

I received a gift of three original plans for the generating station for the Conway Electric Railway Company. I sent them to the Historical Commission, who said that Peter Freisem is interested in getting them copied and scanned when his schedule permits.

Our IT consultant, Lisa, and I are reviewing Town Facebook pages in preparation for a social media policy recommendation for such pages that represent Town departments or committees. The immediate goal is to have all such pages use Town e-mails as their contact information and to have their passwords in case the Town needs

to take any action in the absence of the people who set up the pages. Right now, pages have been set up by individuals and have their personal e-mails and passwords.

We applied this year for two different FEMA grants for Delabarre Avenue work. One, the Pre-Disaster Mitigation grant proposal, has been selected for further review by FEMA, which is a step in the right direction. We have been advised not to proceed with the duplicate Hazard Mitigation grant proposal (which was rejected last year) and so are not planning to move that one forward at this time.

We have received an informal request to consider merging the Fire Departments of Conway and Ashfield. Our Fire Chief supports this proposal. I'm working with them, the Ashfield Town Administrator, and Select Board chairs to try to identify the issues.

Town Meeting

Some items: The Highway Facility Committee is planning to propose funding for the maintenance building. The Town Clerk is planning to propose three articles for the next Town Meeting-- raising some Town Clerk fees, one specifically for dog license fees; and providing non-criminal disposition for the failure to license dogs (really a public health issue, ensuring rabies shots). The Assessors are proposing to change the assessing year to the fiscal year. Any other ideas would be welcome—please let me know of any others. No doubt this will be an agenda item soon.

Select Board Comments

Kantor proposed that regarding the impending “trashocalypse,” any change in the status of the Board of Health regulation regarding pay-per-throw be approved by Town Meeting; that is, that Town Meeting be given the choice of individual increased costs or costs borne by the Town as a whole.

Kantor noted that gifts to the Town should be accompanied by paperwork to obviate the recension of the gift.

Mail

The annual request for MMA membership came, which contains a number of MMA accomplishments. The Iron Bridge dinner is coming in August; reservations are now \$75.

Announcements

None

Executive Session

Under reason #6, to consider the purchase of real property (33 Main Street) if the chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body.

- **At 6:58 p.m., on a motion from O'Rourke to enter executive session, to adjourn immediately therefrom, seconded by Kantor, Kantor voted yes, Armstrong voted yes, and O'Rourke voted yes.**

The meeting returned to open session at 7:30 p.m.

- **At 7:30 p.m., on a motion from O'Rourke to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Armstrong, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

Next Meeting

Monday, August 5, 2019 at the Town Office, 32 Main Street, at 6:00 p.m.