

Minutes
SELECT BOARD
Monday, November 25, 2019 6:00 p.m.
Town Office, 32 Main Street

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

Others present: Mike Kurkulonis, Resident; Ron Sweet, Highway Department; John Boschen, FCAT; Tom Hutcheson, Town Administrator; Lisa Turowsky, Assistant to the Town Administrator

Minutes

November 4, 2019

- **On a motion from O'Rourke to approve the minutes of November 4, 2019, seconded by Armstrong, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

November 12, 2019

- **On a motion from O'Rourke to approve the minutes of November 12, 2019, seconded by Kantor, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

November 18, 2019

- **On a motion from O'Rourke to approve the minutes of November 18, 2019, seconded by Armstrong, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

November 22, 2019

- **On a motion from O'Rourke to approve the minutes of November 22, 2019, seconded by Armstrong, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

Warrants

- **On a motion from O'Rourke to approve the vendor warrant of \$151,420.97; the payroll warrant of \$109,546.42; and the payroll deduction warrant of \$27,588.75, seconded by Armstrong, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

Meetings Attended by Select Board Members

Kantor attended School Committee union negotiations, and the Town Academy on 11/21. Armstrong went to the All-Committee meeting. O'Rourke attended the All-Committee meeting, the MMA Personnel and Fair Labor Policy Committee meeting, a FRCOG personnel meeting, and the Town Academy on 11/21.

Public Comments

None.

Old Business

Special Town Meeting

Report on latest changes

The Select Board met on 11/22 to make some changes to the warrant. Also ballot language was added to schedule a Town election on 12/12 so the Highway Facility Committee could go out to bid as quickly as possible if the warrant article passes at the Special Town Meeting.

New Business

Board of Cemetery Commissioners: approval of family cemetery – Luke Meyer

Meyer brought in a plan for the lot that the Board of Health has approved which he wants to set aside as a family cemetery.

- **On a motion from O'Rourke, based on the Board of Health recommendation, to approve the family cemetery as Luke Meyer has outlined it, seconded by Kantor, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

Possible road work: requests from Mike Kurkulonis

Kurkulonis thinks there needs to be a stop sign at the intersection of Whately and Old Cricket Hill Roads. It's a dangerous intersection, all agree. He wants the stop sign to replace the yield sign that's there. Sweet said there's a possibility that some trees would have to be taken down if a stop sign is placed there. No state permission required, as it's a Town road.

- **On a motion from O'Rourke that Ron Sweet and Ken Ouimette investigate replacing the yield sign on Old Cricket Hill Road going north with a stop sign to improve safety, seconded by Kantor, the vote was unanimous.**

Another concern is Whately Road near where the Hart's gravel road goes downhill. Kurkulonis has noticed difficulties for motorists since the road was regraded. A motorist went off the road there; it was pointed out that she was going over the 40-mph-speed limit and was cited for speeding. Kurkulonis wants approximately 30' of guardrail to be installed there. Sweet doesn't agree that it's necessary to put a guardrail there although he agrees that there is room for a guardrail. The question of whether it would help to have a sign advising people to slow down was raised. Select Board, Sweet and Kurkulonis will take a look at the site at 9 a.m. on 11/27. It was agreed that there will be no deliberation by the Select Board at this site visit.

Kurkulonis also had questions about the electricity survey. He recognizes the Select Board has the authority to aggregate electricity. He is concerned that the price of electricity will increase; he's a business owner who uses a lot of energy. It was stressed that there's an opt-out for people in Town who don't want to participate in the aggregation. The Select Board assured him that they won't vote for something that makes the rates go up. Armstrong explained green options, renewable energy that's being purchased on behalf of the Town's residents. There was some discussion about wood burning; Kurkulonis doesn't object to it.

Approve PILOT agreement with Nexamp for solar facility on Main Poland Road

This is the formal agreement for which the Select Board has already reviewed the terms.

- **On a motion from O'Rourke to approve the formal agreement for Nexamp between Conway Solar LLC and the Town, seconded by Armstrong, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

License renewals: OESCO, Costigan (conditional on renewal of bond), Baker

- **On a motion from O'Rourke to approve OESCO's license to buy/sell used vehicles, seconded by Kantor, the vote was unanimous in favor.**
- **On a motion from O'Rourke to approve Costigan dba J & J Auto's license, seconded by Armstrong, the vote was unanimous in favor, conditional on their receipt of bond.**
- **On a motion from O'Rourke to approve Helen Baker dba Baker's Country Store's common victualer's license and license to sell diesel/oil products, seconded by Kantor, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

Employee Recognition

James Bernier, Reserve Officer; Virginia Knowlton, BOH Clerk; Paul Lloyd, Transfer Station

- **On a motion to sign the employee recognition letters for James Bernier, Virginia Knowlton, and Paul Lloyd, seconded by Kantor, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

Public Comments

None.

Items not anticipated within 48 hours of the meeting

Town Administrator update

Committees, Boards, etc.

As you probably noticed, the surveys for electricity aggregation went out last week; you may have gotten them on Thursday. So far, we have received 80 responses out of 842 letters mailed, for a 9.4% response rate so far, which I consider excellent.

I'm working with Peter Martin, as chair of the Energy Committee, on the annual Green Communities report. UMass's Clean Energy Center no longer has a Green Communities intern, so we're having to enter the data in the Mass Energy Insight system ourselves. There's a deadline of December 4 if we want to apply for any Green Communities grants during the next round, but the Energy Committee seems to have lost some motivation for seeking grants after the community solar project presented logistical problems beyond any local capacity to solve.

Departments

The special Town Meeting warrant is at the copier's and should be sent to the mail house tomorrow; they should be mailed this week, either Wednesday or Friday.

The Town Academy wrapped up with its seventh and final session this past Thursday, featuring the permitting bodies— the Conservation Commission, the Board of Health, the ZBA, and the Planning Board. We maintained an average of about 12 non-presenter attendees for the seven meetings, a larger turnout than I had expected, and received eight evaluation forms, all of which were positive. We gave out 20 of the 24 binders we had prepared, and at least three couples who attended only took one for both individuals, so the estimate of 24 was close. Finally, I'm pleased to say that the Town Academy has produced a volunteer for the Finance Committee and a possible EMT and/or firefighter. Since one of the purposes of the sessions was to stimulate interest in volunteering for Town activities, I'm happy we had some results there as well.

WGBH in Boston requested information on Conway's host community agreements. We are not among those towns being sued, perhaps in part because we have no retailers, but also because we did not ask for more than the law indicated. In other press news, Dominic Poli from the Recorder asked for the special Town Meeting warrant, so I expect a story on that soon as well.

The Highway Superintendent and I met with FEMA and MEMA representatives this past Friday for a site visit to Delabarre Avenue. We also went over various other preparations for finalizing our grant proposal for bank stabilization. The next steps won't be taken till January, but this represents substantially more progress than we've made in the past.

We have concluded our business with the Lisewski grant from the Guilford fund. All construction was completed and inspected, the lien is signed, and we expect to record it in the next couple of days.

Select Board Comments *None.*

Mail *None.*

Announcements

There will be a reading of Dicken's "Christmas Carol" sponsored by the Fireman's Auxiliary at the fire station annex on Friday, December 20th from 6:30 – 8:30 PM. This is free and open to the public. (Donations to the Auxiliary are suggested, but not required.) 15 Conway citizens will read various characters. It is performed as if it's being "broadcast live" in front of a studio audience, complete with sound FX and commercials. Seating is limited and there are no ticket sales.

Executive Session

Under Reason #3, to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining.

- **At 6:45 p.m. on a motion from O'Rourke to enter Executive Session for reason #3, to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining, and adjourn immediately therefrom, Kantor voted yes, Armstrong voted yes, O'Rourke voted yes.**

Returned to open session at 7:10

- **At 7:13 on a motion from O'Rourke to adjourn, seconded by Armstrong, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

Next Meeting

Monday, December 9, 2019 at the Town Office, 32 Main Street, at **6:00 p.m.** (before the Special Town Meeting at 7:30 p.m. at the Conway Grammar School)