

*Minutes*  
**SELECT BOARD**  
*Monday, July 20, 2020, 6:00 p.m.*

*Present:* Bob Armstrong, Phil Kantor, Erica Goleman, Sean Dacus, Ron Sweet, Tom Hutcheson

Chair Bob Armstrong called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

*Minutes*

*July 6, 2020*

Not available yet; tabled.

*Warrants*

**On a motion from Phil Kantor to pay the vendor warrant of \$758,973.02; the payroll warrant of \$83,362.02; and the payroll deduction warrant of \$20,816.82, seconded by Bob Armstrong, the Board voted in favor.**

*Meetings Attended by Select Board Members*

Phil Kantor attended several school meetings, including a negotiating session and a joint, 4-town union 38 meeting. [See below under Old Business for a full report.]

*Public Comments*

*None.*

*Old Business*

*FY 2021 Finances: Report on school union progress and potential state aid loss*

Phil Kantor reported that there is a tentative agreement with Union 38 for this year and the year after, putting that agreement in sync with the other agreements. All unions have essentially the same contract for the next two years, which was the original goal of the Towns and administration. There are procedures and committees for developing a re-opening plan (68 members in all); the meeting had 146 parents and staff, with concerns raised regarding re-opening; a request to be careful before towns ask teachers and students to put their lives on the line, with sharing of personal and family information regarding vulnerabilities. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) is requiring three plans: in school, remote, and a hybrid of the two. If parents have health concerns, they can e-mail the School Nurse, Meg Burch, at [margaret.burch@frsu38.org](mailto:margaret.burch@frsu38.org). The state does not have a final plan, and it is unknown whether local metrics can be used or whether the plan will be one-size-fits-all. If a child is asked to go to school and the parents feel it is unsafe, the parents can keep the child at home. Kantor expressed appreciation for the school staff and faculty working on the plan over the summer. The union has issued a statement, which is on their website; DESE and Mass. Teachers' Association negotiations will have a large impact on us. August 27 is opening day.

*New Business*

*Re-opening: request to use Town field for soccer practice*

Sean Dacus is volunteering to produce practices for older children, is confident he can meet the pandemic requirements of the Mass. Youth Soccer Association (MYSA), and will be getting certified as a safety officer by the MYSA. He has coordinated with Michael Merritt on the Parks and Rec. Committee. He will have about 12 participants, well under the MYSA limit, and is planning to work with Buckland, Shelburne, and Ashfield, rather than Frontier towns. He has checked with the Board of Health, who have not objected to his plan. They will just practice first, with no games till it is appropriate to have them; it will be good to get the participants out and practicing.

**On a motion from Goleman to allow Sean's group to use the Town field for soccer, seconded by Armstrong, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

*Request for Chapter 90 expense authorization*

Ron Sweet presented four proposed Chapter 90 projects to request funding for from MassDOT: Whately Road (\$104,500.00), Main Poland Road (\$88,162.32), North Poland Road (\$70,257.72), and East Guinea Road (\$56,654.40). All of them have been paved over the last four years, and this treatment is designed to finish and preserve them; he is trying a chip seal with rubber in it to avoid some problems he's heard of with other mixes.

**On a motion from Goleman to authorize the requests, seconded by Kantor, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

*Vote to request from the Department of Revenue the use of a preliminary real estate tax bill for Fall, 2020*

Hutcheson noted that subsequent conversations between the Administrative Assessor and the Mass. Department of Revenue have resulted in the opinion that unless there is a problem with valuation, which Conway does not have, we should not request authorization for preliminary tax bills at this time. He believes this is a signal that DOR thinks there will be local aid numbers in time for towns to send regular tax bills.

*Discuss Pledge to Address Systemic Racism*

Hutcheson had forwarded a pledge from a coalition of Boston-area mayors. After some discussion, the Board felt that it was not a good fit for Conway, and that similar proposals are being produced locally that could be considered when they're ready.

*Appoint representatives to the Franklin Regional Council of Governments and its committees and boards*

*Council representative and alternate*

*Cooperative Inspection Service*

*Regional Emergency Planning Committee*

John O'Rourke had been the Council representative for some time, and there had been no alternate. Goleman nominated Kantor for the Council; Armstrong nominated Goleman as alternate and Hutcheson as CIS representative; Hutcheson noted Chief Baker has been the REPC representative and is willing to continue. **On a motion from Armstrong to approve the slate, seconded by Goleman, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

*Items Not Anticipated 48 Hours in Advance of the Meeting*

Hutcheson noted an e-mail from Phoebe Walker at the FRCOG requesting signature on a letter advocating for the public health system, asking the state to "provide sustainable state funding and modern state standards for local public health services," including local boards of health. This would be an individual sign-on.

*Town Administrator update*

### **Committees**

The Board of Health has decided to go forward with the first Friday of the month health clinic. As a reminder, the Council on Aging is now doing foot clinics again as well. On a down note, I've received several complaints about the new transfer station trash sticker system, which the Board of Health and the Treasurer/Collector are addressing.

The Historical Commission has re-appointed Malcolm Corse to be their representative to the Community Preservation Committee.

The new moderator has re-appointed Alan Singer to the Finance Committee, and has also appointed Steve Dinkleaker as the fifth member, bringing that body to its full membership for the first time in several years.

### **Departments**

Lisa was out last week with (non-COVID-19) medical issues and will also be out this week.

Staff are ready to re-open to the public, though maintaining staggered schedules in the Town Office. The current schedule is: Laurie is in Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday mornings till 1 p.m. Jan or Lynn will be there Mondays till 3 and Wednesdays till 2. I will be in Mondays from 3 to 5 or after the Select Board meeting, Tuesdays and Thursdays after 1, and Wednesdays from 2 to 5. Lee and Ginny are fine about the Town Hall schedule. Unless there is a request to have the Select Board deliberate on it, I'd like to open the Town Office building to one person at a time downstairs (due to the narrow hallway) and let Town Hall make their own plan.

I've had a couple of requests for pre-employment physicals for junior firefighters, so it looks as though Chief Baker is continuing his exemplary work with that program.

The Town Clerk has formally notified the Select Board that she has appointed elections officers for one-year terms. They are: Winona Corse, Deb Craven, Phylis Dacey, Dorothe Harris, Margaret Kennedy, Troy Lucier, Katherine Whitcomb, Natalie Whitcomb, and Sydney Ramey.

I understand that a package store is being planned for the old garage across the street from the Town office. I have directed the applicant to the Mass. Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission to start the state process, so you may be seeing a local license request soon.

I continue to work on our pre-disaster mitigation grant application to FEMA for drainage work on Delabarre Avenue, responding to a number of specific questions FEMA had regarding the project. FEMA approved the Town's updated Hazard Mitigation Plan update this past weekend.

The U.S. Census has decided they do not need to use the Town Hall for training, at least for now, though they would like to reserve the possibility of later use.

The Town Nurse is working with the Board of Health regarding logistics for the fall flu clinic.

*Concerns of the Selectmen*      *None.*

*Mail*

Hutcheson noted a few complaints regarding the new transfer station sticker payment process.

*Announcements*                      *None.*

*Next Meeting:*    *Scheduled for Monday, August 3, 2020, at 6 p.m., via Zoom*

**At 7:31, on a motion from Armstrong to adjourn, seconded by Goleman, the vote was unanimous in favor.\**