

*Minutes*  
**SELECT BOARD**  
Monday, August 3, 2020  
**ZOOM MEETING**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86114063566> (Meeting ID: 861 1406 3566 #)  
To call in via telephone: Dial 929-205-6099 (Enter Meeting ID: 861 1406 3566 #)

*Select Board present:* Bob Armstrong, Chair; Erica Goleman; Phil Kantor (all remotely)

*Others present (all remotely):* Michele Turre, Janet Chayes, Open Space Committee; Kimberly MacPhee, FRCOG; Michael Leff; Robert Baker, Fire Chief; Jan Warner, Treasurer; Wendy Stayman, Resident; Bob Van..., Resident; Thomas Hutcheson, Town Administrator; Lisa Turowsky, Assistant to the Town Administrator

Chair Bob Armstrong called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

*Minutes*

*July 6, 2020*

*July 20, 2020*

- **On a motion from Armstrong to approve the minutes from July 6, 2020 and July 20, 2020, seconded by Kantor, Goleman voted aye, Kantor voted aye, Armstrong voted aye, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

*Warrants*

- **On a motion from Armstrong to pay the vendor warrant of \$111,553.80; the payroll warrant of \$84,454.62; and the payroll deduction warrant of \$20,914.87, seconded by Goleman, Kantor voted aye, Goleman voted aye, Armstrong voted aye, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

*Meetings Attended by Select Board Members*

Phil Kantor attended nine school committee meetings in the last three weeks. Armstrong attended a ConCom meeting.

*Public Comments*

*None.*

*Old Business*

FY 2021 school re-opening progress

Kantor spoke about the stress and anxiety that teachers and administrators are experiencing in developing options for opening the Union 38 schools. Three options have been formulated – remote learning, in-school learning, and a hybrid of remote and in-school. Votes will be taken next week. There are many disagreements, with many parents wanting to wait until a vaccine is available before sending their children back to school. The four towns in Union 38 are not guaranteed to vote the same way. Parents have the choice of keeping their kids at home and opting for online instruction which the school would have to provide. Any IEPS that are in existence will have to be followed as written. The Grammar School is partnering with Baystate Franklin Medical Center and Cooley Dickinson Hospital to offer COVID19 testing with results available within 48 hours. It is not clear how these options will affect school choice students. The ratio of teachers to students are not necessarily the ones that will comply with any of the options being looked at.

Additional Committee and Staff Appointments for FY 2021

Staff through June 30, 2021:

Emergency Dispatch representatives: Gemma VanderHeld, Kenneth Ouimette, Robert Baker, term expiring 6/30/21

Committees through June 30, 2021: Cable Advisory Committee: Ronald Hawkes

- **On a motion from Armstrong to appoint Gemma VanderHeld, Kenneth Ouimette and Robert Baker as Emergency Dispatch representatives through June 30, 2021; and Ronald Hawkes to Cable Advisory Committee through June 30, 2021, seconded by Kantor, Goleman voted aye, Kantor voted aye, Armstrong voted aye, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

## *New Business*

Sign contract for South River Municipal Vulnerability Plan work

This is the next phase for the work on South River MVP that Town Meeting voted on in June. Most of the work involves repairing culverts. There is a lot of money involved in the grant. Kimberly MacPhee explained that the grant will cover working with consulting firms to assist with the process of identifying high-risk culverts.

Kantor raised his concern with the town's history as that is represented by the culverts. From Reeds Bridge road, up Shelburne Falls road, up River Street to the covered bridge, there are culverts that were original to the electric railway. MacPhee encouraged Kantor to contact her so they can coordinate the FRCOG and Conway's concerns. The project must be completed by the end of FY21.

- **On a motion from Armstrong to sign the contract for South River Municipal Vulnerability Plan work, seconded by Goleman, Kantor voted aye, Goleman voted aye, Armstrong voted aye, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

Request for letter of support for Ashfield MassWorks grant proposal for the Ashfield Lake dam *Tabled*

The requested letter involves a substantial MVP action grant to fund three phases of a project by Tighe and Bond. One of the phases would require the dam to be raised two feet. Kantor related the expertise he acquired in operating a dam in New Jersey, which leads him to conclude that Conway would bear the risk of failure of the Ashfield Dam. He cited examples of things that, according to him, Ashfield hasn't addressed to his satisfaction. Armstrong asked whether Conway would have any input into what the grant will support. MacPhee didn't know the answer to that, nor could she provide more information about the details of the proposal. Goleman asked if there was an engineering plan in place. Hutcheson said there needed to be communication between Conway and Ashfield, which is a different matter than the letter of support that was being discussed. Armstrong said Conway should support Ashfield's infrastructure grant. Hutcheson will contact Ashfield to facilitate a conversation between the two towns. Select Board wasn't ready to sign a letter of support.

South River accident; Town issues: traffic, waste, possible Town signage and road work

Recently there was an accident at the South River involving an out-of-town teen-ager whose foot got caught in the rocks. It took Conway Fire Department and rescue teams from Deerfield and ( ) an hour-and-a-half to dislodge the young man's foot from the rocks. Chief Baker expressed his concern, not only for people who recreate in the river, but with the rescuers. The rescuers got "beat up" by the rushing water.

There are concerns about how to improve safety at the river, while maintaining access. This accident took place on private property so there were no signs posted about the danger of the area. Michael Leff of the Franklin County Conservation District spoke about efforts to provide sustainable river access. His group will release guidelines and steps to be taken toward these efforts at the end of September. More state funding will be needed to support implementation of these guidelines. Leff said that overuse/misuse of river access has resulted in some municipalities closing off access, which creates pressure on other spots in other towns. Armstrong offered to listen to concerns/ideas of public.

Town issues with Conway Station Road and Deerfield River Portage: trash, waste, traffic, speed  
There was also discussion about increased river use at Conway Station Road resulting in problems

Vote on accepting Bay State Forestry Service donation: time and materials for invasive plants control:  
Covered Bridge and the Conway Millstone area

Sign letter requesting DOR approval for preliminary tax rate

Discuss possible town offices policy: expansion versus renovation

Regional Representatives:

Franklin Regional Planning Board

Franklin Regional Transit Authority

Request for letter of support for Ashfield MassWorks grant proposal for the Ashfield Lake dam

*Items Not Anticipated 48 Hours in Advance of the Meeting*      Sign-ons re: school meals during SY20-21

*Town Administrator update*

*Concerns of the Selectmen*      *None.*

*Mail*  
Hutcheson noted

*Announcements*      *None.*

*Next Meeting:* *Scheduled for Monday, August 17, 2020, at 6 p.m., via Zoom*

**At , on a motion from to adjourn, seconded by , the vote was unanimous in favor.\**