

**Minutes
SELECT BOARD**

Monday, April 12, 2021, 6:00 p.m.
Via Zoom

Present for Select Board: Robert Armstrong, Chair, Erica Goleman, Phil Kantor

Others Present: Brendan O'Connell; Thomas Hutcheson, Town Administrator; Louise M. Beckett, Assistant to the Town Administrator

Minutes

Approval of minutes, April 5, 2021

On a motion from Bob to approve the minutes of April 5, 2021, Erica seconded and Bob, Phil, and Erica voted yes.

Warrants

On a motion from Armstrong to approve the Vendor warrant for \$88,985.15, the Payroll warrant for \$110,048.79, the Payroll deduction warrant for \$27,730.35 and the School Activities Fund for \$372.87, Erica seconded and Bob, Phil, and Erica voted yes.

Meetings Attended by Select Board Members: Erica attended the meetings to interview interim town administrator candidates, and for negotiating the contract, as did Phil and Bob. Phil also had Frontier, Conway Grammar and Union 38 school meetings. Bob added that we have hired a great guy and negotiated a good contract we can afford though it will require some work.

Public Comments: Brendan O'Connell asked if he could bring up a topic. Bob told him that because of the open meeting law the board can't comment or discuss an issue other than to say that Mr. O'Connell should come to a future Selectboard meeting. The board cannot deliberate unless an item is on the agenda which is posted 48 hours before the meeting, not including Saturdays and Sundays.

Old Business

Sign contract with Interim Town Administrator if ready

Tom said that the contract is not yet ready. We may need to have an emergency meeting between now and Friday. After some discussion, it was agreed to meet on Thursday, April 15, at 5 p.m.

Town Meeting - Budget update

Tom said there had been no changes since last meeting. He hopes to have it finalized very soon.

Recommendations for additional warrant articles: Articles 22 through 26 or 27 on draft warrant

Tom reminded the board that they have not yet put forth a recommendation on the non-money articles. Phil said that they don't have the addresses for articles 22 and 23 so couldn't recommend them yet. **On a motion from Bob to recommend Article 25 to change the date of its annual Town Meeting; Article 26 to rename the Board of Selectmen as the Select Board, and, for such purposes, to replace throughout the by-laws the words "Board of Selectmen" or "Selectmen" with "Selectboard," and "Selectman" with "Selectboard Member"; and Article 27 to amend its Protective (Zoning) Bylaws to replace the words "Board of Selectmen" where they appear in Sections 6-61 and "Selectmen" where it appears in Sections 6-62 with "Selectboard"; Erica seconded, and by a roll call vote, Phil, Erica and Bob said yes.**

New Business

There was some discussion on the permanent Town Administrator position, candidates, and the timeline for interviewing. Bob said that the screening committee needs to send their recommendations and thoughts to the Selectboard, and then asked if we should keep the town administrator as a fulltime position or not? His understanding was that Phil now supports the position as full time, but Erica maybe does not? Erica asked if we have the flexibility to make the job not fulltime? Tom said that the position was advertised as full time and those who applied who saw the ad and job listing, assume it's a fulltime position. If it's not going to be, it needs to be re-advertised and that it should be clear as we might get an entire set of different candidates. Erica said we don't have time to re-advertise. Bob said that the alternative is to advertise the position as part time but that's not what we're looking for. He asked Tom send out the information on the

candidates and to set up dates to start interviewing. Bob thought it might be best to interview the 4 candidates 2 on one day and 2 on another. Phil asked if they could be on two consecutive days, as that way discussion would be fresh in everyone's memory. The Selectboard agreed to hold interviews on Wednesday the 21st and Thursday the 22nd.

Items Not Anticipated 48 Hours in Advance of the Meeting *none*

Town Administrator update

Tom had no formal update this week.

Select Board member comments and concerns *none*

Mail

Brendan O'Connell asked to read portions of an email he had sent to Erica on April 6th. He said his neighbor, now that the weather is warm, is at it again with constant loud landscaping noise. He was wondering if the Selectboard had discussed the town's protective Bylaws surrounding noise and exemptions for "horticultural" uses of property. The constancy of noise is more in keeping with what one would expect living close to a loud industrial business, rather than a residential property. It isn't what they expected when they moved into a residential neighborhood in Conway and continues to seriously impact their quality of life for 6+ months/year. It's not in spirit with the law. She begins before 9 a.m. and continues after 5 p.m. With a 5-month-old baby and home schooling due to the pandemic it's difficult as there's nowhere to go. They can hear it in the house as well as outside. He said he contacted the homeowner, but there has been no change in behavior. Brendan left a message for the Chief of Police, but has had no answer yet. He wants to review Chapter 22 section 1 and how is that handled by the town.

Bob asked Tom to put Mr. O'Connell's concerns on the Selectboard's agenda (Tuesday, April 20).

Announcements *none*

Next Meeting: Thursday, April 15 at 5 p.m. via Zoom - Sign contract with Interim Town Administrator

Next Regular Selectboard Meeting: Scheduled for **Tuesday, April 20, 2021**, at 6 p.m., via Zoom

At 6: 35 p.m. on a motion from Bob to adjourn, seconded by Erica, Bob, Phil, and Erica voted yes.