

sMinutes
SELECT BOARD MEETING
Monday, May 24, 2021, 4:30 p.m.
Via Zoom

Present for the Select Board: Bob Armstrong, Chair; Erica Goleman, Phil Kantor

Others Present: Mary McClintock, Jack Harrison, Véronique Blanchard, Ross Perry, Interim Town Administrator, Louise Beckett, Assistant to the Town Administrator

- Meeting called to Order** Bob called the meeting to order at 4:39 p.m.
- Minutes** Approval of the minutes of May 10, 2021
On a motion from Bob to approve the minutes of May 10, 2021, Erica seconded and Phil said aye, Bob said aye and Erica said aye.
- Warrants** Vendor warrant: 158,860.90; Payroll warrant: \$115,616.13; Payroll deduction warrant: \$29,058.03
On a motion from Bob to approve the Vendor warrant of \$158,860.90 the Payroll warrant of \$115,616.13 and the Payroll deduction warrant of \$29,058.03 Erica seconded, and Erica said aye, Bob said aye, and Phil said aye.
- Meetings Attended by Select Board Members** Erica, Bob and Phil met with Ron Sweet at the school to approve the new access road requested by Ken Pleasant, and then met with the Board of Health regarding the Town Meeting venue for June 5. On Friday Erica attended a free PFAS testing meeting. Phil also attended a Conway Grammar School Meeting. Bob also attended a Conservation Commission meeting regarding the Eversource project to replace the towers on Pine Hill Road and Shelburne Falls Road.
- Public Comments** A question was asked as to where the new driveway was going to go. There was some concern expressed that the trees might suffer, but other information was that the trees were not in good shape anyway. Trucks will go around the bunker where the electrical equipment is currently store, and which may be moved. Trucks won't travel over land we don't own. Another concern was water flow of the new road vs. the current road as regards erosion. Engineering should address these issues.
- Old Business**
Review Mosquito spraying opt-out alternative plan from Board of Health.
The question is whether the town will opt out of the Mosquito spraying program. The board had asked the Board of Health to come up with an alternate plan, which they had with a robust education program. For example, tires at the transfer station will be put in the compost trailer under cover to avoid them being filled with standing water. Pick-up is in the spring and fall. Another thing needed is to clean out the culverts; Conway is part of FRCOG's effort, which includes towns. The Highway department also puts larvicide in standing water areas. Ross: document projects for credit w/state. **On a motion from Phil, seconded by Erica, after reviewing the Alternative Mosquito Management Plan submitted by a member of the Board of Health, the Board accepted this plan for submission to the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs and voted to opt out of all mosquito spraying in the Town of Conway by the State Reclamation and Mosquito Board. Bob said aye, Phil said aye and Erica said aye.**
- New Business** *Cemetery Committee Guidelines*
Jack Harrison presented for the Cemetery Commission and said there were no previous guidelines prior to the formation of the current commission. In the past the

Selectboard were signatories to transfer property for burial plots. Would they still have that authority? Bob Armstrong had met with Peter Freisem earlier and noted that the Selectboard had been authorizing the transfer of burial plots in the past only because the Cemetery Commission had been disbanded. According to counsel, the commission may assign plots and the Selectboard has no role. According to Mass General Law the cemetery commission can have authority to transfer deeds for burial plots. The Cemetery Commission is to meet and to attend the Selectboard meeting on June 7th. Ross will verify that there is nothing in the bylaws that conflicts with the ability of the commission to transfer burial plot properties.

*Vote to allow Véronique Blanchard to serve as Newsletter Committee member in addition to her Town Administrator duties. **On a motion from Bob to allow Véronique to continue to serve on the newsletter committee in addition to her Town Administrator duties, Erica seconded, Phil said aye, Bob said aye and Eric said aye.***

Review Motions and other plans for Annual Town Meeting

What amounts should be put in Articles 21, 22 and 23? Can the article be worded 'not to exceed' the appraised or assessed value? Or one of these values plus 25% or so? We need to check what state law allows and also to hear from town counsel, as it may be that the actual dollar amount needs to be used.

*Vote to authorize Frontier Regional School District to Reallocate \$158,730 from E&D account for FY 21. **On a motion from Bob to authorize Frontier to reallocate \$158,730 from E&D for FY21 Phil seconded and Erica said aye, Bob said aye and Phil said aye.***

Sign FY 21 Stipends

Items Not Anticipated 48 Hours in Advance of the Meeting

None

Town Administrator update

Annual Town Meeting is Saturday June 5th at 1:00 at the Grammar School

- After talking with the Fire Chief, the use of the back driveway at the school for town meeting over flow is not considered safe.
- The plan is to use the gym, with chairs spaced 6 feet apart in pairs.
- To maximize available sitting space for voters, the Selectboard, Finance Committee and Moderator will be on the stage.
- If there is any overflow space needed, chairs will be set up in the large hallway next to the lobby.
- The sound system details are still being worked. I expect to meet with one vendor tonight.

Covid

- The Governor announced the end of most covid restrictions effective May 29th and the end of the State of Emergency as of June 15th. This means the former OML requirements return for the Board chair and a quorum of members to be physically at the meeting, starting June 15th. Zoom sessions may still be offered as a public convenience, but Board and committee members must be present. I have sent an email accordingly to all Boards and Committees.

Miscellaneous

- Véronique and I continue to meet and discuss TA activities almost daily.

- Next week, due to the Memorial Day Holiday and ATM, I will be in Conway Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.

Draft 6/7/21 Agenda:

- Review RFP results and school recommendation to select playground contractor.
- After action discussion of town meeting.
- Discuss and vote to rescind March 16, 200 local State of Emergency and to fully open municipal buildings, to pre-COVID status.
- Discuss establishing the Festival of the Hills as a Town Committee with the ability to receive and spend funds as well as to award scholarships.

Respectfully submitted,

Ross Perry
Interim Town Administrator

**Select Board member
comments and concerns**

none

Mail

none

Announcements

Conway Men's basketball resumes next week so long as attendees are vaccinated.

Next Meeting:

Scheduled for Monday June 7, 2021, at 6 p.m., via Zoom

Adjourn

On a motion from Bob to adjourn the meeting at 5:50 p.m., Erica seconded, Phil said aye, Bob said aye and Erica said aye.