

Minutes
Selectboard Meeting
October 25, 2021, 6:00 p.m.
Via Zoom

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

Others Present: Joe Strzegowski, Véronique Blanchard, Town Administrator; Louise Beckett, Assistant to the Town Administrator

Minutes **On a motion from Phil to approve the minutes of 10/12/21 and 10/19/21, Bob seconded and all said aye and the vote was unanimous in favor.**

Warrants **On a motion from Erica to approve the Accounts Payable Warrant W22-10 for \$269,385.35, the Payroll Warrant PW22-10 for \$107,776.72 and the Payroll Deduction Warrant PDW22-10 for \$27,564.33 Bob seconded and all said aye and the vote was unanimous in favor.**

Meetings Attended by Select Board Members Erica attended no meetings since the last Selectboard meeting. Bob had Conservation Commission meetings, some on the Nexamp driveway site. He noted that all the high-tension towers on Shelburne Falls Road are being replaced, and there may be complaints out of fear of the pipeline coming back, but that is not the case. Phil attended the quarterly meeting of the FRCOG Council and asked them to look at their budget early later than later. He also met with the fire chief and highway boss to reclassify some positions to eliminate or reduce overtime. The town administrator is working on written reclassifications.

Public Comments *None*

Old Business *None*

New Business
Joe Strzegowski to discuss future plans for wastewater treatment
This issue has gotten the attention of the legislature. Back in the '70s, with the Clean Water Act, there was money available and many towns constructed their wastewater systems, but Conway did not. Around 2013 we tried to change the zoning downtown to make it more economic-development-friendly, but people said at the public hearing that it wouldn't work because we had no sewer system. We then formed a committee to start looking at a sewer system. After many attempts for those few grants out there, we never qualified for any of the grants. We applied for grants and loans, through USDA, etc. but most would only give loans. In 2018 we applied for a million-dollar grant from MassWorks grant but were refused. Tried again in 2020 with a One-Stop grant for a million plus \$500,000 earmarked by the select board, but that was turned down. Most of the money in these grants is tied to economic development but we have no-one interested in doing the downtown sewer system. People have tried to open small businesses in town, including restaurants, but none have succeeded. We have to prove we have the economic development before we can get the grants. There's a new study out there, which we're a part of, but it's likely a 2-4-year project before we can start looking for money again. Joe thought it would be best to dissolve the wastewater committee for now, as they only have two other members (Carl Nelke

and Michelle Novak) and haven't met in two years. Erica asked if Joe wanted the Selectboard to make an official move to dissolve the wastewater committee and appoint Joe to work on wastewater in some other capacity. Joe could go on the Economic Development Committee, but they may wind up the same as the wastewater committee if there is no way to develop the downtown septic system. Joe said he would talk with the Economic Development Committee and give them the history of his experience working on the wastewater project. We have a good plan, completed in late 2017, with relatively new technology and is a viable solution. One idea – to run a pipe down to Deerfield – probably doesn't make economic sense. Small towns have the disadvantage of not having enough rate-payers to justify the cost of approximately \$60,000 assuming we get a million and a half to build it. The state requires that you consider a house has a minimum of three bedrooms, even if it doesn't, and thus requires a minimum of 110 gallons a day, so every house gets 330 gallons/day. The plan was to stay under 10,000 gallons/day which is the biggest system your Board of Health can operate. After two years of operation you can go back to the DEP with the data and if you're not using the 10,000 gallons/day, you can add more houses to the system. Hard to see that the townspeople wanting to pay for the downtown sewer system, for the capital cost and likely some of the operational cost. **On a motion from Erica to dissolve the Wastewater Feasibility Committee, Phil seconded, and all said aye and the vote was unanimous in favor. On a motion from Phil to appoint Joe Strzegowski as special advisor to the Selectboard and Town Administrator on Wastewater Treatment issues, Erica seconded and all said aye and the vote was unanimous in favor.**

Appoint George Forcier to Planning Board as 5th member

On a motion from Phil to appoint George Forcier to the Planning Board as its 5th member, for a term ending June 30, 2022, at which time he may run for a three-year elected position on the Board, Erica seconded and all said aye and the vote was unanimous in favor.

Items not anticipated 48 hrs. before the meeting

None

Town Administrator update

None, due to illness

Select Board member comments/concerns

None

Mail

None

Announcements

None

Next Meeting

Monday, November 8, 6:00 p.m. via Zoom

Adjourn

At 6:35 p.m. on a motion from Phil to adjourn, Bob seconded and all said aye and the vote was unanimous in favor.