

Minutes
Selectboard Meeting
Monday, November 22, 2021
Via Zoom

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

Others Present: Rosalie Starvish, GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc.; Kimberly Noake-MacPhee, FRCOG; Janet Chayes, Open Space Committee; George Forcier; Véronique Blanchard, Town Administrator, Louise Beckett, Assistant to the Town Administrator

Minutes **On a motion from Bob to approve the Minutes of November 8, 2021 Erica seconded, all said aye and the vote was unanimous in favor.**

Warrants **On a motion from Erica to approve the Accounts Payable Warrant W22-12 for \$103,043.32, the Payroll Warrant PW22-12 for \$108,864.82 and the Payroll Deduction Warrant PDW22-12 for \$27,789.41 Bob seconded, all said aye and the vote was unanimous in favor.**

Meetings Attended by Select Board Members Erica had no meetings; Bob attended a number of conservation meetings. Phil attended Conway Grammar School negotiation meetings and capital budget/operating budget meetings; he noted that 6 teachers are retiring which impacts the grammar school budget adversely; He also attended the initial meetings of the Economic Development Committee and the ARPA working group; and had multiple negotiation sessions with the teachers.

Public Comments George Forcier was appointed as a non-voting alternate on the Historic Commission to work on facilitating the transfer of the MacLeish Stone House to the Town. The state ethics commission says that because he's an abutter on the MacLeish property there's a conflict of interest. To fix it the Selectboard needs to sign off on a disclosure form, which he has completed for his portion, but the Selectboard will need to approve it. On the agenda for December 6.

Old Business None

New Business

Guests: Rosalie Starvish, GZA GeoEnvironmental Inc., Project Manager/Water Resources Engineer and Kimberly Noake-MacPhee, Land Use & Natural Resources Planning Program Manager with FRCOG to discuss the Municipal Vulnerability Program grant scope of work and contracts.

Kimberly reminded the Selectboard that she had sent the draft of the agreements to the town and that she and Rosalie are here to see if the selectboard has any questions about the project. She said they will continue outreach to large landowners as well as the public. Rosalie added that GCA's contract has two primary tasks: Conway center flood-modeling and permanent applications for culvert replacement projects, particularly on Poland Brook and Johnny Bean Brook. Janet Chayes asked about the permitting process and associated costs. When the Town applies, she believes, it doesn't have to pay permit/application costs, and she wondered if Rosalie and Kimberly could address this. Rosalie said that the Town in fact does incur application fees. Kimberly noted that the costs are engendered by the design and regulatory processes and the amount of time/effort the consultants need to spend on the project. The culvert replacement will also incur costs due to the state's regulations that must be followed. Janet said that the town-owned 6.2 acres just north of the covered bridge is filled with invasives. The MassWildlife application she had attempted to get in this afternoon through COMMBUYS addressed this and she wonders if the MVP grant might include some of the goals they had hoped to accomplish with the

grant she had wanted to apply for. Phil asked about the scope of work in the MVP grant for the FRCOG as he thought the cost was prohibitive. Kimberly explained that much of the work that goes into the fulfillment of their duties under the contract are done behind the scene. Kimberly said they can't start working until they have executed contracts. **On a motion from Bob to sign the MVP contracts with GZA GeoEnvironmental Inc. and FRCOG Erica seconded, all said aye and the vote was unanimous in favor.**

Items Not Anticipated 48 Hours in Advance of the Meeting

Phil asked to move the National Grid Herbicide Application Notice of 11/09/21 to this category. There was discussion about the implementation of the herbicide application and how it could affect the Town adversely. The question was asked if the mechanical cutting areas could be verified. **On a motion from Phil to ask the Selectboard to write an objection to the herbicide application, Bob seconded, all said aye and the vote was unanimous in favor.**

Town Administrator update

Town Offices: We have secured ProShred to provide a console in Town Hall as well as one in the Town Office for secure shredding services. I did obtain a very competitive price, and now the shredded paper we produce will be recycled, as the MRF no longer accepts shredded paper and therefore the paper from our old shredder was going to the trash.

Transfer station: The new heater has been installed in the TSA shed. We will also be working to remove the wood from the exit road to help create more parking for the Mall. Christmas falls on an open day this year, so the Transfer Station will be open Friday December 24th and Sunday December 26th but closed on Christmas Day.

ARPA Working Group: The working group has had its first meeting, and is beginning the process of assessing the impact of Covid on Conway, and reviewing possible uses for the funds.

The Town Hall Renovation Committee has had its first meeting. The committee reviewed the past plans and work which has been done to date, such as the insulation of the ceiling. It was decided that the two first steps are to assess the needs of each department, board and committee with respect to space for work and storage, and to again investigate either an elevator or lift to make the building ADA compliant.

CEDC: The Community and Economic Development Committee has had its first meeting, at which Joe Strzegowski gave an historical background on the community leachfield project. The committee will be developing its goals and objectives after members are put forward for appointment at the next Selectboard meeting.

Cyber Security: Roy and I have been attending the webinars hosted by the FRCOG. I have attached a picture from one of the webinars which shows all the areas within the town which handle sensitive information. This data must be catalogued as part of the town's incident response plan, and that could be a lengthy process. The town does have cyber security insurance through MIIA, and I will be reviewing that coverage with MIIA.

Select Board member comments/concerns

None

Mail

National Grid Herbicide Application Notice, 11/09/21 (see above)
Recycling Dividends Program grant award notice, 11/15/21
Notice of Eversource Winter rates

Bob said that we are at the end of the first year of the three-year aggregation contract. Eversource needs to adjust their rates every 6 months. Under the

aggregation program, people in Conway can choose from among 4 options, one of them to use 100% renewable energy, which currently is lower than Everource's winter rate, as are the other three options under Colonial Power.

Announcements

None

Next Meeting

December 6, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom

Adjourn

At 7:30 p.m. on a motion from Phil to adjourn, Erica seconded, all said aye and the vote was unanimous in favor.