

**sMinutes**  
**Joint Meeting of the Selectboard and the Finance Committee**  
**Monday, February 7, 2022**  
**Via Zoom**

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

**Others Present:** Deb Donaldson, Forest & Trails; Alan Singer, Roy Cohen, Rhyanna MacLeester, Finance Committee; Véronique Blanchard, Town Administrator; Louise Beckett, Assistant to the Town Administrator

**Meeting Called to Order** At 6:00 p.m. Phil called the meeting to order.

**Minutes** None

**Warrants** None

**Meetings Attended by Select Board Members** Neither Erica nor Bob had any meetings this past week. Phil attended school contract negotiation meetings.

**Public Comments** None

**Unfinished Business** None

**New Business**

*Town Clerk request to approve tabulator for state and federal elections*

The tabulators are required by law, and we already own it, but the Selectboard needs to approve and sign the required form. It may be something required to make us ADA compliant. **On a motion from Phil to vote to approve the use of the tabulator for state and federal elections, Bob seconded, all said aye and the vote was unanimous in favor**

*Move to approve the Conway Forest & Trails Committee to receive gifts, donations and grants for the purpose of carrying out the goals and objectives of said committee all in accord with MGL Chapter 44, Section 53A.*

Phil made the point that donations to the Forest & Trails Committee cannot include land, as this contradicts the town's bylaws. **On a motion from Phil to approve the Forest & Trails Committee to receive gifts, donations and grants with the exception of property or interest in property, for the purpose of carrying out the goals and objectives of said committee all in accord with MGL Chapter 44, Section 53A, Erica seconded, all said aye and the vote was unanimous in favor. On a motion from Phil to sign the contract, Bob seconded, all said aye and the vote was unanimous in favor.**

*Town Administrator request to create a new Public Buildings Committee and to change the Town Hall Renovations Committee from a committee to a working group. New members Walter Goodridge, Chris Herrmann, Ken Ouimette, Ron Sweet and Peter Jeswald.*

Véronique gave the background on how the decision was made to change the Town Hall Renovations Committee from a committee to a working group, under the Public Buildings Committee. **On a motion from Erica to change the Town Hall Renovations Committee from a committee to a working group, and appoint a new Public Buildings Committee, with terms as follows: Ron Sweet, one year; Ken Ouimette and Chris Herrmann, two years; Walter Goodridge and Peter Jeswald, three years, Phil seconded, all said aye and the vote was unanimous in favor.**

**Finance Committee, 6:30 p.m.**  
*Town Administrator presentation of general ledger accounts: 122-Selectboard, 150-Town Administration, 151-Legal, 291-Emergency Management, 650-Conway Currents, 159-Information Technology*

Véronique presented the budgets for the Selectboard, Town Administration, Legal, Emergency Management and the newsletter, *Conway Currents*, all of which are level-funded or less than the previous year. Roy presented the Information Technology budget, and promised to bring in more detail on some questions that were asked at next week's meeting. Roy admitted that IT costs have risen considerably in the past few years, partly due to the need to be in compliance with the state's regulations, added costs due to COVID, and extra necessary work to adapt to remote working conditions.

**Items Not Anticipated 48 Hours in Advance of the Meeting**

None

**Town Administrator update**

I had an email from a resident who was living at 25 Main Street when a tree at the edge of Veteran's Park fell onto the house, causing damage. The resident was concerned about the condition of the rest of the trees in the park. Ron and I had spoken about this prior to her email, and agreed that the remaining trees should be brought down; this should be happening within the next week, weather permitting.

Conway has a balance of \$28,260.42 in the Housing Rehab Revolving Loan Fund Account through the Franklin County Regional Housing & Redevelopment Authority.

Whately is having a 250<sup>th</sup> Celebration Parade and is requesting notification if the town would like to participate. The date of the celebration is June 26, 2022.

**Select Board member comments/concerns**

None

**Mail**  
*Resident letter regarding covered bridge safety*

Véronique read the letter aloud. The writer suggested that mirrors be placed on either end of the covered bridge as a safety measure, because whether inside or outside of the structure, you can't tell if there are any vehicles coming into your path. Véronique is in discussion with Ron Sweet regarding the request.

**Announcements**

None

**Next Meeting**

Monday, February 14, 6:00 p.m. via Zoom

**Adjourn to Go into Executive Session**

**On a motion from Erica to go out of the public meeting and to go into Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to employee unions bargaining if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the employee union bargaining of the public body, Phil seconded, all said aye and the vote was unanimous in favor.**