

sMinutes
Selectboard Meeting and Joint Meeting with the Finance Committee
Monday, February 28, 2022, 5:30 p.m.
Via Zoom

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

Others Present: Camille Balestri, John, Majercak, Jonathan Barkan, Alice Vigliani, Jack Farrell, Devlin Selman, Jiyanna Vegedes, Gerry LeBlanc, Carolyn Thayer; Ralph Osgood, Alexander Johnson, Ken Ouimette, Chief of Police; Bob Baker, Fire Chief; Ron Sweet, Highway Superintendent; Alan Singer, Roy Cohen, Rhyanna MacLeester, Finance Committee; Véronique Blanchard, Town Administrator; Louise Beckett, Assistant to the Town Administrator

Call to Order At 5:30 p.m. Phil called the meeting to order.

Minutes **On a motion from Phil to approve the Minutes of 02/22/22, Bob seconded, all said aye, and the vote was unanimous in favor.**

Warrants **On a motion from Bob to approve the Accounts Payable Warrant W22-19 for \$84,000.43, The Payroll Warrant WP22-19 for \$79,782.98, and the Payroll Deduction Warrant WD22-19 for \$28,711.52 Erica seconded, all said aye and the vote was unanimous in favor.**

Meetings Attended by Select Board Members Not discussed

Public Comments Phil explained that the Selectboard would not be voting on the issue but asked that someone in the group give the reason for attending tonight's Selectboard meeting. Jack Farrell explained the incident of last Sunday, February 20 at about 4 p.m. They heard a loud, percussive noise like an explosion and want to know exactly what happened and how such an incident can be prevented in the future. The incident occurred on Peter McLoughlin's property and involved a renter's setting off something called a 'sonic boom'. The McLoughlin property is a legal firing range. When Mr. McLoughlin found out about the incident, he instructed the renter never to do so again. According to one participant at the Selectboard meeting, Mr. McLoughlin has also set off fireworks or guns in the past. Technically, Chief Ouimette said, he is within his rights to do so. There was some discussion about amending the bylaws to include some form of noise ordinance. Chief Ouimette to follow up.

Unfinished Business None

New Business
Megan McDonough, Executive Director of Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity to discuss the Regulatory Agreement for Ownership and contract between the town and PVHFH. Megan explained that everything is ready to go with construction beginning this summer once permits have been obtained. An application packet will be available at town hall and the library explaining the criteria for eligibility: sweat equity; ability to pay an affordable mortgage, and housing need. **On a motion from Phil to approve the Local Initiative Program Application for Local Action Units to be submitted to DHCD, pending Town Counsel approval, Erica seconded, all said aye and the vote was unanimous in favor. On a motion from Phil to approve the Regulatory Agreement for Ownership Developments between the town of Conway, PVHH and DHCD, and the CPA Grant Agreement between Habitat and the town of Conway, pending Town Counsel approval, Erica seconded, all said aye and the vote was unanimous in favor.**

<i>Discussion on a potential return to hybrid meetings</i>	There was a brief discussion about returning to live meetings, vs. hybrid (including Zoom or TheOwl) and all agreed that hybrid is the way to go.
<i>ARPA Discussion of Public Safety Building well</i>	Ron has gotten three quotes on the well: Cushing & Son: \$15/foot to drill and \$35/foot for casing plus finishing costs; Henshaw: \$20/foot to drill and \$32/foot for casing plus finishing costs; Lynde Well Drilling: \$15/foot to drill; \$31/foot for casing plus finishing costs. Ron recommends Lynde because he has worked with them in the past and had no issues. About \$15K is what it should cost total. On a motion from Phil to approve using ARPA funds up to \$15,000 to drill the well for the public safety building, with the provision that any unused funding go back into the ARPA funds, Erica seconded, all said aye and the vote was unanimous in favor.
6:00 Joint Meeting with Finance Committee	At 6:10 Alan called the meeting of the Finance Committee with the Selectboard to order.
<i>Budget Presentations: 192 Public Buildings</i>	Ron said there are some differences this year. Transfer Station Buildings and Grounds has been added to the 192 budget. There is also the new building to maintain: providing electricity, heat, etc. For these reasons the budget has gone up a fair amount. The amounts for electricity and propane are necessarily conjectures since the highway garage is new and not yet fully occupied. Keeping lawns mowed and the heat on will likely cost a lot more this coming year, due in part to world events. Ron's budget covers the expenses for all the town buildings, not just the new highway facility and the public safety building. In addition, the custodian's salary is now in the highway budget. The amount for the well that is needed for the public safety building won't be known until it is actually drilled.
<i>422 Highway</i>	Ron noted that there was an error in the FY22 highway salary line (110) as he is not requesting a raise this year. There is also a reduction in hourly wages (113). He noted that hourly salaries are not keeping up with inflation, and that this is impacting the help he is able to get. He fears that we will lose good employees because they can make more in the private sector. Fuel has increased by \$2,300 but the coming year's costs are just not able to be predicted.
<i>423 Snow & Ice</i>	Ice and Snow has no increases and is actually the same as it has been for several years.
	At 6:52 p.m. Alan adjourned the joint meeting of the Selectboard and Finance Committee.
Items Not Anticipated 48 Hours in Advance of the Meeting	Tabled due to Town Caucus
Town Administrator update	Tabled due to Town Caucus
Select Board member comments/concerns	Tabled due to Town Caucus
Mail	Tabled due to Town Caucus
Announcements	Bob said that at our next meeting we should have the figures from Comcast and should be able to vote on it.
Adjourn	At 6:55 p.m. on a motion from Erica to adjourn, Phil seconded, all said aye

and the vote was unanimous in favor.