

**Minutes
Selectboard Meeting
Monday, May 9, 2022
Town Hall, 5 Academy Hill Road**

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

Others Present: Kimberly Noake McPhee, FRCOG; Ron Sweet, Highway Superintendent; Joe Strzegowski, Michele Turre, Open Space Committee; Véronique Blanchard, Town Administrator; Louise Beckett, Assistant to the Town Administrator

Minutes **On a motion from Phil to approve the minutes of May 2, 2022 Bob seconded, all said aye and the vote was unanimous in favor.**

Warrants **On a motion from Phil to approve the Accounts Payable Warrant W22-24 for \$72,493.95, the Payroll Warrant WP22-24 for \$125,653.38, and the Payroll Deduction Warrant WD22-24 for \$31,922.45, Bob seconded, all said aye and the vote was unanimous in favor.**

Meetings Attended by Select Board Members Erica had no meetings. Bob went on a walk to see the beaver dam in southern Conway which has been taken down or destroyed and says they're trying to find out which state agency might investigate. Phil had no meetings.

Public Comments None

Old Business None

New Business
Kimberly Noake MacPhee of FRCOG; request for letter of support for National Fish & Wildlife Foundation, Long Island Sound Futures Fund grant program
Kimberly outlined her request. There's \$10M in funding for the Long Island Sound Futures Fund, which comes up every year. It's the type of grant program that has funded projects in Vermont, New Hampshire, and Connecticut. Massachusetts is a black hole in the Connecticut River Watershed, which extends from the Canadian border down to Long Island Sound. The Deerfield and Millers Rivers are tributaries to the Connecticut River, and their health affects Franklin County. Hurricane Irene mobilized tons of sediment: Nitrogen binds to the sediment and negatively affects water quality. She said it's important to have a program in place so that if towns want to do river projects that help to support resiliency, there is a recognition among those who approve such projects which helps to move them along. The MVP program said no to the idea, but Franklin Conservation District is on board as is Creating Resilient Communities group. Vermont's legislation has codified its water quality standards, which are much like what we want to accomplish in terms of climate initiatives. Phil said that there is at least one case he is familiar with where the project was denied, but no reason was given. It's possible that DEP staff may not have the time or support to address questions. Michele Turre said that as a member of the Open Space committee and a volunteer who also has worked for years with Friends of the South River, she supports the request. **On a motion from Phil to sign the letter of support for the project Kimberly outlined, allowing Conway's MVP grant request of \$303, 300 (if approved and granted by the state) be used as match for the project; Erica seconded, all said aye and the vote was unanimous in favor.**

Discuss and vote on line to line transfer request; Highway Dept.
Ron said the request for \$50,000 from the Highway salary line to the expenses line was made to purchase gravel now as the price is going up and he will need it throughout the year. He said the FRCOG bid price is \$27/ton but he negotiated a

better price of \$18 per yard, a yard being 1.5 tons. Véronique reminded the board that line to line transfers require both Selectboard and Finance Committee approval. **On a motion from Erica to allow the immediate line to line transfer for \$50,000 Bob seconded, all said aye and the vote was unanimous in favor.**

Discuss and vote on mosquito opt-out education and outreach plan

This year the state has simplified the mosquito opt out application process. The Board of Health approved the education component of the plan as presented by Véronique, but wanted a K-12 category and camps added. Monthly articles could be posted in *Conway Currents* and information will be posted at both town offices and town hall, as well as at the transfer station. **On a motion from Phil to approve the mosquito opt-out education and outreach plan, Erica seconded, all said aye and the vote was unanimous in favor.**

Items Not Anticipated 48 Hours in Advance of the Meeting

None

Town Administrator update

- Four of our TSA's, Tom Eaton, Tim Fisk, Troy Lucier and Fredric Brown had their first OSHA training at the town hall last Tuesday. There will be one more session on the 17th. These trainings are provided by Lynn Rose, organized by Jan Ameen of the FCSWMD, and paid for through a grant with MIIA. There will be an OSHA training for town administrators later in the year, as well as a training for dealing with hazardous materials.
- The compost program will start up again on Wednesday, and by this weekend there will also be a 55 gallon drum located next to the compost for disposing of unused vegetable and animal greases, fats and oils.
- Ron Sweet, Jan Ameen, Larry Hanson of DEP and Matt Kissane of Fuss & O'Neil and I all met at the transfer station on Tuesday to discuss the planned fix for the sinking asphalt at the back end of the transfer station. The plan is that Jan will submit a Post-Closure Use Permit (PCUP) Application on behalf of the Town to DEP which will include a sketch on a Site figure showing the outline of the work and a brief description of the work, i.e. removal of existing asphalt only to soil fill below, landfill gas monitoring during excavation with the Fire Department gas meter, placement and compaction of gravel, and addition of 4 inches of asphalt pavement. DEP will be on-site to inspect during a portion of the work. Ron and I hope to begin this work as soon as possible both to get it done, and also to take advantage of current bid prices for gravel and asphalt with funds which are available this fiscal year.
- Rosalie Starvish and Megan Elwell of GZA, who have been working on the MVP grant application with Kimberly Noake MacPhee of the FRCOG, provided me with the grant application documents and walked me through submitting our grant for FY23 & 24. The application was successfully submitted and I am incredibly grateful for all the hard work the FRCOG and GZA have put into this effort.
- Susan Fentin expressed her concern that the logs from the work done on Roaring Brook Road have not yet been removed. I explained to her that Ron needed to get as much work done with the lift as possible while he had it, and the highway staff are currently working on removing the logs as time permits.

Mail Deerfield River Wild and Scenic Rivers Study

Received a letter from Christopher Curtis regarding the Deerfield River. Segments of the Deerfield are being considered for the Wild and Scenic River System, and support from the Selectboard is being solicited. Phil asked if it's a regulatory opportunity or a burden for the Selectboard. If it affects private property owners, he would have to know how. Mr. Curtis will be invited to attend an upcoming selectboard meeting.

*May 22, 2022 Climate Forestry,
Resilience and Carbon walk
through Conway forest*

The walk will be at 10 a.m. but we don't yet know which forest is meant. Mary Wigmore is involved in it so either it will be posted on her website or we may hear more from her. Phil gave the number to call to participate in the Walk: 413-262-2370.

**Select Board member
comments/concerns**

Bob said he had gotten a letter from Ethan Gyles of Nexamp regarding the noise up on Poland Road. They continue to look at the reasons for it but haven't yet figured it out. It's either the inverters or it's some anomaly having to do with the Eversource connections. May take weeks or months to get an answer.

Announcements

None

Next Meeting

Monday, May 16, 6:00 p.m. at Town Hall, 5 Academy Hill Road.

Adjourn

At 7:02 p.m., on a motion from Erica to adjourn, Bob seconded all said aye and the vote was unanimous in favor.