

Minutes
Joint Selectboard & Finance Committee
Meeting
Monday, October 24, 6:00 p.m.
Town Hall, 5 Academy Hill Road
Present for the Selectboard: Phil Kantor, Chair;
Erica Goleman; Chris Waldo

Others Present: Finance Committee Members:
Alan Singer, Roy Cohen, Tom Donovan, Rhyanna
McLeester,
John Craine
Chief Baker, Ron Sweet, Bob Anderson, Laurie
Lucier, Troy Lucier, Tony Somers, Jeff
Clairemont, Véronique Blanchard Town
Administrator, Adam Reed Assistant to the Town
Administrator

Minutes

On a motion from Phil to approve the minutes of October, 11 2022, Erica seconded all said aye and the motion was unanimous in favor.

Warrants

On a motion from Erica to approve the Conway Grammar School Student Activity Fund warrant W23-SAF-01 in the amount of \$43.95, Accounts Payable Warrant W22-10 in the amount of \$147,237.80; the Payroll Warrant PW23-10 in the amount of \$115,276.99, and the Payroll Deduction Warrant PDW23-10 in the amount of \$29,099.24, Phil seconded all said aye and the motion was unanimous in favor.

Meetings Attended by Select Board Members

Chris attended a Capital Board meeting and completed Cyber Security training.
Phil attended a Frontier Regional Capital meeting.
At a Conway Grammar School meeting it was announced that the school's standardized test scores are higher than many other districts in the state. Both Chris and Phil attended the Highway Garage open house and ribbon cutting.

Public Comments

None.

Unfinished Business

None

Joint Finance Committee Meeting

A joint discussion was held between the Selectboard and the Finance committee to discuss three topics.

First Chief Baker came forward with a request for up to \$68,470.00 for a new vehicle and the upgrades needed for it. The current vehicle that the Chief uses, which was the old police cruiser in town, is slowly breaking down and is becoming a monthly expense at the mechanics to keep it going. They are also looking to get a new trailer in the near future for the rescue boat that will require a truck that can tow it. The Chief presented research options for new and used trucks that would be appropriate for the Fire Departments needs. After looking at the pros and cons of the two options, the committees will each convene meetings to vote on their recommendations for Special Town Meeting.

Ron Sweet put forward the need for an 18" wood chipper and hook lift chipper box for the Highway Department for a sum of \$99,000. Town counsel informed the Highway Department that trees that fall in the road or along the side are now considered town property. In the past the town would clear the area to make it safe for the public and the land owners did what they chose to do with the tree. The Highway Department deals with this situation on a weekly basis and renting the equipment is costly and time consuming for town employees.

Frontier Regional School is looking to open a Capital Stabilization Fund for upcoming projects. Most school, including Conway Grammar, already have such a fund in place. The school has many projects that will need to be addressed in the near future. These include a new roof, repaving the parking lot, a new heating system and a new tennis court.

New Business

Vote to appoint Brittany Nickerson, Mary Kay Costello and Tony Somers to the Conservation Commission

Vote to appoint Jan Warner and Jim Newsome to the Parks and Recreation Committee

On a motion from Phil to appoint Brittany Nickerson, Mary Kay Costello and Tony Somers to the Conservation Commission, Erica seconded all said aye and the motion was unanimous in favor.

On a motion from Phil to appoint Jan Warner and Jim Newsome to the Parks & Recreation Committee, Chris seconded all said aye and the motion was unanimous in favor.

On a motion from Phil to appoint Bob

Vote to appoint Bob Armstrong to the Capital Improvements Committee

Armstrong to the Capital Improvements Committee, Chris seconded all said aye and the motion was unanimous in favor.

Vote to open the Special Town Meeting warrant

On a motion from Phil to open the STM warrant, Erica seconded all said aye and the motion was unanimous in favor.

Vote to add Juneteenth as a holiday for town employees

After a brief discussion about the fact that this is a federal mandate, **on a motion from Phil to add the holiday to the calendar, Erica seconded all said aye and the motion was unanimous in favor.**

Vote to update sections of the Personnel Handbook

This vote was tabled until November 1.

Vote to raise the price of ruined mattresses to \$35 at the Transfer Station

After a discussion the board decided to put the price at \$45 to deter people from ruining a mattress to avoid \$35 recycling fee at designated areas. **On a motion from Erica to raise the price to \$45, Chris seconded all said aye the vote was unanimous in favor.**

Vote on whether the State Ethics training will be hosted by the town or use the state log in

On a motion from Phil to use the state portal for ethics training, Erica seconded all said aye and the motion was unanimous in favor.

Vote to create an employee funded recognition donation fund.

On a motion from Phil to create the employee recognition fund, Erica seconded all said aye and the motion was unanimous in favor.

Items Not Anticipated 48 Hours in Advance of the Meeting

None.

Town Administrator update

October 24, 2022 Town Administrator Update:

- Peter Freisem presented me with a copy of the cemeteries of Conway, first edition. It is quite frankly an amazing piece of work, documenting the people who have been buried in the seven public cemeteries in town, including as much information as possible about who they were and the condition of their headstone.
- On the 13th I attended the 'What's New In Municipal Law' hosted by the Division of Local Services (DLS). The morning was spent discussing updates pertaining to all in attendance and

reviewing recent case decisions, and the afternoon was three breakout sessions, one each pertaining to accountants, assessors and tax collector/treasurer updates. I attended the one for accountants, which focused on special revenue funds, prepayment and encumbrances.

- On the 14th I attended the MMA legislative updates breakfast in Amherst. Many local representatives were there along with folks from MMA who head specific legislative efforts.

Senator Comerford at one point mentioned that the MVP program is getting an influx of funding to help deal with water and sewer issues.

- Ron and the Highway Facility committee hosted a grand opening and ribbon cutting of the new Highway Facility on Sunday. Rep. Natalie Blais was in attendance and presented the team with a congratulatory declaration. The facility is looking great and includes a newly paved area for a picnic table and graded and seeded side area.

- I am meeting with Department Heads one on one to review their needs and goals in advance of the FY24 budget season.

- Christmas and New Year's Day fall on Sundays this year, so we will close the transfer station on those Sundays and open the following Monday from 1-6 instead

Select Board member comments/concerns

None.

Mail

A preliminary request for a marijuana cultivation farm on Shelburne falls road was received.

Announcements

None.

Next Meeting

Next meeting will be November 1, at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Office.

Executive Session

At 8:00, by a Roll Call vote, the Selectboard unanimously voted to go into executive session for Reason #6. To consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property if the chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body.

