

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TOWN OF CONWAY, MA
MINUTES
May 24, 2010

meeting open: 7:00PM

present: Chuck Trombley, Maureen Chase, Jim Moore, Tom Spiro

others present:

Appointments

7:00 Emergency Antenna – Rick Bean

There was one bid from WPCS International of Windsor, CT. It was opened at 7:01PM. The bid was for \$9,461.00 and included a repeater, 60 foot tower and license. Rick called AT&T to find out if they would help with any additions as per the Town Bylaws and tower installation contract, but their response was to offer only some logistical assistance. He stated that all emergency response departments agreed to share the installation and maintenance expenses from their operating budgets. There was a decision made to hold a public hearing with the Planning Board before installation would start. Arrangements will be made with the full Planning Board.

Rick spoke about the Board of Health issue with Doug Deane concerning Mr. Deane's outdoor boiler. He gave a history of what had happened. He noted that the court had ordered him to stop burning during the prohibited period. Mr. Deane agreed to only burn from Sept 30th through May 15, however he did burn after May 15th of this year. Rick asked for permission to consult with Town counsel and the Board approved limited access to move this case forward.

7:30 Mowing contract - Bud Lively

Maureen noted that there had been complaints about how well Bud's job was done when he did his first mowing at various locations in Town and it was understood the grass mowing was contracted late making the first mowing difficult. Chuck explained that the clarification of the bid specs would be in place for the next bidding process. Bud said that there were some problems with tall grass that he had since addressed. Chuck thanked Bud for his willingness to go back over areas. Bud made a point that he could not get information before the bid regarding vagueness. He said that he felt that there were some areas in Town that were more problematic for him to cut based on topography and growth. It was thought that the Garden Club might help with some trimming, and it was decided that the Highway Department would be asked to address this issue with them.

8:00 Taxpayer issues – Elizabeth Braccia, Jan Warner

Elizabeth explained that several tax payers had come into the office requesting special treatment because they had never been late before with tax payments. One tax payer, in particular was insistent that someone should have called them to let them know they were late. Jan tried for approximately 20 minutes to explain that in fairness to everyone this could not be done. There was discussion about the details involved, and the persistence in this one person asking for an exception. Elizabeth noted that she spoke to them again at a later time. She also explained that Jeffrey and Jeffrey had become involved as the Town's collection agency. Chuck said that he and the Board fully backed Elizabeth and Jan in what they had done, and had the right to address this concern or not. Maureen instructed them to tell not take any arguments and instruct them to come to the Selectboard with their complaints or problems. Jan and Elizabeth noted that particular tax payer had made threats to make this issue public and was one major reason they came to the Board for a recommendation. Chuck noted that he was very happy that Elizabeth had come in to see the Board with this matter.

Elizabeth was asked about the status of the audit. She reported that things were moving forward in a satisfactory way. She also said that the process of borrowing was going as expected even though the audit may not be perfect.

8:45 Drainage issue – Roy Cohen

Roy noted that he was there to speak about a drainage problem at his house. He drew a sketch of the problem area. He tried to explain how water flowed along Roaring Brook Road. He said that pools of water had moved very close to his house during this past winter, and that there was mounding of dirt in places. He also mentioned that he had been told in the past that he needed to sign an easement for the Town to take any action. Chuck said that Bob Baker must be included in this conversation, and added that Saturday at 8:00AM would be set for a site visit. Tom will confirm

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this appointment. Chuck explained to new board member Jim Moore that many projects like these drainage issues have been paid for by Chapter 90 monies.

Roy asked about the Grammar School project. Chuck and Maureen gave a brief report.

meeting items

- Warrants were signed.
- Minutes for 5/17/10 were approved as amended.
- The Board decided not to accept a Germain scholarship application that was submitted two weeks past the deadline date.
- Chuck spoke about the need to establish a fixed asset policy that included property worth over \$5,000.00 and that would last more than 5 years. The Board agreed to make this policy and Tom will draw up something for the record.
- The Board met with Bob Baker at 6:00PM on May 19th at Pages Coffee Bar for a site visit regarding drainage issues. They met with owners, Kate Eugin-Moore and Laurie Vondung. There was a lot of water coming off the roof which seemed to wash back onto the building foundation plus road run off. Bob Baker agreed to clean out the catch basin across the street and also install a swale to help divert up to half of the runoff. Kate and Laurie will also do some things to help mitigate the flow. It was agreed that the crosswalk will be repainted.
- The Board agreed to sign the Thank You letter to the Master Plan Committee.
- Maureen noted that Amy suggested that the Flag account should be re-named to clarify as just for US flag purchases. The account name was changed by vote of the Selectboard in accordance with this suggestion.
- Tom explained that the Inspector General said that bid folders should be made available to the public after bids are opened.
- Maureen reminded that a contract from the movers regarding the School Building project was still not signed. She will continue to follow through on this.
- It was agreed that the Board will meet Bob Baker for site visits at the Strange's home on Saturday at 9:00AM in addition to the Cohen visit.
- The Board approved phase #1 committee re-appointments.

Mail and Other Items

- No mail

9:20 PM Motion to adjourn by Chuck, 2nd by Jim, all in favor.