

CONWAY SELECTBOARD EXECUTIVE SESSION MEETING
APRIL 4, 2011
CONVENED @ 8:36 PM

The standard Selectboard meeting was called to order at 8: 33 PM with Victor Charles Trombley (Chuck), Jim Moore (Jim), Tom Spiro (Tom), Elizabeth Braccia (Liz), and Maureen L. Chase (Maureen) in attendance.

Maureen moved that the Board go into executive session and a roll call vote was taken.

Chuck - yes

Jim - yes

Maureen - yes

Executive meeting was unanimously voted and Liz was asked if she wanted an open or closed meeting as was her right. She chose a closed meeting and asked if she could record the meeting. Maureen stated that it was her right to record the meeting and to feel free to do so. Tom was asked to leave the meeting area and the meeting was called to order at 8:37 PM.

The first item Liz spoke of was an entry under Article #2 of the annual Town Warrant. She stated she had requested \$121,821 at her budget hearing and the amount appearing on the Warrant was \$124,129.00. She showed a series of e-mails and responses about this difference. She also pointed out a response from the Administrative Aide that she felt was uncalled for. The Board agreed to find out why the larger figure was entered for that line item.

Liz, then presented several sets of minutes from December 13th, 20th, and 27th as well as January 3rd (2011) and 10th along with February 14th. Each of these minutes had recorded discussions the Board had had concerning Liz and the problems that faced the Board at that time. Liz felt the minutes reflected badly on her abilities, professionalism, and character. Chuck spoke about the Board prepared to discuss the minutes of January 3, 2011 only as that was the only set of minutes Liz originally eluded to in her previous statement of her concerns. Liz stated that she had reviewed the other minutes after that conversation and felt they were also of the same tone as the original minutes in dispute.

Liz was told that the Board was concerned about the tensions and what seemed to be miscommunications between the office staff and was not made aware of just how deeply the tensions went until the accountant resigned. Chuck stated that the Board felt there were two sides to every story and had called her before the Board, the meeting of January 3rd, to hear her side of the story. Chuck also reiterated that the Board never felt that Liz was not doing her job, held her in high esteem, and appreciated all her work. The Board agreed Liz's work was of high quality and very professional. Chuck also explained that the Board was actively seeking an alternate method of minute recording to avoid problems of this nature in the future.

Liz presented two letters, one from Randall Williams and one from David Chichester both stating their admiration and appreciation of Liz and their deep sadness at her leaving. She stated that there were several more letters of that nature coming.

Discussion was held on circumstances of change of accounts done by the previous Town Accountant and what were the possible reasons. Liz said they could be changed back to their original entries if the Board decided that was best.

The Board re-stated that they were not fully aware of the depth of the conflict between the Treasurer and Accountant that had escalated to the point where the Accountant resigned. Liz explained situations from her perspective clarifying some issues that were read, by the Board, as her not getting along with people and getting into situations not of her concern. The Board stated it is not the view of the Board that she is anything but incredibly efficient and takes her book keeping and records very seriously. Her doing such was stated, by the Board, as being appreciated and admirable. Liz stated she was feeling the Board didn't truly appreciate these assets and the minutes mentioned did not reflect the positives of work she's done. The Board stated they got caught up in the situation and shock of the Accountant's abrupt resignation and departure.

Chuck also stated that communications were poor and information poorly transferred causing some of the issues being misunderstood. He stated that after hearing more of Liz's side of the situations he felt the Board, as a whole, now better understood each side of the issues at hand. Liz then stated her hours and work ethics and felt not everyone was working hours paid. The Board made note that short of installing a time clock it was difficult to correct those situations. The Board agreed these were also concerned about these types of issues and seeking resolutions to the conflicts and possible abuses in the office.

The Board then noted that the minutes in question would be reviewed and even though they have to stand as public record they could be amended to reflect that it was never a question of her abilities and professionalism in these situations. The Board then all wished her well in her new position and were happy she found a position that was a bigger challenge to her. She could finally work in one place and make full use of her training and knowledge. We will miss her in many ways. Liz reiterated that she would finish out and balance April's books and was working on finishing up several projects. She stated she was sorry the school loan process would not be completed but needed the Board to sign paperwork for another short-term loan before the meeting ended. The Board expressed appreciation for her efforts and dedication to finishing up these projects.

Liz then asked the Board to sign the paperwork to roll over the short term loan (at a 0.65% interest rate, way to go Liz) for the school repair project pending reimbursement from the state. At that point Tom interrupted the meeting to complain about the length of the executive session and not being informed of the status of the meeting. He was told he could leave. He complained it was rude to have been kept waiting only to be told he could leave. He was informed the Selectboard meeting would go back into session shortly with or without him.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 PM.