

BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
TOWN OF CONWAY, MA  
MINUTES  
November 8, 2010

**meeting open: 7:00PM**

**present:** Maureen Chase, Victor C. Trombley, Tom Spiro

**others present:**

**Appointments**

**7:00 Fire Chief** – Town vehicle: Bob Baker, John O'Rourke

John noted that several weeks ago Bob had asked for a replacement vehicle for the fire department SUV, used as a highway and fire department vehicle. He had presented this request to the Selectboard and Finance Committee. Bob showed pictures of his own vehicle and the crowding of equipment in his vehicle now that the SUV was taken off the road due to concerns that it has been determined to be unsafe. He highlighted the lack of space for equipment in addition to room for his personal items in his vehicle. There was a discussion about what type of vehicle would be needed if the SUV were to be replaced as well as at what point, if any, there was a need to replace the vehicle. Maureen noted that she discussed with Town counsel the Town by-law that says Town property should not be taken home and how that would affect the use by fire chief. Bob mentioned the possibility of leasing a vehicle or buying a used vehicle from a dealer. Chuck explained that he was going to try to find a used vehicle that was reasonably priced from various sources. Bob asked about compensation for use of his vehicle. Bob was told that he could ask for compensation for mileage. He asked if the Board would consider paying for idling time at fire scenes. The Board deferred an answer and asked Tom to research what other towns and districts did.

Bob asked about care of the Veteran's memorial park/common. He noted that he had been approached by a woman who was a member of the Parks & Recreation Committee regarding new design work. The Board told him nothing could be done regarding non-budgeted or approved expense incurred for this task. The Board informed Bob that the young lady from the Conway School of Landscape Design had come before the Board and was informed that no contracts could be signed on behalf of the Town by anyone or any committee. Bob noted that staff members, while he was off work, had come into a very warm Town Office building and had ordered new programmable thermostats for the building without his knowledge or approval. These new thermostats had already been purchased and given to Ken Ouimette to install. Bob asked if this had been passed through the Board for authorization. The Board said they had no knowledge of this and programmable thermostats were included with the plans for installing a new heating system in the Town Office building under the \$150,000 energy grant awarded for energy saving purposes in town. Chuck will contact Ken to find out what the status is on this issue. It was also noted that the Town Treasurer had asked that no money be spent because the Town's cash-flow was low until tax bills could be sent out so this action was contrary to that request.

**meeting items**

- warrants were signed.
- Meeting minutes for 11/1/10 were approved as amended. Other Minutes were not approved as only two Board members were present for 9/27/10, 10/4/10 10/12/10 and a quorum had not been present to approve these minutes. The remaining minutes could not be signed until the return of the Board member not present..
- The Board voted in favor of Maureen signing a letter authorizing Chuck to bid on vehicles at a state auction this month.
- Maureen said that Town Counsel was asked about whether or not an elected official, upon moving out of town could finish an term even though no longer a resident of Conway. Town Council had stated to her he had seen both options in his career but he will get back with an opinion on this as soon as he can.
- Maureen noted that Town Counsel said that the Selectboard should let the Board of Health handle the North Poland Road property situation on their own, as they seemed to be doing well so far.
- The Board voted to have Maureen sign a signature sheet and contract for a DEP grant. She will do so in front of a notary later in the week.

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- Tom noted that the Conservation Commission requested the Board's presence at their December meeting to discuss beaver control techniques. Tom will invite Bob Baker to this meeting as well.

**Mail and Other Items**

- Mail items were reviewed.

**8:45 PM** Motion to adjourn meeting was made by Chuck, seconded by Maureen, all in favor.