

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TOWN OF CONWAY, MA
MINUTES
September 7, 2010

meeting open: 7:00PM

present: Victor Trombley, Jim Moore, Tom Spiro

others present: William Solomon

Appointments

7:01-8:10 Planning Board- Whitty Sanford

No quorum until 7:50PM

8:30 Comcast cable contract – many residents, see sign-in sheet

Chuck noted that Maureen would not be in attendance and that the Board would not be voting on whether or not to sign the new contract at the current time. Bob Armstrong noted that William Solomon will be in attendance shortly. Jim noted that this was the first time that he had seen the final version of the Comcast contract and would like some time to review this document. Chuck said that John O'Rourke should speak based on the time and energy he had volunteered on a potential investment model. Chuck said the work that the committee had put into the effort of a new contract with the help and donation of Attorney Solomon.

John O'Rourke spoke about the history of negotiations with Comcast. He had previously suggested that the Board not sign the contract because of his contributory business model plan, but now was supportive of signing at present as he felt the current contract was the best deal Conway could have made. He mentioned that there would be an additional 28 houses that would be wired as a bonus. John was convinced of this strategy after meeting with Steve Fitzgibbons, Conway's Comcast sales representative. He also noted that expansion would be as soon as possible. Chuck elaborated on some of the gains made through accessing PEG money, and John mentioned how coverage for the whole Town would work.

Atty. Solomon noted how the density in Conway was not large but did put the Town in best position for a small Town in Franklin County. He said that in general Conway had done well and should look forward towards wiring the rest of the households that will not have service even if the new contract is signed.

Roy Cohen spoke about the people who will not be provided service. He was concerned that the opportunity to extend service to the rest of the unserved households, and asked the Board to add verbiage to the contract that would state that it is an intention of Comcast to wire all Conway households. Chuck answered that there is no advantage if a package deal was attempted. Stein said that the Broadband will continue to work to wire the rest of the Town. There was further conversation about costs and options to ask for blanket coverage. 'Thank you's' were given to the Selectboard and Broadband Committee. John Pearsall asked the attending Board members to vote tonight. Chuck reiterated that he felt more comfortable waiting for Maureen to make a decision on signing this contract.

meeting items

- Warrants were signed.
- Minutes for 8/23/10 were not approved as there was not a quorum of members present from that meeting.
- Tom noted that the Board could allow use of public land for a fee, as was the request to use Pumpkin Hollow for a tag sale.
- Tom let the Board know that there had not yet been a report from the Treasurer's office regarding the Festival of the Hills Committee and their fundraising practices.
- Tom explained that the Town could use EECBG grant money for replacement of the heating boilers at the Town Garage and Offices.
- Tom asked the Board to approve Mass DOT's request for a detour regarding the repair of the bridge on North Poland Road. He was instructed to ask Ken and Bob Baker for their opinions before they would approve of this detour.
- Jim recommended that the Festival of the Hills Committee be recruited to form the Sesquicentennial Committee. Chuck felt that this was not a good idea. Tom suggested using the

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list of people who were proponents of the warrant article. Jim asked if a play could be done or some kind of performance during that celebration. Tom will make some suggestions on who should be on this committee and what they want to see done.

- Tom asked the Board for approval of the latest EECBG plan from Beth Greenblatt. They agreed to a non-performance contract that replaces boilers in the Town garage and Town offices.
- The Board approved a detour requested by Mass DOT for repairs to a bridge on North Poland Road, contingent upon opinions from Ken and Bob.
- Chuck and Jim were in agreement to assign liaisons for projects and other issues. The Board will wait to discuss with Maureen.
- Tom mentioned SB Open House but will wait for Maureen to discuss this further.

Mail and Other Items

- No mail

10:05 PM Motion to adjourn by Chuck, 2nd by Jim, all in favor.