

BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
TOWN OF CONWAY, MA  
MINUTES  
Aug 8, 2011

**Meeting Open:** The Select Board meeting was called to ordered at 7:00 PM

**Present:** Victor C. Trombley, Jim Moore, John O'Rourke

**Others present:** Tom Spiro, Kathryn Palmer

**Appointments**

**7:00 PM DOER Presentation - Green Communities; Jim Barry**

Jim introduced the Green Communities program. He explained that he was promoting this program to Towns all over the state but mostly in the western part of the state. He noted that there was free software available that would help determine how much energy was being used by municipalities, and how much savings were being realized. He reviewed the criteria for qualification in the grant program. There are 5 items: 'as-of-right' siting for power generation, an expedited permitting process, a baseline for municipal energy use (reduction of 20% required), exclusive purchase of energy efficient vehicles, increased energy efficiency for all new buildings (adopt stretch building code). Jim reviewed the cost savings of the use of the stretch code versus standard building practices and referred the Board to a cost analysis that illustrates these results.

**7:30 Historical Commission – Dzon Chen Society building sale; David Barten**

Dave explained that the Dzon Chen Community uses the old school building for living and work space. It is also State certified as a school of Tibetan medicine. The community is in transition between the older and younger members, as well as a philosophical difference regarding meeting space. Younger members have moved the school to Florence, MA, and have purchase another building in Buckland. The older members wish to preserve the current building for members and for those who wish to stay there. They have put the house on the market only to members both domestically and overseas. However, that may place the house on the open market for anyone to purchase if there is no response. The Historical Commission and CPA wish to use Town funds to establish the building as a historical landmark, thus reducing the selling price and making it easier for members to buy it before it goes on the open market. Dave reported that the members were not yet ready to make any final decisions regarding sales, so this matter is still up in the air.

**Meeting items**

- The warrants were signed.
- Minutes for the July 25, 2011 Select Board meeting were approved.
- There was a discussion about the plans to perform the next audit. Chuck asked for clarification about the process and final decision to perform an audit for FY2011. John explained that the Town was forgoing an official audit for FY2010 as the new accountant would be in a sense, performing an unofficial audit herself during the transition from the current accounting system to the new one being established by the FRCOG Accounting Program. In light of the fact that the DOR, Town accountant and auditor were in agreement that Conway should proceed with an audit for FY2011, the Board voted to have Chuck sign the engagement letter that contracted the Town with the audit firm of Roselli, Clark and Associates. The audit will begin sometime in October.
- The Board voted to sign the rental agreement for 2011-2012 that establishes useable storage space in the so-called 'sheep barn', owned by Greg Rose.
- There was a brief discussion regarding an issue of payment to a vendor with Craig Warner. Craig had written a letter to the Selectboard asking for an explanation to some accounting mishaps. This matter seemed to be resolved by a response from John to Craig, as stated by Chuck.
- The Board reviewed a survey done by Steve Stange on Roaring Brook Road in lieu of road maintenance. It was noted that parts of Roy Cohen's driveway was being plowed and Chuck asked why this was part of the survey. More aspects of the survey were noted such as boundary markers, utility poles etc. Chuck asked for an explanation from Bob Baker as to why there had been additional components to this submission in addition to the survey. Bob will be asked to give more information at the next Board meeting.

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- The Board voted its approval to pay an invoice for A. Pieria regarding the South River project.
- The Board voted its approval to pay invoices for Weston & Sampson regarding both the South River and Bardwells Ferry Road projects.
- The Board voted to grant a waiver of Protective Bylaw Article 2, section 22.1 for a gathering at the Lochhead residence on September 17 MA to accommodate a Tree Farmer's Convention.
- The Board spoke to Bob Baker about scrap metal to be taken away from the grammar school. A call was made to Bob at home, who was asked to remove the scraps. Bob said that he was waiting for the transfer station attendant to let him know when the dumpster was empty enough for these scraps. It was stated that he would attend to this matter over the next week.
- Tom gave a report on a potential request from the CPC on land purchases on Shelburne Falls Road. He noted the committee may ask to speak to the Selectboard in the near future.
- The Board confirmed that they had decided to hold a Special Town Meeting on October 17, 2012, as there were several issues to be voted upon.
- There was a review of several issues raised by the FRCOG Planning Committee.
- The Board spoke about Mr. Tanny's recognition that he accepted money to plant vegetation on his land with regard to the Bardwells Ferry Road Slope project.
- John reported on an inspection of the Town Hall gym performed by Weston & Sampson Engineering, regarding a possible transition to office space. He said they reported the structure as fine for office use on the second floor but not for storage on the third floor. This matter will be advanced by the Planning Board.
- John reported that he and Jim met with Ralph Osgood on Saturday, July 30<sup>th</sup> about plans to relocate the easements along Main Poland Road and E. Guinea Road and to pave a portion of E. Guinea Road. Chuck was not in attendance as his 101 grandmother had passed away. John reported that Mr. Osgood was agreed in principle to the proposed movement of the easements, the drainage improvements, additional gravel, and that the portion of E. Guinea Road bordering his property on both sides would remain unpaved at this time. Chuck did not think it was appropriate that a portion of the road would remain unpaved. Chuck noted that Paving of Roaring Brook Road would be more costly than was originally expected and would prevent any paving on E. Guinea Road. John noted that improvements to the drainage should be made. It was agreed that Bob would fix the drainage and pave Roaring Brook Road, but would only improve drainage on E. Guinea Road. Surveyor, Steve Stange, will move forward with a final layout for E. Guinea Road. An agreement for relocation of easements and road improvements will be forwarded to Mr. Osgood for signature.
- Chuck noted that it was reported that the transmission in the police cruiser had failed and needs repair. This is an unexpected and extraordinary expense and the payment should be taken from the Reserve Account if approved by the Finance Committee.
- Chuck reported that members were needed for the FCAT board of directors as Conway Representatives. John was recommended by the Board to the Moderator for appointment to a one year term, and Bob Armstrong was appointed for 3 years by a vote of the Selectboard.
- John attended the first 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee meeting and reported that they are now officially in the initial planning stages for this celebration.
- John reported that the new Town accountant will be handing out monthly reports shortly. This will continue on a regular basis as planned.

**Mail and Other Items**

- Mail items were reviewed.

Next meeting will be 08/22/2011

**9:55 PM** Motion to adjourn meeting was made by Jim, seconded by John, all in favor.