

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TOWN OF CONWAY, MA
MINUTES
January 3, 2012

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

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

Others present: Tom Spiro

Appointments

7:00 Regional Health Grant – Dave Chichester

Dave noted that he wanted the Board to sign on to a regionalization agreement with other Town Boards of Health. He continued by giving a history of what had preceded this request. There was an initial attempt by the FRCOG to secure a Public Health Incentive Grant (PHIG Grant) that would regionalize some aspects of health and public safety in Franklin County. He said that planning had been going on for some time now and that he had attended 20 meetings himself. The FRCOG was the lead agency. Dave noted that most Towns did not sign on to this agreement because of red tape of politics. This grant application was not approved by the State, but many Conway's BOH felt that the general idea of some regionalization was still a good one. The State then created a new program called the Community Incentive Challenge Grant (CICG) to encourage Towns to work together by sharing resources to save money. Dave explained that this application was due on January 17th and would provide \$5 million for initial expenses. Dave suggested that a regional association could be formed from local Boards of Health in Franklin County, and could start with 6-7 Towns who were currently working on this idea. It was hoped that this association would eventually be formed using Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) and other mutual agreements between cooperating Towns. The Board signed the CICG grant application.

Dave then asked how money circulates in the Town as far as fees are concerned. He asked in conjunction with how a nurse would be paid and felt that it would be part of payment in lieu of services.

7:30 Accruals for Irene Storm Damage – Bob Baker

Bob reported on a meeting that he and John had with Mark Rainie on Dec 28 regarding money for Federal Aid roads. He then gave the Board a list of expenses incurred for road repairs for damages caused by Tropical Storm Irene. Indicated were invoices that had been paid as well as actual costs incurred by the Town after FEMA reimbursement. He also gave the Board a list of items still to be addressed by FEMA. Bob noted that reimbursements did not include labor costs. He said his estimates suggested an overall surplus, and wanted to put money away to spend on upcoming summer projects. John said that this money could be used to mitigate future storm damage, and Bob reminded the Board that some of the money should be reimbursed to the Highway Department to avoid shortfalls at the end of the fiscal year.

Bob noted that Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) had granted the Fire Department \$2,000.00 but did not say what this grant would be used for.

Chuck asked Bob if the Department was responsible for maintenance of the skating rink. John clarified that the minutes should have reflected that the Highway Department would only be responsible for snow plowing of the Town Ball Field parking lot, as requested by the Parks, Rec and Trails Committee. Chuck also alerted Bob that the Committee asked about space in the sheep barn, and there was some discussion about reorganization of this space to accommodate more storage.

7:30 FEMA Hazardous Mitigation Grant – Kimberly McFee, Joe Strzegowski

Kimberly reported that federal and state grant money is available for hazard mitigation on the South River. She said the Town will be applying for a grant with the help of the FRCOG to pay for this work, which will help prevent additional damage to the river banks in the area of the retaining wall and bridge in the center of Town, and also help stabilize the rest of the river downstream. Money for this grant would come from FEMA and be administered by MEMA, who require Towns to have an approved Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan as part of our application. Kimberly noted that a Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan Committee must be formed soon to work with the FRCOG to update the existing 2005 Plan to meet this requirement. She asked the Board to create a new committee that would update this plan. She also noted that the plan submissions given to FEMA from other Towns were being received well so far. Kimberly added that participants in the Hazardous Mitigation Grant Program were also required to complete a cost benefit analysis, and that an offer of assistance by Bob Dean. Joe asked if assistance with grant administration would be available as well. Kimberly was not sure, but encouraged the Town to ask for FRCOG. She

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suggested that the analysis be done combining both South River sites. John will be at the two sites on the South River tomorrow to meet with the fluvial study designers, and offered to help Joe with the cost benefit class Joe will be taking.

Kimberly also suggested that a 319 Clean Water grant application be submitted to supplement work on mitigation projects in the Town center. The 319 program is applicable for non-point source water pollution, and stream restoration projects. An RFR will be sent available in April and the application will be due in June. The FRCOG will also offer help during this application process. Hazardous Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) offers a 75% match with an in-kind services incentive. The 319 Grant program offers only a 40% match and in-kind services as well, but the Town may be able to use Chap 90 monies for this if roadwork in the South River watershed is related to the project work. This is assuming that the watershed was defined as the South River. The HMGP and 319 grants can both be used for parts of the overall project. The extent of this can be determined after the cost benefit analysis is complete. If land is purchased by the Town, that could also be used as a match.

Kimberly mentioned that the FRCOG was told that there will be additional grant money available to continue fluvial studies on other sections of the South River.

8:30 Massachusetts Geographic Information System (MassGIS) Grant – Lee Whitcomb

Lee reported that there was some GIS equipment available that the Town could use. She noted there was a hand held computer that would upload, download and interface with existing GIS data layers, and recommended that the Board approve the expense to buy this equipment. She noted that a slightly used handheld was available for \$2,000.00, marked down from \$5,000.00. The software would cost an additional \$2,695.00. Lee noted that there was still \$3,147 left from a warrant article and asked to use this money for this purchase. The Board agreed with this proposal. Lee felt that the Town could be asked to cover the remaining costs at Town meeting. The final cost for the unit, software and training would be approximately \$5,500.00. There was a discussion as to how the additional money could be raised. Chuck recommended that the remainder be taken from the current fiscal year's budget. The Board approved of this purchase as it would pay for itself in savings in less than two years. John suggested that a special Town meeting may be held before May which could include a warrant article for these additional monies. Lee will ask Joyce to research this issue before a decision is made for the remaining amount.

Meeting items

- The minutes for 12/19/11 were reviewed or approved.
- The Board approved Chuck to sign the letter of support regarding the Town of Erving and changes to the Electoral College.
- The Board approved Chuck to sign the NRCS contract for the South River Wall project.
- The Board approved Chuck to sign a duplicate signature for the Council on Aging State grant.
- The Board signed the 2nd draft of the rental agreement for the 'Rose Field' between the Town and Ronald Boyden.
- The Board signed the request to move a utility pole across the street from the place where it was originally petitioned for.
- The Board authorized a contribution of \$10,000.00 to Community Action to administer a home heating fuel assistance program for Conway residents.
- Chuck asked the Board to complete research on changing the structure of the Town government to incorporate a Town Administrator.
- The Board discussed the final Pereira Construction invoice for the construction of the geotech retaining wall along the east bank of the South River in the center of Town that was destroyed by the rising waters of the South River during Tropical Storm Irene and decided to pay it.

Mail and Other Items

- Mail items were reviewed.

Next meeting will be 1/9/2012

9:40 PM Motion to adjourn meeting was made by Chuck, seconded by Jim, all in favor.