

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TOWN OF CONWAY, MA
MINUTES
January 30, 2012

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, Dave Barten

Appointments

7:00 David Chichester – Exit interview

David came in to see the Select Board at their request to disseminate information about his tenure as Chairman of the Board of Health. He handed out an outline of responsibilities of the Board of Health, which also included a 'Task List' of items to be addressed. Dave spoke about the need to construct a sewer system in the center of Town at some point in the near future. There was discussion about the possibility of funding for this project. Chuck said that this project should be studied and researched by the Planning Board.

Dave said that he was concerned about control of contagious diseases at the Town level. He also talked about several other items that were on his Task List and suggested that the Board of Health should study these issues and recommend policies and procedures. John suggested, and Dave agreed that outreach would go a long way to addressing these items, and could be done through education and information dissemination. Dave mentioned that much of what the Board of Health does is guided by DEP and DHH regulations. Dave Barten started a brief conversation regarding wellheads.

David mentioned the importance of attendance at Board meetings and that there have been issues relating to this at times, but not currently. Dave was asked about filling the vacancy left by his departure and possibly that of another. He was also asked if he had concerns about anything specific or other details he felt would be helpful to both the Board of Health and Select Board.

Jim asked about noise control regarding motorcycles. Dave mentioned that hauling costs would be going up this year. He mentioned that Carl Nelke would be the next Chair and would be working with the Finance Committee on the FY2013 budget.

8:00 Roger Clapp, Sidney Ramey, Emily Boss-Franklin Land Trust – Conservation Restriction.

Emily presented a proposed conservation restriction for the Clapp house lot. She spoke about map locations in terms of identification of key and core environmental elements and features of the surrounding lands. Roger and Sidney spoke about how the restrictions were desirable from several aspects. Emily noted that the restriction was designed to protect wildlife, scenic views and some recreational aspects as well. The Select Board was asked to approve the Conservation Restriction. The Board voted in favor of this Conservation Restriction and signed the agreement.

8:15 Planning Board – Pole Hearing on Bardwells Ferry Road; Mike Kurkulonis.

Don Fish from WMECO appeared for a pole hearing regarding new service at 1263 Bardwells Ferry Road. He petitioned the Select Board for this service. Mike reported that he had inspected the site of the new pole and, in his opinion, there are no negative issues with this request. The Planning Board approved this request unanimously.

9:00 Kenneth Elstein – Hampshire Council of Governments (HCOG) Electricity Program; Rick Bean, Sue Bridge

Ken reported that the HCOG provided electricity to a large constituency in western Mass. He said he was also the Chair of the Belchertown Select Board in addition to his work at the HCOG. He reported that the Electricity Aggregation Program he was presenting to the Town would have no costs to Town residents. All residents and businesses would have the option to opt-out of the program.

He spoke about the history of electricity deregulation. He reported that there were various providers who were both instate and out of state, and varied in delivery and costs, and that the HCOG program would be in that group. He said that WMECO did not provide green credits but HCOG will be offering this option.

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He said that many Towns had already voted to accept this agreement. He reminded the Select Board that Conway had already had the resolution on the warrant at the last Town meeting but that it had not been accepted based on a lack of understanding of what the program had to offer.

He mentioned that WiredWest made Towns unable to aggregate electricity through the Department of Public Utilities (DPU). There is a section of the HCOG Electricity Aggregation Program that permits aggregation of electricity for towns that voted to have a municipal lighting plant.

Ken recommended that Conway vote again on the resolution. Ken explained how electricity billing was done by various companies.

Meeting items

- No warrants were signed.
- The minutes for 1/23/12 were approved as revised.
- The Board voted to have Chuck sign the Weston & Sampson proposal to perform engineering work on the Town ball field, which was recommended by the Parks, Recreation and Trails Committee.
- The Board voted to have Chuck sign the EMPG grant contract, and Tom notarized this document.
- The Board Voted to have Chuck sign the buy orders for diesel and heating oil fuel for FY2013 through the LPVC.
- Jim talked about the site visit he had attended at 140 Academy Hill Road. He said the water was affecting two homes. He said that most of the drainage problems are on private land, and that all parties concerned should meet exclusive of the Town.
- The Board voted to opt out of the HCOG street lights account and revert to using WMECO in this capacity. In this particular instance, the WMECO rates are lower.
- Tom will research fee for Notary.
- Tom reported that the staff finance team had a meeting and is functioning well.
- There was a discussion about progress on the Farrick house at 22 Academy Hill Road. The Town was still waiting to hear from Mr. Farrick on a potential sale of this property to the Town. There was also no indication that any actions were being taken by the DEP with regard to the oil contamination. It was agreed that the Select Board would wait for notification from either the DEP or Mr. Farrick.

Mail and Other Items

- Mail items were reviewed.

Next meeting will be 2/6/2012

10:15 PM Motion to adjourn meeting was made by Chuck, seconded by Jim, all in favor.