

BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
TOWN OF CONWAY, MA  
MINUTES  
January 9, 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

**Appointments**

**7:00 Teacher Issue – Jay Talbot**

Jay explained that he was the attorney representing the School District in this matter. He reported that the District wanted to allow a grammar school teacher to resign and requested that the Town not contest her claim for unemployment insurance. There was no apparent reason why she had or was taking sick leave. Mr. Talbot explained that this was a simple and expeditious solution to a problem that could evolve into a more complicated and expensive legal matter. He explained that the agreement would negate the issues of FMLA and sick leave. The Board discussed the matter and thought this was an acceptable agreement. The Board voted unanimously in favor of this agreement.

**7:30 Dog Incident – Lee Gray; observers - Sue Bridge, Elizabeth Braccia, Ken Ouimette, Diane Poland.**

Lee gave the Board a written complaint surrounding his tenant Lisa Vega's, dog. He reported that he had shot this dog during the weekend when it was attacking his chickens. He had warned Ms. Vega multiple times to keep her dog restrained. It had not been on a leash while outside. He asked the Board to have the dog removed. Ken read quotes from MGL Chapter 140, Sec 156 regarding legitimate reasons for removing and killing dogs that "worried" or attacked livestock.. There was more discussion about who was responsible for this matter and past contact with the dog's owner. Ken reported that Officer Bernier had collected statements from those involved. The Board decided to contact Ms. Vega and request that she appear before them,

Mr. Gray repeatedly declared that he would shoot the dog again if it came near his home or animals. The Board promised to take action regarding this matter. Town counsel will be contacted to get his recommendations. Chuck noted that when Lee came in to see the Board on December 5, he had made it clear that his comments were just for the record, and understood that the Select Board would not take direct action but ask Ken to continue his investigation into the situation.

**8:00 WiredWest Grant – Bob Armstrong**

Bob explained that there is a State grant had been announced and that WireWest should apply for it. The deadline is January 17<sup>th</sup> and local Boards had been asked for their support. He asked the Board to sign a "local support" form to allow the Cooperative to apply for this grant money. The Board signed this document.

**Meeting items**

- The warrants were signed.
- The minutes for 1/3/12 were approved as revised.
- Tom told the Board that he had given James Cabral's dog complaint to the police to address. Chuck asked John to draft a letter to the McGranaghans' regarding control of their dogs and the leash law.
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- John inquired about the status of the mold problem at the United Congregational Church. He indicated that he is a member of St. Mark's Church which he considers only a church. He explained that he regularly attends community events held at the United Congregational Church. He considers the UCC not only a church, but also a community center. He asked the question: "Under that interpretation, is there any latitude for the Town to assist the UCC financially in the remediation of their mold problem?" He commented that he also thinks the UCC building itself had historical significance to the Town and may qualify for CPA funds.

The Board discussed the question and the issue. The Board agreed that discussion of this matter would continue and that trust fund money, CPA funds and a warrant article at the next Town Meeting would be considered to assist the UCC.

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- Chuck reported that he was interested in taking part on a committee that would consult with the Town concerning the use of trust fund money, if the Board so authorizes this committee to form.
- The Board made choices on the FRCOG Regionalization Priorities Questionnaire and prioritized items according With their importance to the Town.

**Mail and Other Items**

- Mail items were reviewed.

Next meeting will be 1/17/2012

**9:00 PM** Motion to adjourn meeting was made by Chuck, seconded by Jim, all in favor.