

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TOWN OF CONWAY, MA
MINUTES
October 03, 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,

Appointments

7:00 Ed Lareau, Ken Ouimette – Drainage on the Town ball field

Ed noted that his basement had been flooded over the past weekend during the Festival of the Hills. He said wanted to know how to make sure his problems would be addressed. He said there was a swale that should have been maintained on a regular basis. He was told that the Parks, Recreation and Trails Committee had been given money to do an engineering study regarding drainage. Chuck told Ed that the Highway Department would have to rent the correct equipment to clean out this swale. He noted that he will ask Bob Baker to get estimates on the costs of this job. Ed was in favor of the engineering study proposed by the Park & Rec Committee to fix the drainage problems on a long-term basis. John reported that there was possible reimbursement for this work from FEMA as part of the Irene storm damage work. Ken entered the meeting and asked if the Festival of the Hills was a Town event. Tom said it was, and Ken used that comment to justify work being done by the Town to correct this problem.

Meeting items

- The warrant for the special Town meeting of 10/17/11 was reviewed and signed. It was then signed and posted by Brian Blakeslee, Constable in Ron Hawes' stead.
- The payroll and Town warrants were signed.
- There was a discussion about reimbursement for storm damage. Tom presented a letter for signature, that made a request to DOR to allow the Town to deficit spend. John asked for clarification because the Town had made a recent request to borrow, based on the advise of the DOR Local Division of Services. Chuck was concerned that Federal payments would be in the form of loans and not grants, but Tom and John reported that they had been told by FEMA that this would be a grant. The Board signed this request.
- Chuck noted to the Board that there was a lack of urgency by the Highway Department with regard to fixing roads damaged during Irene in time for winter and spring conditions. He felt that the Department must be encouraged to move forward quickly to achieve this goal. There was more discussion about the regular maintenance of culverts Town-wide. Chuck wanted the Board to speak with Bob Baker very soon to get these projects moving before it was too late, and all Board members agreed.
- The Board decided not to grant a request from Andy Jaffe to allow absentee ballots for any Town meeting issue. The primary reason for this was because there are often changes to the Articles on the Warrant on the floor during Town Meetings which would not be consistent with what was contained in a absentee ballot.
- The Board tabled discussion of the Town-wide drainage study. It was noted that Weston & Sampson requested \$77,000 for this service on a 2 to 3 year contract.
- The Board discussed Town Counsel attending every annual Town meeting. This was tabled. Tom was asked to get majority vote on warrant articles for 10/17/11.
- The Board reviewed the HCOG proposal on photovoltaic (PV) solar array installation.
- John reported that the Planning Board had agreed to engage Eric Magazu, a UMass Graduate student, to work on the Master Plan and other projects.
- The Board decided that repairs required by the Franklin County Cooperative Inspection Program (FCCIP) must be done on the Conway Grammar School sidewalk. Tom will contact Judy to ask her to move forward on this project.
- John reported on the inspection of the dry hydrant on North Poland Road by him and Jim Moore on Friday, Sep 30. There was discussion about adding riprap to the area just north of the dry hydrant that had been re-installed after Hurricane Irene. The Board agreed that this was necessary and will ask Potter's Excavation to perform this work.

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- Brian Kuzmeskus had again requested assistance with a drainage problem at the bottom of his driveway. John noted the road was probably raised over time which may have added to this drainage problem and suggested that culvert could be installed to mitigate this problem. However, Chuck said that a survey must be done before any work could be done, and noted that his neighbor, Mr. Pekarski, would not be likely to agree to this solution as drainage would be re-directed towards his land. It was agreed that Brian would be told that it cannot go through without Pekarski's approval.
- Tom gave a short report on the new online request system installed by the Franklin County Cooperative Inspection Program (FCCIP).
- There was a brief review of the issues at 23 Boyden Road. Chuck asked Tom to ask Ken if it was legal to use a garden hose to provide water to the property from a well located across the road.

Mail and Other Items

- Mail items were reviewed.

Next meeting will be 10/12/2011

9:25 PM Motion to adjourn meeting was made by Jim, seconded by John, all in favor.