

Minutes
CONWAY SELECTBOARD
Town Office, 32 Main Street
March 6, 2017, 6:00 p.m.

Select Board members present: John O'Rourke, Chair; Robert Baker, Clerk; Bob Armstrong

Others present: Tom Hutcheson, Town Administrator; Lisa Turowsky, Assistant to the TA; Dave Chichester, EMD; Michelle Harris, 250th Committee; Heidi Flanders, 250th Committee; George Butler, resident; Joe Zinan, FCAT

John O'Rourke called the meeting to order at 6PM having determined that no others are recording the meeting.

Minutes

- **On a motion from John O'Rourke to accept the minutes of February 27, 2017, seconded by Robert Baker, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

Warrants

- **On a motion from John O'Rourke to sign the vendor warrant for \$77,242.35, the payroll warrant for \$100,565.09, and the payroll deduction warrant for \$26,097.15, seconded by Robert Baker, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

Meetings Attended by Selectboard Members

Robert Baker, as incident commander during the tornado, thanked John O'Rourke and Bob Armstrong for all their assistance over the course of the emergency. John O'Rourke also mentioned great jobs done by EMD, MEMA, etc.

All three Board members attended the MMA Legislative Breakfast, which was well-attended, at GCC. Rosenberg, Kulik, Mark and Kocot were there. The Lt. Governor, Karyn Polito, came to Conway on February 27, and Congressman Richard Neal visited on March 3.

Citizens' Concerns

None.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Develop guidelines for distributing tornado relief funds – Heidi Flanders, Fire Dept Auxiliary

Heidi Flanders was here to talk about a letter that will go out to every Conway resident, informing them of two physical locations and an internet location to obtain an application for emergency relief funding.

- **On a motion from John O'Rourke to let Heidi Flanders use town bulk mailing permit, seconded by Robert Baker, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

Heidi Flanders described a plan to form a new Town committee of five to assist with recovery efforts/funding and detailed proposed make-up of the committee. Heidi Flanders also reported on the fundraising efforts that are underway, which have netted over \$70,000 to date. Three fundraising events are being planned: Berkshire Brewing Company will hold a benefit on 3/9 and will donate the proceeds; on 3/19 a group of local women, "Conway Strong," will host a gathering at the Conway Grammar School from 2-4 pm; they will provide aerial footage of the damage to the Town as well as photos and a map, so that people can see the tornado's path and share their experiences. Conway Strong has asked that people bring finger foods to share. A painting by Jim Murphy of the Maggs' barn done just prior to the tornado will be auctioned off in a silent auction, and there will be other raffle items. On 3/20 Chandler's will host two sittings of a pasta buffet at the restaurant; flyers will be going out about this event, the proceeds of which will be donated to the emergency relief fund. The Auxiliary's goal is one month of fundraising, with fundraising efforts and applications closing on 3/31; by mid-to-end April all funds will be dispensed. Lion's Club International came to Conway to give residents of Pumpkin Hollow gift

cards for supplies (food, water, medical supplies, etc.) and they will help will future funding. Springfield Rescue Mission brought boxes of supplies for people most hardly hit which Auxiliary brought to homes on Saturday. Donations were received from Lowes, Lasalle Florist, Baker's Country Store, and the Boy Scouts of Shelburne Falls, who came on Sunday and cleaned up the cemetery. Robert Baker said the Boy Scouts did a great job. Monson Boy Scout troop wanted to come up and help on Sunday but Dave Chichester didn't have an opportunity for them. There was a discussion of possibility of residents getting help from one of the groups who have volunteered with clean-up on their private property. Tom Hutcheson brought up Pumpkin Hollow, which will need another dumpster and a chipper to continue with the clean-up efforts that began on Sunday. If someone fronts the money to procure goods or services related to the clean-up, such as rental of a dumpster, they can apply to the new committee for help to defray the cost. Robert Baker mentioned a request for a portable toilet in the Pumpkin Hollow area for the volunteers who are helping with cleanup, and also for some of the homes there. Tom Hutcheson will get the name of a supplier for Robert Baker. A volunteer coordinator is needed to manage all of these efforts. John O'Rourke spoke to a selectman from another town who suggested an app to organize volunteers. Tom Hutcheson asked Dave Chichester if he has any ideas for a volunteer coordinator; Dave has a couple of people in mind. Bob Armstrong asked about town's port-a-potty; there's one at Conway Grammar School that's not being used but it's been canceled. Town can place a port-a-potty in Pumpkin Hollow.

- **On a motion from John O'Rourke for the Town to place a portable toilet in Pumpkin Hollow, seconded by Robert Baker, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

Discuss requirements for vendors at 250th – Heidi Flanders and Michelle Harris, 250th Anniversary Committee

Heidi Flanders raised the issue of requiring that vendors be required to provide the Town with proof of insurance. Michelle is concerned we'll lose the majority of local vendors if they are required to have insurance. Food trucks can purchase a one-day license but this is very expensive, according to Michelle Harris, who also commented that vendors have never been asked to provide proof of insurance for Festival of the Hills. John O'Rourke says the Town's insurance carrier has indicated that they should have evidence of insurance for all food/drink vendors, especially those who primary job is to sell something. John O'Rourke asked Tom Hutcheson to talk further with Town's insurer, MIIA, to see what alternatives there are. There is something called a hold harmless letter but it's weaker legally. The concern is that this requirement will eliminate the "little guys," in favor of professional vendors. Heidi also asked about general liability policy for events at school, on the property next to OESCO, on the ball field (fireworks), and for the walk on Cricket Hill. Tom Hutcheson says the general liability policy covers these events; for the Cricket Hill walk the rec department has some agreements on hand for participating in town activities that have been used in other towns. Tom Hutcheson said that asking people to sign a waiver will put people on notice that they should be careful. Funding for additional EMTs and police for the weekend was discussed. Ken Ouimette is working on resources but Heidi Flanders doesn't have a number yet. Further discussion will be necessary. Firefighters will be paid if they request it, per Robert Baker. Tom will check in with Town Counsel then get back to Michelle Harris about the question of proof of insurance for vendors.

DRAFT Resolution related to Climate Change

George Butler, a volunteer with Climate Change Lobby, was here to present the draft resolution to the Board for their review. This is a non-binding resolution with no specific legal import which urges legislators to support the concept. Similar resolutions will be on warrants in Ashfield & Buckland, and may also appear on Charlemont's and Plainfield's. George Butler has given a presentation to the Energy Committee and will be presenting to the Conservation Commission in a couple of weeks; he will hold an educational session about the resolution before Town Meeting. Discussed how to get on the warrant by gathering signatures versus Select Board vote. George Butler described carbon fee & dividend scheme, whereby emitters of CO₂ would pay a fee which goes into a trust fund; on quarterly basis those monies are distributed to households on an equal basis. This tax would be on any product related to fossil fuel. 2/3 people would have a gain or break even, according to Regional Economic Models, Inc. (REMI) in Amherst. This is an opportunity for people to get together on climate change regardless of political affiliation; it isn't cap and trade nor is it a direct subsidy for renewables. Robert Baker asks whether this would increase costs of gas, propane. One-third of residents could experience such increased costs, but lower income people will benefit more because they don't use as much fossil fuel. Administrative costs would be 6% of the monies collected to start, expected to go down to 3-4%, according to REMI. There are two bills in Massachusetts legislature, one of the bills is the same concept as this resolution, the second takes 20% of the money and gives it to R&D. George Butler prefers the bill that doesn't give money to R&D. Senator Hinds backs both bills. Tom

Hutcheson says the warrant will be closing next week March 13, the Select Board will review the draft resolution and it will be on next week's agenda.

Sign contract with Town Administrator - tabled? TOM is this what happened?

Items Not Anticipated

Consider dates for meeting with Superintendent of Frontier Regional School District

Superintendent is available to meet with Select Board and Finance Committee on March 9th, 15th, or 22nd. Board members could meet on March 15th at 5:30. The meeting would be at Town Hall. Tom Hutcheson will follow up.

Town Administrator Update

Tornado:

The Massachusetts Agriculture Commissioner (a former Town Administrator) has asked residents who farm, including sugaring, to contact his office; the information is on the web site.

I filed the insurance claim with MIIA and have the claim number and contact. The apparent insurance adjuster who examined the salt shed may have been an insurance salesman independent of MIIA.

I have contacted Jim Bosman about using the Reserve Fund for pay related to the tornado; he has suggested making it a Town Meeting warrant article.

The Highway Superintendent is preparing to open Whately Road; he would have done it today, but some additional material had been piled so that it went into the street a bit, which he's going to push back so he can open the road. NB: Whately Road is now open!

There is some tornado-related damage to the fence at Pumpkin Hollow Cemetery, but there is also even more need of repair that's not tornado-related.

Patricia Vinchesi's work was written up in the Globe, as some disaffected Scituate residents thought she might be acting illegally; the Town Office also got a phone call from a Boston-area cell phone suggesting she was improperly appointed.

Not clear whether mutual aid is going to cover help with moving salt from our salt shed to South Deerfield. Discussed using reserve fund to pay for tornado-related expenses, not in deficit situation at this time. Robert B says normally mutual aid is free might be a good gesture to pay them, many local fire departments sent help. Have a relatively new highway mutual aid agreement. Should be able to use reserve fund for all expenses and not have to go up taxes next FY. SB says they want Finance Committee to vote on using reserve fund, and not push it off on Town Meeting.

Three or four rails are missing in the fence along the ball field that need to be replaced ASAP to avoid injury to passersby.

Dave Chichester remarked that he was very pleased with the way the community has come forward in the tornado's aftermath. Dave Chichester talked to Pumpkin Hollow residents today to find out what they still need. The issue of debris (trees, bags of garbage, metal) remains; it is not clear how it's going to be managed. A lot of metal debris was moved down to road during the Pumpkin Hollow clean-up last Sunday. Dave Chichester has told homeowners they have to deal with debris around their houses. Robert Baker suggested that Highway Department bring metal to Transfer Station.

- **On a motion from John O'Rourke to ask the Highway Department to bring metal debris resting near the road to the Transfer Station, seconded by Robert Baker, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

Concerns of the Selectmen

None.

Mail

Notice of DPU filings

Applications for Germaine Scholarship – one application was received

Letter from Mass Fiscal Alliance asking for estimates of aid by end of march

Announcements

None.

Documents and Other Exhibits Used at the Meeting

Town of Conway Treasury Warrant-Vendor, W17-19; March 8, 2017; Payroll, PW17-19, March 8, 2017;

PDW17-19, March 8, 2017

DRAFT Resolution related to Climate Change – George Butler

250th (Insurance information) and Tornado Volunteers concerns

Next Meeting

- *Scheduled for Monday, March 13, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Office, 32 Main Street*

On a motion from John O'Rourke, seconded by Robert Baker, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Baker, Clerk