

Minutes
CONWAY SELECT BOARD
Town Office, 32 Main Street
April 3, 2017, 6:00 p.m.

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

Others present: Tom Hutcheson, Town Administrator; Lisa Turowsky, Assistant to the TA; Ron Sweet, Highway Department; Dana Goodfield, Capital Improvements Planning Committee; Nick Vanderheld, Resident

Robert Baker called the meeting to order at 6PM

Minutes

- **On a motion from Bob Armstrong to accept the minutes of March 28, 2017, seconded by Robert Baker, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

Warrants

- **On a motion from Robert Baker to sign the vendor warrant for \$17,180.13, the payroll warrant for \$99,541.99, the payroll deduction warrant for \$ 25,850.90, and the student activity account warrant for \$2,642.42, seconded by Bob Armstrong, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

Meetings Attended by Selectboard Members

All three Selectboard members attended Eversource meeting. Bob Armstrong went to FRCOG planning meeting on climate change; many people from Conway were there.

Citizens' Concerns

None.

Old Business

FY 2018 Budget and Town Meeting Warrant:

Highway hydraulic lift – Ron Sweet came in to answer some questions that came up at last Selectboard meeting about the hydraulic lift. It was recommended by Capital Improvements Planning Committee; when Robert Baker brought up issue of liability at the last meeting it was a surprise to Ron Sweet, as the issue had been covered in committee. On the issue of liability, Ron Sweet believes it's better to have the hydraulic lift than using a pole saw from the back of a truck. Robert Baker and Ron Sweet disagreed about safety considerations. Ron Sweet described the characteristics of the lift and increased safety for workers. It is more versatile than a bucket truck and can be controlled from the basket as well as the ground. It will also save on the expense of hiring tree companies to come in. Dana Goodfield talked about the limits of what the utility companies do for trimming; they only trim one side of the road. A hoisters license will be required of employees operating the hydraulic lift, and training will be provided. Also the hydraulic lift can be used for outside building maintenance; this is part of job description of Highway Department employees. There was a discussion of the parking lot behind Town Office and which budget the money should come from to install hard pack. Bob Armstrong suggested that many of these issues can be dealt with at the pre-town meeting.

Highway salaries and wages – questions about dollar amounts were raised by Robert Baker. Tom Hutcheson explained that the 2½% salary raise wasn't included in the Department budget. Robert Baker also had questions about employee categories; foreman's position is accounted for in hourly wages item, not salaries, as are laborers, truck drivers. These items don't include the 2½% raise. Robert Baker requested more detail about hourly wages item.

Town meeting warrant is almost in final form, said Tom Hutcheson, who explained that the budget increase is actually a little less than last year's increase. Tom Hutcheson is still looking into separating out Town and CGS costs for health and retirement benefits; it may not be best to do this on the warrant itself, per Treasurer. Treasurer will talk with John O'Rourke more about this. All other articles are ready, with the exception of Planning Board articles; they are holding a hearing later this week and depending on the results, Tom Hutcheson will have final wording of the Planning articles. Tom Hutcheson asked the Selectboard to look at the warrant "with eagle eyes" since it's close to being finalized. There was some discussion of Articles 7 and 16. There will be a section at the end of the warrant under the seal; the Town Election will be posted as having wastewater article. Tom Hutcheson will check with Town Clerk on when the vote on this article will take place.

New Business

Sign notification of intent to harvest timber on land abutting Town land:

Nick Vanderheld has filed a letter of intent notifying abutters of plans to harvest timber. This is the final letter that needs to be signed before harvest can go ahead.

- **On motion from Robert Baker to approve letter of intent to harvest timber, seconded by Bob Armstrong, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

Items Not Anticipated

None.

Town Administrator Update

Our Chapter 90 money will be \$265,608 in FY 2018. This is down slightly from this year's \$268,147.

The Pre-Town Meeting organizers are proposing two possible dates for their annual event—May 1 and May 3. There is a Select Board meeting May 1, and we usually have that prior to the event, which is scheduled for 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

While the Select Board and I were meeting with Eversource regarding their emergency management planning, there were about 45 Conway residents attended a meeting regarding Federal aid for tornado clean-up for woodlands. USDA has accepted the local Farm Service Agency's application for assistance, which means that FSA can start accepting applications. When the requests for assistance have been totaled, a dollar value will be forwarded to Washington for approval. At that point the Washington office can accept, deny or modify (prorate) the funding requested. FSA may start accepting applications as early as today. Landowners are encouraged to apply. The funding is good and this is a one-time offer; I believe there is a one-month window for applying.

I've been given a budget estimate for the Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School, though they have not yet presented final figures. The Superintendent and Chair of the Board of Trustees will be in next week to discuss their school; this comes amid a climate of concern regarding mandated transportation costs to out-of-district schools when the local school does not offer a similar program.

I'm working with Roy Cohen and Julie Petty to produce an online registration system for Conway Youth Sports. We intend to get that up and running for this season. In related news, I am working with Roy to produce an updated web site with more functionality and a more usable mobile version. (Funding for this comes from a Town Meeting warrant article of several years ago.)

Concerns of the Selectmen

None.

Mail

Select Board received their Beacons.

Announcements

None.

Documents and Other Exhibits Used at the Meeting

FY 2018 Budget and Town Meeting Warrant

Letter of intent to harvest timber with map

Vendor warrant 17-21

Student activity account warrant

Payroll warrant

Payroll deduction warrant

Next Meeting

- *Scheduled for Monday, April 10, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Office, 32 Main Street*
- **On a motion from Robert Baker, seconded by Bob Armstrong, the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Baker, Clerk