

Minutes  
CONWAY SELECT BOARD  
Town Office, 32 Main Street  
April 18, 2017, 6:00 p.m.

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Select Board members present: John Rourke, Robert Baker, Bob Armstrong

Others present: Tom Hutcheson, Town Administrator; Lisa Turowsky, Assistant to the TA; Joe Zinan, FCAT; Philip Kantor, Resident; Peter Engelman, Historical Society

John O'Rourke called the meeting to order at 6PM.

*Minutes*

- **On a motion from John O'Rourke to accept the minutes of April 10, 2017, seconded by Robert Baker, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

*Warrants*

- **On a motion from John O'Rourke to approve the payroll warrant of \$100,044.34, the payroll deduction warrant of \$25,994.20, and the vendor warrant of \$166,076.09, seconded by Robert Baker, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

*Meetings Attended by Selectboard Members*

John O'Rourke attended Mass. Municipal Assoc. Board of Directors meeting; Local Government Advisory Commission met with state Secretaries; Mass. Selectman's Assoc. Board reviewed plans for fall meetings.

*Citizens' Concerns*

Robert Baker was at ballfield looking at slate debris. Need to get clear slate from field before ball season starts. TA will coordinate with Parks & Rec and with Highway to get it cleaned up.

*Old Business*

*None.*

*New Business – Table until Select Board can get more information on consolidation*

*Letter of support for feasibility study for a Franklin County Regional Emergency Communications Center*

There is a movement to study including Greenfield and Montague in regional consortium and combining them in dispatch. Tom Hutcheson said there's a question of dispatch moving to Greenfield. Shelburne Control Oversight Committee stated its public stance re: dispatch communication in the letter sent to Towns; they want to stop the study in its tracks because they are against moving dispatch to Greenfield. Tom Hutcheson thinks this has been a topic of conversation for years and thinks it's a question of it making more sense to have dispatch in Greenfield if that town is included in the consortium. Robert Baker said it's possible that the State Police, who currently house the dispatch center in Shelburne Falls, would stop their funding if it moved to Greenfield; this would increase costs to the Town. Tom Hutcheson said he would like to get representatives from the Oversight Committee and FRCOG, who may be favorable to a county-wide dispatch center, to come in and explain their positions. The members of the Select Board agreed that they did not have enough information to give a letter of support for the feasibility study at this time.

*Sign agreement for showing of Town-owned paintings by Lester Stevens*

Philip Kantor and Peter Engelman were here to talk about the exhibition of Lester Stevens paintings they have been curating. The paintings will be moved to Field Memorial Library on June 14<sup>th</sup> and will be returned to their owners on June 19<sup>th</sup> June as part of the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. Philip Kantor and Peter Engelman got insurance covering the paintings which are presently in CGS and the Town Office. All are of landscapes in Conway. John O'Rourke restated the agreement, that the Town is lending these paintings to Field Memorial Library for the exhibit, then returning them to the owners. Tom Hutcheson asked whether they've considered taking photos and making posters available as fundraising opportunity. Peter Engelmann said they've looked at this but it's quite expensive. There's a professional photographer on 250<sup>th</sup> Committee, according to Robert Baker, who might be available to take photos of these paintings. Philip Kantor noted that American Art Review magazine will be running

a spread on the Conway exhibit, and that a Rockport artists group is doing paintings in the style of Lester Stevens that will be exhibited along with the Stevens paintings. Robert Baker noted that #8 on the list was actually owned by the Fireman's Association.

- **On a motion from John O'Rourke that the Town lend specified paintings to the Historical Society from 14<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> June 2017 except for #8, seconded by Robert Baker, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

#### *Items Not Anticipated 48 Hours in Advance of the Meeting*

*Sign MassDOT ten-year Chapter 90 contract.*

Robert Baker said that in the past these contracts had to be voted on at Town Meeting. John O'Rourke says all this does is allow the Town to get Chapter 90 funds.

- **On a motion from John O'Rourke that the Select Board sign the contract with MassDOT, seconded by Robert Baker, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

#### *Town Administrator Update*

##### **Committees**

The Energy Committee—notably, Brice Hereford—has been instrumental in the insulation and air sealing in Town Hall, which is almost finished. There were some inconveniences as the odor of the chemicals necessitated the closing of the building for two days—last Tuesday and this past Saturday—but we're over that now and winding down. The plan is to perform another blower-door test once the work is done and measure the difference, from which we can calculate savings.

The Historical Commission has requested some consultation with Town counsel regarding the United Congregational Church, and I've given Sarah Williams Town Counsel's contact information.

Parks and Recreation has been preparing the ball field for use, and some additional soil is slated to be delivered soon, to be mixed in with the existing soil.

I believe the candidate for Planning Board, Beth Girshman, will be interested in serving on the Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership, the position Jim Moore had taken earlier.

I have sent reminders to the Finance Committee and the Capital Improvements Planning Committee to review the long-term financial plan, and I encourage you to do the same. Comments should be in to Joe Markarian by the end of the month, which is the end of next week, in preparation for a final revision and votes from all three bodies.

##### **Departments**

The Town Report and warrant are printed and have been delivered to the mail house for preparation. I plan to pick them up Thursday or Friday morning and deliver them to the Conway, Shelburne Falls, and Williamsburg post offices.

The Highway Superintendent is finalizing an agreement for design work to be done for the North Poland Road bridge that is in poor shape. We may be able to repair it for much less than the cost of replacement.

##### **Town Meeting**

I am now working on motions for the warrant articles; I still have a question on the one for the non-binding resolution on having a vote next year for the Highway garage, and am consulting with Town Counsel on that, but aside from that, they're in good shape.

*Concerns of the Selectmen*

*None.*

##### *Mail*

Email from William Cote regarding Town website and communications; Tom Hutcheson and Roy Cohen will continue to work on tech issues; Commonwealth of Mass. Announcement regarding municipal vulnerability preparedness on April 18<sup>th</sup> in Buckland/Shelburne Falls. Tom Hutcheson will attend. There may be grants for towns attached to this initiative; Email from Friends of Peru State Forest regarding a meeting on Monday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, a group opposed to Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership. John O'Rourke says we should post the info on the website.

*Announcements*

Robert Armstrong learned that the extension of Conway network from Comcast will be completed by the end of summer 2017, ahead of schedule. Comcast is doing a clean-up at YMCA Camp Apex in Shelburne this Saturday morning at 8:00am. Robert Armstrong will be going.

*Documents and Other Exhibits Used at the Meeting*

*Vendor, Payroll, and Payroll Deduction Warrants*

*Letter of support re: feasibility study*

*Chapter 90 contract*

*Agreement for showing of Town-owned paintings*

*Email from Friends of Peru State Forest re: Rural Economic Development from a Public Policy Perspective*

*Visit by Sec'y Beaton to Buckland on April 18th*

***Next meeting scheduled for Monday, April 24, 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 6:45 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Baker, Clerk