

Minutes
CONWAY SELECTBOARD
Town Office, 32 Main Street
July 11, 2016, 7:00 p.m.

Select Board members present: John O'Rourke; Robert Baker

Others present: Tom Hutcheson, Town Administrator; Liz Jacobson-Carroll, Assistant to the TA; Dan Thompson, FCAT; Elaine Peteroy, Franklin Land Trust

John O'Rourke called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Minutes

- **On a motion from John O'Rourke to accept the minutes of June 27, 2016, as amended, seconded by Robert Baker, the vote was unanimous.**

Warrants

- **On a motion from John O'Rourke to sign the vendor warrants with the specific amount to be determined, the payroll warrant for \$118,923.58, and the payroll deduction warrant for \$30,417.64, seconded by Robert Baker, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

Meetings Attended by Select Board Members

- Robert Baker and Tom Hutcheson toured the Rose property with Michelle Turre of the Open Space Committee; they viewed and discussed invasive plants.
- John O'Rourke attended a Franklin County Selectmen's Association meeting in Charlemont, where MA DOT representatives explained the small bridge program, indicating that they are mindful of western MA towns' problems with small bridges.

Citizens' Concerns

None.

Old Business

- *Sign contract for South River floodplain lowering project*
Tom Hutcheson noted that the project has been reduced, by approximately 1/3, in response to a resident's concerns. John O'Rourke said the project is being funded through grant and Community Preservation funds, and a local company has been hired. **On a motion from John O'Rourke to sign the contract for the South River floodplain lowering project, seconded by Robert Baker, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

New Business

- *Consider Dashevsky conservation restriction*
Alain Peteroy of the Franklin Land Trust described Samuel Dashevsky and Marcia Reynolds' request for a standard conservation restriction to their 49-acre property off Main Poland Road while retaining an 18-acre envelope for a single dwelling, related improvements and access via an existing road. She noted that forestry and agriculture will be allowed under the restriction, as will be the maintenance and use of trails; the owners will maintain the right of privacy.
- The property is currently in Chapter 61B, where it will remain for the foreseeable future, she said, indicating that she does not anticipate a change in the Town's assessment. Alain Peteroy indicated that she has met with and received approval from the Conservation Commission. Robert Baker requested that an assessor be invited to future meetings at which such restrictions are being discussed in order that tax implications could be considered at the same time. **On a motion from John O'Rourke, based on the municipal certification of the Conservation Commission, and that it looks like the assessment status of this property will not change, to sign the restriction, seconded by Robert Baker, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

Old Business, continued

- *Sign contract for New Ecology Inc. (NEI) for Phase I of the Conway Town Solar/Community Shared Solar Consultancy*

Brice Hereford asked the Select Board to commit \$4,000 to the first phase of the program, noting that a request for a commitment of funds for the second phase will be forthcoming. Select Board members acknowledged the great deal of work done by Brice Hereford. **On a motion to sign the contract with New Ecology Inc., to be paid with grant funds received by the Energy Committee a year ago, for the town solar/community shared solar consultancy project, seconded by Robert Baker, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

- *Vote to transfer funds to cover FY16 legal bill – tabled*

- *Sign employee recognition letters for*

Phylis Dacey, Election Worker, 20 years

Ken Ouimette, Police Chief, 35 years

Randall Williams, EMT, Truck Driver/Laborer/Substitute, Reserve Officer, 20 years

On a motion from John O'Rourke to sign the employee recognition letters, seconded by Robert Baker, the vote was unanimous in favor.

Items Not Anticipated

None.

Town Administrator Update

- **Committees**

The interns from the Japanese Stiltgrass Control Project run by the Open Space Committee will be heading out on the roads starting in August. There are two newly discovered patches of the grass since last year, along Reeds Bridge Road at the South end of Pine Grove Cemetery and on Whately Road very near the Whately town road on the west side of the road. They are coordinating with the Highway Department about mowing.

- **Departments**

- I will have the recognition for the town resident ready to be signed on Thursday; her birthday is Sunday.
- As you know, my assistant has decided to take a part-time position at the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, citing better pay. She'll be working here till the end of the month. I will advertise in *The Recorder* this week, along with advertising for the Highway clerk position, as we did not get any interest in that through local postings.
- The FY 2017 insurance invoices came in high for general liability, but low for workers' compensation, so the FY 2017 insurance budget looks secure.
- The Delabarre Avenue engineering project is proceeding. There will be some drilling on Thursday, July 21 to determine the underlying soils, starting at about 7:45 – 8 a.m. and continuing through the work day. The Highway Superintendent will be notifying the residents on Upper Baptist Hill Road well in advance. There are two locations; they will start drilling in the road near the erosion area closest to OESCO, then at the second location (in the curve of the road) as time allows.
- I was asked by Bruce Jouannet to contact the state regarding a bear that has been seen near the elementary school. I contacted Fish and Wildlife, who said that bears will generally shy away from humans, and that they saw no reason to intervene. They forwarded some educational material, which I in turn forwarded to Bruce for use at the school. [Robert Baker suggested replacing the plastic dumpster cover with a metal one. Tom Hutcheson will suggest to Bruce Jouannet that he contact the dumpster company, and he will talk to the new principal].
- Aside from the legal account and the ZBA, all departments are ending the year within their budgets. I have requested a reserve fund transfer for the final Legal bill, which was for \$1,582.50, with only \$15.00 in the account (we have raised the budget for next year), and the ZBA, which had a legal ad this year (about \$60). The Finance Committee has authorized the transfer from the reserve account for these items.
- I am working with Pam Parmakian, who spoke to you not long ago, on a new Community Development Strategy for the Town, necessary to be part of the Community Development Block Grant application. She has laid out the steps to take and additional information she'll need.
- The Treasurer is working on a couple of foreclosures. I don't have full information yet but will share it with you when I do.

- The Festival of the Hills has contacted me to get public safety staff together to discuss what it would take to provide services. They would like the services to be free of charge, which of course would be a Select Board decision. They have requested a meeting with TH and the public safety staff. There was discussion regarding getting estimates for the services requested, once the town knows what they want.

Concerns of the Selectmen

- Robert Baker requested a list of members of the Garden Club; Tom Hutcheson will try to acquire.

Mail

- Thank you note from Germain Scholarship recipient Madeleine Perreault.
- Resignation letter from Liz Jacobson-Carroll, who will soon begin working at FRCOG

Announcements

None.

On a motion from John O'Rourke to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 PM, seconded by Robert Baker,

Documents and Other Exhibits Used at the Meeting

- *Agreement between Town of Conway and New Ecology, Inc.*
- *Conservation Restriction on Dashevsky/Reynolds land by the Franklin Land Trust, Inc.*
- *Municipal Certification for the above conservation restriction from the Conservation Commission of Conway.*

Next Meeting

- *Scheduled for Monday, July 25, 2016 at 7:00 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 7:33 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Baker, Clerk