

Minutes
CONWAY SELECTBOARD
Town Hall, 5 Academy Hill Road
February 27, 2017

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

Others present: Lisa Turowsky, Assistant to the TA; Joe Zinan, FCAT; Brice Hereford, Energy Committee; Heidi Flanders, Fire Dept. Auxiliary; Jim Bosman, Finance Committee; Robert Stone, Finance Committee; Roy Cohen, Finance Committee; Sheila Harrington, Finance Committee

John O'Rourke called the meeting to order at 6:005pm.

Minutes

February 21, 2017

- **On a motion from John O'Rourke to accept the minutes of February 21, 2017, seconded by Robert Baker, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

Meetings Attended by Select Board members

John O'Rourke attended the FRCOG Executive Committee meeting where the Franklin County Emergency Communication System was discussed. The system needs to be repaired or replaced to get it up to par. Most attendees favor patching up the old system until additional funding sources can be found.

Citizens' Concerns *None.*

Old Business

Dog Order

- **On a motion from John O'Rourke to sign the dog order summarizing the findings of the February 21st hearing, seconded by Robert Baker, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

New Business

Town Hall insulation proposal

Brice Hereford was present to ask the Select Board to sign the proposal by Goss for Town Hall. In light of the emergency situation in town, the item was tabled the Select Board has time to review the proposal and Tom Hutcheson can look at it.

6:30 JOINT MEETING WITH FINANCE COMMITTEE: FY 2018 BUDGET

Jim Bosman picked up a packet at Frontier Regional High School meeting. There was a general discussion by members of the Finance Committee and the Select Board of how the schools are driving budget increases. Two-thirds of the total town budget is accounted for by school budget. Bob Armstrong brought up the potential impact of charter schools which could bankrupt some of the small towns. More information about the budget increases needs to be gotten especially from the Grammar School. Roy Cohen asked whether it was possible for there to be more oversight of the school expenditures. The system in place already requires that every bill be reviewed by Department heads, the town accountant, the Select Board, and finally the Treasurer. However, it is not clear whether this level of review exists for school bills. Everyone agreed that more scrutiny may be desirable. Sheila Harrington went to Grammar School Committee meeting. There is uncertainty around assessments especially with regard to Frontier Regional. John O'Rourke said that the Select Board may need to look at school budgets more closely.

Items Not Anticipated 48 Hours in Advance of the Meeting
Chapter 44, Section 31 relief

John O'Rourke reported that the Select Board can declare a state of emergency and not have to adhere to procurement process to get things done to eliminate any threats to public safety and welfare. As of the time of this meeting the immediate threats have been dealt with. Terry Williams from DOR encourages the Select Board to use this law to get state funding. State of emergency in Conway was declared on Saturday, February 25 at 9p.m.

Heidi Flanders spoke about the Ladies' Auxiliary bank account at Greenfield Savings Bank that has been in existence to provide emergency relief to Conway residents. There is also a GoFundMe account online for people to make donations. Both accounts are called Conway Mass. Tornado Relief. Heidi Flanders described her efforts to put together a management plan for the monies that come into these accounts. Town Counsel will be asked for his opinion as to how to track receipt and disbursement of the funds. John O'Rourke asked for feedback from the City of Holyoke which recently managed a GoFundMe account for emergency relief. Heidi Flanders will return next week to meet with the Select Board to discuss a policy for prioritizing residents' requests for monetary relief.

Damage to town property: the roof was torn off the salt shed. The claims adjuster was there earlier today (Monday)

Documents and Other Exhibits Used at the Meeting

M.G.L. Ch. 44 Sec. 31 Expenditures in Excess of Appropriation
DOR Division of Local Services Bulletin re: Deficit Spending for Emergency Purposes by Municipalities

Next Meeting

- *Scheduled for March 6, 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 7:14pm**

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Baker