

BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
TOWN OF CONWAY, MA  
MINUTES  
October 29, 2007

**Meeting Open: 7:30**

**Present:** Christina Conklin, Jack Lochhead, Joe Strzegowski, Tom Spiro - AA

**Appointments**

**7:30 Bob Baker, Rick Sumner** – promotion to foreman for Rick Sumner

Rick had previously acted as foreman. Bob will be out on medical leave for at least 2 weeks so the department will need a foreman or someone to supervise during that time. There is a training workshop for new managerial staff that Rick was authorized to attend for \$75.00 that will be billed to a Highway Department account TBD. Joe made a motion to approve training and a promotion to Department Foreman for Rick, and also to begin a 90-day trial period as interim foreman effective immediately and ending on January 27, 2008, during which time he will receive a raise in pay of \$1.25 per hour; Christina 2<sup>nd</sup>, all in favor.

Rick leaves and a discussion proceeds regarding Bob's work over the past and current year (see list).

**8:00 NIMS Meeting** – Bob Baker, Ken Ouimette, Christina Conklin, Dave Chichester, Diane O'Connell

There was a survey of highest training level of each attendee. It was suggested that a list be created to establish the current and ongoing training levels of all officers in town. It was determined that all staff leads should complete ICS 100 and IC/NIMS 700 level courses. Tom will send a memo out to that effect. Ken offered his assistance in attaining 300 level training classes should anyone be interested.

**8:30 Fire Department** – Bob Baker, Adam Baker, Ron Hawks, Chris Herrmann, Lee Chase, Darrel Chase

Bob noted that he was under the assumption that the Selectboard had reconsidered their previous decision to hire Adam as Deputy Fire Chief. Christina noted that she had talked to Jim Recore regarding the process involved in choosing Adam for this position as Jim seemed upset about this decision. She noted that he specifically said that he didn't have any input. Bob read sections of MGL Chapter 48, Section 42 that describes how Fire Chiefs are appointed, and which noted that the chief appoints all officers and firemen. There was a colloquy regarding Bob's appointment as "Strong Chief" (i.e. Section 42). Bob said that Tom Ward would attest to his appointment, although Joe looked for evidence that Bob had been appointed as a Strong Chief. The Selectboard noted that Bob should have spoken to the Fire Department first, and mentioned that the Board always leaves the choice of member selections to committee chairs and alike. It was not clear as to why the Selectboard appointed Deputy Fire Chiefs since 1990. Tom will research.

Bob explains his use of the Fire Department cruiser as the Selectboard had questioned this. He has all of his turnout gear and other equipment in this vehicle. It is kept at his house overnight and at the garage during the day. He uses this vehicle for transportation more now as the Highway Department is now minus one pickup truck. Joe explained that the Selectboard has a 'need to know' why this vehicle is used as much as it is. Joe requested to take the situation under advisement and the issue was tabled.

**9:00 Liz Braccia** – Interest report

Liz noted that Ken was awarded a grant for new safety vests.

Joe noted that Tom Scalon told him that the town should borrow the money for the new garage. Liz noted that the town would get a better bond rating with a larger stabilization fund balance. Joe said that town's people may not agree to borrow money to build the garage instead of using the stabilization fund.

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Liz noted an increase in interest earned from various town trust funds. The total increase was \$3,300 from 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of FY2007 to FY2008.

The Selectboard signed a grant application for the Conway Cultural Council from the MA Cultural Council.

**Meeting Items**

- § Approved minutes of 10/22/07
- § Jack noted that the Rose Field research exceeded the money approved in Article # 10, FY2008. Joe agreed that the balance needed could come from Article #17 from the feasibility study for housing.
- § The Flagg Mountain project road was discussed and determined to be fine with regard to the Common Driveway Bylaw.
- § The Selectboard approved distribution of the Berkshire Broadband survey when available.
- § The Selectboard approved the FY2009 budget hearing schedule.
- § This year's Christmas party will be on December 12<sup>th</sup> if Christina can make that date.
- § The Board agrees to meet other towns with regard to a shared EMD on November 6<sup>th</sup>.
- § Christina noted that the Garage Committee was close to agreeing on a final RFQ.

**Mail and Other Items**

- §
- § Warrants signed as per agenda
- § Other mail items as per agenda

**10:10 PM**                      Motion to adjourn by Joe, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jack, all in favor.