

BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
TOWN OF CONWAY, MA  
MINUTES  
May 17, 2010

**meeting open: 7:00PM**

**present:** Chuck Trombley, Maureen Chase, Jim Moore, Tom Spiro

**others present:**

**Appointments**

**7:00 Tom Romanovicz - Town Mowing**

Tom came in to talk about the award of the mowing bids to Bud Lively and regarding his work at the Town and school properties so far. With respect to the wording of the mowing bid specifications, Maureen explained Town Council stated the paragraph was written with both the Boyden School House and the grammar school property together so if the bid should have been for both. If they were submitted as separate they needed to be added together for a bidding total. She also explained that Town Council suggested the specs be revised for clarity for next year's bidding process. Tom Romanovicz noted that Bud was the only person to bid both the school and Boyden school house together and noted that he had bid the grammar school and Boyden's school this way in the past three years. The Board mentioned one other had put in a single bid but didn't state if it was for both. Tom also said that Mr. Lively had asked him if he wanted to switch properties and complained that he was violating laws regarding collusion. Chuck explained that the Board could not determine this and Tom was responsible for addressing the matter of collusion himself with the proper authority if he decide to proceed. In addition, Tom stated that he felt Mr. Lively's work was less than complete and the commons and school were not as neat as they should be. The Board said they would discuss the problems with Mr. Lively because several people had complained. Jim asked for clarification regarding the bid specs and he was brought up to date on this process. Bob Baker stated that due to the late mowing and early warm weather the grass growth was well ahead of the season requiring removal of the mown grasses at the school to allow normal re-growth. Bob recommended mowing specs be put out around April 1st next year.

**7:30 Rick Bean, Bob Baker – Radio Antenna**

Rick and Bob spoke about a need for improved radio communications in Conway. Bob noted that he was recommending using the existing Highway Department frequency for emergency purposes as well as Highway Department communications. Bob noted there was a need to improve this local connection. He showed the Board communication maps of several possible locations for a new tower. After doing some research on new towers, the Emergency Preparedness Team decided that the best location would be on the Highway garage roof, including using a repeater that would amplify the signal. Bob noted that funding for this project would be through the FRCOG for radios and the tower would be paid for through a combination of monies from FY2010 operations budgets of all emergency service departments in Town. Rick said that the Treasurer had assured them that funding through the operations budgets can be done, but he will double check with the Accountant. He also mentioned that all radios will be switched next year to narrow-band radios as per FCC regulations. The question of a hearing was raised by Maureen. It was not determined if this was necessary. Chuck also said that the Town Bylaws may prevent this installation, and Rick said he will research this issue. Tom noted that the wireless communication service is required to provide emergency communications, and Bob and Rick will look into this possibility. Chuck stated both departments should investigate using the AT&T cell tower at OESCO. He said the contract for that installation on the OESCO water tower may have provided for the use of that facility for such a purpose. Bob and Rick will do further research and look into this possibility.

Rick mentioned that his administrative EMD office is now on the second floor of the Town office building. He asked how to get rid of broken Town equipment and noted how he had reorganized things upstairs for a better work space. Lastly, Rick spoke about the emergency generator that was needed to complete this project. He asked several questions such as how many generators to get, where to store them, and what kind of fuel to use. He read a list of possible choices. Chuck noted that a small pad could be used, and suggested propane for fuel. He said this would cost around \$5,000.00 per generator. He also suggested that the Town buy separate generators for each building and Maureen and Jim concurred.

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**meeting items**

- Warrants were signed.
- Minutes for 5/10/10 were approved as amended.
- There was a brief discussion about communication between Town staff and certification of the Town warrant. Chuck and Maureen noted that personal problems between staff members had created an uncomfortable atmosphere for residents who come to the offices for services. Although some things had improved over the past few months, there was still the perception that this issue had not been completely addressed. Tom asked if this should be brought up with other employees but the Board decided this was not necessary as conditions had improved.
- There was a discussion about drainage site visits. Brian Kuzmeskus, Pages Coffee Bar and Bruton Strange were listed as needed assistance. Scheduling was set for this coming Wednesday and Saturday afternoon for visits. Maureen noted that the Stanges house had been visited already and Bob said that this problem should have been addressed when the leach field had been installed and perhaps they should now try to direct the flow on a sharper angle to curve water away from its current course around their leach field. Maureen felt that perhaps the town could add one section of pipe in that endeavor but could do no more. Maureen mentioned Roy Cohen may also come in to speak about his driveway and drainage problems..
- There was talk about the construction bids for the Bardwells Ferry Road project. It was noted that Dan Lawrence from Weston & Sampson will recommend a contractor to the Board so they can make a decision on who to hire.
- Bob was asked to talk to Bud Lively to see if he will tidy up the edging of the mowing around Town once the initial heavy grass mowing was completed. Tom will set up an appointment with the Board next week to speak with Bud about this issue.
- Chuck said that he would bring donated loam from Mr. Kocot and grass seed from a personal friend to Bob so the Town commons could be upgraded.
- The Board voted to sign the letter of support to the State Ethics Commission regarding the purchase of fuel at Baker's Country Store.
- Chuck addressed Tom's question to Kevin Fox about prior knowledge of the condition of the Town's books. Tom said that his question was based on an assumption that this topic had been previously discussed on several occasions. Chuck also noted that Amy and Elizabeth would most likely agree to help discover and correct booking errors with minimal use of Tom Scanlon's office. He also said that there was a difference of opinion as to whether to use Melanson & Heath in subsequent years. Both Chuck and Maureen noted their support for them through their experience with Kevin so far. Chuck and Maureen explained the previous experience with Jim to bring him up to speed as the new Board member. The Board decided to let Amy use Scanlon's office for more information without going through a forensic audit and Kevin would do the remainder of the audit for FY2009. There may be additional costs for this. Possible sources to cover this expense were discussed.
- The Board spoke about scholarship applications that were submitted after the deadline. Because the total of all applications were still under the amount from last year, the decision was made to allow the late applications to be considered for awards. The Board will review the applications on May 27<sup>th</sup>.
- The Board will review the draft Comcast contract before June 1 when the Broadband Committee will ask for the Board to sign a final draft. Tom has sent copies of the contract draft via email to each of the Board.
- Tom asked the Board for approval to add window replacement to the Siemens contract. They voted in favor of this request.
- The Board approved the bids from the FRCOG for Highway Department materials.
- Tom suggested that the Highway Department schedule drainage inspections after rain storms as well as periodic spot inspections. Chuck noted that the Town might be smart to look into professional drainage studies. He noted Jack Lochhead said Weston & Sampson do this type of work. We have many inquiries and complaints on these matters and a study may give the town recommendations and redesigns to remedy some of the problems.
- Maureen read the list of annual appointees. There was a brief discussion about the need for antiquated positions. The Board appointed page one as submitted. All others would be

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researched and brought up again next week after review and recommendations for reappointments from department heads.

- Chuck read a letter from Doug Deane complaining about a neighbor's dog not on a leash. The letter would be forwarded to Ken and Joe Colucci.

**Mail and Other Items**

- No mail

**10:20 PM** Motion to adjourn by Chuck, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jim, all in favor.