

**Minutes of Meeting
CONWAY BOARD OF SELECTMEN
August 27, 2019**

The Selectmen's Meeting convened at 4:00 pm in the Meeting Room of Conway Town Hall with the following present: Selectmen, C. David Weathers, Mary Carey Seavey, Carl Thibodeau, John Colbath, Steven Porter, Town Manager, Thomas Holmes, and Executive Secretary, Krista Day.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Weathers led the Board in the Pledge of the Allegiance to the flag.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Weathers told the public that they would not be having a formal discussion regarding the transient rental issue. Instead, they were going to hold a public hearing on the issue on September 24, 2019.

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to approve the agenda as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION OF UNANTICIPATED REVENUE LESS THAN \$10,000/RSA 31:95 – B

III

- a. \$924.67 for the Opioid Grant for the Police Department

Mrs. Gilligan explained that this was a reimbursement for overtime for the Police Department. Chief Wagner requested that these monies be put in the Officer overtime line.

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Porter, to accept the \$924.67 for the Opioid Grant for the Police Department and to place it in the officer overtime fund. The motion carried unanimously.

REVENUE UPDATE AND ADJUSTMENTS PER DRA FORM MS-434

Mrs. Gilligan referred the Board to their packet to take a look at the revenues that had been budgeted for at Town meeting and collected so far for 2019. She explained that these numbers are estimated for the Town vote, and then re-estimated by the Selectmen to be submitted to the DRA.

Mrs. Gilligan noted that the figure presented at Town meeting was \$4,063,256.00. She explained that she felt that they could add an additional \$6,391.00 to that revenue figure.

Mrs. Gilligan noted that with Eaton voting to not participate in the recreation programs, they had a big loss in revenue. Also, the recycling income the Town received was continuing to decline as a result of the value of the market. However, these losses were offset by a property that was redeemed, a grant for the Conservation Commission, an insurance payment for the accident with the town's snowblower, the funds returned from the County for the forest PILOT, and the insurance premiums returned by Primex.

Mrs. Gilligan stated that there is another opportunity to adjust this non-tax revenue figure again in the future if needed.

Mrs. Gilligan stated that they also need to decide how much money to utilize for tax abatements, or the overlay.

Finally, they need to decide how much fund balance to utilize to reduce the tax rate.

Mrs. Gilligan noted that she felt comfortable with going as high as using \$822,696.00 of fund balance.

Mr. Porter stated that he believed it would be beneficial to use \$800,000.00 to reduce the tax rate so when the assessments go up due to the revaluation, it would make the impact on the taxpayers smaller.

It was determined that this figure can be adjusted again in October.

a. Vote on Fund Balance

Mr. Porter moved, seconded by Mr. Colbath to use \$800,000.00 of fund balance to reduce the tax rate.

Mr. Thibodeau noted that in past years, they used some of the fund balance to help with projects that needed to get done. He asked about whether using a high amount of fund balance would negate their ability to use these funds if something comes up. Mrs. Gilligan stated that it could have an impact, but they would be able to revote on this figure in October.

Mr. Porter moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to amend the motion to use \$550,000 in fund balance to reduce the tax rate. The motion carried (4-0-1) with Ms. Seavey in the negative.

Mr. Porter moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to use \$550,000 in fund balance to reduce the tax rate. The motion carried (4-0-1) with Ms. Seavey in the negative.

b. Vote on Updated Revenue

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to update the non-tax revenue figure to \$4,075,451.00. The motion carried unanimously.

c. Vote on Overlay Figure

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to adjust the overlay figure to \$200,000.00. The motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATION BY CARROLL COUNTY BROADBAND

Albany Selectmen Rick Hiland and Albany Representative to the North Country Council, Steven Knox appeared before the Board.

Mr. Hiland explained that they were looking for Conway's support in their effort to bring broadband to the area. He noted that back in June, they had started a committee to look into improving internet speed and access for the county. At this time, there are 13 towns with representatives to the committee.

Mr. Hiland explained that there is no financial commitment. However, they are looking for support and a representative to act as a conduit for communication back to each town's Select Boards.

Mr. Hiland explained that they had applied for a \$500,000 grant from the USDA. If awarded, the next step would be to conduct a feasibility study on the options for bringing broadband to Carroll County.

Mr. Thibodeau asked if they knew what the approximate cost for the consumer would be. Mr. Hiland explained that it is still too early on to know that.

Ms. Seavey volunteered to represent Conway and Mr. Colbath agreed to be the alternate to this committee.

Mr. Knox stated that it is there believe that they will be able to accomplish more as a collective group than individual towns.

Selectmen Rebecca Mason from Tamworth stated that this group has been a fact-finding group and has been great.

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Ms. Seavey, to write a letter of support for the Carroll County Broadband Committee and to authorize the Chairman to sign it out of session. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Hiland, Mr. Knox, and Ms. Mason thanked the Board for their time and support.

REVIEW OF RECEIPTS

The receipts were available for review.

SIGNING OF DOCUMENTS

CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

- a. AP Manifest dated 8/29/19
- b. Payroll dated 8/29/19

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Ms. Seavey, to sign the items listed above in a. and b. The motion carried unanimously.

RATIFICATION OF DOCUMENTS SIGNED OUTSIDE OF SESSION

(none)

REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF SPECIAL EVENT APPLICATION(S)

(none)

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

(none)

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Mr. Holmes explained that owner of Cheese Louise, Bryce Harrison, was present to request the permission of the Board to operate for 3 days at Sun and Ski in North Conway. Mr. Holmes explained that the current rules allow for a business to have a maximum of 14 days a year for a temporary event permit. However, Sun and Ski had already used their 14 days for their tent sale. Because of the limited options in North Conway, Mr. Holmes stated that they were seeking this permission for a three-day extension of the permit.

Mr. Harrison explained that they had other locations set for the rest of the season and were just looking for permission to operate this week for August 28, 29, and 30.

Mr. Holmes stated that over the winter he intends to look into this issue and come up with recommendations on how to better regulate and authorize food trucks.

Mr. Irving stated that the Board had the authority to choose not to enforce the current regulation of 14-day maximums for temporary event permits.

Mr. Porter moved, seconded by Mr. Colbath, to not enforce current regulations and allow for Cheese Louise to operate at Sun and Ski in North Conway for August 28, 29, and 30 of 2019. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Holmes explained that there would be a temporary boat washing station on town property by Conway Lake for September 5 through September 12, 2019.

Mr. Holmes explained that he had gotten reports from the Forest Service that the new Diana's Bath protocol and attendants are going well. He noted that they are looking into possibility having two attendants on duty next summer.

Mr. Holmes stated that the Town Engineer had approved the Bank's site plans and will be in this week for a building permit. He noted that they were still awaiting drainage approval from the State.

Mr. Holmes reminded the public that there would be a public hearing on September 24, 2019 for discussing transient rentals.

Mr. Holmes reminded the public that the open house at the new recreation center would be on September 10, 2019 at 6:00 pm.

BOARD REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Mr. Porter explained that there was discussion at the Planning Board meeting about transient rentals and the issues many people are having with them. He stated that the Board had Planning Board would like the Selectmen to start these discussions because it is time something is done to regulate them.

Mr. Irving gave a brief summary of the two different bills that are in discussions right now. One is called HB 655, otherwise known as the disorderly household bill. This would allow towns to target the owners of problematic properties. Also, HB 69 would allow towns to decide to license short term rentals.

There was brief discussion on these bills.

Ms. Seavey urged Mr. Holmes to look into the ability of towns to target owners without this particular bill passing at the State level.

Mr. Colbath stated that the Budget Committee would be meeting on September 11, 2019 at 3:00 pm.

Mr. Colbath stated that he believes the Town needs to budget for and carry out residential inspections.

Ms. Seavey stated that there is concern by Valley Vision over the changes to franchises fees.

Mr. Weathers stated that there had been a request from Tin Mountain to continue their trout restoration work on Mason Brook which is town property.

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Porter, to grant permission for Tin Mountain to continue their work on Mason Brook. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND MEDIA QUESTIONS

Tom Reid, Conway Resident, encouraged the Board to look at Chapter 190 in their code before the public hearing.

At 5:25 pm, Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Porter, to go into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (c) to discuss a tax matter. The motion carried unanimously.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION RSA 91-A:3 II (C) – TAX MATTER

At 6:10 pm, the Board returned to public session.

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to seal the minutes from this non-public session. The motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN

At 6:10 pm, the meeting was adjourned at the call of the Chair.

Respectfully submitted,

Krista Day
Executive Secretary