

**Minutes of Meeting
CONWAY BOARD OF SELECTMEN
April 28, 2020**

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Weathers explained that there would be three additions to the agenda:

- 6a. Discussion of No Parking Signs on Thompson Road
- 6b. Project Graduation Request
- 6c. Discussion of the Possible Shortening of Poll Hours

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. \$1,000 from Walmart to the Conway Police Department

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Porter, to accept the \$1,000 from Walmart for the Conway Police Department. The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION OF REC PROGRAMS

Recreation Director John Eastman came before the Board to explained what his department has been doing and what their plans are.

The first program he wanted to discuss was that of swim lessons. He stated that his concern was that there is no way to practice social distancing with swim lessons from ages 3-10. He noted that more than 85% of swim programs in the country are being cancelled due to COVID-19 concerns.

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Porter, to cancel recreation swim lessons for 2020. The motion carried unanimously.

In regards to summer camp, Mr. Eastman explained that they had been working for at least a month on things. He stated that they do not know what is going to happen regarding whether or not they will be allowed to hold the camp this year, but they need to plan as if they are.

In terms of staff, they are looking at who would like to come back and will be able to interview candidates via Zoom. He did make clear that they are not offering jobs at this time, but need to see who is interested.

Mr. Eastman explained that they have three potential start dates; June 22, June 29, or July 6. He noted that if they are unable to start camp by July 6, he does not think that it would be feasible to ask staff members to commit to a job that would last less than 6-7 weeks.

In terms of trips, Mr. Eastman explained that Mr. Lane and Mr. Gallagher had been talking to the destinations. The best-case scenarios would be that they are able to still attend their trips. Worst case scenario would be that they must remain on site. He said they are prepared for either.

They are still discussing how to keep kids safe in terms of grouping, social distancing during activities, etc. He also noted that they are going to look at keeping movement of parents within the building limited.

Mr. Colbath asked if he had polled the parents to see who would be utilizing the camp this year if it is open. Mr. Eastman stated that he had not, however, they are getting a lot of phone calls asking if they are having camp this year. Mr. Eastman stated that many parents rely on this program to be able to work.

The Selectmen asked Mr. Eastman to come up with some written policies regarding sickness and protocols that would be taken this year for summer camp.

Mr. Eastman wanted to bring up that there are many special events that are set to happen soon that have not been cancelled to his knowledge. These included a 5K, Craft Fair at Schouler Park, and a craft fair at the Gibson Center.

Mr. Thibodeau moved, seconded by Mr. Porter, to cancel the 5K and the craft fair at Schouler Park, and to talk to the Gibson Center to ask them to reconsider holding their event at this time. The motion carried unanimously.

There was then brief discussion regarding events that were planned to be held in June at Tuckerman Brewing Company, a 5K at Schouler Park, and a weekly Mountain Milers fun run.

Mr. Thibodeau stated that we had cancelled the Town's 4th of July Festivities and that it would be prudent to cancel other events as well prior to that.

Mr. Thibodeau moved, seconded by Ms. Seavey, that all events on town owned/maintained property that would potentially draw crowds of 10 or more people not be allowed until further notice.

There was then brief discussion that they should not just limit it to groups of 10. Ms. Seavey did not want to seem like they were picking and choosing.

Mr. Thibodeau rescinded his motion. Ms. Seavey seconded this.

Mr. Thibodeau moved, seconded by Ms. Seavey, that all events on town owned/maintained property not be permitted until further notice.

Mr. Eastman stated that he felt having a date certain would be best. Ms. Seavey stated that she felt they should use the 4th of July.

Mr. Thibodeau stated that he felt the “until further notice” would give them more flexibility if things improved. He suggested maybe taking everything on a week by week basis.

Mr. Thibodeau moved to rescind his motion. Ms. Seavey seconded.

Mr. Thibodeau moved, seconded by Ms. Seavey, that all events on town owned/maintained property not be permitted until July 4, 2020. The motion carried unanimously.

It was stated that if things improve, they will consider events again.

Mr. Eastman stated that he had received a request from Betsy Eaton who is on the Project Graduation Committee to see if the Board would be amenable to having signs for each graduating senior placed on Eagles Way and the North South Road to help recognize the students as they are not having the typical graduation.

Mr. Weathers stated that he was agreeable as long as they did not obstruct the line of sight. Mr. Thibodeau asked if they had identified a size for the signs. Mr. Eastman stated that they had not but they Board could restrict the size.

Mr. Holmes stated that he would be more comfortable with them on Eagles Way.

Mr. Porter explained that they had made exceptions to allow A-frame signs at the time being, so he felt like they should be able to recognize the seniors on both Eagles Way and the North South Road.

Mr. DegliAngeli noted that the North South Road was scheduled for milling and paving prior to the 4th of July.

There was brief discussion of having the parks crew supervise this.

Ms. Seavey moved, seconded by Mr. Colbath, to allow signs of up to 6 square feet to be placed on Eagles Way and the North South Road north of the seconded rotary and to have the Parks crew work with the Project Graduation Committee to accomplish this project. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Eastman stated that he had talked with Atlas regarding the potential to have fireworks on Saturday, September 5, 2020. Atlas had a contract written up that the Board can choose to sign after the vote on May 12, 2020 if they believe they can go forward with that date.

MAIN STREET UPDATE

Mr. Holmes noted that he had received word from the City Manager of Lebanon that they were temporarily halting all capital projects. However, Mr. DegliAngeli stated that as of 3:30 pm today, DOT is telling the Town that the Main Street Project is not affected and will continue as planned.

Mr. DegliAngeli gave a summary on the timeline for the project. He noted that while they were originally looking to go to bid in April, due to delays in receiving comments back from the State on plans, the DOT website states that they will not get to bid until July. Mr. DegliAngeli is hopeful that they can push that up to the end of May, but it is really out of his hands until they receive comments back on their plans. He did note that the project has always been intended to be a split season job.

Mr. Colbath inquired about the issues that Mr. Holmes had informed them on regarding the drainage at the Bank. Mr. DegliAngeli noted that these had been solved.

DISCUSSION OF NO PARKING ON THOMPSON ROAD

Mr. Weathers explained that Rob Adair had received calls over the weekend about excessive parking and congregating on Thompson Road. He noted that there had been a request for the town to place no parking signs at that site.

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to place no parking signage similar to that used at Diana's Bath on Thompson Road. The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION OF THE POSSIBILITY OF SHORTENING POLL HOURS

Mr. Holmes noted that Moderator Fauver had inquired as to whether the Board would like to consider shortening the poll hours on May 12. However, Town Clerk Louise Inkell raised a legal issue regarding changing the times after they had already been posted on the warrant.

This discussion was tabled.

FISCAL DISCUSSION

Mr. Holmes stated that they had received guidance that the town would not be receiving any of the funds from the CARES Act for shortfalls due to COVID-19. He added that they are unsure whether they will receive any rooms and meal tax or highway block grants.

He noted that if there was not a recreation program this summer, they would also probably not be receiving any funds from Albany.

All together they are look at a shortfall of over \$1 million and if they do not make this up somewhere it would add at least 57 cents onto the tax rate.

Mr. Holmes noted that this shortfall may be mitigated if the voters were to not support the following warrant articles:

- Article 9
- Article 10
- Article 11
- Article 12
- Article 13
- Article 14
- Article 16
- Article 17

Articles that he believed needed to be supported included the following:

- Article 8
- Article 15
- Article 18
- Article 19
- Article 20
- Article 21
- Article 22
- Article 27

Mr. Holmes noted that many of the planned large projects could wait a year and that would help keep the tax rate from going through the roof.

He noted that if all of the articles do pass, they are going to have to raise and appropriate these funds through taxes regardless of whether we spend the money or not.

There was discussion regarding how this new suggestion from Mr. Holmes could confuse the voters.

Mr. Colbath added that what if they put themselves in a good financial position by not supporting these Capital Reserve Funds, and some how this prohibits the town from receiving funds.

Mr. Holmes noted that in the event these articles all pass, they could go to court to ask a judge to have another town meeting in order to reconsider these projects.

Ms. Seavey stated that while she agreed in concept, she believed that they would have a hard time reaching the voters.

Ms. Golding stated that another option would be to raise and appropriate the funds, not spend them, and then they would go into the unreserved fund balance for 2021 and the Town could use more than the recommended amount of funds this year to offset the tax rate knowing that the money would be there next year.

Mr. Holmes also noted that they are implementing a wage and hiring freeze for the time being and cancelled all discretionary spending.

REVIEW OF RECEIPTS

(none)

SIGNING OF DOCUMENTS

- a. Warrant for Land Use Change Tax on Map/Lot 290-44.002
- b. Municipality Land Use Change Tax Bill on Map/Lot 290-44.002
- c. Notice of Intent to Excavate on Map/Lot 226-1

Mr. Thibodeau moved, seconded by Mr. Colbath, to sign the documents listed above in a. through c. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

- a. AP Manifest dated 4/30/2020

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to sign the AP Manifest dated 4/30/2020. The motion carried unanimously.

RATIFICATION OF DOCUMENTS SIGNED OUT OF SESSION

(none)

REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF SPECIAL EVENT APPLICATION(S)

(none)

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

- a. Regular Minutes from 4/21/2020

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to adopt the minutes from 4/21/2020 as written. The motion carried unanimously.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Mr. Holmes stated that on April 24, 2020 the Supreme Court had determined that when a town takes a property for back taxes, waits the 3 years and then sells it, it is unconstitutional for the town to keep any of the proceeds above the cost of what is owed in taxes and penalties.

Mr. Holmes mentioned that the ballot drop box was complete.

Mr. Holmes stated that property tax bills would be going out in late May.

Mr. Holmes explained that Bellevue vs the Town of Conway would be going to the Supreme Court on May 27, 2020 at 10:00 am for oral arguments.

BOARD REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Mr. Thibodeau stated that the ESAA bid opening for the hangar project would be Friday, May 1, 2020 at 11:00 am. He added that they had received over 15 packets back.

Ms. Seavey stated that the Economic Council had been meeting over zoom and was still working on the land development out back.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND MEDIA QUESTIONS

Town Clerk Louise Inkell wanted to thank the Conway Daily Sun and Moderator Deb Fauver for the ads in the paper.

She also noted that absentee ballot requests can still be submitted.

Daymond from the Conway Daily Sun asked for clarification regarding the Bellevue Lawsuit. He was told that this was the lawsuit against the Planning Board.

Mr. Steer asked about campaigning at the polls this year. Ms. Inkell told him to contact Moderator Fauver for that information.

At 5:45 pm, Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Porter, to go into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (A) to discuss a personnel matter. The motion carried unanimously.

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

At 6:03 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 6:03 pm, the meeting adjourned at the call of the Chair.

Respectfully Submitted,

Krista Day
Executive Secretary