

**Minutes of Meeting
CONWAY BOARD OF SELECTMEN
February 9, 2021**

The Selectmen's Meeting convened at 4:07 pm virtually via Zoom with the following present: C. David Weathers, Mary Carey Seavey, Carl Thibodeau, John Colbath, Steven Porter, Town Manager Thomas Holmes, Interim Town Manager/Town Engineer Paul DegliAngeli 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 because they were meeting on Zoom, they would be removing agenda items 12, 13, and 14.

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

CONSIDERATION OF UNANTICIPATED REVENUE LESS THAN \$10,000/RSA 31:95-B III (b)

- a. \$195.70 from the State of New Hampshire for Highway Safety DUI Patrols

Chief Mattei explained that this reimbursement was from a patrol on December 28, 2002 and he requested that it go back into the overtime budget for 2020.

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Ms. Seavey, to accept the \$195.70 from the State of New Hampshire for Highway Safety DUI Patrols and place it in the police overtime budget for 2020. The motion carried unanimously.

NOTICE OF APRIL 13 VOTING LOCATION

Mr. DegliAngeli noted that he had spoken with Kevin Richard regarding the April 13, 2021 Election location. The Kennett High School Gymnasium was available if the Board would like to move forward with that location.

Moderator Fauver stated that she was in favor of the Kennett High School location.

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Ms. Seavey, to hold the April 13, 2021 Town Election at Kennett High School. The motion carried unanimously.

APPOINTMENT OF ZBA MEMBER

1. Andrew Chalmers for a 3-year term

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to appoint Andrew Chalmers to the ZBA for a 3-year term beginning after the April election. The motion carried unanimously.

QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW

1. Revenues

Finance Director Kathy Golding summarized the quarterly revenue report for the last quarter of 2020.

As mentioned previously, their yearly revenues were much higher than originally anticipated with the pandemic.

Areas to note were higher revenues than estimated for land use change tax as well as timber tax.

Motor vehicle registrations also came in higher than anticipated, as well as recycling revenue.

Ms. Golding reported that all promised state revenues such as rooms and meals tax and the highway block grants were received.

Ms. Golding highlighted that Welfare Reimbursements were very high due to the great work by Ms. Parker.

She also noted that they had received a payment for health insurance dividends as the insurance company had seen a lower number in claims. However, some of this was refunded directly back to the employees.

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to accept the 2020 revenue report as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Expenditures

Ms. Golding explained that in the manifest this week were the final expenditures for 2020.

The Board decided to wait until the next meeting to review the final figures.

DISCUSSION OF PARKING FEES

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to issue parking stickers to Conway Residents. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Porter, to issue parking stickers to Second Home Owners in Conway. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Porter, to issue parking stickers to Conway long term renters.

There was discussion regarding length of rental and what proof someone would need to obtain a sticker under this category.

Ms. Inkell suggested something similar to the verification required for residency in order to register a car. Proof of residency could include a lease, a notarized statement from the landlord, a utility bill, or local mailing address.

Mr. Porter moved, seconded by Ms. Seavey, to amend the motion to state that any long-term renter of Conway for a period of six months and a day or more, will be issued a parking sticker. The motion carried unanimously.

There was discussion regarding the potential conflict of the definition of a short-term rental which was on this year's warrant, and then deciding a different length of time for a long-term renter.

Mr. Holmes stated that long term rentals were not defined in their zoning ordinance and that these parking fees were under the authority of the Selectmen to determine

There was a discussion of the difference between having to declare residency to vote vs. register a car. It was determined that registering a car was more stringent because the you cannot deny a person the right to vote

Mr. Thibodeau stated that he believed that they covered long term renters under the category of Conway Residents

Mr. Holmes agreed.

Mr. Colbath questioned who would be issuing these stickers.

Mr. Holmes stated that he would like to see it done at the recreation center.

Mr. Eastman stated that he would be happy to do that, however, their hours are different in the summer and there may be conflicts with summer camp. He noted that perhaps having Town Hall issue them as they had set hours would be better.

Mr. Colbath agreed that the recreation center was not easy to get into.

Ms. Seavey had concern about people coming into the recreation center with all of the children there.

Mr. Porter moved, seconded by Ms. Seavey, to vote on the amended motion as follows:

any long-term renter of Conway for a period of six months and a day or more, will be issued a parking sticker.

The motion failed (0-0-5).

Ms. Seavey moved, seconded by Mr. Colbath, to issue stickers to week-to-week hotel residents in Conway. The motion failed (0-0-5).

Mr. Thibodeau moved, seconded by Ms. Seavey, to issue stickers to short-term rentals, businesses, vacant land owners, and non-residents.

There was discussion regarding whether vacant land owners should receive stickers. The discussion of parcels where owners paid only a few dollars in taxes a year was noted.

Ms. Seavey stated that they can always readdress the issue next year.

The motion failed (0-4-1) with Mr. Weathers abstaining.

There was discussion regarding how many stickers were to be issued per household.

Mr. Holmes believed that each household should receive only one sticker.

Chief Mattei stated that many households have at least two adults with their own vehicles and often a driving child. He did not believe that one sticker would work.

Mr. Thibodeau believed that it should be one sticker per registered vehicle.

There was brief discussion on the process of getting the stickers to people.

Mr. Holmes noted that the first year there were going to be some logistical things to work out.

Ms. Seavey moved, seconded by Mr. Colbath, that each sticker should be issued to a particular vehicle and the vehicle's license plate number should be written directly on the sticker and should match the vehicle when accessing one of the pay sites. The reason for this is to prevent fraud by preventing people from passing stickers around or giving them to non-resident relatives and friends. The motion carried unanimously.

The consensus of the Board was that they did not want to issue a season pass to non-residents.

Mr. Thibodeau moved, seconded by Mr. Colbath, that A vehicle who has paid for the day at one site will be allowed to park at any other pay site for that day without further payment. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Ms. Seavey, that At Davis Park, two spaces shall be reserved for 15-minute parking for canoe and tube take out without charge. The motion carried unanimously

There was discussion regarding a reduced fee for those who were going to only stay a couple hours to play tennis.

The consensus of the Board was that this would be too hard to enforce.

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, that at Davis Park, two-hour parking will be offered for people who just want to play tennis or basketball for a reduced rate. The motion failed (0-0-5).

In regards to parking fees/boat ramp fees at Conway Lake, Mr. Weathers explained that he had been contacted by a member of the Conway Lake Association who was upset that they had not been included in these conversations. He stated that he believed they should be included going forward.

Mr. Thibodeau moved, seconded by Mr. Porter, to table the decision regarding fees at Conway lake until a future meeting in order to contact the Conway Lake Association. The motion carried unanimously.

There was discussion regarding the boat ramp.

Mr. Weathers reported that the maintenance of the ramp was at the Town's expense and that hopefully State would consider a different site on the lake for a launch.

Mr. Eastman stated that had been asked by the Board to contact the State regarding what they could legally do and not do in terms of the boat launch. He explained that the Town of Conway has the rights of any other private property owner. They could choose to charge for use of the ramp, gate the ramp, or even close the ramp.

There was discussion regarding whether the Board wanted to charge a boat ramp fee, charge for parking, or both.

Eric Blank from the Conway Lake Association appeared via Zoom. He noted that they had concerns over decisions being made at the boat launch and stated that the lake host should not be the gatekeeper in managing launch or parking fees.

Mr. Weathers stated that the lake host would not be responsible, it would be an employee of the Town.

Mr. Thibodeau moved, seconded by Ms. Seavey, to table the entire discussion of the boat ramp and Conway Lake fees until they have more discussion with the lake association. The motion carried unanimously.

There was discussion regarding the pay station that the Board had decided to use this summer on Meetinghouse Road.

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Porter, to authorize having an attendant on Meetinghouse Road for this year only.

Ms. Seavey stated that she does not see the benefit of the pay station without enforcement.

The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION OF BOAT RAMP FEES

This discussion was tabled.

DISCUSSION OF PAVERS IN CONWAY VILLAGE

Mr. Thibodeau stated that he had want to receive more public input regarding the pavers in Conway Village before making a decision. He noted that the majority of tele talk answers were in opposition.

Mr. Thibodeau moved, seconded by Mr. Colbath, to move forward with the pavers in Conway Village.

Ms. Seavey noted that many residents of Conway had told her they were in favor.

Mr. Colbath noted that he had received about 50% in favor and 50% opposed to the idea.

The motion failed (2-3-0) with Mr. Colbath and Ms. Seavey in the affirmative.

CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST FROM HARTS LOCATION

a. Saco-Swift River Corridor Management

Tom Gross appeared via Zoom.

Mr. Gross explained that the Saco Headwaters Alliance had partnered with Harts Location to create a corridor management plan that they would like to proceed with.

He stated that the benefit to Conway was that they would have an environmentally protective plan that had not been done in a lot time. That body would be able to advise the respective Towns on potential permitting that was in the best interest of environmental safety for the rivers that flowed through them.

Harts Location was looking for a letter of support for this project.

Mr. DegliAngeli noted that he had been informed that this would not have any fiscal impact on Conway.

Mr. Weathers gave his input. He believed that while Harts Location does need a plan, his concern is that depending on who the people are on the Board at the time, and their expertise, their work will be influenced accordingly.

Mr. Gross stated that he believed this to be the best wait to coordinate a collaboration among the Towns who share the river.

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Porter, to write a letter of support for Harts Location regarding the Saco-Swift River Corridor Management Plan and authorize the Chair to sign the letter out of session. The motion carried (3-1-1) with Mr. Thibodeau in the negative and Mr. Weathers abstaining.

RATIFICATION OF DOCUMENTS SIGNED OUT OF SESSION

- a. Notice of Intent to Cut Wood or Timber on Map/Lot 214-87.4
- b. AP Manifest dated 2/4/2021

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Porter, to ratify the documents listed about in a. and b. The motion carried unanimously.

REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF SPECIAL EVENT APPLICATION(S)\

(none)

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

- a. Regular Minutes from Non-Profit Presentations from 1/25/21
- b. Regular and Non-Public Minutes from 1/26/2021

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

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Mr. DegliAngeli noted that tomorrow night he would be attending the Budget Committee Public Hearing.

He explained that the Town Hall renovation was moving along, however, they were seeing a delay from suppliers.

BOARD REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Mr. Colbath stated that the Budget Committee would be meeting the next night and would like the Board's feedback on how he should vote on the school's warrant article for new windows.

Mr. Weathers stated that they had never taken a stance as a Board on a school article.

Mr. Colbath noted that he was the Board's representative on the Budget Committee and wanted to vote that way.

Mr. Colbath added that the ZBA would be meeting on February 17, 2021.

Mr. Porter noted that they had the Planning Board public hearing on the short-term rental articles and they had both been supported.

Mr. Colbath brought up the question about whether the Board of Selectmen have a plan to preserve older properties in Conway.

There was a discussion regarding this issue and the consensus of the Board was that they needed to revisit this topic at a future meeting.

Mr. Weathers noted that the CCC would be meeting the next night and on Thursday, the Saco/Swift River Advisory Committee would be meeting via Zoom.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND MEDIA QUESTIONS

Daymond Steer from the Conway Daily asked if the Budget Committee could change articles. It was determined that articles could now only be amended at Deliberative Town Meeting on March 1, 2021.

At 6:37 pm, Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Ms. Seavey, to go into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (D). The motion carried unanimously.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION RSA 91-A:3 II (D) – CONSIDERATION OF ACQUISITION, SALE OR LEASE

At 6:51 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 6:51 pm, the meeting adjourned at the call of the Chair.

Respectfully Submitted,

Krista Day
Executive Secretary