

Minutes of Meeting
Conway Board of Selectmen
February 21, 2023

The Selectmen's Meeting convened at 4:00 pm at Conway Town Hall with the following present: C. David Weathers, Mary Carey Seavey, Carl Thibodeau, John Colbath, Steve Porter, Town Manager John Eastman and Executive Assistant Krista Day.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

VOTE ON RECOMMENDATION FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF CHARTER COMMISSION

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Ms. Seavey, to recommend the following petitioned warrant article as written as follows:

To See if the Town will vote to establish a CHARTER COMMISSION for the purpose of revising or amending the Municipal Charter. Submitted by Petition.

The motion carried unanimously.

REVIEW OF RECEIPTS

The receipts were available for review.

SIGNING OF DOCUMENTS

- a. Warrant for Land Use Change Tax on Map/Lot 259-24.1
- b. Warrant for Land Use Change Tax on Map/Lot 282-22.2
- c. Warrant for Land Use Change Tax on Map/Lot 259-24.2
- d. Municipality Land Use Change Tax on Map/Lot 259-24.2
- e. Municipality Land Use Change Tax on Map/Lot 282-22.2
- f. Municipality Land Use Change Tax on Map/Lot 259-24.1

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Ms. Seavey, to sign the documents listed above. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

- a. AP Manifest dated 2/23/2023

b. Payroll dated 2/23/2023

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Ms. Seavey, to sign the AP Manifest and Payroll dated 2/23/2023. The motion carried unanimously.

RATIFICATION OF DOCUMENTS SIGNED OUT OF SESSION

(none)

REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF SPECIAL EVENT APPLICATION(S)

(none)

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

(none)

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Mr. Eastman explained that they found out from the DRA after the Public Hearing that the amendment to the Police Contract warrant article was illegal.

Therefore, the Budget Committee would be meeting the next evening to revote on that warrant article as well as the Charter Commission article.

Chief Mattei has said that he will amend the operating budget by \$5,000 at the Deliberative portion of Town Meeting.

Mr. Eastman explained that he met with Mr. Lane to purchase applications and parking stickers for the recreation sites.

Mr. Eastman noted that in a previous meeting, Mr. Thibodeau had suggested purchasing an hourly pay station for Davis Park instead of having the 20 dollar a day fee.

He added that he believed they could do that and purchase the pay station with funds from the Recreation Revolving Fund.

Mr. Eastman also noted that he believes they should think about lowering the fine from \$100 to \$30.

Mr. Thibodeau explained that the biggest amount of feedback that he received regarding the parking program was that people would like to just pay by the hour at Davis Park.

There was a brief discussion regarding the potential of adding some more parking spaces at Davis Park.

Mr. Thibodeau added that he would like to see them address the parking on the road at First Bridge.

He noted that it has nothing to do with revenue and everything to do with safety.

It was stated that the approximate yearly cost for an attendant at Davis Park was \$4,000 and that the pay station would pay for itself in two summers.

Mr. Colbath added that he is also being asked about retro fitting the tennis courts at Davis Park for more pickleball courts.

He told the Board that Mr. Lane is getting quotes.

Mr. Thibodeau stated that he would support pickleball at Davis Park only if they choose to make it hourly parking.

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to purchase a kiosk using Recreation Revolving Funds for hourly parking at Davis Park. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Colbath inquired as to whether they have a plan for Diana's Bath.

Mr. Eastman stated that he had met with Ms. Burns, Mr. DegliAngeli, and two representatives from the Forest Service.

They believe they have a good plan moving forward.

BOARD REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Ms. Seavey stated that the Economic Council meets the next day.

Mr. Colbath noted that the ZBA had met the previous week.

He added that he was at the Budget Committee Hearings and was not able to make the ZBA meeting.

He summarized the public hearings as being very contentious at times but they made it through.

Mr. Porter stated that the Planning Board would meet Thursday evening.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND MEDIA QUESTIONS

Mr. Hounsell stated that he was before the Board regarding the question of the precinct dissolving as of January 1, 2024.

He stated that contrary to what some may think, he not opposed to the village district dissolving.

However, he stated he is very much a process oriented person and has identified some pitfalls and problems that may come if this passes as written.

He noted that he had sent his questions to the Selectmen, but he had a few more.

He stated that the law says you have to take the assets if the precinct dissolves, but it does not make clear whether you have to continue operations and keep personnel.

He stated that precincts, fire districts and school districts are not a subgovernment of town government, but a subgovernment of state government.

He added that now the town is in the assumed position that because a precinct dissolves, the town has to automatically take it over.

He questioned that the new things the town will have to take over will take appropriations and permission from the voters.

He questioned if the town takes over the district, do they take over their standard operating procedures like cutting off water service?

He questioned whether they will have to vote on new policies.

He questioned on how the town is going to manage the collection of revenues and create a new water service.

Mr. Hounsell believes that they need to have more information from the Town's perspective before they can go forward and accept something like this.

Mr. Hounsell stated that the district votes in three weeks and he is not sure if the Town can satisfy these questions in this time.

Daymond Steer from the Conway Daily Sun asked if there was a warrant article for the Town to accept water and sewer.

Mr. Eastman reiterated that the opinion of the precinct was that it was not needed.

He added that they have reached out to counsel.

Mr. Steer asked if the Selectmen have decided on the parking spaces in North Conway Village on Norcross Circle including the land now owned by the Town behind the Ski Museum.

The Selectmen have taken no action.

There was a discussion regarding Mr. Steer's opinion that the Planning Board and the Board of Selectmen are not on the same page.

ADJOURN

At 4:45 pm, Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Krista Day
Executive Secretary