

**Minutes of Meeting  
CONWAY BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

January 6, 2009

The Selectmen's Meeting convened at 4:04 p.m. in the Meeting Room of Conway Town Hall with the following present: Selectmen, Larry Martin (Chair), C. David Weathers, Howard C. Dickinson and Bob Drinkhall; Town Manager, Earl W. Sires; and Recording Secretary, Karen Hallowell

Selectman, Mark Hounsell, was not present for the meeting.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Martin led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

SIGNING OF DOCUMENTS

The Board reviewed and signed various documents contained in the signature folder.

CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

The Board reviewed and signed the manifest dated January 8, 2009.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Board considered the minutes of 11/13/08. Mr. Drinkhall offered the following amendment to the minutes of 11/13/08: Page 2, Paragraph 2. After the second sentence the following two sentences should be inserted: Mr. Drinkhall supported lessening the areas with snow removal and clearing sidewalks using a snow blower as other areas do. Paul DegliAngeli disagreed with the usage of a snow blower on sidewalks. **Mr. Drinkhall moved, seconded by Mr. Weathers, to approve the minutes as amended. The motion carried unanimously.**

PUBLIC HEARING UNANTICIPATED REVENUE

A) \$6,000 FROM THE STATE OF NH TO THE TOWN OF CONWAY FOR NORTHERN CARROLL COUNTY MEDICAL RESERVE CORP; and B) \$10,000 FROM THE STATE OF NH TO THE TOWN OF CONWAY FOR PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Chairman Martin read aloud the public hearing notice regarding unanticipated revenue and opened the public hearing at 4:05 p.m.

Mr. Sires reviewed the \$6,000 received is for the Medical Reserve Corp. Mr. Sires reviewed the \$10,000 received is to continue work regarding public health emergency management. There were no Board or public comments.

**Mr. Drinkhall moved, seconded by Mr. Weathers to accept the \$6,000 and \$10,000 for the purposes stated. The motion carried unanimously.**

DISCUSSION OF REPAIRS TO THREE BRIDGES ON RIVER ROAD

David Scott of the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT) appeared before the Board.

Mr. Scott first reported on the status of the widening of a bridge on the railroad. He has called about this project and it was reported to him that the work will be started in the spring.

Mr. Scott next reviewed that he is at the Board meeting today for input on proposed pile repair projects for three bridges on River Road. Mr. Scott explained that he know "piles" but is not from Conway and would like to get input from Conway on the proposed projects. The three bridges planned for work on River Road are as follows: Lovejoy Brook, Saco River Overflow and Saco River Bridge. Mr. Scott next reviewed pictures of the piles and explained the conditions of same with the Board. Mr. Scott next discussed timing, permitting and the summer season with the Board. Mr. Scott next advised the cost estimate is \$275,000 per bridge. There will be not cost to the Town of Conway for the pile repairs.

There was next a discussion regarding traffic control. Mr. Scott advised the NHDOT may need to have one lane of traffic closed during the scheduled work. This may be dependent upon the environmental constraints that are put upon them. His estimate is that this may last 30 days – worst case scenario.

Mr. Scott advised that he is aware of the recreational use of the Saco River Area and discussed same with the Board. Mr. Scott advised that he does not see any impact to this while doing the work. Mr. Scott stated they are very aware of this.

There was next further discussion regarding traffic control. Mr. Scott stated it is his understanding that the local police department provides traffic control. Mr. Scott advised that they may use flaggers or they may hire uniformed officers. Mr. Dickinson confirmed with Mr. Scott the State of NH would be paying for traffic control.

Mr. Scott next advised next distributed a copy of a Municipal Work Zone Agreement for the Board's review and consideration.

Public Works Director, Paul DegliAngeli, next spoke advising there may be a conflict with the widening work that is being done in the area. Mr. Scott advised that he is aware of this work and spoke with Doug and he expects to be done by July. Mr. Scott stated he expects to be there July-August. Mr. DegliAngeli questioned if any consideration has been given for the holiday

periods. Mr. Scott advised that if the town wants the NHDOT to consider black out dates they can to this, holidays, etc.

David Bernier, Superintendent of the North Conway Water Precinct, discussed a new water main south of the pier and asked that due diligence be paid to the south side due to the line they have.

Mr. Sires questioned how the NHDOT will secure this area. Mr. Sires advised this area is highly used for swimming etc day and night and there are also people who jump off the bridge. Mr. Weathers questioned if they would be working on one bridge at a time or all at once. Mr. Scott advised he does not know how the contractor would do this.

Mr. Weathers next advised of low water conditions –Labor Day is generally the lowest time. Mr. Scott advised his preference is to get permits from July 1 to September 30. Mr. Martin stated he thinks they should start mid August. Mr. Sires agreed August 15 to September 30 would be the best window. The Board was in general agreement.

Mr. DegliAngeli questioned how the work would be staged. Mr. Scott advised he is not sure yet how the work would be staged.

Member of the public, Dan Bacon, next spoke about the heavy canoe traffic that comes through the area. There was a discussion regarding same.

North Conway Fire Chief, Pat Preece, questioned, when you move the boulders on the Saco, have you given concern to the jumpers. Mr. Scott stated it will be up to the contractors to stockpile the boulders out of the floodway.

Mr. Scott questioned if the Board would sign the Municipal Work Zone Agreement presented earlier in the meeting. The Board agreed to take agreement under advisement.

Mr. Scott next questioned if the Board felt if this was an adequate enough public process or do they want more public hearings etc on this matter. Mr. Weathers suggested Mr. Scott contact the canoe companies, etc, to notify them of the work planned and the schedule for the work. The Board agreed. Mr. Scott advised he would make the contacts. Mr. Dickinson requested that this be noticed in the newspaper as well. All agreed.

PUBLIC HEARING TO TAKE PUBLIC COMMENTS ON LATE FEES TO BE CHARGED FOR RECEIVING APPLICATIIONS FOR PUBLIC EVENTS SHORT OF THE NINETY (90) DAY REQUIREMENT

Chairman Martin read aloud the public hearing notice regarding taking public comments on late fees for late applications for public events and opened hearing at 4:30 p.m.

Mr. Sires reviewed this came about during a Board meeting discussion when an application was received late and the Board proposed holding this hearing on late fees.

Mr. Martin asked for public comments. Tom Eastman asked about the matter that brought this about for discussion. Mr. Martin advised we received a late application and this takes staff time to review. The applications are due ninety days before an event.

There was further brief discussion on size and scale of events and repeating events versus new events.

Mr. Martin closed the public hearing closed at 4:42 p.m.

### BUDGET DISCUSSION

Mr. Sires distributed and reviewed the draft warrant to date with the Board. Mr. Sires reviewed the Police Collective Bargaining Warrant Article and advised that nothing has changed; however, the Chief could come in to review same if needed. Mr. Dickinson advised that he would like the Police to come in and give a review of the collective bargaining agreement. Mr. Sires advised he will advise Chief Wagner.

Mr. Sires next reviewed the proposed Public Works garage article and advised this has not been reviewed by the DRA yet. Mr. Dickinson reviewed there was considerable discussion last week regarding steel frame versus wood frame but no sprinkler. Mr. Dickinson advised he would like to see a steel frame but no sprinkler and would like to rescind the action of last week. Mr. Drinkhall stated he is glad to see this matter reconsidered and if we eliminate the sprinkler we should lower the amount of the bond as well. Mr. Drinkhall stated he would also like to reconsider the number of bays from 6 bays to 5. **Mr. Dickinson moved, seconded by Mr. Drinkhall, to rescind our action whereby we approved certain specific details at our last meeting. The motion carried 4-0-0.** Mr. DegliAngeli clarified the One Million did not include fire protection or a sixth bay. Mr. DegliAngeli also stated he would like to make a strong argument for the generator and still need one million for the project. There was discussion by the Board on amounts for the bond, the generator, number of bays for the garage, and wood versus steel structure. **Mr. Drinkhall moved, seconded by Mr. Weathers, that we bond \$800,000 and to authorize the use of up to \$200,000 in the Capital Reserve Fund for a garage to include five (5) bays, steel structure, and a generator.** Jim LeFebvre questioned if this meant the amount of the garage would not exceed \$1,000,000. Mr. Drinkhall agreed. **The motion carried 4-0-0.**

Mr. Sires next advised that he spoke with Bill Edmunds, Station Manager for Valley Vision, and Valley Vision will have their budget next week to present to the Board.

Mr. Drinkhall next advised that he attended a recent Budget Committee Meeting which went smoothly. Mr. Drinkhall advised there is someone here that would like to discuss salary increases for town personnel.

Jim Lefebvre and Dan Bacon advised there are here today as members of the public. They stated how are we are going to give increases and we don't know what our revenue is going to be. Town personnel does a good job; however, they feel we could not give pay increases for one year to save jobs. Dan Bacon stated that not only does salary increase when giving a raise but workers compensation, retirement, etc., also increases and we should consider a one year wage freeze. Mr. Dickinson questioned if the Budget Committee can do this. Mr. Sires advised the Budget Committee can make a recommendation, governing body would vote, but this would still be up to the Board of Selectmen to make this decision. Mr. Dickinson questioned if a decision had to be made this evening on this matter. Mr. Sires advised the Board has time think about this matter. Mr. Sires further reviewed that when considering this matter to keep in mind some represented employees have a contract and we can only open that this year for health insurance, the police are out of this as they have their own contract, and the library is under the Library Board. Mr. Martin stated he didn't want this to be the mindset that this is what is going to happen here just because it was said at the meeting. Mr. Martin sated there are good employees here. Mr. Martin also added we could lose good employees to tax rich towns. Mr. Martin further stated this might be something to look at next year but he can't support it for this year. Mr. Drinkhall stated he supports the work of Mr. Lefebvre but agrees with Mr. Martin. At this point in time we are not ready to remove increases in from the budget. Mr. Dickinson stated that when you think about it, there are only a few employees that this will affect. Mr. Dickinson stated he would be interested to know how much it would actually save and, also how much resentment it would generate. Mr. Bacon stated he understands what the Board is saying and also added he feels the Board is saying they will be threatened by your employees and taxpayers have to bare the burden of raises. Mr. Bacon stated you have got to make the cuts somewhere. Mr. Martin stated cuts have been made by this Board to the proposed budget. The budget is \$260,000 below last year and a lot of hard work went into preparing the budget. This Board is definitely looking out for the taxpayers. Mr. Lefebvre stated he would like to know how many employees it would affect and he would like to go through the process.

### TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Closing out the Year – Mr. Sires reported we cinched the belt and will come in under budget for 2008. Mr. Sires advised he will be putting this in writing and thanking staff for helping out and for money saving ideas, etc. Mr. Sires

next reported revenues weren't down as much as we thought they would be for the end of the year either.

Budget Format – Mr. Sires reviewed Mr. Dickinson's ideas regarding the budget format. Mr. Sires advised he will be passing out examples and if the Board agrees to this change if format we can do this. Mr. Dickinson advised he would like to sit with Mr. Sires when he prepares same.

### BOARD REPORTS AND COMMENTS

There were no Board reports or comments.

### PUBLIC COMMENTS / MEDIA QUESTIONS

The Board welcomed back Reporter, Tom Eastman.

### ADJOURN

At 5:42 p.m., **Mr. Weathers moved, seconded by Mr. Drinkhall, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Karen J. Hallowell  
Executive Secretary