

Minutes of Meeting
CONWAY BOARD OF SELECTMEN
February 9, 2016

The Selectmen's Meeting convened at 4:36 p.m. in the Meeting Room of Conway Town Hall with the following present: Selectmen, C. David Weathers (Chair), Mary Carey Seavey, Carl Thibodeau, John Colbath and Steven Porter, Town Manager, Earl Sires, and Recording Secretary, Karen Hallowell.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Porter, to approve the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

REVIEW AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON WARRANT ARTICLES

Finance Director, Lilli Gilligan, joined the meeting.

Operating Budget – Mr. Sires and Ms. Gilligan distributed updated proposed 2016 operating budget information to the Board for review.

Mr. Sires first reviewed that the proposed figure for the non precinct fire agreement has been reduced again by \$2,451.

Ms. Gilligan stated the new proposed operating budget figure would be \$10,500,845 if the Board chooses to accept the reduction. Ms. Gilligan stated the proposed default budget figure would also be reduced.

Selectmen Articles - The Board first reviewed the proposed article for the Police Collective Bargaining Agreement. **Mr. Porter moved to recommend the Police Collective Bargaining Warrant Article. The motion carried 5-0-0.**

The Board next reviewed the proposed article to call a special town meeting should the Police Collective Bargaining Agreement fail. **Mr. Thibodeau moved, seconded by Mr. Porter, to recommend the article to call a special town meeting should the Police Collective Bargaining Agreement fail. The motion carried unanimously.**

The Board next reviewed the proposed warrant article for the Capital Reserve Fund for Infrastructure Reconstruction. Mr. Sires reviewed this article was reduced to \$750,000 with \$500,000 to be raised by taxation and \$250,000 from fund balance. **Mr. Thibodeau moved to recommend and forward the warrant article for the Capital Reserve Fund for the Infrastructure Reconstruction to the warrant. The motion carried unanimously.**

The Board next reviewed the proposed warrant article for the Capital Reserve Fund for Highway Equipment. **Mr. Colbath moved to recommend the warrant article for Capital Reserve Fund for Highway Equipment to put on the warrant. The motion carried unanimously.**

The Board next reviewed the proposed warrant article for the Capital Reserve Fund for Solid Waste Equipment. **Mr. Porter moved, seconded by Mr. Colbath to recommend the warrant article for the Capital Reserve Fund for Solid Waste Equipment and post it to the warrant. The motion carried unanimously.**

The Board next reviewed the proposed warrant article for the Capital Reserve Fund for the Landfill Expansion. **Ms. Seavey moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to recommend the warrant article for the Capital Reserve Fund for the Landfill Expansion. The motion carried unanimously.**

The Board next reviewed the proposed warrant article for the Capital Reserve Fund for Maintenance of Town Buildings and Facilities. **Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Porter to recommend the warrant article for the Capital Reserve Fund for Maintenance of Town Buildings and Facilities. The motion carried unanimously.**

The Board next reviewed the proposed warrant article for the Capital Reserve Fund for Parks and Recreation Vehicles and Equipment. **Mr. Colbath moved to recommend and put the warrant article for the Capital Reserve Fund for Parks and Recreation Vehicles and Equipment on the warrant as written. The motion carried unanimously.**

The Board next reviewed proposed warrant article for the Capital Reserve Fund for Police Vehicles. **Mr. Porter moved, seconded by Mr. Colbath to recommend the warrant article for the Capital Reserve Fund for Police Vehicles and put it on the warrant. The motion carried unanimously.**

The Board next reviewed the proposed warrant article for the Public Educational/Government Cable Television (PEG) Trust Fund. **Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Porter, to recommend the warrant article for the Public Educational/Government Cable Television Trust fund and place it on the warrant as written. The motion carried unanimously.**

The Board next reviewed the proposed article for Eastern Slope Airport. It was agreed that this should be changed to say Eastern Slopes Regional Airport. **Mr. Porter moved, seconded by Mr. Colbath, to recommend the warrant article for Eastern Slopes Regional Airport. The motion carried unanimously.**

The Board next reviewed a proposed warrant article for a Car for Town Hall Employees. **Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Porter, to recommend and place the article for a Car for Town Hall Employees on the warrant. The motion carried unanimously.**

The Board next reviewed a proposed warrant article for a Crime Scene Mapping System for the Police Department. **Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Ms. Seavey, to recommend and put the article for the Crime Scene Mapping System for the Police Department on the warrant as written. The motion carried unanimously.**

The Board next reviewed a proposed warrant article for a Town Hall Facilities Needs and Site Alternative Analysis. **Mr. Porter moved, seconded by Ms. Seavey, to recommend and place the article on the warrant for the Town Hall Facilities Needs and Site Alternative Analysis. The motion carried 4-1-0 with Mr. Thibodeau voting in the negative.**

The Board next reviewed the proposed warrant article to place the Conway Public Library Building and Park on the National Register of Historic Places. **Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Ms. Seavey to recommend and put the article to place the Conway Public**

Library Building and Park on the National Register of Historic Places on the warrant. The motion carried unanimously.

The Board next reviewed the proposed warrant article for a new library roof. Mark Hounsell, Chair of the Library Trustees, was present for discussion. Mr. Hounsell advised that the Trustees met yesterday to discuss the library roof repairs that are much needed. The Trustees voted 7-0 to request that the Board of Selectmen change the wording of the article. They are requesting that the amount be reduced from \$250,000 to \$200,000 and that the wording regarding fundraising be removed. The Trustees don't feel they have the time to do the fundraising and need to get the roof done this year. The Trustees would like to have the Board of Selectmen support that position. Mr. Weathers questioned what happens if it is put out to bid and it comes in higher than \$200,000. Mr. Hounsell stated they wouldn't be able to exceed the \$200,000 and the Trustees did have discussion on this are confident they can get it done for less than \$200,000. Mr. Colbath stated that when the Library representatives were here before there was confidence that the Friends of the Conway Public Library could raise the money. Mr. Hounsell stated that they now feel it would hold up the project. Mr. Colbath stated so there would be no fundraising -this would all be done through tax dollars. Mr. Hounsell responded in the affirmative and added that is as it is now. They are also looking to see if there is money in trust funds that can be used for this project and, if so, they can make an amendment on the floor at town meeting. **Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Ms. Seavey, to recommend and place the article on the warrant as requested by Mr. Hounsell.** The warrant article will read as follows: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000) to Repair the roof on the Conway Public Library. **The motion carried unanimously.**

The Board next reviewed the proposed warrant article to Assume the Operational Responsibility for Sidewalks Located Within Conway Village Fire District. Mark Hounsell and Tad Furtado were present for discussion. **Mr. Porter moved, seconded by Mr. Colbath, to recommend the article to Assume the Operational Responsibility for Sidewalks Located Within Conway Village Fire District and place it on the warrant.** Ms. Seavey asked about staff and materials. Mr. Sires stated this is for staff and materials such as salt, etc, and this is for 2 months. Ms. Seavey asked about the construction of sidewalks along Pollard Street. Mr. Sires explained it is for concrete sidewalks and this is an associated costs and is made part of the article. Mr. Colbath questioned if this all hinges on the CVFD meeting in March. Mr. Weathers stated that is correct –it depends on if precinct voters vote or not for the \$90,000 which is in the account now. Mr. Hounsell stated that if you drive by the Pollard Street sidewalk in winter months they are not plowed. They are in awful shape and to call them sidewalks is an injustice. Mr. Hounsell next questioned why we need the sidewalks if other streets in Conway Village don't have sidewalks. Mr. Hounsell next stated that he feels the Pollard Street sidewalk should be a separate article from this article. Mr. Sires reviewed the article and stated it is asking voters to make a decision and then it has the financial implication of this article. If it was put separate it might not be as clear. Mr. Colbath stated that a meeting was held about the sidewalk and the people who showed up voiced an opinion that they did want the sidewalk on Pollard Street. Mr. Colbath next stated that he does agree with Mark though that putting it together does muddy it. Tad Furtado stated he agrees with Mr. Hounsell and feels the article should be divided. There was further discussion of the wording of the article. Mr. Sires stated this is the deal the Board of Selectmen have worked out and support and will take to the voters because they feel it is a good deal. It is a package deal and the people can decide on the package. Ms. Seavey stated that if Pollard wasn't going to be reconstructed this wouldn't be part of the article and she doesn't think it would be an issue if Pollard wasn't slated to be done. Mr. Sires stated that part of this gets back to the legal requirements of the town. You are taking on responsibility. Then we need to raise the money to do the work. If the voters approve the town becoming responsible for the sidewalks then they agree on taking on the added expense.

The added costs need to be presented to the voters. Mr. Hounsell stated if the warrant article goes forward this way, there will be floor amendments suggested at town meeting. If voters say they want to take over the sidewalks and there is no money in the article for sidewalks, then we don't put any sidewalks in. Mr. Hounsell reiterated that he feels it muddies the waters if the article is together. Mr. Sires stated the place to hash this out is at the deliberative session of town meeting.

Ms. Seavey asked if the sidewalks on West Main Street will be part of this as well. Mr. DegliAngeli joined the meeting. Mr. DegliAngeli advised that West Main sidewalks are staying and are not part of the project. Mr. DegliAngeli next reviewed the West Main project with the Board.

Mr. Weathers asked when CVFD's annual meeting is scheduled. Mr. Hounsell advised it is March 8, 2016.

Mr. Porter asked if the \$20,000 in our proposed article is for concrete costs. Mr. DegliAngeli stated it is for the difference between pavement and concrete. There was brief discussion. Mr. DegliAngeli asked for a moment to clarify this information. The Board agreed to hold on this article until later in the meeting to hear from Paul.

The Board next reviewed the proposed warrant article regarding HB359. Mr. Sires distributed a revised copy of the article and reviewed same. There was a discussion by the Board as to when this bill would be voted on. HB 359 has not been adopted yet and could be changed. Mr. Hounsell stated he feels this proposed article should wait until next year so it is law and not a house bill as you don't know what a house bill could end up being and the last day it could turn into something different. Mr. Thibodeau stated he had hoped to see this go through this year so people could start using it. There was further discussion as to whether the Board should wait another year to see if the law is adopted first before putting this on the warrant. The Board agreed that we should wait a year to see if the bill becomes an RSA first. **Mr. Thibodeau moved, seconded by Mr. Colbath, to delete the proposed warrant article regarding HB 359 and take it up again next year. The motion carried unanimously.**

The Board next referred back to the article to Assume the Operational Responsibility for Sidewalks Located Within Conway Village Fire District. Mr. DegliAngeli advised that the amount on the article for construction should be \$27,000 not \$20,000. There was brief discussion by the Board. **Mr. Porter moved, seconded by Mr. Colbath, to recommend and place the article on the warrant to Assume the Operational Responsibility for Sidewalks Located Within Conway Village Fire District and to change the amount to \$67,214 amending the Pollard Street number to \$27,000. The motion carried unanimously.**

The Board next reviewed the proposed article regarding the Terms of Compensation for the Elected Town Clerk/Tax Collector. **Mr. Porter moved, seconded by Mr. Colbath, to recommend the proposed article for the Terms of Compensation for the Elected Town Clerk/Tax Collector and place it on the warrant. The motion carried unanimously.**

b. Petitioned Articles – The Board first reviewed the petitioned article for Tri County Community Action. **Mr. Porter moved, seconded by Mr. Colbath, to recommend the petitioned article for Tri County Community Action. The motion carried unanimously.**

The Board next reviewed the petitioned article for the Gibson Center for Senior Services. **Mr. Porter moved, seconded by Mr. Colbath, to recommend the petitioned article for the Gibson Center for Senior Services. The motion carried unanimously.**

The Board next reviewed the petitioned article for Vaughan Community Service. **Mr. Porter moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to recommend the petitioned article for Vaughan Community Service. The motion carried 4-0-1 with Mr. Colbath abstaining.**

The Board next reviewed the petitioned article for The Mental Health Center. **Mr. Porter moved, seconded by Mr. Colbath, to recommend the petitioned article for The Mental Health Center. The motion carried unanimously.**

The Board next reviewed the petitioned article for North Conway Day Care. **Mr. Porter moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to recommend the petitioned article for North Conway Day Care. The motion carried 4-0-1 with Mr. Colbath abstaining.**

The Board next reviewed the petitioned article for Starting Point. **Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Ms. Seavey, to recommend the petitioned article for Starting Point. The motion carried unanimously.**

The Board next reviewed the petitioned article for White Mountain Community Health Center. **Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Porter, to recommend the warrant article for White Mountain Community Health Center.** Mr. Thibodeau stated that last year they did not need funding. Mr. Colbath advised that this year several things changed including the insurance structure, Obamacare, etc., and, also, reimbursements are not coming in like they should be. **The motion carried unanimously.**

The Board next reviewed the petitioned article for Carroll County Transit Blue Loon Public Bus Service. **Ms. Seavey moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to recommend the petitioned article for Carroll County Transit Blue Loon Public Bus Service.** Mr. Colbath stated that this was not a well made presentation at the meeting to review the non profits. This is an undersubscribed service and will have to have federal, state and town subsidies to keep it going. Ms. Seavey stated it was poorly presented at the budget hearing and the service is not marketed correctly. However, there is a huge need for it and she would hate to see it go away. She would like to see the management of this service do outreach for it differently. There was next a brief discussion of the ridership and usage. **The motion failed 1-4-0 with Ms. Seavey voting in the affirmative and Messrs. Porter, Colbath, Thibodeau and Weathers voting in the negative.**

The Board next reviewed the petitioned article for the North Conway Community Center. **Mr. Porter moved, seconded by Mr. Colbath to recommend the article for the North Conway Community Center.** Mr. Thibodeau stated this organization was asked two years ago when they would start weaning themselves off of getting funds from the town. The town has a recreation center that has needs. When he had asked the presenter previously about this he had told him they could probably reduce it to \$45,000. They were back again last year with the \$75,000 request and also again this year with the \$75,000 request. Mr. Thibodeau further added that our recreation department needs this money. He is not saying however that the North Conway Community Center doesn't serve a purpose or isn't needed. If the warrant article was reduced to \$45,000 like he was told in the past, then he would support it, but it is still at \$75,000. Ms. Seavey stated it is hard to compare the recreation center to the North Conway Community Center. You can go there now and see people in there. There are seniors playing cards, meeting, the playground, etc. The North Conway Community Center is used by a much larger range of people than go to the Conway Recreation Center. Ms. Seavey next stated that she doesn't think they compete but that they complement each other. It is a community center and she supports it. Mr. Porter stated he agrees with Mary in that they don't compete with each other and that they work hand in hand. He feels that \$75,000 is a cheap expenditure and if our recreation department needs more money then they should ask. There was further brief

discussion by the Board. **The motion carried 3-1-1 with Messrs. Porter and Colbath and Ms. Seavey voting in the affirmative, Mr. Thibodeau voting in the negative and Mr. Weathers abstaining.**

The Board next reviewed that the petitioned article for Children Unlimited. **Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Ms. Seavey, to support the petitioned article for Children Unlimited. The motion carried unanimously.**

Operating Budget – The Board next referred back the operating budget discussion. Ms. Gilligan reviewed that the operating budget figure is now \$10,500,845 and the default budget figure is \$10,645,158. **Mr. Thibodeau moved, seconded by Mr. Colbath, to move the article to the warrant with the budget figure of \$10,645,158. The motion carried unanimously.**

SIGNING OF DOCUMENTS

- a. Certification of Yield Taxes Assessed Tax Map/Lot 298-27
- b. Notice of Intent to Cut Wood or Timber Tax Map/Lot 284-16
- c. Timber Tax Levy Tax Map/Lot 298-27

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to sign the Certification of Yield Taxes Assessed for Tax Map/Lot 298-27, Notice of Intent to Cut Wood or Timber for Tax Map/Lot 284-16 and Timber Tax Levy for Tax Map/Lot 298-27. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

- a. Accounts Payable Manifest dated 2/11/16

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to approve and sign the Accounts Payable Manifest dated 2/11/16. The motion carried unanimously.

RATIFICATION OF DOCUMENTS SIGNED OUT OF SESSION

There were no documents signed out of session to ratify.

REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF SPECIAL EVENT APPLICATION

There were no special event applications to consider.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

Consideration of Minutes was carried to the next meeting.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Mr. Sires excused the Recording Secretary at 6:30 pm to allow time to get to the polls to vote in the Presidential Primary.

General Assistance Office Remodel – Mr. Sires reported the remodeling of the General Assistance office will happen next week.

Vacation – Mr. Sires reported he will be out of the office on vacation next week.

Budget Committee Public Hearing – Mr. Sires reported the Budget Committee public hearings are scheduled for tomorrow night and will be held in the auditorium at Kennett High School starting at 6:00 pm.

Revenue Estimates – Mr. Sires stated revenue estimates have changed. Ms. Gilligan stated that the tax rate was looked at last week. We have since relooked at the revenues and in looking at the annual numbers we found about a \$150,000 revenue increase and so she has identified the different areas where this could be realized. The total amount is \$3,915,702. These figures need to be posted with the warrant. Ms. Gilligan distributed and reviewed the information with the Board. Ms. Gilligan reviewed that these are estimates. There was a brief discussion with the Board. **Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Porter, to accept the revenue figure of \$3,915,702 with the corresponding revenue document. The motion carried unanimously.**

Conway Recreation – Mr. Sires reviewed that there was discussion last week of the possibility of moving the Conway Recreation Department to the Middle School. The School Board met last night and have decided to get together with the Selectmen to discuss this matter and see if taking this to the next level makes sense. They are asking the Selectmen to form a committee. They would like to have a meeting this Friday morning as well. If all the Selectmen would like to attend, then we will post it as a meeting.

BOARD REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Planning Board – Mr. Porter reported that the Planning Board will meet this Thursday night.

Budget Committee – Mr. Colbath reported the Budget Committee public hearings are scheduled for tomorrow night starting at 6 pm at the High School. The Budget Committee will also meet after the public hearings and, also on Thursday night to vote on budgets.

Conservation Commission – Mr. Weathers reported the Conservation Commission is scheduled to meet tomorrow night at the Whitaker Meeting House

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND MEDIA QUESTIONS

Daymond Steer of the Conway Daily Sun questioned if the Blue Loon article will still appear on the warrant. The Board responded in the affirmative.

ADJOURN

At 6:27 p.m. the meeting adjourned at the call of the Chair.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen J Hallowell
Executive Secretary