

**Minutes of Meeting
CONWAY BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

February 23, 2010

The Selectmen's Meeting convened at 4:00 p.m. in the Meeting Room of Conway Town Hall with the following present: Selectmen, C. David Weathers (Vice Chair), Bob Drinkhall, and Mike DiGregorio; Town Manager, Earl W. Sires; and Recording Secretary, Karen Hollowell.

Selectmen, Larry Martin and Crow Dickinson, were not in attendance. Mr. Martin was absent due to illness and Mr. Dickinson was absent due to another commitment.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

David Weathers 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 February 25, 2010.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

The Board considered the minutes of 12/22/09 and 1/5/10. Mr. Drinkhall offered the following changes to the minutes of 12/22/09. Page 4 third paragraph, the sentence that reads "All agreed that only two would be necessary – the insulation and the generator" should be changed to read: "All agreed that only two bids would be necessary – the insulation and the generator as alternates." Page 5, first paragraph, the sentence that reads "Mr. Sires advised that a car or tag can be put on the pole." should be changed to read "Mr. Sires advised that a card or tag can be put on the pole." With regard to the minutes of 1/5/10 Mr. Drinkhall offered the following change: Page 2, last paragraph, Kearsarge Street should be changed to Mechanic Street in two places. **Mr. Drinkhall moved, seconded by Mr. DiGregorio to accept the minutes as amended. The motion carried 3-0-0.**

REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF SPECIAL EVENT APPLICATION

a. Balloon Festival Discussion- Paul Ronte of the Red Jacket, Howard Stanten owner of the Met Coffee House and member of the North Conway Village Association, and Linda Rafferty of Rafferty's Restaurant were present for discussion. Also present at the meeting were Assistant Recreation Director, Mike Lane, Administration Assistant, Lynore Wagner, and Planning Director, Tom Irving.

Mr. Sires reviewed the Recreation Department is working with Mr. Ronte who would like to put in an application for a Balloon Festival in Schouler Park. Mr. Sires

advised this is a for profit event in Schouler Park and need to bring this to the Board of Selectmen for consideration.

Paul Ronte stated they would like to bring a balloon festival to North Conway. They would like to see if they can drive business to the valley on an otherwise slow weekend. This would be over the weekend of June 15, 2010 and they feel this is not as busy a weekend as others and he thinks this is a good weekend to stage this event.

Mr. Ronte next advised that he has a good friend in Portland who has been responsible for arranging the balloon festival in Auburn. He would like to start with 10 balloons this year and grow the event in future years. He would like to start the event on Friday evening with tethered rides in Schouler Park and then again with rides in Schouler Park on Saturday and, if possible, on Sunday. He would also like to do a balloon glow, which is where they have their fires going, in the evening and would like to do this at Schouler. They would also like to consider using the Rugby Field, Jr High School field or the Field down by the police station; however they would like the central spot to be Schouler Park. They do not expect to have more than 500 people in attendance and feel that more would be a blessing.

As for the profit/not for profit issue, they do charge \$10 for a tethered ride for a adult, \$5 for a child, and \$200 for an hour ride. They are hoping to partner with a number of organizations in the valley, one is the MWV Observatory, which would relate weather to the balloons and, also, they would like to partner with the Conway Scenic Railroad. They would like to have a bandstand and would hope to have a short concert. Also, Storyland, may be another partner to the event.

Mr. Ronte next reviewed that he has spoken with Recreation Director, John Eastman, and understands they would need sanitary facilities and would also need to clean up the park. Further, they understand the need for police duty and have also spoken with the Fire Chief regarding the event. Mr. Ronte stated the Fire Chief does not see a problem with the event. Mr. Ronte further advised that he also spoke with the Chamber of Commerce and they will provide insurance, as the Village Association is an arm of the Chamber.

Mr. Ronte next stated he would like to know about the fees for this event and would like to know more about advertising and banners for this event. He would also like to know about what security deposit would be required. Mr. Ronte state he would like to know about all of this information as they would like to put this all together and get going and start advertising.

Assistant Recreation Director, Mike Lane, advised that whoever is insuring the event needs to be put on the permit. The Local Government Center was contacted today and confirmed this requirement.

Mr. Sires advised that fees depend on profit vs. non profit event and reviewed this information is in the application package. Also, regulations do say for profit events are not allowed in Schouler Park but the Board of Selectmen can make exceptions. Also, there are rules regarding charging for the balloon rides on private property.

Planning Director Tom Irving, advised the Town of Conway does not allow commercial amusements in the Town of Conway for profit or not for profit and so this would have to fall under a special event application.

Mr. Ronte explained that separate establishments that are planning events may not have not for profit rides at each establishment and that is separate.

Mr. Ronte next explained that any profits made from the tethered rides would to the North Conway Village Association and part of the proceeds to help defray of costs go to the balloonists. This is what they are hoping to do. Mr. Sires pointed out by the current definition this would be a for profit event.

Mr. Weathers questioned if they have any idea of how many balloonist will show up before the event starts. Mr. Ronte advised about 10 balloon with 3 or 4 balloons in the park at a time.

Mr. Weathers questioned the underground sprinklers, etc in the park. Mike Lane advised that spray paint is used before events to mark these items.

Mr. Sires recommended to Mr. Ronte to complete the planning of their event and have their event packaged when submitting the application for special event. Otherwise it may require going to back through the process again. Mr. Sires explained that if events get added after the application is received, it will be required that they resubmit an application for approval.

Mr. Ronte advised they have not submitted their application and would like to add some other elements to this event

Mike Lane asked about the additional locations Mr. Ronte spoke about earlier as possible sites for the event. Mr. Ronte advised that he has spoke with people regarding these locations – Kevin Richards from the school, the Community Center, etc. Mr. Sires advised the Town would also need copies of the approval from each location with the application to the town.

With regard to insurance, Mr. Sires questioned Mr. Ronte if he is asking each balloonist to indemnify them. Mr. Ronte replied in the affirmative. Mr. Sires questioned if they are also asking for aeronautical insurance. Mr. Ronte stated he is not sure. Mr. Stanten also stated he is not sure about aeronautical and, also, spectator insurance and would check into this and advise.

Mr. Irving questioned if there are going to be multiple sites for the event, will this be under one event permit. Mr. Ronte advised there may be other sites for the balloons and, also, other business may be having activities associated with the event and some may have balloons. Mr. Sires advised the town would need evidence of proof of approval of site use and insurance.

Mr. Weathers advised the field behind the police station is owned by Nichols and we will need proof of insurance and written approval.

Mr. Sires advised whoever is putting this event on needs to put this all together and bring back a package of what they want to do. Mr. Sires asked the Board if they

are okay for them to proceed with this and submit an application for review. Mr. DiGregorio advised he is okay with proceeding but need to have this put all together and see them get their approvals. Mr. Drinkhall agreed.

Mr. Ronte next asked about advertising, banners, etc. and if he could have signs on balloons in Schouler Park. Mr. Sires advised that off premise signage is not allowed. Only signs over existing signs on a business itself. Mr. Irving further pointed out that a business can apply for a temporary event and they can get some additional signage.

Mr. Ronte asked if the sponsors can have signs at Schouler Park. Mr. Sires advised that it can only say balloon festival. Mr. Sires further encouraged Mr. Ronte to come into town hall and further discuss this matter with staff. Mr. Irving suggested he submit signs he would like to propose and we can advise if they are permissible.

CARROLL COUNTY TRANSIT SERVICE PRESENTATION

Malcolm Longenecker of Carroll County Transit joined the meeting. Mr. Longenecker reported the Transit System in starting approximately July 1. Mr. Longenecker explained they will have four different types of transit available, public, commuter, door to door and long distance. Mr. Longenecker next reviewed a map of the transit system with the board. Mr. Longenecker advised the hub is in Ossipee and the Routes are to Conway, Laconia or to Wolfeboro. Mr. Longenecker also explained the other services available for Hanover as well.

At 4:54 p.m. the Board took a brief recess. The meeting reconvened at 5:00 p.m.

MARK HOUNSELL

Mr. Hounsell spoke to the Board regarding his opinion on the importance of the water interconnect with Conway Village Fire District and North Conway Water Precinct.

Mr. Hounsell next spoke about the town working with the districts, Conway Village Fire District, Birch Hill, E Conway, etc and how it is appreciated that the town has been working with all the districts. Mr. Hounsell stated he heard there may be a bill for Paul's work that may be sent out and he finds this appalling and contradictory. Mr. Hounsell stated we work together as a single town and shouldn't charge a single precinct for time provided for services. There are a lot more things that will have to be done in the future that are precinct specific.

Mr. Drinkhall advised that he does not agree. Mr. Drinkhall stated that letters have been sent to the precincts to discuss this matter with the precincts and we have only heard back from North Conway so far and there has been no response from the Conway Village Fire District. Mr. Drinkhall further stated he feels Paul's involvement in the Conway Village Fire District is much greater than any other previous involvements with other precincts.

Mr. DiGregorio stated that a couple of months ago Paul did a lot of work up north and if the full Board was present today he would be making a motion to put this matter

to bed. Mr. DiGregorio stated he feels the work that Paul does is to benefit the entire Town of Conway.

Mr. Weathers stated he feels it benefits the entire town and is a win-win situation for the entire town.

STREET LIGHT DISCUSSION

Town Planner, Tom Irving, joined the meeting.

Mr. Sires reviewed that a map regarding street lighting prepared by Tom Irving was previously provided to the Board as requested.

Tom Irving reviewed the information on the map with the Board. Savings to turn off lights would be about \$15,315.96.

Mr. DiGregorio stated he would like to see the Lighting Committee make a recommendation on this first. The Board agreed to hold on making any decisions for now.

ASSIGNMENTS FOR TOWN MEETING

Mr. Sires first briefly reviewed the voter guide with the Board. Mr. Sires reviewed information is contained in the guide regarding the service garage. Mr. Sires next reviewed the voter guides are available at Town Hall, Conway Library, North Conway Library and Webster's Store.

The Board next agreed on the following assignments for the Deliberative Portion of Town Meeting: Article 11 – Bob Drinkhall; Article 12 - the Budget Committee speaks to this first and Bob Drinkhall and Earl will also discuss; Article 13 – David Weathers and Larry Martin; Article 14-20 – Earl Sires will discuss the Capital Reserve Funds; Article 16 – Police; Article 17 – Earl Sires and Paul DegliAngeli; Article 18 - Earl Sires and Paul DegliAngeli; Article 19 - Earl Sires and Paul DegliAngeli; Article 21 – Mike DiGregorio; Article 22 – Mike DiGregorio; Article 23 – Bob Drinkhall; Article 24 – Mike DiGregorio; Articles 25-

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Detailed budget – Mr. Sires distributed a copy of the detailed budget to the Board.

Deliberative Portion of Meeting – Mr. Sires reviewed the Town portion of Town Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 3, 2010 at 7:00 pm at in the auditorium at Kennett High School.

BOARD REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Special Events – Mr. DiGregorio reviewed that Special Event Applications are at the Recreation Department now. Mr. DiGregorio asked if he can invite Mike Lane and Lynore Wagner to be on that committee. **Mr. DiGregorio moved, seconded by Mr.**

Drinkhall, to bring members of the Recreation Department on to the committee. The motion carried 3-0-0.

Time Warner - Mr. DiGregorio advised the Town hasn't heard back from Time Warner yet regarding the proposed contract.

Town Meetings – Mr. Weathers reviewed the Deliberative Portion of Town meeting for the school in Monday, March 1, 2010 and for the town it is Wednesday, March 3, 2010.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND MEDIA QUESTIONS

There were no public comments or media questions.

NON PUBLIC SESSION, RSA 91A:II,(c)

At 5:32 p.m., Mr. Drinkhall moved, seconded by Mr. DiGregorio to go into non public session under RSA 91A:II(c) to discuss a litigation matter. The motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

At 5:44 p.m. the Board returned to public session. A motion to seal the minutes was made and carried in the non public session.

ADJOURN

At 5:45 pm, Mr. Drinkhall moved, seconded by Mr. DiGregorio, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen J. Hallowell
Executive Secretary