

Minutes of Meeting
CONWAY BOARD OF SELECTMEN
November 3, 2009

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

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 November 5, 2009

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

The Board considered the minutes of 9/8/09. Mr. Drinkhall offered the following amendments to the minutes of 9/8/09: Page 3, Paragraph 8, add the words "depending on where funding would come from." so that the sentence reads "Mr. Barriault added that he himself is not a bike rider, but for safety sake he feels it is warranted, depending on where funding would come from." Mr. Drinkhall further offered the following amendment be added to the minutes: Page 4, a sentence should be added before the public hearing closed as follows: "Keith Osmun stated he felt the bike lane was a want and not a need." **Mr. Drinkhall moved, seconded by Mr. Weathers, to approve the minutes of 9/8/09 as amended. The motion carried 5-0-0.**

The Board considered the minutes of 9/15/09. **Mr. Drinkhall moved, seconded by Mr. DiGregorio, to approve the minutes as written. The motion carried 4-0-1 with Mr. Weathers abstaining.**

REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF SPECIAL EVENT APPLICATIONS

There were no special event applications to consider.

PUBLIC HEARING: TO ACCEPT UNANTICIPATED REVENUE/
(A) \$20,959.77 FROM THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF
SAFETY TO THE TOWN OF CONWAY; AND, (B) \$11,150.31 FROM THE STATE
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE TO THE TOWN OF CONWAY POLICE DEPA RTMENT

The Chairman opened the public hearing to accept unanticipated revenue.

Mr. Sires reviewed that \$20,959.77 is matching funds from the state. The funds were received for the washed out and damaged roads due to heavy rains 2 years ago in South Conway.

There were no public questions or comments and the public hearing on section A of the public hearing closed. **Mr. DiGregorio moved, seconded by Mr. Drinkhall, to accept the \$20,959.77. The motion carried unanimously.**

Police Lieutenant, Chris Perley, next asked the Board to accept the \$11,150.31 from the State of New Hampshire to the Conway Police Department. Lt. Perley advised the funds were received for bike patrols, overtime, speed patrols, DWI patrols, and DWI sobriety checkpoints. This provided 35 extra shifts at no expense to the town or 290 patrol hours.

There were no public comments or questions. **Mr. Dickinson moved, seconded by Mr. Drinkhall, to accept the \$20, 959.77 and to reimburse the overtime line. The motion carried unanimously.**

CONSIDERATION OF UNANTICIPATED REVENUE IN AMOUNTS
LESS THAN \$5,000 / NH RSA 31:95-B, III (B) / A) \$50 FROM PHILIP
MURPHY TO THE CONWAY PD FOR DARE; (B) \$7 FROM AN ANONYMOUS
DONOR TO THE CONWAY PD FOR DARE; AND, C) \$2,292 TO THE
CONWAY POLICE DEPARTMENT FROM THE BUREAU OF JUSTICE
ASSISTANCE TO THE TOWN OF CONWAY

Lt. Perley first clarified that the \$50 received was from Philip Murray not Philip Murphy. Lt. Perley advised the \$50 was a donation to the DARE Program of the Conway Police Department. **Mr. Weathers moved, seconded by Mr. Drinkhall to accept the \$50 from Mr. Murray to the Conway Police Department for DARE. The motion carried unanimously.**

Lt. Perley next explained \$7 was received by the Conway Police Department from donors to a safety tin and will be used for the DARE Program. **Mr. Weathers moved, seconded by Mr. Drinkhall to accept the \$7 donations. The motion carried unanimously.**

Lt. Perley next reviewed the Conway Police Department explained has received \$2,292 from the Bureau of Justice Assistance for ballistic resistant vests for patrols. The grant subsidizes the costs by 50%. **Mr. Weathers moved, seconded by Mr. Drinkhall, to accept the \$2,292 from the Bureau of Justice Assistance to the Town of Conway. The motion carried unanimously.**

DISCUSSION WITH BUDGET COMMITTEE CHAIR REGARDING SALARY DATA

Budget Committee Chair, Jim LeFebvre, joined the meeting. Mr. LeFebvre distributed a proposed worksheet to the Board of Selectmen regarding salary and other employee data for review and discussion. Mr. LeFebvre recommended the form be approved so that all personnel costs can be captured and so the Budget Committee can track personnel information.

Police Chief Ed Wagner questioned if they wanted personnel information and not pay information. Mr. LeFebvre stated that years of experience, education experience, etc has relevance to costs.

Mr. DiGregorio stated that salaries re public information but he is not interested in giving out information concerning degrees, etc. Mr. Sires stated that degree and salary information is public information; however, compiling we are not obligated to compile all of the requested information. Lt. Perley pointed out that much of the information requested, salaries, etc., is already contained in the budget.

Mr. Sires suggested the Town obtain a legal review to make sure we are not violating any legal rights of employees with the request.

Mr. Weathers commented that it sounds like the Budget Committee is trying to compile information that is really management decisions and we already have department heads to do this job. Mr. DiGregorio stated that he agrees with Mr. Sires regarding a legal review of this request for information. Mr. DiGregorio further added that he has concern with the intention of this request and agrees with Mr. Weathers as well. Mr. DiGregorio further added that he did not agree with putting education background information on the form.

There was further discussion. Mr. Martin confirmed with the Board regarding sending this matter for legal review before entertaining any motions. The Board agreed. Mr. Martin next stated that he sees this as a micromanaging form and a slaughtering tool and the Budget Committee is going far too deep. We have a wonderful management team in place, we have the 30 town matrix in place and it keeps good help here. Mr. Martin stated he won't support the form but will send it on for legal review.

Mr. Sires next distributed a worksheet with a private sector wage comparison with a job sampling of town positions and also the 30 town survey and reviewed and reviewed same with the Board. he sampling showed that there is no great disparity between the pay scale of the 30 town survey, private sector and the Town of Conway.

There was further brief discussion. Mr. LeFebvre advised that he would take Mr. Sires' form back to Budget Committee and he would appreciate this Board getting legal review of his proposed form.

REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENTS TO
GENERAL ASSISTANCE GUIDELINES – BILLIE JO PARKER

General Assistance Officer, Billie-Jo Parker, joined the meeting. Ms. Parker reviewed proposed updates to the General Assistance Guidelines with the Board. **Mr. Drinkhall moved, seconded Mr. Weathers, that we accept the amendments to the General Assistance Guidelines as proposed by BillieJo Parker. The motion carried unanimously.**

Ms. Parker next advised that there is a Local Welfare Workshop scheduled for December 3, 2009 at Granite State College.

Ms. Parker next reported that she met with several state representatives over the summer regarding laws she thinks could be changed regarding general assistance and they talked about a study committee. Ms. Parker advised that she recently received a call from Representative Umberger about a bill that was introduced regarding changes being proposed to the laws. One bill introduced proposes that a town will be able to bill

another town for wages for services provided for general assistance to a client from another town.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Budgets - Mr. Sires reviewed that Department Head budgets are in and are being reviewed. The Board will have the proposed 2010 budget next week. An overview will be provided and Parks and Recreation and the Highway and Solid Waste budgets will be presented. Mr. Sires next reviewed the Budget Books are due to the Budget Committee on December 16, 2009.

Tax Tate and Tax Bills – Mr. Sires reviewed the tax bill have been delayed as the Town is still waiting for one precinct to report. The bills will not be mailed until mid November and will be due to mid December. Mr. Sires advised there have been a number of issues with the precincts and most have been resolved except one. The town has been ready for a month now. Mr. Sires next advised the Town may be looking for TANS before the end of the year

North Country Council – Mr. Sires reported he went to the North Country Council regarding the Bike Lane. The Town also received a letter advising we stating we are 3rd in ranking for the funds.

BOARD REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Time Warner Cable – Mr. DiGregorio reported the Town has not heard back yet from Time Warner Cable regarding the proposed contact yet.

PEG TV – Mr. DiGregorio reviewed he has been traveling around talking about PEG TV with area town and also had a meeting last night at KHS. Bartlett did not attend and sent a letter advising same; however the meeting was attended by four other towns. Mr. DiGregorio stated that because of the results of last nights meeting, he does not feel we re going to be able to move forward with funding. Mr. DiGregorio recommended sending a letter to the High School advising that we are not going to be able to continue support and if they want to continue with the program they will have to fund the project themselves and that maybe we can help with capital costs at times. Mr. DiGregorio further stated that he feels it is unfair to have Conway only continue to fund this and they will have to do this on their own. There was discussion by the Board. **Mr. DiGregorio moved, seconded by Mr. Weathers, that we direct Earl Sires to send a letter to the SAU 9 office letting them know they will have to move forward and fund the project on their own, however, we will look at funding capital projects from time to time.** Mr. Martin commented he is not looking to sunset this program yet and commented on all the work Mr. DiGregorio has been doing on this matter. Mr. DiGregorio further discussed the fact that Conway has been funding the entire program and this is not fair. Mr. Drinkhall stated he felt this program should be done through the school as well. **The motion carried 5-0-0.**

Conservation Commission – Mr. Weathers commented the Conservation Commission will hold their monthly meeting on November 11, 2009 at the Whitaker Meeting House.

Mr. Weathers left the meeting at 5:15 p.m.

Garage Committee – Mr. Drinkhall reported the Garage Committee will meet on December 3, 2009.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND MEDIA QUESTIONS

Andrea Osmun of the Conway Daily Sun requested a copy of the Budget Committee proposed employee data form and General Assistance information. The information was provided.

Mr. Martin asked when Andrea was leaving the Conway Daily Sun. Andrea advised she will be leaving the end of the month to go back to the Cleveland area.

ADJOURN

At 5:20 pm the meeting adjourned at the called of the chair.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen J. Hallowell
Executive Secretary