

**Minutes of Meeting
CONWAY BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

December 6, 2011

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 (Chair), Michael DiGregorio, Lawrence Martin, Howard C. Dickinson, and Mary Carey Seavey; Town Manager, Earl W. Sires and Recording Secretary, Karen Hallowell.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Martin moved, seconded by Mr. Dickinson, to approve the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION OF WREATHS IN CONWAY VILLAGE

Mr. Sires reviewed information from PSNH regarding placing items on utility poles. **Mr. Martin moved, seconded by Mr. Dickinson, that we sign the agreement document with PSNH for hanging wreaths. The motion carried unanimously.**

DISCUSSION OF NEW YEAR'S EVE

Janice Crawford, Executive Director, of the Mount Washington Valley Chamber of Commerce (MWVCC), Police Chief, Ed Wagner, and Fire Chief, Pat Preece, of the North Conway Fire Department were present for discussion.

Mr. Sires reported that he spoke with Janice Crawford of the MWVCC who asked if the town, community at large, and the Chamber be involved in fireworks for New Year's Eve. Mr. Sires advised that Ms. Crawford is asking that the Town contract for fireworks and with the Fire Department to have them on duty and to also have Recreation Director, John Eastman, on duty if we do go down this path. Mr. Sires stated we would also need to place more trash can out on New Year's Eve as well. Hopefully they will be able to find someone to clean up afterward or we may have some overtime costs. The other option would be to tie and leave the bags for pick up during regular hours.

Mr. Martin moved, seconded by Mr. DiGregorio, that we support the New Year's Eve festivities in Schouler Park in North Conway. Mr. Martin questioned if there will be burning of the greens. Janice Crawford stated that it has just come to her attention that there are some businesses working on fireworks and, also, she received an email asking about the burning of the greens. She understands there is no burning of the greens due to damage that was done and the debris that was left behind afterward and she hopes other people will understand this too. At this point she is not asking for burning of the greens to take place. Ms. Crawford next advised she does have a donor for fireworks and she will go the Precinct to see

about those fees tomorrow. Chief Preece advised the Commissioners adopted fees and put this into effect September 1, 2011. The fees are for inspections, standby, etc. It would take about \$1800 in costs for them to be there just for the display area of the fireworks. Ms. Crawford advised she will be asking for a waiver of the fees as the policy states you can ask for a waiver. Ms. Crawford next stated she would also like to get a committee together to discuss celebrations of the community such as Fourth of July and other holiday events and, also, to discuss flags. Ms. Crawford next advised she will ask the Commissioners tomorrow about the fees to attend New Year's Eve and if they don't waive the fee we will have to scramble for the \$1800. Mr. Weathers asked again about the burning of the greens. Ms. Crawford advised she understand they would need a permit and would have to apply for same 90 days before the event. She will share this with the MWVCC membership that the burning of the greens is not worth pursuing at this time. She thinks if the fireworks are happening all will be happy with this. Mr. Weathers stated the debris from the burning of the greens, i.e. nails, wire, etc was too much to clean up. Ms. Crawford stated that she understood this and any reasonable person would understand why we are not having it. Chief Preece stated that the burning of the greens is one of the hardest things for them to manage. You would need a metal platform or box to accommodate the burning of the greens and, also, a way to manage the crowd. He wouldn't say it is a bad idea but if done right maybe on a smaller scale would be okay. Ms. Crawford stated people need to understand the parameters and that this cant get done in 10 days. Something like that should be built now for next year. Mr. Sires further reviewed the issue with the burning of the greens, and the wires, nails, bottles, etc that are left behind. Mr. Sires further reviewed the skating rink has also been moved now. Ms. Seavey stated there is a lot of money put into that park and she doesn't think the burning of the greens is a good idea. All agreed there would be not burning of the greens.

Mr. Sires next stated that because this will largely now be a town event, there will be no permit needed. Also, he has already checked with the Chief of Police and they have enough units on that night to cover. Also, the town has insurance for this event. Chief Wagner pointed out a permit will be needed with the state for the fire works.

The motion carried 5-0-0.

Ms. Crawford next inquired about creating the committee to try to look at those things that are community celebrations. Mr. Martin stated his suggestion is that Ms. Crawford form a committee and then invite a Selectman and/or the Town Manager to be part of same. The Board and Ms. Crawford agreed.

BUDGET DISCUSSIONS

Police Warrant Article for Cops Hiring Program - Chief Wagner and Police Commissioner, Theresa Kennett were present for discussion. Mr. Sires advised that Lucy Philbrick spoke to the DRA concerning this Warrant Article. Ms. Philbrick stated the DRA advised we have to appropriate three years of salaries in 2012. Mr. Sires reviewed the proposed article with the Board. Mr. Sires stated was had believed we had to show the amount for the first year for the officer salary but we are now being told that the first number has to be \$250,000 instead of \$80,000. It ultimately will have no effect on the tax rate until the fourth year but we have to show it now. There was discussion by the Board. Ms. Philbrick explained we have to fund the entire amount in a warrant article and also show the entire amount as revenue from the grant.

Commissioner Kennett questioned when the Board actually gives their blessing on the proposed articles to go on the warrant. Mr. Sires advised this is in early January.

Mr. Martin questioned if at the end of the article it will state that this will have no effect on the tax rate. Mr. Sires reviewed the article again and stated we could say something like if approved there will be no tax impact for the first three years but funding will be raised for the fourth year – something to this affect. Mr. DiGregorio pointed out that we also still have to get the grant.

Mr. Sires next stated that he, Lucy, and Chief Wagner met today to discuss the 2011 budget. It looks like the Police Department Budget will come in at or under budget as well as the town will come in at or slightly under. He does not believe we will need to go to the DRA for authorization to over expend the budget.

Library - Library Trustee, Linda Fox Phillips, and Librarian, Tara Thomas, joined the meeting. Mses. Thomas and Phillips reviewed the proposed 2012 budget with the Board. The proposed amount of the budget is \$465,115.

Ms. Thomas next gave the Board an update on the interlibrary loan program explaining they can get items from other libraries around the state. Ms. Phillips explained this also includes the schools and university system as well and we can get materials within the week.

Mr. DiGregorio asked about the oil and electric for the Library property and that it was about \$30,000. Mr. DiGregorio questioned if Ms. Thomas has ever had an energy audit done Ms. Thomas advised that PSNH has already done this. Mr. DiGregorio stated they don't actually do an energy audit but tell you how to save money, etc and suggested that Tara speak to the Trustees further regarding an energy audit.

Warrant Articles – Mr. Sires pointed out that a copy of the draft warrant is included in the Board agenda packet and reviewed a copy of same

With regard to the Union article, Mr. Sires advised that there is a meeting with the Union tomorrow to follow up on negotiations.

Mr. Sires next reviewed there are also articles for CRF's, the police, a generator and, also, for the ambulance and non precinct agreements as well.

Mr. DegliAngeli next reviewed CRF articles with the Board. Mr. DegliAngeli distributed copies of information regarding the CRF's and reviewed same with the Board. (See attached). There was discussion with the Baord.

Mr. DiGregorio asked about the vehicles the town staff uses and why don't we track these. Mr. Sires advised town staff gets end of life vehicles. Also the Police Department advised that many of their vehicles will have 200,000 plus miles on them in the future and so we may have a diminishing supply for town staff.

Mr. DiGregorio next briefly discussed the Building Capital Reserve. Mr. DegliAngeli recommended increasing this by \$5,000 to \$80,000. **Mr. DiGregorio moved, seconded by Ms. Seavey that we increase the Building Capital Reserve to \$80,000. The motion carried 3-2-0 with Ms. Seavey and Messrs. DiGregorio and Weathers voting in the affirmative and Messrs. Martin and Dickinson in the negative.**

Valley Vision – Mr. Sires reviewed the Town and Valley Vision have a contract for PEG Channel 3. Mr. Sires advised a copy of the draft agreement is included in the Board packets and reviewed a copy of same. Mr. Sires reviewed there are two decisions the Board traditionally makes. One is how much cable revenue fees to place in the PEG fund and the other is how much funding out of that fund is for Valley Vision. His understanding is that Valley Vision has not gotten to the point where they know this figure as yet. Mr. Sires next reported we are anticipating \$120,000 in fees from the cable company. Mr. DiGregorio stated there is a Valley Vision Board of Directors meeting this Friday and they hope to wrap up their budget.

SIGNING OF DOCUMENTS

- a. Notice of Intent to Cut Wood or Timber Map/Lot 226/3,6, 223-15
- b. Notice of Intent to Cut Wood or Timber Map/Lot 276-133

Mr. DiGregorio moved, seconded by Mr. Dickinson to sign the Notice of Intent to Cut Wood or Timber for Map/Lot 226/3,6, and 223-15 and the Notice of Intent to Cut Wood or Timber for Map/Lot 276-133. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION OF BILLS:

- a. Manifest dated 12/8/11

Mr. DiGregorio moved, seconded by Mr. Dickinson to approve the manifest dated 12/8/11. The motion carried unanimously.

REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF SPECIAL EVENT APPLICATION(S)

There were no Special Event Applications before the Board for consideration.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

Consideration of minutes was carried to the next meeting.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Christmas Tree Lighting – Mr. Sires advised people scrambled and got the lights up for the Christmas Tree in Conway. Ms. Seavey stated the MWV Skating Club asked her to thank the Board for their help.

Transvale – Mr. Sires advised there is not a lot to report on Transvale at this time. Staff continues to meet and have discussion. Mr. Martin questioned if the area flooded again. Mr. Sires replied in the affirmative and added it was flooded last week to Moat Brook. This is the fourth time since Irene that it has flooded. Mr. Weathers stated the channel has filled in. Mr. DiGregorio questioned if there is anything we can do about that. Mr. Weathers stated the Fire Chief is working with the State, etc on these issues. Also, with DES you have to have a disaster to do maintenance dredging. They may consider this maintenance dredging but not grant the permit. Mr. Martin stated they look at this as Mother Nature's course. Mr. DiGregorio questioned if there is anything we can do about it –is this our issue to look at. Mr. Weathers advised the Conway Village Fire Chief is following up on this –he is not sure if there is a roll for the town and we are looking into this matter. Mr. Sires advised that the Fire Chief is also

looking at a program for people who cant go back to their properties. We are working with the state on this and are trying to have a meeting after the first of the year with the people affected who cant go back.

Budget – Mr. Sires advised we are keeping a close eye on the 2011 budget.

Union Meeting – Mr. Sires reported a Union meeting is scheduled for tomorrow and we hope to finish up with negotiations.

Wreaths – Mr. Sires reported that the wreaths on the front doors of Town Hall came in this week from the Mountain Garden Club.

BOARD REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Next Meeting – Mr. Martin questioned if there is a meeting of the Board next week. Mr. Weathers replied in the affirmative. Mr. Weathers also asked that everyone bring something to the meeting for a potluck.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND MEDIA QUESTIONS

Tom Eastman questioned if the town will be working with Janice Crawford and the business community to go forward. with celebrations, etc. Mr. DiGregorio advised that this Board left it that Janice will form the Committee and a member of the Board of Selectmen will be on the committee as well.

ADJOURN

At 5:52 p.m. the meeting adjourned without objection at the call of the Chair.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen J Hallowell
Executive Secretary