

**Minutes of Meeting
CONWAY BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

December 22, 2009

The Selectmen's Meeting convened at 4:05 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 December 3, 2009

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

It was agreed that consideration of minutes would be held until the next meeting.

BUDGET DISCUSSION

Library – Librarian, Tara Thomas, and Library Trustee, Linda Fox Phillips, joined the meeting. There were other Library Trustees present in the audience.

The Board first held a brief discussion regarding cuts to the overall town budget last year. Mr. DiGregorio also explained that the Board is looking at everything this year as well and in order to keep the budget level we have to make cuts.

Linda Phillips stated the Library proposed minimal increases to the 2010 budget. Ms. Phillips stated that a huge population in town uses the library. The population here is retail and uses the resources at the library because they cannot afford same at home. Ms. Phillips further added she feels the library is doing a very good job at keeping the budget level.

There was discussion regarding the amounts raised/appropriated through town meeting etc. There was some discussion of how the library is trying to show that they do raise money on their own but have to show the entire amount of what they spend. Ms. Thomas next reviewed sources of revenue for the library, i.e. Albany & Eaton fees, lost and damaged books, trust funds, donations, etc.

Mr. DiGregorio asked about a reduction in hours for the library. Ms. Phillips advised that she is there in the morning before opening and there is already a line at the library. Ms. Thomas stated that a lot of people use the library in the evening and also people use the library all hours of the day. Also, after school there is a surge at the library. Mr. Weathers pointed out that people are used to when it is open and suggested that instead of 57 hours that the library be open 50 hours per week. Mr. Weathers stated he would be interested to know that the savings would be for a seven hour reduction as we are a working community and need to save money. Ms. Phillips stated that it is something to think about but would not want to penalize anyone by cutting hours at night. The Board stated the hours would not necessarily have to be cut at night. The Board also stated they would be interested in knowing the heat savings, etc., for cutting hours.

The Board next briefly discussed whether to make any changes at this time to give time to the Trustees to discuss and come back to this Board. The Board reviewed the next meeting is January 5, 2009.

Library Trustee, Judy, questioned where the Board came up with figures of \$25,000 and \$10,000. Mr. DiGregorio explained this Board does not have a say over the library budget, this figure was given so you can look at the budget again. The Board does value what the library does. Mr. Dickinson agreed and asked the library trustees to take another look at their hours and budget.

Budget Committee Chair, Jim LeFebvre, asked for verification that the outside towns are paying for their share of the bond. Mr. LeFebvre stated he would also like to know the savings for 50 hours. Mr. LeFebvre also asked if the library has a study for the hours and flow of people. Ms. Phillips advised they don't have a study at the counter as to what time people come in and out. Mr. LeFebvre advised the Budget Committee will be asking what it will save if the library went to 50 hours.

Ms. Thomas stated that she feels that cutting hours in this economic time is detrimental to the community. People have lost their internet; they need to complete job applications, study, etc.

Reconsideration of Operating Budget Total – Mr. Sires explained there was an error in voting on the bottom line budget number at the last meeting. **Mr. Drinkhall moved, seconded by Mr. Dickinson, to reconsider the bottom-bottom line. The motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Dickinson moved, seconded by Mr. Drinkhall, to recommend \$9,609,681 as the bottom line proposed operating budget total. The motion carried unanimously.

Warrant Articles – There was a brief discussion regarding police vehicles warrant article. Mr. Weathers commented he hoped they could delay replacing one vehicle one year as it seems to him there is an excess amount of vehicles at the Police Station at any one time. Lt. Perley reviewed they put about 70,000 miles per year on the cars and also reviewed the mileage on each car. Lt. Perley next pointed out that a few years ago they went from buying cars to warrant articles. Lt. Perley stated he feels this is a risky place to make cuts and they need the cruisers to make it to calls and protect the Town of Conway.

Mr. DiGregoio left the meeting at 4:58 p.m.

CONSIDERATION OF UNANTICIPATED REVENUE IN AMOUNTS LESS THAN \$5,000 / NH RSA 31:95-B, III (B) / (A) ANONYMOUS DONATION OF \$500 TO CPD FOR THE DARE PROGRAM AND; (B)\$100 DONATION FROM MIRIAM MORRELL FOR DARE PROGRAM

Lt. Perley of the Conway Police Department joined the meeting.

Lt. Perley reviewed a \$500 donation was received from an anonymous donor in the community for the DARE program. **Mr. Weathers moved, seconded by Mr. Dickinson, to accept the \$500 donation from the anonymous donor to the Conway Police Department for the DARE program. The motion carried 4-0-0.**

Lt. Perley next reviewed that a donation was received from Miriam Morrell in the amount of \$100 for the DARE program. **Mr. Dickinson moved, seconded by Mr. Weathers, to accept the \$100 from Miriam Morrell to the Conway Police Department for the DARE program. The motion carried 4-0-0.**

REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF SPECIAL EVENT APPLICATION

MWVCC / North Conway Village New Year's Eve Fireworks – The Board reviewed the application for the New Year's Eve Fireworks in North Conway. **Mr. Dickinson moved, seconded by Mr. Drinkhall to approve the special event application for New Year's Eve Fireworks. The motion carried unanimously.**

BUDGET DISCUSSION - continued

Warrant Articles (discussion continued from earlier in the meeting) – Mr. Sires reviewed the Public Works Union Agreement, Building Capital Reserve Funds (Mr. Sires advised may need if there is no new garage), Peg Expendable Trust, Police Vehicles, Public Works Mower, Blade and Recreation Lawn Mower articles as proposed to date with the Board. There was no action taken on the articles.

DISCUSSION OF SERVICE GARAGE PLANNING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Drinkhall advised the Town Service Garage Planning Committee met 12/17/09 and made recommendations and Mr. Drinkhall reviewed same with the Board. Mr. Drinkhall advised the next meeting of the Garage Committee is scheduled for February 2, 2010.

Mr. Sires reviewed hearing date and posting date requirements for bond public hearings. The Board next held a brief discussion regarding the dollar figure that would be placed in the bond article and the public hearing notice.

Mr. Dickinson questioned if it is appropriate to accept the Committee's report at this time. Mr. Drinkhall stated he felt the committee should have one more meeting to make a final recommendation to the Board of the Selectmen.

Scott Lees, a member of the Garage Committee, stated he feels that the amount of \$600,000 is taking a dart and throwing it; the number could come in under \$600,000 and he doesn't know that we ever came up with that amount.

Mr. DegliAngeli stated that we are going to get any sharper numbers unless we put this to bid and we need to do this now. We need to now to get full bid value.

Chairman Martin questioned what Mr. Drinkhall, as chair of the Garage Committee, wanted to do at this point. Mr. Drinkhall advised that he would like to follow the schedule provided by Earl and Paul. And, further, Paul would get bids for the project both ways as suggested. The Board of Selectmen next discussed if they need to get three bids or two and discussed heat, insulation package and the generator. All agreed that only two would be necessary – the insulation and the generator.

Mr. Drinkhall advised the Garage Committee will meet and can still make further recommendations. The next meeting is scheduled for February 2, 2010.

Mr. Weathers moved, seconded by Mr. Drinkhall, for Paul to start the bid process tomorrow as specified for 80 x 76, 6 door garage with 2 options, with and without generator and 2 types of insulation, and any wiring required by the possible later installation a of generator will be included in the bid. Mr. Weathers clarified that is for an emergency generator. Scott Lees clarified manual switchover for generator and all agreed. The motion carried **4-0-0**.

Mr. Drinkhall moved, seconded by Mr. Weathers, to begin the bond process and grant process . The motion carried 4-0-0.

Mr. Martin thanked all the members of the Garage Committee and asked Bob to pass same along to the Committee. Bob agreed. Mr. Dickinson started he felt a letter is in order. **Mr. Dickinson moved that we write a letter of appreciation to the committee. There was no second.** There was brief discussion that if the Board does letters for this committee it should do the same for all committees in town.

SIDEWALK PLOWING

Mr. Sires reviewed that calls have been received about plowing and distributed a letter regarding a plowing request. Mr. Drinkhall advised he has received calls about sidewalk plowing and asked about the plowing policy. Mr. DegliAngeli discussed and reviewed information regarding sidewalk plowing with the Board for both Conway and North Conway. There was a discussion specifically regarding Mechanic Street. Mr. Drinkhall stated that having built it we need to plow the sidewalk on this street. After discussion, **Mr. Drinkhall moved, seconded by Mr. Weathers, that we go ahead and include maintaining the sidewalk on Mechanic Street in North Conway. The motion carried unanimously.**

REVIEW OF STREET LIGHTING INFORMATION AS REQUESTED BY BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Mr. Sires reviewed information regarding street lighting with the Board including a map. Mr. Weathers questioned if we decide to turn off any lights do we need a public

hearing. Mr. Sires advised the Board is not required to hold a public hearing. Mr. Weathers questioned if a notice should be put out. Mr. Sires advised that a car or tag can be put on the pole. Mr. Sires advised the light would be decommissioned and the Board can consider this if they decide in the future to turn off lights.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Union Contract – Mr. Sires presented ratification agreement between Local 859 and Town of Conway. Mr. Sires advised this presents the key issues that the town is asking for in the Union Agreement and Mr. Sires reviewed same with the Board. **Mr. Sires moved, seconded by Mr. Weathers, to accept the contract between the Union Local 859 and the Town of Conway. The motion carried 4-0-0.**

Default Budget – Mr. Sires presented information on a proposed default budget of just under \$9.5million and reviewed same with the Board.

Cell Tower in Redstone – Mr. Sires reported the cell tower in Redstone was before the Planning Board this past Thursday. The matter was continued to January 28, 2010.

Valley Vision – Mr. Sires reported that Valley Vision has provided their monthly report and same is available in his office for review. Mr. Sires next advised that Valley Vision will be presenting their budget to the Board of Selectmen on January 5, 2010.

BOARD REPORTS

Potter Road – Mr. Dickinson thanked stated thank you for the speed limit signs that were put up on Potter Road.

Holidays – Mr. Martin wished the Board, staff, and viewing public, a merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Next Meeting – Mr. Martin advised the next meeting of the Board of Selectmen would be held on January 5, 2010.

PUBLIC COMMENTS/MEDIA QUESTIONS

Bart Bachman of the Conway Daily Sun asked about costs for the Union Contract and if they were down. Mr. Sires advised he can provide the numbers to Mr. Bachman tomorrow.

Mr. Bachman asked if the Garage Committee recommending no more than \$600,000 for the garage. Mr. Drinkhall advised that this what they are hoping for and that is the target. Mr. Bachman asked if the bids come in over this amount, will the town be making plans to retrofit the existing building. Mr. Sires reviewed that he had gone back and looked at minutes of old meetings and advised that this has been planned for many years, but yes they need to make plans to address the current safety issues if we cant build a new building. Mr. Drinkhall added it would be a terrible shame to put anything into the existing building because the cost to heat the building is a waste as well.

ADJOURN

At 6:00 pm, the meeting adjourned at the call of the chair.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen J. Hallowell
Executive Secretary