

**Minutes of Meeting
CONWAY BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

March 22, 2005

The Selectmen's Meeting convened at 4:05 p.m. in the meeting room of Conway Town Hall with the following present: Selectmen, Gary Webster (Chair), David Weathers, Karen Umberger and Larry Martin; Town Manager, Earl W. Sires; and Recording Secretary, Karen Hollowell.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Webster 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.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

The Board reviewed and approved the manifest dated 3/24/05.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Umberger moved, seconded by Mr. Martin, to approve the minutes of 2/1/05 as written. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING: TO HEAR COMMENTS ON WARRANT
ARTICLE 39 TO BE VOTED ON ON APRIL 12, 2005 WITH REGARD TO
DELEGATING THE DETERMINATION OF THE DEFAULT BUDGET
TO THE BUDGET COMMITTEE

Mr. Webster read aloud a public hearing notice to hear comments on warrant article 39 with regard to delegating the determination of the default budget to the Budget Committee and opened the public hearing at 4:08 p.m.

Janine Bean commented that as Chair of the Budget Committee this year she found this RSA and felt it was important that people have a choice in this matter. She approached the Budget Committee and the Board of Selectmen and the Selectmen agreed to put same on the ballot. Ms. Bean next read aloud RSA 32:1 and asked that a copy of same be included in the record of this meeting. (See copy attached).

Budget Committee member, Phil Dighello, next spoke and stated that he has never had a problem with the town's default budget but having the Budget Committee look at it will be a second set of eyes. Mr. Dighello next commented that prior to this public hearing, a public hearing was held for the warrant article for the school default budget and only Carl Nelson showed up for that hearing.

Jim Umberger commented that he thinks it is very disrespectful that no School Board members showed up for the public hearing and urged the public that when it comes time to vote to show their dissatisfaction.

Janine Bean again stated that the Board of Selectmen had agreed to put this article forward on the warrant. Ms. Bean next advised that on the School Warrant this article had to be put on by Petition and the School Board did not recommend it and she urged the public not to look at this recommendation and vote yes on this warrant article.

Mr. Sires next gave an explanation of how the Default Budget is calculated. Mr. Sires further explained that if the voters turn down the budget warrant article, then the town operates on the default budget. There was a brief discussion with the Board and the public regarding the setting of the default budget.

There being no further public comments, Mr. Webster closed the public hearing at 4:21 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Daniel Stewart advised that he would like a street lamp at his residence located at 113 Hunting Ridge Road. Mr. Stewart advised that he spoke with PSNH and they have approved this request and advised that he must also receive permission from the town before the light can be installed. Mr. Stewart advised he is willing to pay for the electricity. Mr. Stewart further explained he would like to have the light for security purposes. There was a brief discussion with the Board. The Board asked that the Town Manager and Public Works Director review the matter and then bring this matter back before the Board with a recommendation.

SOUTHERN TERMINUS SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Sires reported the Southern Terminus Subcommittee met today. Representatives from Albany, Madison and Conway Village were in attendance. The Subcommittee supported the three towns conjunctively approaching Commissioner Murray and asking her to entertain some additional staff time and analysis and design in looking at a different approach for the southern terminus of the bypass. An option discussed at today's meeting is an approach where at that southern terminus you will be able to get off going north on Route 16 and go into Conway Village and you will be able to exit south out of Conway Village and get on the Bypass and the exit southbound on the Bypass to get to Conway Village would actually be out on Rt. 153 and 113. The idea is to think of this as a business route. Mr. Sires questioned if this Board would like to go on record as to wanting to ask Carol Murray to look at this idea. The Board reviewed copies of letter from Madison and Albany regarding this suggestion as well. There was brief discussion by the Board. **Ms. Umberger moved, seconded by Mr. Weathers, that Earl Sires prepare a letter for Chair, Gary Webster's, signature to Commissioner, Carol Murray, asking them to relook at the southern terminus.** Mr. Martin stated that he does not think that Albany and Madison have the same concerns as Conway with regard to bogging down and changing the phasing of the bypass. Mr. Webster advised that it was pointed out at the meeting today that it would help with their traffic flow. Mr. Martin suggested including something in our letter to the Commissioner about how this affects Conway more so than the other towns. Mr. Webster suggested

getting the letter prepared and then all three letters would go to the CDRC for submission. **The motion carried 4-0-0.**

APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY HEALTH OFFICER

Mr. Webster reviewed that Raymond Leavitt has agreed to keep serving as Deputy Health Officer for the Town. **Mr. Weathers moved, seconded by Ms. Umberger, to reappoint Raymond Leavitt to the Deputy Health Officer position. The motion carried 4-0-0.**

DISCUSSION OF NORTH COUNTRY COUNCIL PARTICIPATION

Mr. Sires reviewed the Town did not renew its membership with the North Country Council and did not budget for dues. Mr. Sires advised that the membership fee would have increased this year if the town had renewed its membership. Mr. Sires explained the town did not hear much from the North Country Council when we were members and has mixed feelings as to whether it is worth the money to join. Mr. Sires did point out that one benefit of membership was the services with regard to the MWVEC grants.

Mr. Sires next advised that he and Mr. Webster met with the Director of North Country Council and they do want the Town of Conway to participate in meetings as a non voting member and they have offered to let us stay on board and asked that the Town designate a representative to sit on the Board. Mr. Sires advised that he is willing to go to the meetings. There was brief discussion by the Board. **Mr. Weathers moved, seconded by Ms. Umberger, to authorize Mr. Sires to attend Board meetings on behalf of the Board of Selectmen for up to a year. The motion carried 3-1-0 with Mr. Martin voting in the negative.** The Board also asked Mr. Sires to invite Board members to attend with him from time to time.

TRAFFORD RV DEVELOPMENT/PLUM POTTER AUTO YARD

There was no discussion on this agenda item.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

NHMA/LGC Regional Dinner - Mr. Sires reported the New Hampshire Municipal Association/Local Government Center's regional dinner is scheduled for tomorrow evening at the Red Jacket.

Fourth of July – Mr. Sires advised that the planning process for the Fourth of July celebration has begun. Mr. Sires next advised that the Fourth of July falls on Monday this year and questioned if the Board would like the fireworks, etc., to occur on Sunday or Monday. There was a discussion by the Board. **Mr. Weathers moved, seconded by Ms. Umberger, to leave the Fourth of July on the day it falls, which is Monday this year. The motion carried 3-1-0 with Martin voting in the negative.**

Town Report – Mr. Sires reported the Town Report will be available on April 4, 2005 at various locations around town including the Town Office, Conway Public Library, North Conway Library, Gibson Center, Webster's Country Store, North Conway Post Office, Conway Post Office, Intervale Post Office, and Kearsarge Post Office.

BOARD REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Larry Martin advised that he will not be at the April 5, 2005 Board meeting as he will be out of town.

/MEDIA QUESTIONS

There were no media questions.

ADJOURN

Mr. Weathers made a motion, seconded by Ms. Umberger, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 4:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen J. Hallowell
Executive Secretary