

**Minutes of Meeting
CONWAY BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

February 7, 2006

The Selectmen's Meeting convened at 4:16 p.m. in the Meeting Room of Conway Town Hall with the following present: Selectmen Larry Martin (Chair), Karen Umberger, Dave Weathers, Gary Webster, and Mark Hounsell; 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.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

The Board reviewed and approved the manifest dated February 9, 2006.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Umberger moved, seconded by Mr. Webster, to approve the minutes of 12/20/05 as written. The motion carried 5-0-0.

CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT AMBULANCE CONTRACT

Kenneith Kiesman, Attorney Michael Ramsdell, Fire Chief Larry Wade, Wayne Drouin, Kimberly Kiesman, Ray Leavitt, Patricia Swett, Douglas Swett, and other members of the community were present for discussion. Also present was Town Attorney, Peter Malia.

Mr. Martin advised that correspondence was received from Attorney Ramsdell on behalf of Mr. Kiesman and North Conway Ambulance asking for reconsideration of the motion made by this Board regarding Ambulance service. Mr. Martin asked for any motions for reconsideration. There were no motions made.

Attorney Ramsdell spoke setting forward reasons why he felt the Board should reconsider their decision as was stated in the letter he forwarded to the Town. Attorney Malia disagreed that RSA 43 applies. There was discussion.

Several members of the public next offered their comments. Wayne Drouin spoke about whether anyone was aware if any other service would be allowed into the Conway Village Fire District. Chief Wade advised over the years he has been worked with Tinker, Attorney Dewhurst, the former Town Manager, and various selectmen, who were aware that Conway would be providing service to Conway Village and this was not sprung on anyone. Kimberly Kiesman stated she doesn't feel everyone knew about this and the RFP was written for townwide service. Pat Swett commented that she feels a

mistake has been made in this case and not always the low bid is best and she feels the Board may have acted quickly and asked the Board to give this more thought. Ray Leavitt spoke about the conflict of interest letter he sent to the Town.

Mr. Martin closed public comment at 4:47 p.m.

After brief discussion, the Board agreed to take time to further review the contract and re-agenda this matter to a future meeting.

SPECIAL FUEL FUND

Mr. Sires reviewed funds were received from the Rotary Club and Kiwanis for fuel assistance this year. Mr. Sires advised that he has discussed this matter with the General Assistance Officer, Billie Jo Parker, and guidelines have been drafted for how the funds are to be administered. Mr. Sires distributed a memo with the draft guidelines to the Board and reviewed same.

Ms. Umberger commented that a lot of people do not always look at the fuel tank until they are out and she would suggest that if it is an emergency situation, that they criteria can be waived. Ms. Umberger further commented that she didn't think there was a need for a special Board to authorize the distribution of the funds. There was brief discussion. Mr. Sires suggested that with regard to the Special Fund Board that some criteria remain in place for this if a conflict should arise and this Board agreed.

ALBANY EATON RECREATION FEES

Mr. Sires distributed a Recreation Fee Allocation sheet to the Board and reviewed same. (See attached).

Mr. Sires advised that Albany asked if they could pay off their amount over time, the capital amount. They would have been paying \$17,000 this time and they are asking to spread \$9,500 over the next five year. Mr. Sires stated if the Board is considering a payment spread over time, that instead of five years, his recommendation would be two or three years.

There was a discussion by the Board and the Board agreed to offer the following terms in compromise: Shift to valuation this year and then in the next years, 2007, 2008, and 2009 we intend for bill for capital costs, etc. **Ms. Umberger moved, seconded by Mr. Weathers that the Town Manager notify both Albany and Eaton of the change in policy of shifting to valuation this year and then in the next years, 2007, 2008 and 2009 we intend to bill for capital costs, etc. The motion carried 5-0-0.**

BUDGET DISCUSSION

The Board reviewed a draft copy of Warrant articles to date.

Operating Budget – **Mr. Hounsell moved, seconded by Mr. Webster, to support the operating budget warrant article in the amount of \$8,709,232 with a default budget amount of \$8,583,373. The motion carried 5-0-0.**

There was brief discussion that there would be no police union warrant article appearing on the 2006 warrant.

It was reviewed that the Capital Reserve Fund article for police vehicles should read \$44,000. Also, language should be removed regarding the operating budget per Don Borrer of the DRA. The draft warrant will be changed to reflect the changes. **Ms. Umberger moved, seconded by Mr. Weathers, that the Capital Reserve Fund for police vehicle article at \$44,000 be accepted. The motion carried 5-0-0.**

There was next discussion regarding the electrical distribution system at Schouler Park. Mr. Sires advised that the NCVA discussion has been postponed to next week's meeting. Ms. Umberger stated she feels the Board should drop this article and not bring same to the Budget Committee due the timing, etc. Mr. Hounsell agreed suggested taking the article off the draft warrant today. **Mr. Webster moved, seconded by Mr. Hounsell, to remove the article addressing the electrical distribution system at Schouler Park and pursue that money through the streetscape monies. The motion carried 5-0-0.**

There was next brief discussion regarding the ambulance contract article. It was advised that per Don Borrer of the DRA this is a non money article and that neither the Board of Selectmen nor the Budget Committee make a recommendation on this article that appears on the warrant. **Mr. Hounsell moved, seconded by Mr. Webster, to put this article on the warrant. The motion carried 5-0-0.**

There was next discussion regarding a warrant article for the Eastern Slope Airport. Ms. Umberger stated she felt this should be put on as a Selectmen's article. Mr. Sires referred to the draft warrant prepared for the Board's review and suggested that language for a Selectmen's article for the Airport would say: to support the operation of the Eastern Slope Airport and delete the word "Authority", also, use wording "Separate" instead of "special" and, also, delete language referring to submitted by petition. **Mr. Hounsell moved, seconded by Ms. Umberger that a Selectmen's article be placed on the warrant for the Eastern Slope Airport with the language as suggested. The motion carried 5-0-0.**

Mr. Sires next advised that he will have warrant article language prepared regarding Wiley Court for the Boards review and consideration. Mr. Sires reiterated that he feels there is not sufficient time to comfortably hold all the hearings and look at this matter thoroughly before town meeting. Also, we still need a cost estimate for this matter. Mr. Sires next reviewed that three hearings are currently scheduled for February 21 in this matter – one for conditional layout, one for betterment, and the other is the bond hearing. There was brief discussion by the Board. The Board agreed to move forward with the hearings on February 21, 2006 at this point.

There was next brief discussion regarding the warrant article regarding funds for technical assistance for the Capital Improvements Plan (CIP). Mr. Hounsell stated he felt the CIP could be facilitated without these funds. **Ms. Umberger moved, seconded by Mr. Webster, that we place a warrant article on the warrant for \$13,500 for technical assistance for the CIP. The motion failed 1-4-0 with Mr. Martin in favor and Ms. Umberger and Messrs. Webster, Weathers and Hounsell voting in the negative.**

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

North Conway Water Precinct – Mr. Sires advised the North Conway Water Precinct requested a letter of support for a source water protection grant. A draft letter was presented for the Board's review and consideration. **Mr. Webster moved, seconded by Mr. Weathers, that the Board authorize the Chair, Larry Martin, to sign the draft letter before the Board. The motion carried 4-0-1 with Ms. Umberger abstaining.**

Petitions – Mr. Sires noted that Petitioned warrant articles are due no later than February 14, 2006.

Budget Public Hearings – Mr. Sires reviewed that the Budget Committee's Public Hearings on the Budgets (Precinct, Town and School) are scheduled for Wednesday, February 15, 2006 starting at 6:00 p.m. at Conway Elementary School.

Student Tour – Mr. Sires reported that students from Pine Tree School will be touring Town Hall on February 14, 2006.

Adelphia – Mr. Sires reported the Town received a copy of a letter sent by Adelphia to the Town of Bartlett advising they will be discontinuing the service to Valley Vision.

BOARD REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Conway Village Relamping – Mr. Hounsell requested an update be provided on the relamping project in Conway Village. Mr. Sires advised he will contact PSNH and advise.

Conservation Commission – Mr. Weathers reported the Conservation Commission received an expedited Dredge and Fill Application and will be reviewing same at their meeting scheduled for tomorrow night.

Valley Vision Representative – Ms. Umberger reviewed that Bob Barriault had indicated that he would like to resign as the Board's Valley Vision representative and that we would need to advertise for this position on the newspaper. Mr. Sires advised that a ad was placed in the newspaper but no response from the public has been received to date for the position.

Bond Hearing – Ms. Umberger advised there is a Hearing scheduled regarding the \$2.5 million Bond for the School on February 13, 2006 at Conway Elementary School.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND MEDIA QUESTIONS

There were no public comments or media questions.

NON PUBLIC SESSION/RSA 91-A:3,II(c)

Mr. Hounsell requested a non public session under RSA 91-A:3,II(c). Mr. Hounsell gave a brief explanation as to the nature and reason for the non public session.

At 6:03 p.m. **Mr. Webster moved, seconded by Mr. Hounsell, to go into non public session under RSA 91-A:3,II(c). The motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.**

The Board returned to regular session at the conclusion of the non public session. A motion to seal the minutes was made and carried in non public session.

ADJOURN

Mr. Webster moved, seconded by Mr. Weathers to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen J. Hallowell
Executive Secretary