

**Minutes of Meeting
CONWAY BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

March 25, 2008

The Selectmen's Meeting convened at 4:05 p.m. in the Meeting Room of Conway Town Hall with the following present: Selectmen C. David Weathers (Chair), Larry Martin, Gary Webster, Mark Hounsell and Howard C. Dickinson; 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.

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 March 27, 2007.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Board agreed to carry consideration of the minutes to the next meeting.

CONSIERATION OF TANS DOCUMENTS

Finance Director, Lucy Philbrick, joined the meeting. Ms. Philbrick distributed TANS documents to the Board for review and signature. The Board signed same.

CANDIDATES FOR BOARD OF SELECTMEN AND BUDGET COMMITTEE

Bob Drinkhall, candidate for Selectmen, and Daniel Bacon, candidate for Budget Committee, were introduced to the Board by Selectmen Hounsell. Both candidates gave a brief statement on their interest in the positions and their qualifications.

SPRING RECREATION PROGAM UPDATE

Recreation Director, John Eastman, joined the meeting. Mr. Eastman provided the Board with an update of spring recreation programs including t-ball, softball, etc. Mr. Eastman reviewed getting started will all be dependent on the shape of the fields of course this year after the snow melts. Mr. Eastman next advised that information on programs is available on the town website, in the Conway Daily Sun, and they have also been to the School with program information.

Mr. Eastman next reviewed that on Tuesday, April 15, 2008, the Parks Department will get started. The Parks Department has a lot of work to do after this winter.

Mr. Eastman next reported on the Fourth of July Celebration. Mr. Eastman advised that every year they have sent out two hundred letters for sponsorships. To

date we have only taken in \$1500. Last year the town took in \$5400 in donations. Mr. Eastman commented that he is somewhat concerned that donations are low. Businesses that made donations last year are making lower donation amounts this year. Mr. Sires commented that a variety of factors may have led to the lessening of donations. The Town could downscale the Fourth of July event or the Town could fund the event to keep it at the same level. We could wait and see how this develops; however, this needed to be brought to the Board's attention.

Mr. Hounsell next questioned the Teen Center interest in the Pond Hockey program. Mr. Eastman advised 5 weeks of 15 kids go Ham Arena.

Mr. Eastman next reported there is a Foxwoods bus trip scheduled for April 25, 2008. This is an over 21 adult trip.

There was next further discussion on the Fourth of July. Mr. Sires reviewed that the town is planning to have the festivities on the Fourth, which is Friday. The Board agreed. Mr. Sires also reviewed the Board needed to make a decision about where to hold the parade. **Mr. Hounsell moved, seconded by Mr. Martin, that the 2008 Fourth of July parade be held in Conway Village.** There was a brief discussion regarding the parade being held in Conway Village and the fireworks and other evening festivities being held in North Conway. **The motion carried 5-0-0.**

SCHOULER PARK EVENT SIGN

Mr. Eastman and Mr. Sires reviewed the signs on the Shouler Park Event sign that presently hang and that get changed out. Mr. Sires questioned if the Board still wants to have this done and have this managed. The Board discussed and felt that the non profits should be contacted to see if they are still interested and to see if they are interested if they have to pay.

Dan Bacon suggested a fee for three years instead as a compromise.

CONSIDERATION OF VALLEY VISION AGREEMENT

Valley Vision Station Manager, Douglas Poor, joined the meeting.

Mr. Sires distributed a proposed Town of Conway/Valley Vision Memorandum of Agreement to the Board and Mr. Poor and reviewed same.

The Board reviewed that this agreement would not be signed until the after voting day. Mr. Sires advised this is correct and so long as the Board approves the agreement as well.

Mr. Poor asked if the monthly payment amount could be put into the agreement. All agreed. Mr. Poor also stated that under terms, we should add May 1 to April 30, 2009. All agreed. **Mr. Hounsell moved, seconded by Mr. Webster, that the document be prepared for signature after the results of the April 8, 2008 Town Meeting vote. The motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Poor asked for the status of the equipment request they had submitted a couple of months ago. They need a new camera. Mr. Weathers asked how much the item would cost. Mr. Poor did not have the exact figure available. Mr. Weathers advised this matter could be put on the next agenda for discussion.

Mr. Poor next discussed digital television conversion. The cable provider is trying to take public access channels and not make them part of basic packages anymore. Mr. Poor stated we need to keep public access channels in the basic cable packages. Mr. Poor stated he felt this should be part of the cable franchise negotiations.

Mr. Poor next advised that Valley Vision will be running a candidates forum and has invited George Epstein to be the moderator of the forum. The forum will be aired at 7:30 p.m. live tomorrow evening and then will repeat several times before election day.

Mr. Poor next stated that he would like to extend his gratitude to Selectman Gary Webster for his representation on the Valley Vision Board.

CONSIDERATION OF FRAUD POLICY CONSIDERATION OF CREDIT CARD POLICY

Mr. Sires advised that a Fraud and Credit Card Policy have been suggested by our external auditors. They want town to now have these policies in place. Mr. Sires stated that draft policies have been prepared for the Board consideration. Mr. Sires reviewed same with the Board.

There was a review and discussion by the Board. The Board questioned if there will be one policy for Town, Police and Library or will each have their own. It was agreed that Mr. Sires would speak with each and report back on same.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

2007 Town Reports – Mr. Sires reported the 2007 Town Reports will be available to the community on Monday.

Bypass – Mr. Sires reported Jeff Brillhart, Assistant Commission for NH Department of Transportation, called in response to the letter the Board of Selectmen sent to State regarding the bypass. Mr. Brillhart advised he wanted to take the Board up on the offer of meeting either in Conway or Concord. Mr. Hounsell stated he feels he should come to Conway and hear our concerns. Mr. Dickinson agreed. There was a discussion by the Board. The Board agreed to send an invitation to Mr. Brillhart to come to Conway.

Homeland Security/Spring Flooding – Mr. Sires reported the Director of Homeland Security for the State of NH, Chris Pope, will be at Conway Town Hall on Thursday, March 27, at 4:00 p.m. to discuss spring flooding. Fire Chiefs, Emergency Management Directors, and others have been invited to attending this meeting.

BOARD REPORTS AND COMMENTS

North Conway Waste Receptacles – Mr. Webster commented that the waste receptacles in North Conway are a disaster after this winter. Mr. Webster requested it be suggested that MWVPA replace them with something that will last through the winter in future years.

Agenda Error – Mr. Martin pointed out that the dates of the minutes to be approved listed on the agenda were the wrong dates.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND MEDIA QUESTIONS

Bob Drinkhall suggested the auditorium at the new High School be used for the meeting with Jeff Brillhart of the NHDOT.

Bob Drinkhall commented that he thought the bricks on the North-South Roundabout were guaranteed to be plowable. Mr. Drinkhall reported it looks as though some of the bricks have lifted.

Bob Drinkhall reviewed that he previously came before the Board regarding dark sky lighting and was now requesting an update on the matter. Mr. Sires advised the Town did contact Kearsarge Lighting Precinct and Intervale Lighting Precinct regarding their standard and had heard back from both. They do not have standard and look to the NH Electric Cooperative for their standards to have their lights replaced and, also, they liked the new lights.

Casey Conley requested the figure for TANS. Mr. Sires advised he would confirm same tomorrow.

ADJOURN

At 5:43 pm, Mr. Webster moved, seconded by Mr. Martin, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen J. Hallowell
Executive Secretary