

**Minutes of Meeting  
CONWAY BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

April 29, 2008

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, Mark Hounsell, Howard C. Dickinson and Bob Drinkhall; 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 May 1, 2008.

Consideration of Minutes

**Mr. Weathers moved, seconded by Mr. Hounsell to approve the minutes of 3/18/08 & 3/25/08 & 4/01/08 as written. The motion carried 4-0-1 with Mr. Drinkhall abstaining.**

Discussion of proposed Methadone Treatment Clinic

Robert Potter, Vice President of Planning and Development Community Substance Abuse Centers/Merrimack River Medical Services and Fay Melendy, Esquire joined the meeting to discuss a proposed Methadone Treatment Clinic.

Mr. Potter explained he is the developer for the treatment center and he runs treatment centers in four states. Mr. Potter further stated that he has identified Conway as a place for a treatment center. Mr. Potter next gave an overview of how they got started in Providence, Rhode Island, with community substance abuse centers.

Mr. Potter next reviewed the process from when a person calls a clinic for treatment to when they receive the liquid form of methadone. Mr. Potter explained how they determine doses for methadone for individuals. Mr. Potter further explained that individuals that come to the clinics are also assigned to a clinical psychologist for further help with other life decisions.

Mr. Potter next discussed the licensing process they must go through before they open the doors of a clinic. Mr. Potter advised they began this process several months ago by meeting with the police, Judge Albee, etc. and now here with the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Potter stated that although he can open anywhere according to zoning

he is here to talk about this with the community about concerns and to raise the comfort level.

Mr. Potter explained he is looking for a 3,000 square foot space for the clinic with handicap access. Mr. Potter further stated that he has not found space yet and in reality this may take a year to work this out across the community. Mr. Potter also stated that something he does do in communities is start a community advisory committee with various people in the community.

Mr. Potter next explained that business at the clinic is usually completed by 10:00 a.m. for dispensing methadone and counseling by 2:00 p.m. Mr. Potter stated he has never had a robbery or an attempted robbery at any of his clinics. Also, there is a monitor system at the facility. Mr. Potter next stated that in a meeting in the Chief of Police and the Judge no one has said there isn't a narcotic problem in Conway.

Chairman Martin asked for questions and comments from the Board. Bob Drinkhall questioned if the clinic is for profit and, if so, how many patients are needed for profit and how many will come from outside of the Town of Conway. Mr. Potter stated that currently thirty people from Conway are coming to another one of their clinics. Mr. Potter stated that if they open a clinic in Conway they would need 125 clients to sustain the clinic. Mr. Potter further added they are not looking to sustain a large clinic here in Conway. Mr. Sires questioned if Mr. Potter based the demand for the clinic on the 30 clients that are coming from this area. Mr. Potter advised he spoke with the Board of Pharmacy who stated to him to go as far north as he can.

Mr. Hounsell asked about disruptions outside of the clinic. Mr. Potter stated that most patients are motivated to get treatment and if they don't choose to be treated they can choose not to treat them. If they do not comply with the treatment they ask them to move along.

Mr. Hounsell stated I have heard that you have said if you were not wanted here you would look for some other places. Mr. Hounsell questioned "have you been quoted accurately?" Mr. Potter replied "If it is the consensus that there is not a need for service and it would not be a good match for the Conway community I would not instruct Fay to dig her heels in and go to the town to open a center."

Mr. Hounsell stated that the clinic draws from twenty miles and questioned if Mr. Potter sees people coming from Maine to use the clinic. Mr. Potter replied in the affirmative stating they would be treating Maine residents at this facility.

Mr. Dickinson read from an article which stated that he would not come here if he is not wanted and that that is not what Mr. Potter just said. What he just said was that he would not come if there was not a need. Mr. Potter stated to trust him he is the point person and if his marching orders are to not do it he won't.

Mr. Dickinson asked about take home methadone for holiday and days when the clinics are closed or if a client needs a flexible schedule. Mr. Potter explained the take home issue and that they do give take home doses depending on the client. Mr. Potter advised they are open 365 days a year however, depending on the patient after six months they may be eligible for a take home supply. The more successful someone is the more take homes they can get.

Mr. Hounsell questioned if they have considered instead of building a clinic to open a dialog with the medical facilities here already to administer the program. Mr. Hounsell questioned that if there is a need wouldn't other clinics be interested in meeting with you. Mr. Potter stated that this is their next step. Mr. Hounsell suggested the Memorial Hospital be contacted as well. Mr. Potter stated that would be ideal but they needed to contact the town first.

Mr. Dickinson questioned what we would have to do to convince him to go elsewhere. Mr. Potter explained he would like to continue with the process. Mr. Potter stated he has packages of information to send in for the Board to review and then reconvene in the future.

Mr. Martin questioned if there are clinics in several places how do they know a person is not duplicating services. Mr. Potter advised clients sign releases so they can contact clinics in the radius.

Mr. Martin and Police Chief Wagner next commented on the recent overdoses on the Valley.

Mr. Porter next discussed dosing of methadone in liquid versus pill forms of methadone.

Chairman Martin asked for questions and comments from the public. There were many members of the community who spoke both for and against the proposed clinic.

Mr. Dickinson questioned how the Clinics are paid. Mr. Potter advised insurance. Mr. Dickinson questioned if they take funds from federal agencies. Mr. Potter replied in the negative advising they take no money from state for federal agencies. There was some further discussion regarding payment for methadone treatment. Mr. Martin questioned if anyone has been turned away for financial reasons and Mr. Potter replied in the affirmative.

Mr. Potter stated that in summary there is an addiction population here and he doesn't see bringing people from away. They treat opiate dependency. Further, with regard to employment they have people who are willing to work and move here to work in the clinic. With regard to methadone death concerns, they dispense liquid only in therapeutic doses.

Mr. Potter further added that a person graduates from program after clean for one year.

Mr. Dickinson questioned what towns have turned them down or chased them out. Mr. Potter advised Medford Massachusetts.

Mr. Hounsell questioned if they were to open a clinic, would you do an education program. Mr. Potter advised they would be more than happy to go into the schools, etc.

Mr. Hounsell questioned security for the clinics. Mr. Pottter advised they do have security.

Mr. Hounsell questioned if they would reimburse town for assistance given. Mr. Potter advised he would check into this and provide an answer.

Mr. Hounsell questioned if they have looked into the Technology Village. Mr. Potter advised they have not checked that property.

Mr. Martin requested Mr. Potter send the packets of information for the Boards review and then we will meet again in the future.

Chairman Martin called for a brief recess of the meeting at 5:52 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 5:58 p.m.

#### REQUEST FOR SECOND DRIVEWAY AT 77 HEATH ROAD/TIM KIESMAN

This agenda item was carried to the next meeting.

#### PUBLIC EVENT PERMIT -THOMAS THE TRAIN/CONWAY SCENIC RAILROAD

This agenda items was requested by the event holder and also canceled at the request of the event holder.

#### CONCEPT DRAWING FOR OLYMPIC LANE

Patricia Sell and Russ Seybold were present for discussion.

Mr. DegliAngeli reviewed the Olympic Lane matter to date with the Board. Mr. DegliAngeli next reviewed concept drawings for Olympic Lane with the Board. Mr. DegliAngeli reviewed minimum cross sections he would recommend to the Board that would meet town standards. Mr. DegliAngeli also reviewed curbing and sidewalks.

There was next a discussion of various options and ideas regarding turnarounds, hammerheads, curbing, sidewalks, easements, driveway locations, etc. Ms. Sell reviewed plans regarding her property with the Board.

**Mr. Martin moved, seconded by Mr. Hounsell, to give Paul DegliAngeli a directive to design with curbing up to the signal access box only on the West Side.** Mr. Sires reviewed this needs to go to a public hearing. There was discussion regarding using public funds for private parking. **Mr. Hounsell moved to table the motion. The motion to table failed 1-4-0 with Messrs. Drinkhall, Dickinson Weathers and Martin voting in the negative and Mr. Hounsell in the affirmative.** A vote was taken on Mr. Martin's motion and the **motion carried 3-2-0.**

**Mr. Drinkhall moved, seconded by Mr. Weathers, that we keep the plan that plan that Paul has with the sidewalk.** Mr. Hounsell advised he opposes this and Mr. Dickinson advised he thinks curbing is unnecessary. **The motion carried 3-2-0 with Messrs. Drinkhall, Weathers, and Martin in the affirmative and Messrs. Dickinson Dickinson and Hounsell in the negative.**

**Mr. Hounsell moved, seconded by Mr. Drinkhall, that we put the hammerhead on the east side of Olympic Lane with the northern end being**

**directly across from the southern end of the Sell's existing driveway.** Mr. DegliAngeli advised this will require getting land from the school. Mr. Drinkhall questioned if the abutter would prefer this option. Ms. Sell stated she was not ready to comment on this. She may be in favor of doing something else or a hammerhead. There was further discussion regarding the hammerhead and seeing if the land could be acquired. Mr. Hounsell stated he didn't think it was necessary to get land from the school to do this. Mr. DegliAngeli advised that for a complete turning radius he doesn't think there is enough room. Mr. Martin suggested tabling the motion so that we can check with the school. **Mr. Hounsell moved to table, seconded by Mr. Drinkhall. The motion to table carried unanimously.**

Mr. DegliAngeli questioned if Mr. Seybold is amenable to giving the town 33 feet for \$1 or do we need to conduct an assessment of the land. Mr. Seybold advised he will discuss this matter with counsel and get back to town staff.

#### PUBLIC WORKS UPDATE

- a. 2008 Update of Infrastructure Projects
- b. Curbing and Sidewalks at Town Hall
- c. Crosswalk at Recreation Center
- d. Road damage at snowmobile crossings

It was agreed that the update and discussion on these items would be carried to the next meeting.

#### CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENT OF FIRE WARDEN FOR TOWN OF CONWAY

**Mr. Hounsell moved, seconded by Mr. Drinkhall, to appoint Patrick Preece as the Town of Conway Forest Fire Warden and that we forward this recommendation to the State. The motion carried unanimously.**

#### APPOINTMENT TO INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

Mr. Hounsell stated that he served on the Infrastructure Committee last year as the Selectmen's representative and Mr. Drinkhall served on the committee as the Planning Board's representative. Mr. Hounsell stated that Mr. Drinkhall has indicated that he would like to serve on the Infrastructure Committee as the Selectmen's representative this year. There were no objections.

#### TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Flood Waters – Mr. Sires reported the Emergency Management Director is monitoring the Saco River as it has been reported the Saco may crest. The Emergency Management Director is making arrangements in case there is flooding for Transvale Acres, etc.

#### BOARD REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Methadone Clinic – Mr. Dickinson commented on Mr. Potter setting his sites on town. Mr. Dickinson asked the Board to really give this matter a lot of thought.

Schouler Park – Mr. Hounsell asked that discussion on Schouler Park be placed on the agenda next week, i.e., burning of the greens, dogs, ice skating rink, uses of the park, etc.

Budget Committee – Mr. Hounsell reported the Budget Committee met last evening. Melissa Stacey was elected Chair of the committee and Jim LeFebvre was elected Vice Chair.

Foxwoods – Mr. Weathers reported the Recreation Department spring bus trip to Foxwoods was this past Friday. It was well run and they had a full bus.

Special Events – Mr. Hounsell commented on Special Event permitting and suggested looking into seeing in Lynore in the Recreation Department can help out with these. Mr. Hounsell stated he would like to have a discussion on this matter as well in the future.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND MEDIA QUESTIONS

Casey Conley of the Conway Daily Sun questioned if the Board could reach and in impasse on Olympic lane and leave it alone. Mr. Sires advised the Board is working on the matter.

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

At 7:40 p.m., **Mr. Hounsell moved, seconded by Mr. Weathers, to go into non public session. The motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.**

At 7:46 p.m. the Board returned to public session. **Mr. Weathers moved, seconded by Mr. Dickinson to seal the minutes of the non public session. The motion carried.**

ADJOURN

At 7:47 p.m. **Mr. Hounsell moved, seconded by Mr. Weathers, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Karen J. Hallowell  
Executive Secretary