

Minutes of Meeting
CONWAY BOARD OF SELECTMEN

February 10, 2009

The Selectmen's Meeting convened at 4:08 p.m. in the Meeting Room of Conway Town Hall with the following present: Selectmen, Larry Martin, (Chair), C. David Weathers, Howard C. Dickinson and Bob Drinkhall; Town Manager, Earl W. Sires; and Recording Secretary, Karen Hallowell

Selectman, Mark Hounsell, was not in attendance.

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 February 12, 2009.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Consideration of minutes was held to the next meeting.

REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF SPECIAL EVENT APPLICATION(S)

There were no Special Event Applications for the Board to review or consider.

OVERLAY DISTRICT DISCUSSION

This agenda item was requested by Selectman Hounsell. The Board agreed to hold discussion on this item until the next meeting when Mr. Hounsell was present.

Mr. Drinkhall advised that no stance was taken by the Planning Board thus far on this article. Mr. Drinkhall added what is the point of doing this however if the bypass is not taken off the table yet.

2009 TOWN BUDGET

Swim Lesson Funding – Mr. Sires advised there was a recommendation from the Budget Committee that the Board of Selectmen change the fee structure so that swim lessons were fully funded. This doesn't affect the bottom line of the budget. For residents it would be \$75 and non residents the charge would be \$100. This would generate \$1,000 extra and could be set aside for scholarships for swim lessons or set aside for general revenue for the Recreation Department. This price would be approximately double the current price. Mr. Sires stated if the Board is going to change fees it would make sense to do so through a motion, but you have until May to do so.

Mr. Sires reviewed the amounts again with the Board as \$75 for Conway Recreation participating towns (Albany, Conway etc) and for participants from other towns the cost will be \$100. Mr. Sires further advised that the Board of Selectmen could propose different amount if they so choose. **Mr. Dickinson moved, seconded by Mr. Drinkhall, to accept the fee structure as presented for swim lessons.** (\$75 for residents and participating towns and \$100 for other towns). Mr. Drinkhall reviewed the current fees of \$35 and \$45. Mr. Martin questioned if there will still be scholarships available and Mr. Sires replied in the affirmative. Mr. Weathers stated this is a big amount of an increase for one year and would like to see less of an increase. Mr. Drinkhall stated the average person goes to the program for 3-4 years and some may be in the program already for one year and agrees this may be too big of an increase at once. There was further brief discussion. The Board agreed they would like to have Recreation Director, John Eastman, in to a meeting to answer questions about the program before making a decision. **Mr. Dickinson moved, seconded by Mr. Weathers, to table the motion. All in favor.**

Teen Center – Mr. Drinkhall stated he feels this Board needs a definite stance on the teen center funding. Mr. Dickinson stated he thinks we need to leave it the way it is as there has been a long discussion on the matter and this could always be changed at the deliberative session. There was discussion regarding the number of nights and the nights of the week for the operation of the Teen Center as well as attendance. There was a brief discussion regarding the cost of \$16,000 to add one day back into the Teen Center budget. Mr. Dickinson stated that if people want this they should come out to the Deliberative Portion. **Mr. Dickinson moved, seconded by Mr. Drinkhall, to leave things the way they are. The motion carried 4-0-0.**

CONSIDERATION OF 2009 TOWN WARRANT

Draft Warrant – Mr. Sires reviewed the draft warrant including petitioned articles received to date.

The Board questioned the petitioned article regarding the spending cap. Mr. Sires read aloud the petitioned article regarding the budget spending cap. Mr. Sires advised this petitioned article has been reviewed and we were advised that the article should appear on the warrant however it is non binding. A petitioned article can't direct the school board – it can ask the Board to ask the school board but it cant direct an this article would be advisory only, such as a non binding referendum. In addition, the only way for a spending cap to be put in place would be through a change in the Town Charter. Mr. Sires next advised that he spoke with Ray Shakir who submitted the petition and he understands this is non binding and feels it is a worthwhile exercise to go thru with the voters.

Mr. Sires reviewed the proposed budget warrant article in the amount of \$9,164,203 with the Board and the default budget as presented.

Peg Warrant Article – Mr. Sires reviewed the PEG article with the Board. Mr. Sires reviewed still need a number to be placed in the article. Mr. Sires explained could place up to \$115,000 which is the total available. The Board agreed to insert \$115,000 into the article.

Children Unlimited Warrant Article – Mr. Martin pointed out that the warrant article for Children Unlimited should be for \$12,000 and not \$12,500. Mr. Sires advised the petition submitted was for \$12,500 and this amount will have to be amended on the floor at the deliberative session of town meeting.

The Board reviewed the draft article concerning recorded votes and the numerical tally of any such votes to be printed in the town warrant next to the affected warrant article.

The Board reviewed the draft article regarding authorizing the governing body to call one special meeting, at its option, to address articles. The Board agreed to remove this article from the draft warrant.

After reviewing the draft warrant, Mr. Sires suggested approving the draft of the warrant for presentation at the Budget Committee Public Hearing. **Mr. Dickinson moved, seconded by Mr. Drinkhall, to approve the warrant for presentation at the Budget Committee Public Hearing.** Mr. Dickinson suggested a letter also be transmitted as well. **The motion carried 4-0-0.**

DISCUSSION OF HB445 RE: METHADONE CLINICS

Mr. Dickinson reported he went to Concord last week regarding HB445 regarding the Methadone Clinics. The Department of Health and Human Services advised they felt since said detox and methadone clinics, they wanted it rewritten so there was not a misunderstanding that it included alcohol rehabilitation. Mr. Dickinson next advised they want to send this bill on to a subcommittee and they left and nothing has been done. Mr. Dickinson stated he suggested to Representative Umberger and Buco that they speak to the Chairman and see if they can have this sent to the subcommittee and they can still work on the bill. Mr. Sires advised that he spoke with Representative Umberger and if the Board wants to offer any amendments etc., they can still be sent along.

NORTH COUNTRY COUNCIL LETTER REGARDING STIMULUS PACKAGE PRIORITIZATION

Mr. Sires reviewed a letter received and reviewed by the Board last week from the North Country Council concerning stimulus package prioritization. North Country Council has offered to be the lead regarding the stimulus package.

Mr. Sires next advised that he has also met with Councilor Burton and others yesterday regarding the stimulus package. Other agencies will be using North Country Council. Councilor Burton has advised to get your projects in order and send them along.

Mr. Dickinson stated that lead agencies will be the NHDOT and NHDRED and we should write directly to them. Councilor Burton hopes the money will come quickly and directly to the towns and not through sieves like North Country Council.

Mr. Sires stated the recommendation was to get the package together for next week and send this to the lead agencies and North Country Council of our projects for our town. Mr. Sires advised that he has given a package of this information to Councilor Burton with our projects listed.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Budget Committee – Mr. Sires reported the Budget Committee Public Hearing is scheduled for tomorrow, February 11, 2009 in the Kennett High School Auditorium.

Warrant – Mr. Sires reported the Warrant will be posted late next week.

Street Lights – Mr. Sires reported on two written comments received regarding the street lights being shut off on Route 16 and provided copies of same to the Board. Mr. Sires also advised that a Portland, Maine, news channel had a reporter do a news story on this and the reporter was out on Route 16.

Saco River Management Protection – Mr. Sires reviewed a letter was received from Commissioner Burack regarding Saco River Management Protection. They have a Board and would like the Board of Selectmen to submit someone to sit on same. Mr. Dickinson advised that he would like to be on this Advisory Committee.

BOARD REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Carroll County Budget – Mr. Dickinson read aloud a proposed letter prepared to send regarding the Carroll County budget. **Mr. Drinkhall moved, seconded by Mr. Dickinson, to accept Mr. Dickinson's letter.** Mr. Weathers advised he is not comfortable signing letter when he does not know the reasons for the increases in the county budget yet. **The motion carried 3-0-1 with Mr. Weathers abstaining.**

Conservation Commission – Mr. Weathers advised the Conservation Commission meets tomorrow night, February 11, 2009 at the Whitaker Meeting House. They have one Dredge and Fill Application for an Eaton Road location for consideration.

Overlay District Discussion - Mr. Martin requested the Overlay District discussion be place on next week's agenda.

Board Meeting Schedule – Mr. Martin stated originally there was not going to be a meeting on 2/17/09; however, this has changed as we have two public hearings scheduled and the Board will be voting on the warrant.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND MEDIA QUESTIONS

There were no public comments or media questions.

NON PUBLIC SESSION: RSA 91-A.II(C) / TAX MATTER

The non public session was canceled.

ADJOURN

At 5:05 p.m. the meeting was adjourned at the call of the Chair.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen J. Hallowell
Executive Secretary