

**Minutes of Meeting
CONWAY BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

February 2, 2010

The Selectmen's Meeting convened at 4:04 p.m. in the Meeting Room of Conway Town Hall with the following present: Selectmen, Larry Martin (Chair), C. David Weathers, Howard C. Dickinson, Bob Drinkhall, and Mike DiGregorio; 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.

CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

The Board reviewed and signed the manifest dated February 4, 2010.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of 12/1/09, 12/8/09, 12/14/09 and 12/22/09 were up for consideration. **Mr. Drinkhall moved, seconded by Mr. Dickinson to approve the minutes of 12/8/09 and 12/14/09 as written. The motion carried unanimously.** The Board agreed to hold consideration of the minutes of the 12/1/09 and 12/22/09 meetings until the next meeting.

REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF SPECIAL EVENT APPLICATION(S)

There were no special event applications for the Board's consideration.

REPORT OF GARAGE COMMITTEE

Mr. Drinkhall reported on the Garage Committee meeting held earlier in the afternoon. Mr. Drinkhall reported the Committee voted on a motion to support the bond as written for \$650,000 by a vote of 5-2 with Bob and Ray voting in the negative. Mr. Drinkhall next advised the Committee next voted to support the garage by a vote of 7-0-0.

Mr. Drinkhall next reviewed the bond article. Mr. Drinkhall reviewed that if this does not pass something will still something have to be done to the existing garage building to bring it up to standards. Mr. Drinkhall also reviewed that this Board still must decide on funding options, i.e., bond financing, using capital reserve funds, etc. Mr. Drinkhall reviewed the options.

Mr. Dickinson next stated he did not see the harm in going out to the bid process now. It was explained that it will affect the grant process. Mr. Dickinson stated he still feels we should proceed. Mr. DegliAngeli explained if we are pursuing federal money, we need to follow guidelines. The Board discussed the position of not pursuing the federal grant so that the Town could pursue bids and how to write a warrant article for same.

The Board also discussed funding options. There was also discussion as to how to word the warrant article, i.e., how much to ask from the voters, how much to use from the CRF and Mr. Martin suggested asking the voters for \$400,000 and take \$200,000 from how much grant money. **Mr. Martin moved, seconded by Mr. Drinkhall, for a warrant article for \$650,000, using \$200,000 from the Capital Reserve Fund, with at least \$100,000 from the grant.** Mr. DiGregorio asked what the back up plan will be for the roof and the other building. Mr. DegliAngeli explained we will still put money into the account for next year. Mr. DiGregorio stated he thinks we are muddying this and it should be clearer. There was further discussion regarding the article and the language. **The motion carried 4-1-0 with Mr. DiGregorio in the negative.**

DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED PROCLAMATION
FOR OLYMPIAN LEANNE SMITH

Mr. Dickinson suggested a Proclamation by made by the Selectmen for Leanne Smith who will be skiing in the 2010 Vancouver Olympics. Mr. Dickinson read aloud a letter he prepared noting Leanne Smith's accomplishments to date. **Mr. Drinkhall moved, seconded by Mr. DiGregorio, to prepare a Proclamation for Leanne Smith. The motion carried unanimously.**

FUTURE RECREATION PLANNING IN CONWAY (NORTH
CONWAY COMMUNITY CENTER)

Mark Miller of the North Conway Community Center joined the meeting.

Mr. Sires prefaced this matter advising that he and Mark Miller of the North Conway Community Center recently met and discussed the future of recreation in the Town of Conway and cooperative planning for the future.

Mr. Martin reviewed there was a long range planning committee and they had met with North Conway Community Center (NCCC) and the NCCC was not interested in coming together for the purpose of long term planning. Mr. Miller advised this was before him and his goal is to get with people in the Town to talk about long range planning for recreation in the Town of Conway. He wants to get together and talk about this and he wants to enhance recreation and make sure we are not duplicating services. Further, his goal is to sit with the long range planning committee.

Mr. Weathers questioned if they are planning anything new at the NCCC. Mr. Miller advised they are looking at the best situation for the NCCC. They have created a plan and had it drawn out on a site plan and it ended up here at the town office by accident; however, it was the cart before the horse situation. They are not ready to do anything yet. They never presented it to Planning Board, Board of Selectmen, etc and they weren't ready to do anything yet.

Mr. Weathers stated his suggestion is to get back together with the long range committee and talk with them. There was further discussion. Mr. Weathers suggested reappointing and starting the committee back up again. Mr. Miller stated that he thought that is why he was here at the meeting today to ask. Mr. DiGregorio advised that he would be interested in being on the committee if it is reconvened. There was discussion as to the composition of the committee. Mr. Sires advised that Tom Deans and Sut Marshall were the chairs previously. Mr. Sires suggested involving the Town Planner, Recreation Department, Selectmen and Representatives from the NCCC. Mr. Weathers advised he would also like to be on the committee. It was agreed that names would be gathered for the committee and a list brought back to the Board.

DISCUSSION OF USE OF CONWAY RECREATION TRAIL BY
MOUNTAIN MEADOW RIDERS SNOWMOBILE CLUB (COLIN PREECE)

Colin Preece, Trailmaster, for the Mountain Meadow Riders Snowmobile Club joined the meeting.

Mr. Preece reviewed a snowmobile trail that was established in 1991 and was used until the new High School was built. Now the new school was built and they can no longer use it anymore. Mr. Preece advised he spoke with Bayard Kennett regarding the matter and he gave his blessing for them to use the area; however, he advised that this is a town recreation trail on his property and that no motorized traffic is allowed on town recreation trail and this is why he is here today.

Mr. Sires explained the Conway Recreation Trail in the area of the High School, the easements on private and all are no motorized traffic. Mr. Sires advised this could go back to the landowners to get permission and then also have an agreement with the Mountain Meadow Riders to maintain and make the trails available. Mr. Sires reviewed the trail also goes over Lamplighter, Kennett and Nichols property.

Mr. Martin suggested that in the easements we also put dates as to when it was open to snowmobiles. Mr. Martin also suggested there should be a minimum coverage on the trails as well.

Mr. Weathers moved, seconded by Mr. DiGregorio, to direct staff to facilitate changing the easement if the three abutting landowners are in agreement for snowmobiling and grooming and that the upkeep and signage be maintained by the Mountain Meadow Riders Association. The motion carried unanimously.

JAKE BRAKE DISCUSSION

Mr. Dickinson requested further information on Jake Brakes. Mr. Sires advised that we are waiting on further information from the State regarding engine brakes.

Mr. Weathers advised that he has heard from others on this subject. Engine brakes are on the trucks for a reason and they are a safety feature. To put up an ordinance is next to impossible to enforce. You would need a decibel meter. Mr. Weathers stated if you put up sign – please no Jake or engine brake, is one thing, but an ordinance is not enforceable.

Doug Swett, stated he can't see outlawing engine brakes because they bother someone's ears. We have heavy log trucks, etc., in town and they use the brake for a reason.

BUDGET

Budget Committee Recommendation Letter – Mr. Drinkhall read aloud the letter dated February 1, 2010 from the Budget Committee. The Board discussed the recommendations as follows:

Budget Committee Recommendation #1/Request the Selectmen relook at Library Budget - Librarian Tara Thomas, was present. The Board reviewed budget figures with Ms. Thomas.

Budget Committee Recommendation #2/Request that \$600 be removed from Recreation Budget regarding Nasby King Field – Mr. DiGregorio advised that Cal Ripken does use that Nasby King Field. Mr. Sires advised the Recreation budget will survive with a \$600 reduction.

Budget Committee Recommendation #3/Reduce the Budget by \$125,000 based on the decrease of bond payments – Mr. DiGregorio stated the budget is frugal the way it is and questioned if the Budget Committee figured in the revenue sharing, etc., that we lost. Mr. Martin stated he sees people rallying behind the library, recreation, etc. The Town Hall has the tightest budget and the person who has scrutinized the budget the most is Mr. Drinkhall. They have given the library back \$25,000 and so this is now \$150,000 out of the town budget. Mr. Martin questioned where to find this amount to make cuts. This would have to be spread out, police, library, etc. Mr. DiGregorio pointed out the police money that was not voted on yet that the Board did not vote on at the last meeting and so that would now make the total \$168,000. There was further discussion on this budget cut request.

Recommendation #1 - Mr. Drinkhall moved, seconded by Mr. Weathers, to see the Library budget reduced \$8025 so the funding from taxes will remain level. The total is \$438,112. The motion carried 3-2-0 with Messrs. Drinkhall, Dickinson and Weathers in the affirmative and Messrs. DiGregorio and Martin in the negative. Mr. DiGregorio advised he voted no because he would have gone with what they were asking for.

Recommendation #2 – Mr. Drinkhall moved, seconded by Mr. Weathers to remove \$600 from the Recreation Budget. Mr. DiGregorio advised he will support this for now but would like to see some planning for the future at that field as he feels this field is important for the future. Mr. Sires stated if the Board would like to leave the funds in their we could figure something out for the \$600. Mr. Sires briefly reviewed the history of Nasby King Field. **The motion carried 4-1-0 with Mr. Dickinson in the negative.**

Recommendation #3 – Mr. Weathers moved, seconded by Mr. Drinkhall, to decrease the budget by \$125,000 due to a reduction in bond payments. Mr. Drinkhall stated he would like to see the Board make a little more reductions if possible. Mr. Sires stated the town has paid off the bond but the rest of the budget is still the price tag for the budget. Further, in 2009, this the Board sequestered \$100,000 to offset –this

organization is not only managing but now we won't be able to plan for what we need to do if we cut any further. Mr. Martin stated he does not see \$125,000 worth of cuts in this budget. The only thing he thinks to look at is CRF's and we have to start putting money back in these funds. Mr. Weathers questioned if there is a way of calculating when we don't have snowstorms, etc., for overtime savings, etc. Mr. Sires advised we don't know the weather and therefore can't calculate these amounts. Mr. Sires commented we could have snowstorms into April and there is no way to calculate same ahead of time. Mr. Sires next reviewed the unofficial, unaudited, estimate for 2009 is that we were \$173,000 under budget and this was from paving and from public works. Mr. Sires advised we could have run out and spent, but we don't do that. Mr. Sires next reviewed that on the revenue side, because the Town is appealing the *Walmart* decision there is an overlay and you will be able to contribute \$500,000 to the fund balance. Mr. Sires reviewed the answer to Mr. Weathers question is we don't absorb it, we just don't spend it. Mr. Drinkhall stated if we changed the motion on the table to \$30,000 from \$125,000 he would suggest making changes to salt, etc. **Mr. Weathers amended the motion to decrease the budget by \$30,000, seconded by Mr. Drinkhall.** It was noted \$30,000 is a lot easier to find than \$125,000. Mr. Sires also noted you also have the \$18,000 for the police. **The motion carried 5-0-0.**

There was next discussion concerning the \$18,000 concerning the police budget. The Board agreed they could respond to the Budget Committee and ask them about their feelings on the Police Department \$18,000 and how to handle it.

It was agreed that Mr. Drinkhall would provide all of this information to the Budget Committee tomorrow evening. Mr. Drinkhall advised that Budget Committee will also convene on February 8 to go over the Default Budget.

Finance Director, Lucy Philbrick, next distributed a copy of actual budgeted expenses and encumbrances to the board and they reviewed same.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Non Profit Budget Presentation – Mr. Sires reported that non profits are scheduled to make presentations on Saturday, February 6, 2010.

BOARD REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Sunset Hill Bus Area – Mr. DiGregorio asked when we will see something from staff regarding the Sunset Hill bus area that was discussed at the Board meeting recently. Mr. Sires advised he will check with Paul and report back.

CVFD – Mr. Drinkhall commented that Public Works Director is spending a lot of time working with the CVFD. Comments have been made to him regarding this issue and that it is felt that the Town should be reimbursed for his time and he agrees with this idea. Mr. DiGregorio stated that Mr. DegliAngeli does put a lot of time into that but he also puts a lot of time into other things that are billable, such as NCWP and the Birch Hill Water District. Mr. DiGregorio stated it certainly brings up an argument concerning why there are so many fractures of the Town of Conway. Mr. Dickinson stated that taxpayers in those districts get his work for nothing and other taxpayers in other parts of town do not get the benefit. Mr. Martin pointed out that many times this Board has directed Mr. DegliAngeli to work with the Districts or Precincts to help make things

happen and he is also involved with joint projects. Mr. Martin stated that maybe some is billable time but some of this time is related to things this Board has instituted. Mr. Sires advised that Mr. DegliAngeli is not doing anything he hasn't been authorized to do under the auspices of the Town of Conway. This Board has authorized his participation in the projects he is involved in. Further, Mr. DegliAngeli has done projects in East Conway, Birch Hill, Conway Village, and also worked with the School. If you want to start new policy we can, but he hasn't done anything he hasn't been authorized to do. Mr. Drinkhall stated he would like to look at reimbursement for the future. Mr. Weathers stated that Mr. DegliAngeli would be involved anyway and that is the benefit of having a town engineer. Mr. DiGregorio stated he would like to ask Mr. DegliAngeli about this issue and thinks we should also invite the Commissioners of the CVFD and NCWP in to discuss. Mr. Sires stated he would like time to discuss this matter with Paul and the Board first. Mr. Drinkhall stated he agrees with Mr. DiGregorio and would like to talk with Paul and the Commissioners. Mr. Martin noted the agenda for the next agenda is heavy and suggested this be put on an agenda two weeks from then.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND MEDIA QUESTIONS

Bart Bachman of the Conway Daily Sun asked about the motion pertaining to the garage and Mr. Martin clarified same.

Bart Bachman asked about the budget amounts. The Board explained the amount of the budget could be changed at the Deliberative Portion of Town Meeting.

Bart Bachman asked about the \$18,000 in the police budget. Ms. Philbrick advised they miscalculated the amount of retirement.

ADJOURN

At 6:34 p.m., the meeting adjourned at the call of the Chair.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen J. Hallowell
Executive Secretary