

Minutes of Meeting
CONWAY BOARD OF SELECTMEN
February 20th, 2018

The Selectmen's Meeting convened at 4:04 pm in Meeting Room of Conway Town Hall with the following present: Selectmen, C. David Weathers, Mary Carey Seavey, Carl Thibodeau, John Colbath and Steven Porter, Town Manager, Thomas Holmes, and Recording Secretary, Holly Meserve.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Weathers led the Board in the Pledge of the Allegiance to the Flag.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Weathers stated that the agenda should be amended to add item 8.e. to sign the Town Warrant and remove item 16, Non-Public – Pending Litigation and replace it with Non-Public – RSA 91-A:3 II (c) – Tax Matter. **Mr. Porter moved, seconded by Mr. Colbath, to approve the agenda as amended. The motion carried unanimously (5-0-0).**

DISCUSSION OF THE EQUALIZATION RATE FOR 2017

Dale Schofield, Assessor, appeared before the Board. Ms. Schofield stated we have received our ratio for 2018 and that it 88.9%. Ms. Schofield stated last year it was 92.4%. Ms. Schofield stated that we our assessments are 89% of the selling value. Ms. Schofield stated an acceptable ratio is 90% to 110%.

Mr. Porter asked if we should automatically increase the valuations so we are not losing money. Ms. Schofield stated we are not really losing money. The market is depreciating faster than our assessments. Mr. Porter asked if we should increase our valuation. Ms. Schofield stated if we do it in between reevaluation periods it requires extensive documentation; it is very complicated and time-consuming that is why towns do it every five years.

Ms. Schofield stated the average sale price for a single-family home last year was \$197,950, which is close to the year before. Ms. Schofield stated there were 63 new homes constructed or beginning to be constructed and 10 new manufactured homes last year. Ms. Schofield stated we have seen some activity in the commercial sector with Settler's StreetSide and the Condominiums at Cranmore.

TRANSFER STATION FEES

Mr. Weathers stated the fees for mattresses and box springs would increase from \$20 to \$25, recyclables would increase from \$80/ton to \$85/ton and sheetrock would increase from \$100/ton to \$105 ton. The Board agreed to hold public hearings on March 13, 2018 and April 3, 2018.

DISCUSSION OF BUDGET COMMITTEE ACTIONS ON OPERATING BUDGET
AND SELECTMEN WARRANT ARTICLES

This item was removed from the agenda.

REVIEW OF RECEIPTS

The receipts were available for review.

SIGNING OF DOCUMENTS

- a. Certification of Yield Taxes Assessed Map/Lot 240-22
- b. Timber Tax Levy 240-22
- c. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credit/Exemptions Map/Lot 275-42
- d. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credit/Exemptions Map/Lot 260-62
- e. Town Warrant

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Ms. Seavey, to sign the Certification of Yield Taxes Assessed Map/Lot 240-22, Timber Tax Levy 240-22, Permanent Application for Property Tax Credit/Exemptions Map/Lot 275-42, Permanent Application for Property Tax Credit/Exemptions Map/Lot 260-62 and the Town Warrant. The motion carried unanimously (5-0-0).

CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

- a. Accounts Payable Manifest dated 2/22/18

Mr. Porter moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to sign the Accounts Payable Manifest dated 2/22/18. The motion carried unanimously (5-0-0).

RATIFICATION OF DOCUMENTS SIGNED OUT OF SESSION

(none)

REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF SPECIAL EVENT| APPLICATION(S)

(none)

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

- a. 2/13/18 Regular and Non-Public

Mr. Porter moved, seconded by Mr. Colbath, to approve the regular and non-public minutes from 2/13/18 as written. The motion carried unanimously (5-0-0).

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Mr. Holmes stated he attended the Budget Committee public hearing and fielded questions from the public regarding the town's warrant articles. Mr. Holmes stated that the Budget Committee voted for our budget. Mr. Holmes also reported that he spoke at Eggs and Issues regarding same.

Mr. Holmes stated that we have been notified by the NHDOT that they will be paving East Side Road sometime this summer and they will let us know the schedule.

Mr. Holmes stated the Budget Committee will be meeting tomorrow night at town hall at 6:00 pm to rectify an out of session vote on the school's budget.

Mr. Holmes stated there will be a ribbon cutting this Saturday at the New England Ski Museum at the former North Conway Community Center from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm.

Mr. Holmes stated we have not sent in our dues for this year to North Country Council as he is waiting to hear from the new Executive Director. Mr. Holmes stated it should be discussed if we want to continue to be members for what we get for our membership and the benefit to Conway. Ms. Seavey asked what the charge is. Mr. Holmes answered \$15,000 per year.

Mr. Holmes stated he will be speaking to the Rotary on issues facing the town on Thursday, February 22, 2018.

Mr. Colbath stated that he attended the Eggs and Issues meeting and Mr. Holmes did a great job; there was a lot of discussion there. Mr. Porter stated that he thought Mr. Holmes did a great job presenting to the Budget Committee the Town Hall move and the Rec Department move.

BOARD REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Mr. Porter stated that the Historical Committee will be meeting tomorrow night at the Conway Public Library and the Planning Board will be meeting on Thursday night.

Mr. Colbath stated that the Zoning Board of Adjustment meets tomorrow night. Mr. Colbath gave a review of the Budget Committee meeting that was held last Thursday; and stated in general the Town budget process went extremely well, the budget committee was unanimous in approving the town budget. Mr. Holmes stated the moving of town hall was well received, however, they did not like the Rec Department move to the middle school.

Mr. Colbath stated the Budget Committee rejected the School budget and voted for the default budget, however, since they did not vote for a specific number and the original meeting had been adjourned they could not reconvene to take a vote, so the Budget Committee is meeting tomorrow night to vote on the School budget.

Ms. Seavey stated many of the budget committee members approached her about closing a school. Ms. Seavey stated she is disappointed in them that they would take an action like that. Mr. Porter stated he also has been approached by a couple of members, and it amazes him that they want to close a school. Mr. Porter stated we are looking at the best interest for the Town as a whole.

Mr. Colbath stated with the cost benefit analysis and the cost of moving the rec center into the middle school and the benefit we are going to get from it is so worth the dollar spent than staying where we are and renovating the building. Mr. Colbath stated we are supposed to represent the greater good for the residents of the Town of Conway.

Mr. Holmes stated he was on the committee to negotiate the move and, from the town's side, the strategy of closing a school was never considered nor brought up. Mr. Holmes stated that it was simply not a part of the mix in the negotiations with the school about moving the rec center to the middle school.

Mr. Thibodeau stated that the Airport Executive Council met last Thursday and with all the press we decided it would be best to make a detailed presentation to the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Thibodeau stated that presentation is scheduled for next Tuesday.

Ms. Seavey stated her committees have not met.

Mr. Weathers read a letter from Vice President Michael Pence congratulating Sean Doherty from Center Conway for being on an Olympic team.

PUBLIC COMMENTS A MEDIA QUESTIONS

Daymond Steer of the Conway Daily Sun asked if at the deliberative session if you change the dollar amount of an article is there is an opportunity for a revote. Mr. Weathers stated if there is a change in dollar amount we usually break into separate groups before adjourning and revote on the change.

Mr. Steer asked if there were any intentions to change the article for the Rec Center by \$1 to see if it could get reconsidered. Ms. Seavey stated she doesn't even think that is necessary, it is up to the voters to vote and make the decision. Mr. Porter concurred with Ms. Seavey and stated that the town has presented a viable plan and we do not need to change the article. Mr. Porter stated it is fiscally responsible to move the Rec Center to the middle school.

Mr. Colbath answered in the negative and stated the budget committee spent a lot of time discussing this item and came to a decision. Mr. Colbath stated he would rather see it left the way it is and let the voters decide.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION/RSA 91-A:3 II(c) – TAX MATTER

At 4:40 pm, **Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Porter, to go into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (c) to discuss a tax matter. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.**

At 5:07 pm, the Board returned to public session. **Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Ms. Seavey, to seal the minutes from the non-public session. The motion carried unanimously.**

ADJOURN

At 5:09 pm, the meeting adjourned at the call of the Chair.

Respectfully Submitted,

Holly L. Meserve
Recording Secretary