

**Minutes of Meeting
CONWAY BOARD OF SELECTMEN
January 8, 2019**

The Selectmen's Meeting convened at 4:00 pm in the Meeting Room of Conway Town Hall with the following present: C. David Weathers, Mary Carey Seavey, Carl Thibodeau, John Colbath, Steven Porter, Town Manager, Thomas Holmes, and Executive Secretary, Krista Day

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Ms. Seavey, to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATION BY SANCTUARY ATC

Mr. Weathers stated that he and the rest of the Board had come to the consensus that they would hold a short public comment at the end of this agenda item.

Present were CEO of Sanctuary ATC Jason Sidman, Retired Police Chief Mike Allen, Medical Director Dr. David Syrek, Chief Financial Officer Josh Weaver, DHHS Program Administrator of the Therapeutic Cannabis Program Michael Holt, and Chief Public Health Officer Patricia Tilley.

Mr. Sidman explained that they are 1 of 4 medicinal marijuana operators in the State and service over 1800 patients. Sanctuary ATC has secured a site at 234 White Mountain Highway after the State had completed a feasibility study to find that Conway would be the best location to better serve the patients in Zone 4 which includes Coos, Grafton, and Carroll counties.

Mr. Holt explained that Senate Bill 388 had passed which allowed for 2 additional dispensing locations in the State of New Hampshire. Currently there are dispensing locations Plymouth, Merrimack, Dover, and Lebanon. He noted that almost 50% of the patients that are seen at the Plymouth Sanctuary ATC location have over a 50-mile drive and that the State believes that a location in the Conway area would help with that.

Mr. Colbath asked about the effectiveness of this program and what the review process is like. Mr. Holt stated that there are many administrative rules for regulating and licensing dispensaries. He also added that there is a specific application process for patients to be eligible for the program. In terms of the efficacy of the program, they seek to expand their research. However, he noted that patients are seemingly very happy with the program. He added that it is helping many patients reduce the need for prescription medications.

Ms. Seavey inquired as to how many patients Mr. Sidman believed would be coming to the Conway location. Mr. Sidman answered that they believe the Conway location will begin servicing 20-30 patients 3-4 days per week while the area continues to become educated. He added that their Plymouth location currently services 60-90 patients per day.

The Board watched a brief video presentation on Sanctuary ATC.

Mr. Holt reviewed that part of the process of opening a dispensary in any location is engaging with Town officials and seeking public comment. He added that they had scheduled a public hearing for February 14, 2019 at 5:00 pm at the Conway Public Library.

Mr. Colbath asked if Towns had seen any issues with having dispensaries in their area. Mr. Holt answered in the negative.

There was a brief discussion regarding how one qualifies to become a patient. Mr. Holt stated that there is a process including getting a signed recommendation from one's primary care physician which requires that the patient have had a relationship with that physician for at least 3 months as well as have one of the qualifying medical conditions.

There was a brief discussion regarding how patients pay for these products. Mr. Sidman stated that this is not currently covered by insurance but they do offer discounts to those with Medicaid or SSDI. He informed the Board that prices could range from 20+ dollars depending on what and how many products a patient wants.

It was stated that Mr. Sidman and his business partners had met with the Conway Police prior to this meeting.

There was a brief discussion on the different types of strains and how these can alleviate different types of symptoms. It was also stated that many of the products available at Sanctuary ATC contain little to no THC.

The Board asked for public comment at this time.

A citizen of Conway named Michael stated that he is one of the patients from the Conway area who must currently travel to Plymouth. He stated that he suffers from sciatica and complications of Parkinson's disease which makes traveling that distance almost impossible. He stated that because he is unable to get there, he has had to go back on his opiates.

A citizen from Freedom, NH stated that he has recently become a card holder due to a motorcycle accident. He stated that he is trying to get off opiates to be able to get back to work but cannot travel to Plymouth.

Conway Resident Steven Steiner stated that he has been fighting this for 20 years after the death of his son. He believes that this will have a profound negative impact on Conway and vowed to do what he can to stop it from coming to Conway.

Mr. Weathers made clear that the Board of Selectmen have no say in whether or not this organization comes to Conway as long as they comply with regular zoning ordinances.

DISCUSSION OF CDBG GRANT FOR LAMPLIGHTERS ACQUISITION

Mr. Holmes stated that Selectmen Porter had requested to put this agenda item up for discussion.

President of Black Bear Village Co-op, Thomas Moughan and Chris Clasby, program manager of the N.H. Community Loan Fund's cooperative assistance team stated they were present to seek support from the Town for their application for a CDBG grant.

Mr. Moughan stated that the estimated monthly impact on lot rent is \$20.00 a month. He added that this grant would help to maintain their affordable housing costs.

Mr. Colbath asked how the Community Development Block Grant is handled by the Town. It was determined that the Town is essentially the receiver and manager of the grant. It was also clarified that there were funds included in the grant for administration costs.

Mr. Holmes noted that there needed to be 3 public hearings but that they could all happen at the same meeting.

The Board determined that they would hold the public hearings on January 22, 2019 in conjunction with the scheduled Board of Selectmen meeting.

Ms. Seavey moved, seconded by Mr. Colbath to go forward with the CDBG Grant process. The motion carried (4-0-1) with Mr. Porter abstaining.

DISCUSSION OF REC CENTER OPTIONS

Mr. Holmes stated that bids had come in higher than their \$700,000 budget. Town Staff has been working to come up with some options on where to go from here. Options include starting over, bonding for the remaining money, consider bonding for a brand-new building, using funds from the Recreation Revolving Fund, and completing what can be done with the \$700,000 and doing the rest with private donations.

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Ms. Seavey, to hold public comment after this agenda item. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. DegliAngeli stated that he hoped to have more information in a week regarding specific costs to the areas of work that needed to be done. He stated that he will be able to present the Selectmen a menu of sorts. He discussed that they have identified areas of work that can be done by the Town staff over the coming years. He said that completing these areas and projects such as painting, shelving, etc., it would be a cost savings of about \$50,000.00.

He noted that the big areas that can be save in are removing the concession area, the unisex bathroom by the gym, the stage area, and doing a redesign of the HVAC system.

Mr. Holmes stated that if they choose to use the monies in the Rec Revolving Fund, they feel they will be able to close the gap between their budget and the lowest bid to within \$200,000.00.

Ms. Seavey stated her belief that there needs to be a stage.

There was brief discussion and it was determined that this information and further discussion would occur at the meeting on January 22, 2019.

Mr. DegliAngeli stated that he felt time was of the essence in these discussions. He was concerned about missing the February vacation window to begin construction.

Ms. Seavey stated that she appreciated the work that the Town Staff had been doing, but if it takes longer to do this project, it is fine as long as it is done right.

It was determined that the Board wanted to stay away from asking the tax payers for more money, but instead look to fund the project with what they have along with grants and donations.

Ms. Seavey stated that she was willing to work on grants for specific projects.

Mr. Colbath stated that the Town and School had worked hard to come up with this project and it was sold to the voters. He believes it to be a win-win for the Town and School and he stands firmly behind this project.

Conway Citizen Ryan Wallace stated that he appreciated the work the Town had done, but wanted to see the Town bond for a brand-new facility. He noted the cost of the North Conway Community Center's facility.

Ms. Seavey stated that the North Conway facility has no air conditioning.

Mr. Colbath stated that he had looked into that and believes that the voters will not vote for a new facility. He stated that they are saving taxpayers money by using the mothballed space at the middle school. He stated that this was a viable, affordable alternative.

Mr. Wallace stated that the voters weren't given the opportunity to vote for a new facility.

REQUEST BY SELECTMAN SEAVEY FOR RENEWAL OF THE FAILED MOTION OF DECEMBER 18, 2018
REGARDING BUILDING PERMIT FEES

Ms. Seavey stated that she was not at the meeting in which this vote took place and is concerned that the Selectmen are not supporting a project that is revitalizing Conway Village. She does not believe that the Board would be setting a precedence, instead, she believes it would be recognizing them for the work they have done and continue to do.

Mr. Thibodeau stated he is in favor of reducing the building permit fees for Mt. Top Music.

There was brief discussion on how the Board would go about bringing that motion up again. Mr. Holmes stated that any member of the Board could bring up the subject for a revote.

Ms. Seavey moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to reconsider the building permit fees for Mt. Top Music. The motion carried 3-2-0 with Mr. Porter and Mr. Weathers in the negative.

Mr. Thibodeau moved, seconded by Mr. Colbath, to reduce the building permit fee for Mt. Top Music Center by 50% of the actual cost.

Mr. Weathers stated that he doesn't feel comfortable deciding which non-profit gets a break and which does not.

Mr. Thibodeau stated that he was not, and would not make decisions like this based upon whether he felt the non-profit was worth supporting, but instead make a decision based upon the value and viability of the project they were bringing forward.

Mr. Weathers stated that while he thought this project was a very viable project, he did not support putting the tax burden on the public.

The motion carried 3-2-0 with Mr. Weathers and Mr. Porter in the negative.

REVIEW OF RECEIPTS

The receipts were available for review.

SIGNING OF DOCUMENTS

- a. Abatement of Taxes Map/Lot 277-182.2
- b. Abatement of Taxes Map/Lot 251-79
- c. Abatement of Taxes Map/Lot 265-19
- d. Abatement of Taxes Map/Lot 262-79.006 for 2011-2018
- e. Abatement of Taxes Map/Lot 253-81
- f. Current Use Land Use Change Tax Collector's Warrant Map/Lot 268-154
- g. Land Use Change Tax Map/Lot 268-153
- h. Notice of Intent to Cut Wood or Timber 262-01
- i. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions Map/Lot 268-90
- j. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions Map/Lot 262-83.302
- k. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions Map/Lot 230-32.013
- l. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions Map/Lot 251-144
- m. Certification of Yield Taxes Assessed Map/Lot 222-1
- n. Timber Tax Levy Map/Lot 222-1

- o. Permit to Sell Raffle Tickets for American Legion Post 46

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to sign the documents listed above in a. through o. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

- a. AP Manifest dated 1/10/19

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to sign the AP Manifest dated 1/10/19. The motion carried unanimously.

RATIFICATION OF DOCUMENTS SIGNED OUT OF SESSION

- a. AP Manifest dated 12/27/18 and 1/3/19
- b. Payroll dated 1/3/19

Mr. Thibodeau, moved seconded by Ms. Seavey, to ratify the AP Manifest dated 12/27/18 and 1/3/19 and the payroll dated 1/3/19. The motion carried 3-0-2 with Ms. Seavey and Mr. Porter abstaining.

REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF SPECIAL EVENT APPLICATION(S)

(none)

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

- a. Regular Minutes from 12/18/18

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to adopt the minutes from 12/18/18 as written. The motion carried unanimously.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Mr. Holmes stated that he had received a letter from Charter Communication stating that they were dropping channel WGN.

Mr. Colbath inquired about the Town Hall move. Mr. Holmes stated that they had received no further communication since their last meeting where they had discussed parking and snow removal issues. He did note that there was potential for the Town to start renovations on the bank building in September.

BOARD REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Mr. Porter stated that the Planning Board will meet on January 24, 2019.

Mr. Colbath stated that the Budget Committee meetings have begun and will continue through the month to review the Town and School proposed budgets. Mr. Colbath commended Finance Director Lilli Gilligan on the excellent job she continues to do.

Mr. Colbath noted that the ZBA will meet next Wednesday, January 16.

Mr. Thibodeau stated that he had nothing to report for the ESAA. Mr. Holmes stated that as the nominating committee chair, he had sent letters out seeking letters of interest for individuals to become part of the ESAA Board. The deadline for the letters of interest is January 11, 2019.

Mr. Colbath noted that one of the issues the ZBA will be examining pertains to an application for a substantial housing project on Tasker Hill.

Mr. Weathers stated that the Conservation Commission would be meeting Wednesday, January 9, 2019.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND MEDIA QUESTIONS

Daymond Steer, from the Conway Daily Sun, asked if the Selectmen had any strong feelings either way regarding Sanctuary ATC. Mr. Colbath stated that the Board needs enough information to make a decision and that he doesn't have any strong feelings either way. He noted that he learned a lot from the presentation tonight.

Mr. Weathers reiterated that their presentation was as a courtesy to the Board and that the Board had no say in whether they come to Town or not.

Mr. Colbath stated that he agrees with some of Mr. Steiner's points. He believes that if it is used for a good purpose it is good, however, if it is being abused, it is bad. He stated that he does not have enough first-hand knowledge.

Mr. Steer asked what the Public Hearing was going to be about. Mr. Colbath stated that he believed it would be similar to the presentation today and that it would be an opportunity for the public to learn and ask questions.

Mr. Steer stated that when the Board decided to wait two weeks to make a decision regarding what to do about the rec center, Mr. DegliAngeli was concerned. Mr. Holmes stated that he believed Mr. DegliAngeli was concerned about losing time during February Vacation to start work on the building but that he is relieved to have an extra week to make sure they do things the right way.

ADJOURN

At 5:28 pm, the meeting adjourned at the call of the Chair.

Respectfully Submitted,

Krista Day
Executive Secretary