

Minutes of Meeting
CONWAY BOARD OF SELECTMEN
May 26, 2020

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, 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. Weathers noted that they would be utilizing the Zoom Platform for this Meeting on a Call in Basis.

Phone Number: 1 646 558 8656 The correct meeting ID: 418 219 635

We will also be streaming the meeting live on our Facebook Page "Town of Conway, NH"

He also noted that they would be adding 9a., Discussion of Relocation of Valley Vision.

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

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE CONSIDERATION OF UNANTICIPATED REVENUE MORE THAN \$10,000/RSA 31:95-B III (A)

- a. Up to \$240,897 from the Cares Act for Local Government Assistance

Mr. Weathers opened the public hearing at 4:02 pm.

There were no public comments.

Mr. Holmes stated that to date, they were planning to bill the state for around \$17,000 of COVID-19 related expenses.

Mr. Colbath reminded the public that these costs have to be directly COVID-19 related and cannot be used to offset lost revenue.

Ms. Seavey asked Mr. Holmes to give the public some examples. Mr. Holmes explained that some of these costs they were looking to be reimbursed for included masks, hand sanitizer, and plexiglass.

Mr. Weathers closed the public hearing at 4:04 pm.

CONSIDERATION OF UNANTICIPATED REVENUE MORE THAN \$10,000/RSA 31:95-B

III (A)

Consideration of Unanticipated Revenue More than \$10,000/RSA 31:95-B III (a)

- b. Up to \$240,897 from the Cares Act for Local Government Assistance

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Ms. Seavey, to accept up to \$240,897 from the Cares Act for Local Government Assistance. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION OF UNANTICIPATED REVENUE LESS THAN \$10,000/RSA 31:95-B III

(B)

- c. \$2,455.22 from the State of NH for the Conway PD Regular Officer OT (Opioid Abuse Reduction)
- d. \$2,370.53 from the State of NH for the Conway PD Regular Officer OT (Opioid Abuse Reduction)

Mr. Porter moved, seconded by Mr. Colbath, to accept the unanticipated revenue listed above in a. and b. The motion carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Mr. Weathers and the Board reviewed the committee assignments.

The Selectmen agreed to the following assignments:

Budget Committee: John Colbath (Alternate Mary Carey Seavey)

Conservation Commission: David Weathers

ESAA: Carl Thibodeau

Economic Council: Mary Carey Seavey

Historic District Commission: Steven Porter

Legislative Liaison: John Colbath

Lower MWV Solid Waste: John Colbath, David Weathers (Stacy Sand as alternate)

Planning Board: Steven Porter

Union Negotiations: David Weathers

Valley Vision: Mary Carey Seavey

Short Term Rental Committee: carl

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to assign Selectmen Representatives to the Committees as written above. The motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATION BY AVESTA - CDBG

Patrick Hess, Representative for AVESTA Housing appeared before the Board via Zoom. He explained that they have a contract to purchase land behind the Economic Council property. One of the components of the project include some off-site improvements in order to make it safer. This includes widening the entry road and making a center turn lane.

They are coming to the Board because they interested in partnering with the Town later this summer through the CDBG funding process later this summer to help with some of the costs of this project.

Mr. Colbath stated that he was all for this project.

Jac Cuddy from the Economic Council was present at the meeting. He stated that in the past, the Town of Conway had participated in the CDBG process and they were looking to request the Board's support as they continue to get more information moving forward.

It was stated that the second entrance would be beside what used to be the Conway Veterinarian building.

Mr. Cuddy noted that the CDBG process requires a grant administrator. He stated that if you use the Regional Planning Commission, which was North Country Council, you did not need to go through the RFP process.

Mr. Thibodeau moved, seconded by Mr. Porter, that the Town sponsor a CDBG grant for the AVESTA project behind the Economic Council property with the understanding that any bookkeeping costs incurred by the Town be covered by the developer. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Porter moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, that the Board submit a letter in support of this project and authorize Chairman Weathers to sign it out of session. The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION OF KENNETT KARAVAN

Superintendent Kevin Richard spoke to the Board via Zoom. He explained that the Seniors were making huge adjustments this year in terms of end of year celebrations. He turned the presentation over to Kennett High School Principal Kevin Carpenter.

Principal Carpenter, who appeared via Zoom, explained that they had formed a committee to find different ways they could honor their seniors and have the kids all in the same place at the same time again. He noted that the idea that School Board member Jess Whitelaw was about to present was brought forward by parents and students.

Jess Whitelaw appeared before the Board via Zoom. She explained that the idea of the Kennett Karavan was a way for the students to say one final goodbye to the community. The plan would be for the students to gather in their individual cars on Eagles Way on June 13th around 5:30 pm. At 6:00 pm they would head down Eagles Way, up the North South Road, back down Route 16, into Conway Village and to the Ham Arena where they would disperse. She stated that there would likely be about 165-175 students.

Kelley Murphy appeared before the Board via Zoom. She wanted to emphasize to the Board that this idea was very much student generated. She explained that when they left their classrooms on March 13, they had no idea that they would not be back. They wanted a way to respect and celebrate the graduates.

Mr. Porter stated that he thought this was a wonderful idea. Mr. Colbath agreed.

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Porter, to support the Kennett Karavan through Conway after Graduation on June 13, 2020. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Richard stated that the Board's support was dynamite.

DISCUSSION OF RELOCATION OF VALLEY VISION

Bill Edmunds from Valley Vision appeared before the Board.

Mr. Edmunds stated that Valley Vision is definitely interested in discussing the potential of moving into the Town Hall space if and when Town Hall relocates to the bank property.

He noted that his current lease ends on September 1, 2020. He is waiting to hear back from his landlord regarding the potential for a month to month lease which would allow for more time to the Town Hall staff to relocate.

Mr. Edmunds noted that one thing that would need to be completed in order for Valley Vision to move to the Town Hall Building would be that Spectrum would need to put in a fiber feed to send their signal out. He added though that this was actually one of the provisions that was already included in the Town's current contract with Spectrum.

Mr. Colbath asked if Valley Vision would be able to work out of just the meeting room for a while if they had to. Mr. Edmund stated that he could probably make that work short term.

Mr. Holmes was tasked with following up with Spectrum.

Mr. Colbath stated that he believed they should move all meetings to the Recreation Center gym and close the meeting room for Valley Vision.

Mr. Holmes reviewed the lease was currently in the Bank's legal department. He stated that best case scenario would be that they take possession August 1, 2020.

Ms. Seavey stated that she believes that the Board needs to do everything they can to support Valley Vision for the work they do and the dedication they have to the Town of Conway.

DISCUSSION OF ARTICLE 42: LETTER TO NH GENERAL COURT

Mr. Holmes noted that Article 42 passed 1090 to 315. He added that it was discretionary, so the Board had to decide whether or not to send a letter to the NH General Court.

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Ms. Seavey, to send a letter to the NH General Court regarding article 42 of the warrant and authorize the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Board of Selectmen. The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION OF GOFERR FUND PROPOSALS

- a. Sound System
- b. Wall Panels
- c. Floor Mats
- d. Tables

Mr. Holmes explained that at their last meeting, the Board had urged him to look into potentially holding future meetings at the Recreation Center Gym. This included looking into purchasing equipment such as a sound system, wall panels, floor mats, and tables to make this feasible. He noted that these were realistically all valid COVID-19 expenses, however, he was hesitant to go forward with purchasing these items before getting some sort of approval from the State as they were very expensive.

Ms. Seavey moved, seconded by Mr. Porter, to authorize Mr. Holmes to move forward in pursuing the goal to make any modifications that are necessary to allow future public meetings to be held in the Marshall Gymnasium to allow for proper social distancing. The motion carried unanimously.

REVIEW OF RECEIPTS

(none)

SIGNING OF DOCUMENTS

- a. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions for Map/Lot 230-72
- b. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions for Map/Lot 262-83.045
- c. Abatement of Taxes on Map/Lot 246-62
- d. Abatement of Taxes on Map/Lot 214-78.015
- e. Abatement of Taxes on Map/Lot 261-50.027
- f. Abatement of Taxes on Map/Lot 235-50
- g. Abatement of Taxes on Map/Lot 272-56.004
- h. Abatement of Taxes on Map/Lot 216-103
- i. 2020 MOA with Valley Vision

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

CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

- a. AP Manifest dated 5/28/2020

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to sign the AP Manifest dated 5/28/2020. The motion carried unanimously.

RATIFICATION OF DOCUMENTS SIGNED OUT OF SESSION

(none)

REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF SPECIAL EVENT APPLICATION(S)

- a. Ragnar RTB, LLC. Reach the Beach Relay (9/18/2020) PENDING INSURANCE

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to sign the special event permit listed above. The motion carried unanimously.

There was a quick discussion regarding the route of this event.

The plan for this event at this point is for it to still happen as planned.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

(none)

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Holmes noted that he had made an error in his report last week and that he had received one commercial inquiry regarding the old recreation center property.

Mr. Holmes referred the Board to a draft of a sign for Town Hall that would require the public to wear masks upon entrance to the building. The authority to require masks falls under RSA 41:11-A.

The sign would read as follows:

By Order of the Board of Selectmen
Under the authority of RSA 41:11-a

TOWN HALL
LIMITED PUBLIC ACCESS

A MASK IS REQUIRED

If you do not have one, we can supply you with one.
If you object to wearing one, we will gladly assist you outside at your car.

IF YOU HAVE HAD COVID SYMPTOMS WITHIN THE LAST 14 DAYS
(Fever, Coughing, Difficulty Breathing)

Or

IF YOU HAVE TRAVELLED FROM OUT OF STATE

PLEASE DO NOT ENTER THE BUILDING

We will be glad to assist you from your car.

Mr. Holmes wanted feedback regarding whether the Board believed it to be acceptable to ask those traveling from out of state to be assisted outside of the building.

Mr. Porter agreed with Mr. Holmes as they were trying to be preventative to protect the employees.

Mr. Thibodeau agreed and said it was a reasonable request.

Mr. Holmes noted that the Governor was allowing for sports teams to beginning practicing again. With this, he had received a request from local baseball coach Greg Allain requesting that they be able to use the baseball fields for practice. This would mean only the fields, not the dugouts, and they would adhere to the Governor's requirements of social distancing, parents staying in their cars, only one coach per 9 players, etc.

Ms. Seavey stated that she believed they needed to have hand outs of these rules and it should be a condition of their approval at their own expense.

Mr. Eastman also noted they were putting together signage. He added that Mr. Allain would have to fill out a facility use form and liability form.

Mr. Thibodeau moved, seconded by Ms. Seavey, to open fields immediately under Mr. Eastman's supervision and oversight with handouts available at the expense of the using party. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Holmes noted that there had been some complaints regarding the fact that there were no porta potties at Davis Park this weekend and was here to ask the Board if they would like to consider having the Porta Potties put out at their normal locations in order to protect neighbors from unwarranted trespassing.

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Porter, to have the porta potties put in their normal locations as of June 1, 2020 with appropriate signage. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Holmes noted that spring tax bills would be in the mail tomorrow.

Mr. Holmes noted that they currently had 16 restaurants with approved outdoor dining permits.

He had received complaints about multiple short-term rentals over the weekend and has already received a couple of parking ticket appeals.

Ms. Seavey urged Mr. Holmes to schedule the short-term rental committee meeting soon as she had a lot of complaints.

BOARD REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Mr. Colbath noted that the Budget Committee would be meeting at the Recreation Center on May 27, 2020.

He noted that the ZBA met at the Recreation Center on May 20, 2020 for 9 agenda items. He added that the public needs to be aware of a large project by River Run Realty, of Housing Units along River Road starting at Nereledge Inn.

Mr. Thibodeau noted that all of the bids for the ESAA had been reviewed and verified for the transient hangar. The project had been awarded to Jewett Construction. They are hoping to break ground this fall.

Ms. Seavey noted that the Economic Council would be meeting Thursday, May 28, 2020.

Mr. Weathers stated that the Conservation Commission would be meeting next month.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND MEDIA QUESTIONS

Peter Gagne appeared before the Board. He asked if Davis Park was open for swimming. The Board clarified that they never closed off the beach.

Mr. Gagne explained to the Board that it was his belief that the number one attraction in the area this summer was going to be the Saco River. However, because of the limitations of social distancing, he is not going to be able to service as many people due to issues of transportation.

He was wondering if the Board would ever consider creating a small parking area at Hussey Field and charging \$20 a car to park 30-50 cars on a one-year trial basis to see if it would be worth it for the revenue to the Town. Perhaps the First Bridge Lot could be made into a locals only lot.

There was discussion regarding potential issues with the agreement with the Husseys in terms of haying. It was determined that they needed to have a conversation with Justin Hussey and go back and check with agreement before anything else could be decided.

There was discussion regarding enforcement. It was stated that dump stickers could be used in the locals only lot and Police could monitor and ticket violators.

Mr. Colbath stated that he did not want to penalize the tourists by making them pay to park when we depend on them.

Mr. Thibodeau noted that he travels a lot and has to pay to play everywhere he goes.

There was a brief question regarding whether the revenue generated would go to the general fund or the recreation revolving fund.

Daymond Steer from the Conway Daily Sun asked Ms. Seavey what her issues with short-term rentals were.

Ms. Seavey stated that she did not believe that they should be in residential areas.

Mr. Steer asked how hard the floor mats that would go in the recreation center gym would be to keep clean. Mr. Eastman said that he did not think it would be as hard as you would think because people had a long way to walk from the entrance of the building to the gym.

Mr. Steer asked if the Board should work with other Towns on the river situations.

Mr. Holmes explained that there is the recently reformed Saco Swift River Advisory Committee for that reason.

Mr. Colbath asked where they were with advertising for selling the old recreation center.

Mr. Holmes stated that he had mailed requests for opinions of value to nine real estate firms in the area on Friday and had not heard back from anyone yet.

Mr. Thibodeau asked Mr. Holmes to send a letter of inquiry back to the tennis folks.

There was brief discussion regarding whether it was worth having a committee for the selling of the recreation center.

Mr. Holmes stated that he believed that after they received the opinions of value, if they decided they want a sub-committee, then they can proceed that way.

Mr. Steer asked if they should have a public meeting to see how the public wanted to proceed.

Mr. Thibodeau stated that the public had granted to Board to either sell it or not.

Mr. Thibodeau noted that if any other group had a potential proposal for usage for that building or a public private partnership, they could contact Mr. Holmes with a proposal or ask to be placed on the agenda for a future meeting.

ADJOURN

At 5:40 pm, Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Krista Day
Executive Secretary