

**Minutes of Meeting
CONWAY BOARD OF SELECTMEN
August 17, 2021**

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. Weathers stated they would be removing agenda items 6, 11, 14a., and 22.

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

PUBLIC HEARING TO ACCEPT AND DESIGNATE A SPECIFIC PURPOSE FOR THE USE OF THE
FOLLOWING UNANTICIPATED REVENUE:

- a. \$536,639.13 FROM THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE FOR AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN

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

Shawn Bergeron, from Bergeron Technical Services appeared before the Board.

Mr. Bergeron stated that it was his belief that the Town's Master Plan would give the Board guidance regarding how to spend the ARPA funds. He explained that the planning for infrastructure expansion was supposed to have happened by 2013. He believed that the Board should allocate funds for the extension of water and sewer from North Conway to East Conway in order for more business and residential development.

Ms. Seavey stated that she had been told that a study had already been done in the 1990s regarding this project and it was strongly rejected by the residents of Redstone.

Rod Henry, resident and former Fire Chief of Redstone appeared before the Board.

Mr. Henry explained that when this was discussed in the past, the residents had not been interested.

Resident Dino Scaletti stated that Redstone is a historical district and if you bring water and sewer, its going to bring more sprawl and development in that area.

Mr. Scaletti stated that he did not believe that there would be enough revenue to pay for it.

Conway Fire Chief Steve Solomon appeared before the board to request \$50,826.90 for expenses and revenue loss that the Fire Department had experienced.

He noted that they were ineligible to receive any funds from the Cares Act.

Superintendent of the Conway Village Fire District Bruno Vallieres appeared before the Board to request \$100,000 from the ARPA funds in order to rehab the high priority sewer areas that have been causing issues with excess infiltration.

This infiltration is causing increased costs to the Conway tax payers as they have to pay to dispose of the water at the North Conway Water Precinct.

Commissioner Mike DiGregorio explained that they had spent \$75,000 for the study to find these issues and would be happy to share the videos with anyone who wished to see them.

It was stated that it may come down to the residents of the Fire District having to pay for this.

Commissioner Steve Bamsey stated that it was costing \$71,000 to the district residents to dispose of the water.

He stated that these were not wants, but truly identified needs.

Jason Gagnon from North Conway Water Precinct stated that in most Towns and Cities, water and sewer are taken care of by the Town, but as this is different in Conway, they must come to the Town to request these funds.

Mr. Gagnon went back to the discussion regarding the proposed East Conway project.

He explained that if there was ever a time to act on the intention of the Master Plan, now would be the time.

Mr. Gagnon noted that the water and sewer could go right through Redstone and residents would not need to hook up.

The purpose would be to get the infrastructure to East Conway to increase development.

Mr. Gagnon stated that this would be an investment that makes sense in the long term.

Ms. Seavey stated that she believed they were 20 years too late on this project. She noted that we do not have the housing to accommodate increased workers.

Mr. Gagnon noted that infrastructure was needed to create more density and therefore more affordable housing.

Mr. Porter stated that he believed this was something they should look into as he believed it would be worthwhile.

Mr. Steer from the Conway Daily Sun asked if these funds could be used to help with the dangerous traffic in North Conway. He mentioned that there was a bad accident the night before in North Conway Village on the North South Road.

Mr. Colbath asked if Mr. Gagnon was looking for all the \$600,000 or nothing.

Mr. Gagnon noted that they could look into some EDA funding, but they would be asking the Town for the full \$600,000.

He stated that they want to be respectful of Redstone.

He added that they would have a lot of zoning work to do before any project gets completed.

Mr. Gagnon stated that this would not be a North Conway Precinct project, it would be a Town of Conway Project.

Mr. Weathers closed the public hearing at 5:01 pm.

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

- b. \$536,639.13 FROM THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE FOR AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN

Ms. Seavey moved, seconded by Mr. Colbath, to accept the unanticipated revenue as listed above. The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION OF PEQUAWKET LANDS – USVLT

Abby King from the Upper Saco Valley Land Trust appeared before the Board to answer questions regarding the piece of land on Pequawket that the Board had supported being turned over to them.

Ms. King stated that the USVLT's charge was to manage the property in the form that it is already in as well as managing the invasive species on the property.

Ms. Seavey stated that she was concerned that if they put a canoe launch there, the volume of visitors would increase.

Ms. King stated that there is an existing hand carry launch there already and reiterated that they would not be adding anything to the property, only maintaining what is already there.

Resident Rhoda Quint was concerned about how they would be advertising the property. She too was concerned of more people overtaking the area.

There was quick discussion regarding the need for public access to the pond.

Mr. DegliAngeli explained to the room the history of how that land came to be in the hands of the State and why USVLT would be taking over as Stewards of the Land.

Mr. DegliAngeli noted that the Town would be removing the invasive species for the first two years.

Resident Steve Bamsey expressed his feelings that he believed this transfer of property to the USVLT was a great use of the land. He noted that it not only benefits visitors, but also the people of Conway.

Ms. King noted that they only list the properties on their website, including a map of the property.

Ms. Quint stated that she does not believe they need another property for recreation and that somethings should just be left alone.

Town Clerk Louise Inkell spoke as a resident of Conway. She stated that it would be nice to have reassurance that there would not be a public beach.

Ms. King reiterated that they would not be changing the property, only maintaining what is already there.

Ms. King stated that because they are an accredited land trust, they need to make the information regarding the property available on their website.

Property Owner Jacqueline Scaletti asked if they could sell the property.

Ms. King noted that if they ever were to sell it, it could only go to another conservation organization.

DISCUSSION OF REMOVAL OF TREES ON PROPERTY JOINTLY OWNED BY TOWN AND NCCC

Mr. Holmes explained that the North Conway Community Center had approached the Town to see if they would be in favor of removing two pine trees that are located on the piece of property jointly owned with the Town.

Mr. Holmes stated that they had someone who was willing to remove the tree but they needed Town authorization.

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to allow for the removal of the two pine trees on the property jointly owned by the North Conway Community Center and the Town. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Porter stated that he would like to see trees planted there in the future if the plans for a public bathroom on that site are not carried out.

DISCUSSION OF THOMPSON ROAD NO PARKING SIGNS

Public Works Director Andrew Smith explained that they had a request by a resident on Thompson Road to add more no parking signs by her house.

He explained that because there are no parking signs on both sides of the road near the Pudding Pond trailhead, people are parking further down the road and often blocking people's driveways.

Mr. Smith explained that there was a plan to expand the parking lot at the trailhead as a part of the rec path project which has gone out to bid.

Mr. Smith suggested waiting until after that expansion to reevaluate if more no parking signs should be erected at that time.

There was also mention that people from the Muddy Moose, specifically employees, were seeming to park on the side on Artist Fall Road. Mr. Smith will keep an eye on that.

DISCUSSION OF ARPA REQUESTS

Mr. Holmes stated that other than the extensive discussion of proposed ARPA projects that occurred during earlier in the meeting, the Town had been approached by Madison Residents regarding the issue of erosion from Modock Hill and Rockhouse Mountain that was causing issues in Pea Porridge Pond.

The request was a partnership in order to mitigate these issues.

Mr. Smith explained that they will look into what work can be done. He noted that they may need some DES permits.

Mr. Smith has contacted a Soil Scientist.

Mr. Holmes noted that there was a potential to fit this into the ARPA Funds as infrastructure.

Mr. Smith noted that Modock Hill was already on the Capital Improvement schedule for 2023.

REVIEW OF RECEIPTS

The receipts were available for review.

SIGNING OF DOCUMENTS

- a. Intent to Cut Wood or Timber on Map/Lot 295-3

Ms. Seavey moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau , to sign the document listed above. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

- a. AP Manifest dated 8/19/2021

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to sign the AP Manifest dated 8/19/2021. The motion carried unanimously.

RATIFICATION OF DOCUMENTS SIGNED OUT OF SESSION

- a. AP Manifest dated 8/12/21
- b. Payroll dated 8/12/21
- c. Ski/Run the Whites Bubba's Backyard Ultra (10/1/21-10/4/21)
- d. Sherman Farm LLC Corn Maze 2021 (Weekends 9/18/21-10/24/21)

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Ms. Seavey, to ratify the documents listed above in a. through d. The motion carried unanimously.

REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF SPECIAL EVENT| APPLICATION(S)

(None)

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

- a. Regular and Non-Public Minutes from 8/3/21

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Ms. Seavey, to adopt the minutes from 8/3/21 as written. The motion carried unanimously.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Mr. Holmes told the Board that because the real estate market is very hot right now, they are receiving requests from people to buy back tax deeded properties.

Mr. Holmes noted that he had received a request to repurchase a property that had been taken in 2011 in Transvale.

Historically, the Board had voted against selling lots in Transvale due to the danger of flooding and to those emergency responders who would be possibly forced to go in there during a flood.

Mr. Thibodeau moved, seconded by Mr. Porter, to place Town-owned plots up for sale in Transvale Acres. The motion failed (0-5-0).

Mr. Holmes apprised the Board that the locks had been changed at the garage they were advertising for sale by sealed bid.

He noted that they were going to find a time to tour the property as a group for those who are interested.

Mr. Holmes explained that he had heard from the DOT Engineer in charge of the project at the intersection of Route 302 and East Conway Road. They were planning to recommend a roundabout be placed at that location.

Mr. Colbath inquired as to whether any progress had been made regarding the issues on Hurricane Mt. Road.

Mr. Holmes noted that regarding the request to make the intersection of Hurricane and Kearsarge a four way stop, the State is going to allow the Town to complete a faster traffic study.

Regarding the parking lot, the Forest Service does not own the land at the trailhead; they have an easement on private property.

Mr. Smith noted that the Town is looking for a Highway Truck Driver.

BOARD REPORTS

Mr. Colbath noted that the ZBA and the Budget Committee would be meeting on August 18, 2021.

He stated that at the Budget Committee meeting they would be in working groups,

Ms. Seavey explained that the Economic Council received a \$200,000 from Senator Jeanne Shahan's Office.

Mr. Thibodeau stated that Sky Dive New England would be at the Eastern Slope Airport on September 28 and 29, 2021.

He added that the hangar project is under construction and will be ready for occupancy this winter or early spring.

Mr. Weathers summarized the progress being made on the timber cut in Redstone.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND MEDIA QUESTIONS

Resident Rod Henry asked if the Town was planning on allowing a parking lot over by the quarry in Redstone.

Mr. Holmes stated that he had a phone call inquiring as to whether the Town would be interested in a land swap but nothing further had come from that phone call.

The Board stated that they would be creating a list of proposed projects for the ARPA funds and triaging the list.

At 6:18 pm, Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to go into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (B) – Hiring. The motion carried unanimously.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION RSA 91-A:3 II (B) - HIRING

At 6:25 pm, the Board returned to public session.

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Porter, to seal the minutes from this non-public session as divulgence of the information would render the proposed action ineffective. The motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN

At 6:25 pm, the meeting adjourned at the call of the Chair.

Respectfully Submitted,

Krista Day
Executive Secretary