

**Minutes of Meeting
CONWAY BOARD OF SELECTMEN
November 23, 2021**

The Selectmen's Meeting convened at 4:00 pm in the Meeting Room at the New 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 that they were adding Discussion of Acoustics in Marshall Gymnasium and would be removing the Conservation Commission budget discussion.

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

BUDGET REVIEW

a. Overview of Proposed Budget

Mr. Holmes explained that they were currently going through an inflationary period and the proposed budget reflected that.

Areas to note included proposed ambulance contracts which reflected worst case scenarios; however, they are still in negotiations.

Mr. Holmes added that there is an amount in the Executive Budget for the cost of a revaluation at the suggestion of the contract assessor.

He explained that their ratios of assessed to market value are very low, therefore, there is the potential for increased abatements from large commercial properties.

~~b. Conservation Commission (Page 18)~~

c. Library (Page 17)

Library Director David Smolen appeared before the Board acknowledged and thanked his hard-working staff.

He noted that over the last year they had held a three-week summer camp in coordination with Project SUCCEED.

They had also furthered strategic partnerships with the Gibson Center, Project SUCCEED, and the Carroll County Coalition for Public Health.

The library had also obtained \$50,000 in grants.

Mr. Smolen noted that their proposed budget for 2022 was up 2% and they had made every effort to keep costs down.

Mr. Colbath requested that the library consider closing the front driveway.

Mr. Smolen noted that there is limited parking and wondered if they could park in the Town Hall parking lot.

d. Police (Page 12)

Chief Mattei and Lieutenant Kelley-Scott appeared before the Board.

He explained that their budget is up 5.6% overall.
He reviewed the different sections of their budget.

There was discussion regarding the need to increase compensation for officers as their current starting pay is below average for the County and that Conway PD is the only full time Police Department in the County.

Chief Mattei noted that the School Resource Officer would be returning to the schools in January.

He noted that their benefits were up as medical insurance rates were up 10.9% and they had three major plan changes among their staff.

Chief also noted that Retirement was up 5%.

Other items included decreased budget for uniforms, and an increase in electricity and gas.

e. Executive (Page 8)

Mr. Holmes reviewed the Executive Budget.

He explained that in this budget they had included the costs for a potential revaluation.

He explained that the Market Values and very much differing from the Town's current assessments and this could potentially cause an increase in abatements from the large commercial properties in Town.

He explained that this would be discussed further at the next meeting with the Assessing staff.

f. Legal (Page 10)

Mr. Holmes noted that the proposed Legal Budget was level funded.

g. Welfare (Page 16)

Mr. Holmes stated that the Welfare Budget was up 2% due to the cost of wages and benefits.

He explained that while this past year had been slower than usual, there are now lots of requests for assistance coming in now.

AUTHORIZATION TO EXPEND FUNDS FOR SLUDGE DRYING SYSTEM

Public Works Director Andrew Smith explained that they are looking into purchasing a sludge dryer with the North Conway Water Precinct as they are needing to significantly reduce the amount of sludge that is being put in the landfill.

It was stated that the dryer would be able to reduce the volume of sludge by 60%.

Mr. Smith explained that they were coming before the Board to request their share of the cost for the engineering and design for this dryer.

There was discussion regarding where these funds could come from.

Mr. Holmes told Mr. Colbath he would look into whether they could use any ARPA funds.

There was a discussion regarding the fact that they are not receiving enough trash to have the proper ratio at the landfill of sludge to trash.

It was stated that if they couldn't continue their partnership with the Water Precinct, they would be looking at spending at least \$250,000 a year in disposing of the leachate that they currently bring to the precinct in exchange for sludge.

Mr. Porter moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to expend \$7,000 in partnership with the North Conway Water Precinct for the engineering study for a sludge dryer out of the operating budget. The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION OF SALE OF STATE-OWNED LAND IN NORTH CONWAY (86 REMOAT TRAIL MAP/LOT 215-15)

It was noted that there was a typographical error in the letter sent from the State, and they were actually looking to see if the Town was interested in purchasing Map/Lot 251-51 from the State.

Mr. Porter moved, seconded by Mr. Colbath, to purchase Map/Lot 215-51 from the State in New Hampshire. The motion failed (0-5-0).

DISCUSSION OF SALE OF STATE-OWNED LAND IN NORTH CONWAY (ON SKIMOBILE ROAD, MAP/LOT 219-106, 219-106.1, 219-107)

Mr. Porter moved, seconded by Mr. Colbath, to purchase Map/Lots 219-106, 219-106.1, and 219-107 from the State in New Hampshire. The motion failed (0-5-0).

REQUEST FOR MODULAR STORAGE IN OLD TOWN HALL PARKING LOT

Mr. Holmes explained that he had received a request for a building to store a few pieces of a modular home that was being built on Conway Lake in the old Town Hall parking lot.

He stated that the dates were to be from December 17-20, 2021.

There was a suggestion that perhaps the old Recreation Center property may be a better option.

There was discussion about removal dates and issues of precedent and liability.

Mr. Thibodeau moved, seconded by Ms. Seavey to allow the storage of modular home parts at the Old Recreation Parking Lot from December 17th December 31st with the following stipulations: the individual must sign a waiver of liability and is responsible for all costs of removal; the individual must provide liability insurance naming the Town as insured; damage assessment must not be conducted until the spring; and the Board will authorize Town Manager to negotiate and coordinate placement. The motion carried (4-1-0) with Ms. Seavey in the negative.

DISCUSSION OF ACOUSTICS IN MARSHALL GYMNASIUM

Mr. Holmes explained that they had held an acoustic sound test at the Marshall Gymnasium and tried various meeting set-up scenarios.

He noted that Ms. Seavey had been correct that having the Board on the stage actually proved to have the best sound quality.

He noted that he was talking to Northledge regarding purchasing a new sound board that would accommodate 20 microphones.

REVIEW OF RECEIPTS

The receipts were available for review.

SIGNING OF DOCUMENTS

- a. MWV Ski Touring Foundation Operating Agreement (2021-2022)
- b. Notice of Intent to Cut Wood/Timber on Map/Lot 244-12

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

CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

- a. AP Manifest dated 11/25/2021

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to sign the AP Manifest dated 11/25/2021. The motion carried unanimously.

RATIFICATION OF DOCUMENTS SIGNED OUT OF SESSION

- a. AP Manifest dated 11/18/2021
- b. Payroll dated 11/18/2021
- c. Abatement of Taxes on Map/Lot 272-49.3 (2013-2020)
- d. Notice of Intent to Cut Wood/Timber on Map/Lot 250-157

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to ratify the documents signed 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 11/9/2021

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to adopt the regular and non-public minutes from 11/9/2021 as written. motion carried unanimously.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Mr. Holmes explained that the tax rate has been set at \$16.34 which is only up by two cents over the previous year.

Mr. Colbath inquired as to whether Mr. Holmes had met with the Bank.

Mr. Holmes explained that Mr. Colbath had suggested sharing a sign with the Bank of New Hampshire and was looking further into it.

He noted that he had met with Representative for the Bank and they are very happy working with the Town.

BOARD REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Mr. Thibodeau gave the October Airport Report and stated that the ESAA is continuing to thrive.

Mr. Colbath noted that the ZBA had met the previous week and they had no application at this time for December.

He noted that the Budget Committee would be meeting on December 15, 2021.

Mr. Porter noted that the Planning Board will be meeting on December 9, 2021.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND MEDIA QUESTIONS

Daymond Steer from the Conway Daily Sun asked if the Board had considered teaming up with Madison and Freedom in terms of ambulance coverage.

Mr. Holmes stated that they had not.

Mr. Steer inquired about the Board's thoughts on the STR Economic Study that had come out.

Mr. Holmes stated that they had no comment due to pending litigation.

Mr. Weathers stated that a local citizen approached a few of the Board members regarding the fact that the Scenic Vista bathrooms were not open 7 days a week.

Mr. Holmes stated that he had reached out to Executive Councilor Joseph Kenney regarding this issue and that he suggested a letter be sent to the Governor and the DOT.

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Porter, to send a letter requesting the opening of the bathrooms at the Scenic Vista on Tuesdays and Wednesdays for a total of seven days a week and to authorize Chairman Weathers to sign it on behalf of the Board. The motion carried unanimously.

At 5:39 pm, Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to go into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (A). The motion carried unanimously.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION RSA 91-A:3 II (A) – PERSONNEL

At 5:56 pm, the Board returned to public session.

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

At 5:56 pm Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to go into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (J). The motion carried unanimously.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION RSA 91-A:3 II (J) – CONSIDERATION OF CONFIDENTIAL,
COMMERCIAL, OR FINANCIAL INFORMATION

At 6:16 pm, the Board returned to public session.

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

At 6:16 pm, Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to go into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (D). The motion carried unanimously.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION RSA 91-A:3 II (D) – CONSIDERATION OF ACQUISITION, SALE
OR LEASE

At 6:19 pm, the Board returned to public session.

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, 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 6:19 pm, the meeting adjourned at the call of the Chair.

Respectfully Submitted,

Krista Day
Executive Secretary