

**Minutes of Meeting
CONWAY BOARD OF SELECTMEN
March 15, 2022**

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

PUBLIC HEARING ON ARTICLE 29: TO SEE IF THE TOWN WILL VOTE TO ALLOW THE OPERATION OF KENO WITHIN THE TOWN PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF NH RSA 284:41 THROUGH 51.

Mr. Weathers opened the public hearing at 4:01 pm.

Daymond Steer from the Conway Daily Sun inquired as to why the Board voted the way they did on this article.

Mr. Colbath explained that they had placed this article on the ballot three times and the voters had defeated it all three times.

Therefore, he noted that he voted against this petitioned article.

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

PUBLIC HEARING ON ARTICLE 30: TO SEE IF THE TOWN OF CONWAY WILL VOTE TO ALLOW THE OPERATION OF SPORTS BETTING WITHIN THE TOWN PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF NH RSA 287-1 THROUGH 17.

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

There was discussion regarding the presentation that had been given by the Lottery Commission at a previous meeting.

It was the understanding of the Board that there is a maximum number of sports betting facilities allowed in the State.

Currently there were three or four.

It was inferred that there would only be one facility in Town if this article passed.

Mr. Porter noted that he had voted against both Keno and Sports Betting because he would like to have a more detailed understanding on how the money for education that was raised through charitable gaming was allocated to each Town.

Mr. Weathers closed the public hearing at 4:09 pm.

REAPPOINTMENTS TO THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

- a. Dan Lucy, 3 Year Term
- b. Linda Kearney, 3 Year Term

Mr. Thibodeau moved, seconded by Mr. Colbath, to reappoint Dan Lucy and Linda Kearney to the Conservation Commission for a 3-year term. The motion carried unanimously.

AUTHORIZATION FOR STAFF TO SIGN TRAIL EASEMENT RELOCATION DEED FOR CONTINUUM/KENNETT PROPERTY

Mr. DegliAngeli explained that he is the Selectmen's representative on the Trails Association Board.

He noted that the Town currently holds an easement for the recreation trails on the Kennett property that is by Eagles Way and Route 302 by where the Continuum Facility is proposed.

He explained that all of the stakeholders met and worked together to come to an agreement for a new easement.

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Ms. Seavey, to authorize the Chairman to sign the trail easement relocation deed for the Continuum/Kennett Property. The motion carried unanimously.

REQUEST FOR HISTORIC COMMISSION MAILING

Mr. Holmes explained that the Historic Commission has been reactivated and is looking to reach out to the residents of Conway to help gather more information about historic properties.

Chair of the Commission, Ken Rancourt, has requested that since the commission does not have a budget, that the Town allow for the expenditure of postage to send questionnaires to property owners regarding homes that were built prior to 1900 in order to create a database and collect more information to be used in the future.

Mr. Holmes noted that because we had an AED donated, we have enough money to cover this cost.

Ms. Seavey, who was in favor of the expenditure, suggested that they have a cover letter clearly explaining that the information gathered is strictly for historical value and no other purpose.

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Ms. Seavey, to approve the expenditure for postage for the Historic District Commission Questionnaire mailing. The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION OF ARPA FUNDS

Mr. Holmes explained that he would like to request \$1,400 from the ARPA funds to pay for 30 hours of overtime for the Welfare Director to be used over the next three months with the preapproval of the Town Manager.

He explained that she has over 15 clients currently and is also researching and applying for Federal funds that can be used in place of the Town's funds.

It was determined that they needed clarification regarding whether this expenditure would be approved for ARPA funds.

Mr. Holmes noted that he was attending a meeting regarding ARPA on Monday.

Mr. Colbath stated that he would rather spend from within our budget.

Mr. Holmes noted that he will most likely find the funds for overtime in the General Assistance Budget itself.

Mr. Eastman explained that the cost of fertilizer was up from approximately 3,000 last year to \$5,159 this year

He asked the Board to consider using ARPA funds or the Rec Revolving Fund to pay the difference.

He was also warned by the seller that the cost for 2023 could be up to \$8,000-\$9,000.

At the permission of the Chairman, State Representative Tim Lang appeared before the Board to speak to Keno and Sports Betting as he arrived after the public hearings.

Representative Lang explained that he was a prime sponsor of HB 48, the Sports Betting Bill.

He noted that the bill has allowed \$18 million to go towards education in the State.

He added that Sports Betting also brings jobs to the area.

He stated that he believed Conway to be a good location as it has a high tourism rate.

In regards to Keno, he noted that there is on average a 20% lift in business for establishments that have Keno.

He noted that with both games, there is a job benefit, business benefit, and education benefit.

There was brief discussion on how the funding actually comes back to Conway.

Representative Lang explained that the funds go into the education trust fund which is used to offset the States taxes for property owners.

DISCUSSION OF SOD VS. HYDRO

Mr. Smith explained that the Board had already approved the expenditure for sod at the O'Brien Field in Center Conway.

However, he noted that in discussions with Mr. Eastman, they believe that they could save money by hydroseeding as it was 1/3 of the price.

Mr. Eastman explained that because they would be having the Public Works employees complete the project, they would not have time to begin until July due to their road maintenance schedule.

Mr. Weathers recommended not seeding until the end of August.

There was brief discussion regarding lights for the pickleball court.

It was stated that the savings on sod could be used for the extra electrical cost for the lights.

Mr. Weathers noted that they should start thinking about hours for the pickleball court so that they make sure not to disturb the abutters.

REVIEW OF RECEIPTS

The receipts were available for review.

SIGNING OF DOCUMENTS

- a. Notice of Intent to Cut Wood or Timber on Map/Lot 258-68
- b. Warrant for Land Use Change Tax on Map/Lot 269-66
- c. Warrant for Land Use Change Tax on Map/Lot 269-70
- d. Warrant for Land Use Change Tax on Map/Lot 250-53
- e. Warrant for Land Use Change Tax on Map/Lot 263-69
- f. Warrant for Land Use Change Tax on Map/Lot 250-57
- g. Warrant for Land Use Change Tax on Map/Lot 250-39
- h. Warrant for Land Use Change Tax on Map/Lot 250-46
- i. Warrant for Land Use Change Tax on Map/Lot 260-58
- j. Municipality Land Use Change Tax Bill on Map/Lot 269-66
- k. Municipality Land Use Change Tax Bill on Map/Lot 269-70
- l. Municipality Land Use Change Tax Bill on Map/Lot 250-53
- m. Municipality Land Use Change Tax Bill on Map/Lot 263-69
- n. Municipality Land Use Change Tax Bill on Map/Lot 250-57
- o. Municipality Land Use Change Tax Bill on Map/Lot 250-39
- p. Municipality Land Use Change Tax Bill on Map/Lot 250-46
- q. Municipality Land Use Change Tax Bill on Map/Lot 260-58
- r. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 263-79
- s. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 259-108
- t. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 280-54
- u. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 253-49
- v. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 230-88
- w. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 273-37
- x. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 275-18.13
- y. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 254-29.164
- z. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 260-76
- aa. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 290-4
- bb. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 266-155
- cc. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 263-57
- dd. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 290-43

- ee. Certification of Yield Taxes Assessed on Map/Lot 266-9
- ff. Certification of Yield Taxes Assessed on Map/Lot 250-156 & 250-157
- gg. Certification of Yield Taxes Assessed on Map/Lot 283-25
- hh. Yield Tax Levy on Map/Lot 283-25, 250-156, 250-157, 266-9

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

CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

- a. AP Manifest dated 3/17/2022

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to sign the AP Manifest dated 3/17/2022. The motion carried unanimously.

RATIFICATION OF DOCUMENTS SIGNED OUT OF SESSION

- a. 2022 Proposed Warrant
- b. Notice of Intent to Cut Wood or Timber on Map/Lot 250-156 and 250-157
- c. Notice of Intent to Cut Wood or Timber on Map/Lot 259-104
- d. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 250-191
- e. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 250-191
- f. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 276-18
- g. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 268-117.24
- h. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 280-73
- i. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 254-50
- j. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 276-251
- k. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 265-161-347
- l. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 266-144
- m. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 215-80
- n. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 254-72
- o. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 272-52.32
- p. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 254-29.004
- q. AP Manifest dated 3/10/2022
- r. Payroll dated 3/10/2022

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to ratify the 2022 Proposed Warrant. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to ratify the documents listed above in b. through r. The motion carried (4-0-1) with Mr. Colbath abstaining.

REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF SPECIAL EVENT APPLICATION(S)

- a. North Conway Community Center Food Truck Festival (5/28/22) Pending Liquor License
- b. North Conway Community Center Farmers Market (Tuesdays 6/21/22 – 10/11/22)
- c. Mt. Washington Valley Chamber White Mts. Outdoor Health & Wellness Festival (6/11/22) Pending Insurance
- d. Tuckerman Brewing Co. Lumber Jack Festival (6/11/22) Rescues & Brews (6/28/22) and Holiday Artisan Fair (11/5/22)

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to approve the special event application as listed above. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

- a. Regular and Non-Public Minutes from 2/22/2022

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau to approve the minutes as written for 2/22/2022. The motion carried unanimously.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Mr. Holmes explained that Valley Pride Day was being held on May 7, 2022.

He wanted the Board's opinion on whether the Town should hold their Amnesty Day on that specific date as well.

Mr. Porter moved, seconded by Ms. Seavey, to hold Amnesty Day at the Transfer Station on May 7, 2022 in conjunction with Valley Pride Day. The motion carried unanimously.

It was agreed upon that they would allow for the 6 total items like they had in previous years.

Mr. Holmes noted that they had been invited to attend Cranmore's ground breaking for their new base lodge the next day at 10:00 am.

Mr. Holmes noted he would be attending an ARPA webinar on Monday with Mr. Eastman.

Mr. Holmes noted that he would be out of Town until Monday.

BOARD REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Mr. Thibodeau informed the Board that the ESAA had been awarded 3.5 million dollars from the State of Maine to extend the runway.

He noted that this will allow for larger aircrafts and more poor weather landings.

They are hoping to break ground in Spring 2023 but will need to raise \$175,000 for their portion of the match for the grant.

Ms. Seavey noted that the Economic Council accepted an offer on Lot 2 and that they have been awarded \$200,000 from the Feds for the work on their road.

Mr. Colbath noted that the ZBA would be meeting the next evening for three hearings related to multiuse housing in the North Conway area.

Mr. Colbath stated that the Budget Committee would be meeting on March 23, 2022 to wrap of the budget season and would be meeting on April 27, 2022 for the reorganization for the new budget year.

Mr. Porter noted that the Planning Board had met the previous Thursday for their first work session.

Mr. Weathers stated that the Conservation Commission would be meeting the next evening via Zoom.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND MEDIA QUESTIONS

Resident Chris Cronin appeared before the Board.

He noted that he owns a number of properties in Town and does use some of them for short-term rentals.

He explained that he had received a message from the President of the American Legion in Town who needed emergency housing for a Veteran.

He allowed that Veteran to stay at his property free of charge before another Short-Term Rental owner allowed his to stay at his property.

Mr. Cronin noted that this got him thinking on how the Town could link both the problem of housing for the homeless with short-term rentals.

He explained that through discussions with other owners, there were a number of people who are willing to discount their properties significantly to help, especially during mud season.

Mr. Thibodeau stated that it was a wonderful idea and he applauded him for stepping forward.

Mr. Thibodeau suggested that Mr. Cronin contact Starting Point as well.

Mr. Porter thanked Mr. Cronin for stepping forward and stated that this shows how generous the community can be.

Daymond Steer from the Conway Daily Sun asked if the Historic District Questionnaire responses would be public knowledge.

Mr. Holmes stated yes.

It was noted that the AARP grant had been submitted.

ADJOURN

At 5:15 pm, Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Porter, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Krista Day
Executive Secretary