

**Minutes of Meeting
CONWAY BOARD OF SELECTMEN
September 6 , 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, John Colbath, Steven Porter, Town Manager John Eastman, and Executive Assistant, 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 adding two items to the agenda:

- 7a. Annual LEOP Concurrence
- 10p. Municipal Waiver of Liability on Map/Lot 299-24

They will also be removing the non-public session.

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

INTRODUCTION OF NH STATE REPRESENTATIVE CANDIDATES

- a. Tom Bucu

Mr. Bucu thanked the Board.

He explained that out of his 9 attempts, he has been elected as State Representative 8 times.

Mr. Bucu has served on both the Public Works and Highways Committee, Finance Committee, and County Budget Committee.

He is also currently an elected Commission of the Conway Village Fire District.

Mr. Bucu stated that it was his intentioned to oppose the education freedom accounts. Intend to oppose education freedom accounts.

- b. Mark Hounsell

Mr. Hounsell read the following:

It has been established that for the next ten years Conway will have three representatives who must be from Conway and are only elected by the people of our town. Over the next decade it is

important that our wonderful town, with all the growing pains and problems to work through, that we elect people who understand the ins and outs of Conway. I am such a person.

I reside in the same house my great-grandfather bought over 120 years ago. I was born at Memorial Hospital, I attended Conway Elementary School, Kennett Junior High School and I graduated from Kennett in 1970. From a young age my parents Ted and Betty Hounsell, by their example, instilled in their offspring that public service is a duty of all Americans. For the past forty plus years I have endeavored to fulfill that duty to the best of my ability.

As a town we have this opportunity to put together a capable team of government officials who by working together can maximum the benefits of the undivided mission of maintaining the blessings of liberty, maintain law and order, educate our children, protect our environment, improve our infrastructures, and enjoy widespread prosperity. We will thrive as a community when we work in one accord towards those things we seek for our families, our town and ourselves.

Over the next couple of months voters will decide which three of eight candidates seeking this office will be elected. I have known each of the other candidates for many years. They are each qualified and capable of serving us well. I would be honored to serve with any two of them. Yet, of the candidates seeking office none have the experience both politically and historically that I have.

There was a time in politics when respect and civility were expected, and decorum was . With each passing day, meanness, negativity and even outright lying seems to be increasing in our political expressions. This should not be.

We want a town where parents can tuck their children in at night secure in the knowledge that they are warm, well-fed and above all, that they are safe and secure from all alarms. Parents and grandparents expect and are entitled to schools where their children can receive a proper education suited for them, one that prepares them for success. There is a great deal to be considered.

We are very fortunate to have many capable citizens serving on our local government boards and committees. From the board of Selectmen to the Budget Committee, Planning Board, Library Trustees, School Boards and other positions as well as many non-profits and churches it is a current provable fact that the town of Conway has a team of highly capable individuals working together to make Conway the best we can be for all. I want to be added to that team as one of Conway's three representatives to the lower chamber of the NH General Court. The legislature.

Short-Term Rentals (STR) are unrestrained commercial activities in residentially zone areas, and they are illegal. The presences of these STR commercial operations are disruptive to the peaceful enjoyment of the homes of local families. Local regulations are desperately needed. The Courts cannot solve this for us. The selectmen cannot solve this. Only the legislature can solve the issue. We must set aside partisan differences. This is not a Republican or Democratic issue. It is a people issue.

I am asking the voters to elect me to the New Hampshire House. It has been thirty-four years since I ended my first stint in the legislature as a member of the State Senate. During that time, I have remained politically active in Conway serving as a member of the board of selectmen, school board, planning board, budget committee, library trustee and county commissioner. I have considerable knowledge and experience to get the job done.

I ask for your support in joining the local team of government officials whose job it is to serve all. Should I be elected, I will do my best for our town.

Thank you for your kind attention.

c. Karen Umberger

Representative Umberger stated that she appreciated the opportunity to speak at the meeting.

She expressed that she currently enjoys being a member of the legislature.

She is always open to answer constituents' questions.

She explained that she is currently the Chair of the House Finance Committee and is a member of the joint fiscal committee.

She added that she will look to continue supporting and funding DHHS and trying to improve the mental health issues the State is facing.

d. Frank McCarthy

Mr. McCarthy thanked the Town Manager and the Board of Selectmen for this opportunity.

He noted that he was going to discuss the three topics as suggested by the Town Manager.

In terms of candidacy, he noted that he has 6 years of experience in the State Legislature and is a member of the County Executive Committee.

He added that he has a reputation in the House as a “do-er”.

He was pivotal in getting the State Economic Recovery bill passed.

Mr. McCarthy explained that in terms of items facing Conway in the future, the upcoming winter is going to bring very high costs for electricity and heating.

He noted that they need to do something about that soon.

In terms of vision, he noted that he sits on the Municipal County Committee and 60% of the work done on a bill is done at the committee level.

He would like the opportunity to serve Conway.

e. Mike DiGregorio

Mr. DiGregorio thanked the Board and the Town Manager.

He explained that he has been elected to various Boards and Committees in Town.

He noted that each candidate has valid points on why they would be a good choice to represent the Town of Conway.

He explained that he is open minded and likes to listen to the people in Town.

Mr. DiGregorio stated that he has never turned down a conversation.

He also added that in government, it takes a while to get to the right answer and that is okay because it effects everyone.

Mr. DiGregorio explained that he is currently passionate about issues relating to mental health and funding for fire departments.

He stated that he has a good relationship with the Boards around Town and would be fully accessible to input from them.

f. David Paige

Mr. Paige thanked the Selectmen.

He explained that he is a local dad who wants to defend women's rights and fight against censorship in our schools.

He stated that there are a lot of young families in the Valley and he does not see a lot of representation for that in Concord.

His vision for Conway is one where Conway is a Town in which families can thrive and young people can see themselves building a life.

He stated that minimum wage should be a living wage.

He noted that we should be protecting the funding of public schools and standing up for teachers as we have such a problem with recruitment and retention.

Mr. Paige added that the availability and affordability of child care is a big problem in the Valley and it needs to be addressed.

Mr. Paige stated that we need all hands on deck to attack the issue of affordable housing and need to defend local control/regulation for short-term rentals.

g. Steve Woodcock

Mr. Woodcock explained that he sits on the House Education Committee.

He is a big proponent of women's rights.

He added that he is a representative who is up front, honest and transparent.

If elected he will continue to support a woman's right to choose and tax dollars for public schools.

PUBLIC HEARING ON UNANTICIPATED REVENUE MORE THAN \$10,000/RSA 31:95-B

III

- a. \$216,827.12 from the State of NH for State Block Grant Aid
- b. \$250,754.00 from the State of NH for Municipal Bridge Funding Distribution

Mr. Weathers opened the public hearing at 4:31 pm.

Mr. Eastman explained that Representative Karen Umberger helped to secure this funding and it came at a time where they were going to have to cut paving projects.

Representative Umberger explained that because of the State budget surplus they were able to do this for the various towns and it was her pleasure.

Mr. Weathers closed the public hearing at 4:32 pm.

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

III

- a. \$216,827.12 from the State of NH for State Block Grant Aid
- b. \$250,754.00 from the State of NH for Municipal Bridge Funding Distribution

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Ms. Seavey, to accept the \$216,827.12 from the State of NH for State Block Grant Aid. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Ms. Seavey, to accept the \$250,754.00 from the State of NH for Municipal Bridge Funding Distribution. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Colbath thanked Representative Umberger and the Legislature.

DISCUSSION OF ELIMINATION OF PARKING SPOTS IN NORTH CONWAY VILLAGE

Mr. Eastman explained that he had received an email from the NCFD and Chief Mattei regarding concerns of parking spaces that are within 20 feet of crosswalks in North Conway Village.

Spots included two on Seavey Street and one on Route 16.

The Fire Department had also expressed concern regarding the spaces behind the backstop.

Mr. Weathers suggested tabling the discussion until they had pictures to reference and Mr. Thibodeau was present.

Mr. Colbath moved seconded by Mr. Porter, to table this discussion until the next meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

ANNUAL LEOP CONCURRANCE

Chief Solomon explained that the Emergency Operations Plan has a 5 year life cycle but the resource and personnel list is updated each year.

He stated that he had made those updates.

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Ms. Seavey, to accept the updates and authorize the Chair to sign related documents on behalf of the Board. The motion carried unanimously.

ELECTION ASSIGNMENTS

There was discussion regarding the upcoming election.

Ms. Seavey, Mr. Colbath, and Mr. Weathers will be at the elections all day.

Mr. Porter noted he will be there from 12:00 pm – 7:00 pm.

Mr. Thibodeau will not be there.

They will be appointing Selectmen pro-tem for Mr. Thibodeau and Mr. Porter to cover the hours they will not be there.

REVIEW OF RECEIPTS

The receipts were available for review.

SIGNING OF DOCUMENTS

- a. MS-1
- b. Warrant for Land Use Change Tax on Map/Lot 250-100
- c. Warrant for Land Use Change Tax on Map/Lot 250-63
- d. Warrant for Land Use Change Tax on Map/Lot 250-56
- e. Warrant for Land Use Change Tax on Map/Lot 250-55
- f. Warrant for Land Use Change Tax on Map/Lot 250-35
- g. Warrant for Land Use Change Tax on Map/Lot 250-34
- h. Warrant for Land Use Change Tax on Map/Lot 250-48
- i. Municipality Land Use Change Tax on Map/Lot 250-100
- j. Municipality Land Use Change Tax on Map/Lot 250-63
- k. Municipality Land Use Change Tax on Map/Lot 250-56
- l. Municipality Land Use Change Tax on Map/Lot 250-55
- m. Municipality Land Use Change Tax on Map/Lot 250-35

- n. Municipality Land Use Change Tax on Map/Lot 250-34
- o. Municipality Land Use Change Tax on Map/Lot 250-48
- p. Municipal Waiver of Liability on Map/Lot 299-24

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

CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

(none)

RATIFICATION OF DOCUMENTS SIGNED OUT OF SESSION

- a. AP Manifest dated 9/1/2022

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

REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF SPECIAL EVENT APPLICATION(S)

- a. Post 95 American Legion Veterans Day Parade (11/11/22)
- b. ESSC Ski Club Ski Sale (11/11/22-11/12/22)

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Ms. Seavey, to approve the special event permits listed above in a. and b. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

- a. Regular and Non-Public Minutes from 8/23/2022

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Ms. Seavey, to adopt the Regular and Non-Public Minutes from 8/23/2022 as written. The motion carried unanimously.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Mr. Eastman read a letter from Superintendent Kevin Richard commending the Conway Police Department for their work on ALICE Training at all of the schools.

Mr. Eastman explained that the elevator motor at Town Hall is burnt up and therefore it needs to be replaced.

The initial quote was for \$34,000 which seems high so Mr. Smith is working hard contacting alternate companies to get quotes.

They are looking to schedule future ZBA and Planning Board meetings at an alternate venue to ensure handicap accessibility.

Mr. Eastman explained that they are still working on the lighting situation at the Town Garage for voting.

For the September 13, 2022 election, they will be using the new portion of the garage that has adequate lighting.

There will be new lighting installed prior to the November 8, 2022 election.

Mr. Eastman explained that they received the tax bill for the Town Hall building, however, it was sent by the Bank of New Hampshire late.

Therefore, interest has been accruing.

Mr. Eastman recommended that the Board waive the interest.

He noted that moving forward, Ms. Inkell will add the Town as an alternate address so we will receive the tax bill on time.

Mr. Porter moved, seconded by Mr. Colbath, to waive the interest accrued on Map/Lot 276-277 for the tax bill due 7/1/2022. The motion carried unanimously.

BOARD REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Ms. Seavey noted that she would like to have a discussion about the Grove Street Crosswalk Lighting on the next agenda.

Ms. Seavey noted that she has been working on obtaining the property in Conway Village on which the information booth is located.

She thanked Executive Councilor Joseph Kenney for his continued work on this project.

Ms. Seavey expressed her wishes to be able to decorate Conway Village for the holidays this year.

Mr. Colbath inquired as to if there was an update from the Public Facilities Committee meeting.

Ms. Seavey explained that the committee would be meeting after Columbus Day.

Ms. Day noted that from July 20, 2022 – August 31, 2022, there has been 1,433 people who had utilized the Whitaker Woods Bathrooms.

Mr. Porter stated that the Planning Board would be meeting on Thursday.

Mr. Colbath noted that the Budget Committee would be meeting on October 19, 2022 and the ZBA on September 21, 2022.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND MEDIA QUESTIONS

Ms. Umberger stated that within the next month they are going to see a lot of money coming to the Towns to help with issues that are going to be coming up over the winter with rising electricity and heating costs.

She noted that there would also be more funding for ERAP.

She confirmed that Tri-County Cap will continue to handle that.

Daymond Steer from the Conway Daily Sun expressed interest in knowing whether Conway is facing a growing homeless problem or not.

There was discussion regarding how it is hard to know because of confidentiality.

ADJOURN

At 5:30 pm, the meeting adjourned at the call of the Chair.

Respectfully Submitted,

Krista Day
Executive Secretary