

**Minutes of Meeting
CONWAY BOARD OF SELECTMEN
September 27 , 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, Steve 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 11a: Discussion of Purchase of Trailer and 18a. Abatement of Taxes on Map/Lot 254-29.101.

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

PARKING PROGRAM UPDATE

Mr. Eastman explained that while they were still bringing in money for parking tickets, they had a net profit of \$35,955.12 for the 2022 Recreation Site Parking Program.

Mr. Lane explained that he would like to credit the staff who covered around 80 days this summer.

He noted that he had received very few complaints.

The one suggestion from the public was that instead of an attendant at Davis Park, they install a parking kiosk that would allow for hourly parking for those who would like to use the basketball or tennis courts.

Mr. Colbath asked Mr. Lane to list his staff in order to give them kudos.

Mr. Lane thanked Linda Burns, Ethan Robitaille, Cindy Prouty, Corrine Whitaker, Mark Thompson, Cheryl Hurst, and Marshall Allen.

SCHOOL BOARD APPOINTMENT

Mr. Weathers explained that because the School Board had been unable to fill their vacancy, the Board of Selectmen have been charged by the State to appoint a new member.

Ms. Seavey noted that she would like to hear from each candidate about their skills and experience that would help them in this position.

Jac Cuddy appeared before the Board.

Mr. Cuddy explained that he had spent the better part of his adult life working with children as both a classroom teacher and a ski instructor.

He also noted that he is a member of the Board for the White Mt. Community Health Center.

Mr. Cuddy stated that he had served on both the Budget Committee and as a Selectment.

He explained that he felt it was really important to have collaboration within the School Board members themselves and work towards having agreements that are going to make things better.

Linda Burns appeared before the Board.

She explained that she has worked and volunteered in the Conway School district for 35 years.

She noted that the experiences have given her a unique understanding of what goes on in the District.

Ms. Burns explained that if appointed to the position, she will use her experience to promote positive, respectful communication between the School Board, Staff, Students and Community members.

She noted that she believes that more research needs to be done before closing a school and moving sixth grade.

She thanked them for their consideration.

Greg Stanley appeared before the Board and read the following:

I moved to the Mount Washington Valley in 2016. I am writing to apply for the school board vacancy at SAU9. I am interested in become a member of the school board for many reasons. My commitment to education for the community is driven by my belief that our children are our future. All children should have the opportunity for positive educational experiences. I believe it is important for our children to have access to art, sports, recreation and they should feel supported by their community. I am passionate about smaller class sizes in public schools because the literature shows this allows for more individualized instruction and interaction with the teacher. This allows the teacher to employ different teaching methods and allows students to learn in ways that best fit their learning style. Literature shows that smaller class sizes lead to increased student achievement, and lower achieving students benefit most from smaller class sizes. If given the opportunity to sit on the SAU9 school board, one of my goals would be to better understand the community's values, wishes and challenges and obtain a clear goal for the district. Being a member of the community and raising three children in Conway has allowed me to appreciate the dynamics of our community. I value the input of our community

and would be honored to represent my peers and most of all, the interests of the students.

Michaela Clement was unable to attend the meeting due to a personal obligation.

Steve Angers appeared before the Board.

He explained that he would like to commit to the next 8 months on the School Board in order to help out.

He noted that he would not run for the open seat in April.

Mr. Angers explained that he grew up in a family of educators and believes that he would have something to offer the Board for the next 8 months.

Mike DiGregorio appeared before the Board.

He explained that he was the one who had confirmed that the way the School Board was handling business was wrong.

Mr. DiGregorio explained that it would be hard for anyone without budgetary experience to come in right now to the Board because they are already in the middle of creating an 18 month budget.

He noted that no one else has the experience in municipal law and procedure that he does.

Mr. DiGregorio explained that the extreme discipline issues at the high school are now trickling down to the middle school and need to be addressed.

He added that no one is talking about the additional safety issues that are going on at the High School.

He noted that he has seen no discussion of how the move of the sixth grade to the middle school would affect the children educationally.

Mr. Porter moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to appoint Michael DiGregorio to the Conway School Board until the 2023 Town Meeting vote. The motion carried (3-1-1) with Ms. Seavey in the negative and Mr. Weathers in abstention.

ELECTION REVIEW

Moderator Chris Meier and Town Clerk/Tax Collector Louise Inkell appeared before the Board to give a review of the election.

They noted that they had less turnout than expected.

Mr. Meier explained that the lighting in the garage worked well and while there was a bit of a learning curve for the voter flow, they believe that adding signage will help.

Mr. Meier thanked the Highway Department.

Mr. Colbath and Mr. Weathers stated that they believed it went well.

Mr. Meier explained that they did get audited by the Attorney General's office and received a gold star.

Commissioner of the North Conway Water Precinct, Suzanne Nelson, appeared before the Board.

She noted that there was a great group of volunteers.

Ms. Nelson expressed her displeasure that they are voting in a garage.

She said that the Commissioners would like to offer the use of the North Conway Fire Station for voting in the future.

PRESENTATION BY MS. WALKER REGARDING RE-VALUATION

Contract Assessor Mary Beth Walk appeared before the Board to discuss whether the Town should budget for an early revaluation for 2023.

Ms. Walker explained that while they are not mandated to complete a revaluation until 2024, there are many reasons to consider doing it early in 2023.

Ms. Walker presented a slide show discussing where the Town is in terms of ratio right now due to the increase in the market.

Ms. Walker explained that our utility values are calculated using last years ratio and because of this, we lost \$280,000 in tax revenue.

She noted that if we do not do an early revaluation, they will loose about another \$122,000 in revenue.

In summary, they will gain approximately \$304,000 in revenue by completing the revaluation in 2023.

Ms. Walkers recommendation is to budget for a revaluation in 2023.

DISCUSSION OF PLANNING BOARD LETTER

Chairman of the Planning Board, Ben Colbath and Vice Chair, Ailie Byers appeared before the Board with Planning Director Jamel Torres.

They wanted to touch base with the Board regarding the \$100,000 in ARPA funds that had been allotted to the Master Plan Update.

They wanted to confirm that those funds will still be available to them whether they obtain the Invest NH grant or not.

Ms. Byers emphasized that the Master Plan does so much more than address the subject of housing.

She noted that it will affect every Board and part of Town and that these are necessary critical updates.

Mr. Torres explained that at the last Planning Board meeting the Board nominated Mr. Porter, Ms. Byers and Mr. Colbath to be members of the Master Plan Selection Committee with Mr. DegliAngeli and himself.

They have three interviews next week.

Mr. Thibodeau noted that when they first found out there was a possibility of obtaining money from Invest NH, he had thought that there was a possibility that the \$100,000 in ARPA funds could have been used for another purpose.

However, after meeting with Mr. Torres, it is apparent that even when they are able to obtain the \$175,000 from the State, to accomplish the Master Plan Update will require both sources of funding.

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Porter, to reaffirm the commitment of \$100,000 of ARPA Funds for the Master Plan Update. The motion carried unanimously.

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

- a. \$100 check from Margaret Bernhardt for the Conway Police Department Equipment Line

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

DISCUSSION OF ELIMINATION OF PARKING SPOTS IN NORTH CONWAY VILLAGE

Mr. Eastman explained that he and Chief McCarthy and Chief Mattei had gone and looked at the potential spots in question in North Conway Village that are being looked at to be removed. Chief McCarthy noted that they are requesting that six spots behind the backstop on Norcross Circle be removed as they are within 75 feet of the fire station and could potentially be problematic if the ladder truck needed to be used in Norcross Circle.

Mr. Porter noted that he believed removing the spots would be beneficial.

Ms. Seavey stated that she sees both sides.

Mr. Colbath asked if they had had a conversation with the Train Station about the potential loss of parking.

Chief McCarthy stated that they had not.

There was then discussion regarding the request to remove two spots on Seavey Street by the second fire garage.

Chief McCarthy stated that it is difficult to back the trailer in.

Mr. Porter stated that he would be hesitant to remove those spaces.

There was discussion regarding safety issues by Vaughan due to the parking space too close to the crosswalk.

Mr. Eastman noted that Glenn Saunders had requested they eliminate the parking space at the end of Mechanic Street in front of the North Conway Library.

Director of the NCCC Phil Ouellete suggested making some of these spaces motorcycle only parking.

Alec Tarberry noted that he owns three parcels on Norcross Circle and would rather keep the spaces.

Sheila Duane from the Berry Companies requested that they don't put up too much signage if they remove the six spaces.

Alec Tarberry requested a demonstration with the ladder truck to truly see the problem.

They will have a demonstration of the ladder truck's turning radius on October 11, 2022 at 2:30 pm before making a decision about the spots on Norcross Circle.

Mr. Porter moved, seconded by Ms. Seavey, to eliminate the two parking spaces on Seavey Street as discussed. The motion failed (0-5-0).

Mr. Porter moved, seconded by Ms. Seavey, to eliminate the parking spot by Bavarian Chocolate Haus as discussion. The motion failed (0-5-0).

Mr. Porter moved, seconded by Mr. Colbath, to move the parking spot in front of the Chamber building as discussed. The motion failed (0-5-0).

Mr. Porter moved, seconded by Ms. Seavey, to remove the spot in front of the North Conway Library at the intersection of Mechanic Street and create one spot for a motorcycle instead. The motion carried (4-1-0) with Mr. Porter in the negative.

Mr. Porter moved, seconded by Ms. Seavey, to designate up to two motorcycle parking spots in front of Vaughan. The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION OF CROSSWALK BY GROVE STREET

Ms. Seavey explained that she would like to have warning signage installed at the crosswalk that crosses the North South Road on Grove Street.

Mr. Smith clarified that she was interested in having a flashing sign at that location.

Mr. Smith will look into the pricing for a sign like that.

Mark Hounsell took this time to express his concern about pedestrian safety all over Town, particularly on Route 16.

He noted that it is time to ask the State for traffic studies as it is their road.

Mr. Colbath noted that they should look into pedestrian safety grants.

DISCUSSION OF PURCHASE OF TRAILER

Public Works Director Andrew Smith explained that the small equipment trailer at the Highway Department was in need of being replaced.

He explained that they use it most to move the sidewalk machines.

Mr. Smith stated that he would like to use up to \$12,000 from the Capital Reserve Fund for the purchase of the trailer.

They have no other purchase obligations for the remainder of the year.

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Porter, to authorize the expenditure of up to \$12,000 from the Capital Reserve Fund for Highway Equipment. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT TO GENERAL ASSISTANCE APPLICATION PROCESS GUIDELINE

Mr. Eastman explained that they would like to get the Board's approval to update the Application Process of the General Assistance Guidelines to allow Ms. Parker to spend up to \$500 per client in an emergency situation while they complete the application and submit the necessary documentation.

Ms. Seavey moved, seconded by Mr. Colbath, to adopt the changes to the General Assistance Guidelines as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Seavey noted that Ms. Parker does a great job and she trusts her.

Mr. Eastman added that the budget for General Assistance is \$30,000 and through Ms. Parker's efforts, they have only spent \$3,500 to date.

NOTIFICATION OF DEMO PERMIT FOR 25 SETTLERS GREEN DRIVE UNIT F, THE OLD AIRPORT HANGAR BUILDING

Mr. Porter wanted to know what the rationale was for this demo.

He added that they had come to the Planning Board but had made no mention of this demo.

Mr. DegliAngeli noted that Mr. Barsamian had reached out to see if the Town had interest in the trusses to make a pavilion near the proposed new skate park.

Mr. DegliAngeli stated that he does not know what Barsamian's plans are for that space.

DISCUSSION OF REVENUE FOR WHITAKER WOODS TRAILS

Nat Lucy from the Conservation Commission appeared before the Board.

He explained that traffic on Whitaker Woods trails has increased and they are having issues during the winter with people walking on and destroying the cross country ski trails.

Because of this, they decided to make a walking trail for this upcoming season.

With that trail work, they ended up having timber that was quite valuable.

They took in over \$9,000 in revenue from the timber.

Mr. Lucy expressed that the Conservation Commission would like to go back and finish the trail and purchase signage to help educate the users.

In order to do this, they are requesting about half of the \$9,000 back.

There was discussion regarding the fact that they cannot use the revenue to do the work because it would have needed to be budgeted.

However, Mr. Eastman explained that because Whitaker Woods would fall under the umbrella of recreation, they could potentially authorize the expenditure of funds in the Recreation Revolving Fund for this purpose.

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Porter, to authorize the expenditure of up to \$5,000 by the Conservation Commission from the Recreation Revolving Fund to complete their trail project. The motion carried unanimously.

AUTHORIZATION FOR CHAIR TO SIGN LICENSE TO SELL PISTOLS AND REVOLVERS

- a. Dewhurst Outfitters/White Mt. Firearms

Mr. Porter moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to authorize the Chair to sign the License to Sell Pistols and Revolvers as noted above. The motion carried unanimously.

SIGNING OF PRIMEX DOCUMENTS

- a. Workers' Compensation Amendment and Extension
- b. Property and Liability Amendment and Extension

Mr. Eastman explained that they are requesting authorization to sign the documents above that would prohibit Primex from increasing Workers' Compensation Insurance Rates by more than 7% and Property and Liability Insurance Rates by more than 8% over the next three years.

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Ms. Seavey, to authorize Chairman Weathers to sign the documents as listed above. The motion carried unanimously.

REVIEW OF RECEIPTS

The receipts were available for review.

SIGNING OF DOCUMENTS

- a. Abatement of Taxes on Map/Lot 254-29.101

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

CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

- a. AP Manifest dated 9/29/2022

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Ms. Seavey, to sign the AP Manifest dated 9/29/2022. The motion carried unanimously.

RATIFICATION OF DOCUMENTS SIGNED OUT OF SESSION

- a. AP Manifest dated 9/15/22
- b. AP Manifest dated 9/22/22
- c. Payroll dated 9/22/22

- d. Notice of Intent to Cut Wood or Timber on Map/Lot 219-243.2
- e. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 277-131
- f. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 263-26
- g. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 254-65
- h. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 241-7
- i. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 241-7
- j. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 230-88
- k. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 264-13
- l. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 254-29.175
- m. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 258-70
- n. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 276-89

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

REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF SPECIAL EVENT APPLICATION(S)

(none)

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

- a. Regular Minutes from 9/6/2022

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Ms. Seavey, to adopt the Regular Minutes from 9/6/2022 as written. The motion carried unanimously.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Mr. Eastman noted that Andrew Smith is pursuing more info on the potential implementation of a parking program for North Conway Village.

He noted that they will be having an auction for three Town-owned properties on October 15, 2022 here at Town Hall.

Mr. Eastman gave a quick summary of how it went this summer at Diana's Bath.

He noted that the Forest Service has identified it as being overrun.

Ms. Burns gave an overview of her time this summer working the parking lot on the weekends.

Mr. Eastman noted that they will be taking a look at how to proceed next year.

There was a discussion regarding the state of the elevator at Town Hall.

There is still not estimated time for it to be fixed, therefore, the Board decided that they would hold their next meeting at the Conway Fire Station in order to be ADA accessible.

BOARD REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Ms. Seavey explained that the Economic Council would meet the next day.

Ms. Seavey read a letter from the North Conway Commissioners regarding that they did not and do not plan on having public bathrooms in the North Conway Fire Station.

Mr. Colbath questioned how they could possibly hold Municipal elections at the Fire Station if there were not public bathrooms.

Mr. Colbath noted that the ZBA had met the previous week and the Budget Committee would be meeting on the 19th of October.

Mr. Colbath requested that the Board send a letter of appreciation to the Garden Club to thank them for all they do.

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Ms. Seavey, to send a letter of appreciation to the Mt. Garden Club and authorize Chairman Weathers to sign it out of session. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Porter stated that the Planning Board met the previous week.

He noted that there was concern over former residential sites becoming commercial, yet not requiring traffic studies.

Mr. Weathers explained that the State has started to work on the culvert in Shedd Woods.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND MEDIA QUESTIONS

Mr. DiGregorio thanked the Board for his appointment.

He wanted to go on the record thanking Ms. Inkell and her staff for doing a phenomenal job at the election.

He wanted to also advocate for crosswalk lights.

Mr. DiGregorio also added that he is in favor of an early revaluation as it has a dramatic effect on the precinct as well.

Chief Solomon noted that a revaluation would help make up for the inequities for non-precinct coverage.

Mark Hounsell wanted to speak about the situation on the strip in North Conway.

He explained that there are accidents waiting to happen and encouraged the Board to look into things that are available to get crosswalks as well as traffic studies.

At 7:13 pm, Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Ms. Seavey, to go into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3 II (a). The motion carried unanimously.

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

At 8:10 pm, the meeting returned to public session.

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Ms. Seavey, 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 8:10 pm, the meeting adjourned at the call of the Chair.

Respectfully Submitted,

Krista Day
Executive Secretary