

Minutes of Meeting
CONWAY BOARD OF SELECTMEN
December 20, 2022

The Selectmen's Meeting convened at 4:14 pm in the Meeting Room at Town Hall with the following present: C. David Weathers, Carl Thibodeau, John Colbath, Steve Porter, Interim 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 Ms. Seavey was away and would not be at tonight's meeting.

Mr. Weathers stated that there was one addition to the agenda, item 12a. Bark in the Park (9/23/2023) Pending Fees and Insurance.

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

DISCUSSION OF TRAFFIC PATTERNS NEAR ECHO ACRES

John Dion, President of Echo Acres Association, appeared before the Board along with three other residents of Echo Acres.

He wanted to express his safety concerns regarding getting in and out of Echo Acres onto Route 16.

He emphasized his concern for children's safety.

He added that the elementary school has changed the bus route so children do not need to cross Route 16, however, it is still very dangerous, particularly due to the cars coming in and out of Dunkin Donuts.

Mr. Dion explained that people line up to take the illegal left hand turn into Dunkin Donuts when going North.

He stated that the sign is not visible until it is too late.

Resident Adam Lonsor expressed his concern particularly for the children of Echo Acres.

He emphasized that he believes it is only a matter of time before someone is killed there.

Mr. Porter stated that in his mind, the biggest issue was the State of New Hampshire allowing these curb cuts.

Mr. DegliAngeli gave a brief history on how those businesses got those curb cuts.

He also added that they met with DOT a few weeks prior and it had been mentioned that the Town would be responsible for the taking of the curb cuts.

Mr. DegliAngeli explained that he had reached out to the Police Department to gather accident history for that area and there have been no accidents at Echo Acres but plenty at Dunkin Donuts and 99.

He stated that the next course of action would be to bring the Selectmen's wish to close the curb cuts to the State.

Mr. Porter moved, seconded by Mr. Weathers, to direct Town Staff to pursue the closing of the 99 Restaurant and Dunkin Donuts curb cuts on Route 16. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Colbath stated that he believed they should start with signs.

Mr. Thibodeau also agreed that they should take a closer look at the signage.

Mr. Dion wanted to make sure it was on the record that both Dunkin Donuts and the 99 Restaurant have been very receptive from the feedback of the residents.

Mr. Colbath asked Mr. DegliAngeli if he felt that increased signage would help.

Mr. DegliAngeli stated that in his mind it would be a waste of time.

The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. DegliAngeli stated that it was important to keep in mind that if anything does happen, it would likely not be for years to come.

REAFFIRMATION OF REVISED PURCHASING POLICY

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to reaffirm the Purchasing Policy as revised. The motion carried unanimously.

ADOPTION OF FINANCIAL POLICIES

- a. Fixed Asset Policy
- b. Cash Receipts and Deposits Policy

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Porter, to adopt the Fixed Asset Policy. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Porter moved, seconded by Mr. Colbath, to adopt the Cash Receipts and Deposits Policy. The motion carried unanimously.

REQUEST FOR ARPA FUNDS

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Porter, to allocate \$22,200 of ARPA Funds for unanticipated staffing needs in 2023. The motion carried unanimously.

REVIEW OF RECEIPTS

The receipts were available for review.

SIGNING OF DOCUMENTS

(none)

CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

- a. AP Manifest dated 12/22/2022

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to sign the AP Manifest dated 12/22/2022. The motion carried unanimously.

RATIFICATION OF DOCUMENTS SIGNED OUT OF SESSION

(none)

REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF SPECIAL EVENT APPLICATION(S)

- a. Bark in the Park (9/23/2023) Pending Fee and Insurance

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Porter, to approve Bark in the Park (9/23/23) pending fee and insurance. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

(none)

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Mr. Eastman apprised the Board that Mr. DegliAngeli had received recognition from Senator Shaheen's office for his work on the Recreation Path.

Mr. Eastman noted that during the last storm, he had received constant communication from Mary Kate at Eversource.

He noted that there will be a small snow event Thursday night, but Chief Solomon would send an update on this later in the week.

Mr. Eastman explained that he had received communication from Natch Greyes from the NHMA Government Affairs Council regarding two legislative bills.

One bill has to do with requiring Fire Suppression and the other was about the roundabout that was being proposed for the East Conway Road/Route 302 intersection.

He had been told that Representative Buco was sponsoring a bill that would prohibit the roundabout and instead place a light at that intersection.

Mr. Eastman noted that he was finishing his answers to the Budget Committee questions.

However, Mr. Eastman stated that there was one question that he was not sure he could answer regarding what he would remove if they needed to have a 10% decrease in the budget.

Mr. Thibodeau stated that you cannot remove anything as the budget is barebones as it is.

Mr. DegliAngeli noted that the Board has been talking about a possible bill for the Homestead exemption.

In speaking with Mr. Greyes from the NHMA, Mr. DegliAngeli was told that he did not support the bill because there was some important information that the bill failed to include.

Mr. Greyes has agreed to work with the Town to get the bill cleaned up for submission in June.

Mr. DegliAngeli noted that Maine, Vermont, Massachusetts and Rhode Island all have this Homestead Exemption.

The Homestead exemption would decrease the burden for residents.

Mr. DegliAngeli noted that he had talked with Ms. Hilton and out of 6,000 parcels in town that have residential buildings on them, 42% of the tax bills are sent to out of Town addresses.

Mr. DegliAngeli explained that the Eastern Project has hit another snag as costs have increased.

He also explained that the bi-path project closed for the season on November 19, 2022 and will begin again in the spring.

Mr. DegliAngeli explained that he will put out an RFQ for phase 2 engineering at the beginning of the year.

Mr. DegliAngeli noted that he fielded another inquiry regarding whether authorization for residential building inspection would have to go on the warrant.

He explained that they had a letter from Peter Malia from the past highlighting that because Article 39 on the 2003 warrant passed, it is not necessary to place an article on the warrant to adopt the building code for inspection.

BOARD REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Mr. Thibodeau stated that the Airport Executive Committee would be meeting Thursday.

Mr. Colbath noted that the ZBA would be meeting the next evening for a request for a rehearing related to allowing enclosed outdoor kennels at the Conway Area Humane Society.

Mr. Porter stated that the Planning Board would be meeting in January.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND MEDIA QUESTIONS

Mr. Smith wanted to let the Board know that the crosswalk signs on the North South Road had been installed today.

Daymond Steer from the Conway Daily Sun asked if they had made a formal decision on the \$399,000 for Bathrooms.

Mr. Eastman stated that based on the Public Facilities Committees report, the Board had taken no action.

There was then discussion regarding why the Town has waited to regulate Short-Term Rentals.

On top of the pending court case, the department has been too short staffed to take on regulation and licensing, hence the proposed building department expansion for 2023.

At 5:44 pm, Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to go into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3 II (L). The motion carried unanimously.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION RSA 91-A :3 II (L) LEGAL ADVICE

At 7:24 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 and . The motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN

At 7:24 pm, the meeting adjourned at the call of the Chair.

Respectfully Submitted,

Krista Day
Executive Secretary