

**Minutes of Meeting**  
**CONWAY BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
**January 3, 2023**

The Selectmen's Meeting convened at 4:08 pm at Conway Town Hall with the following present: C. David Weathers, 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 there was one addition to the agenda:

10a. MOU Between TOC and Jackson for Channel 3.

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

DISCUSSION OF UPDATES AT THE LIBRARY

Library Director David Smolen appeared to let the Board know that the Library had received a donation of \$40,000 from the Palestrant family.

One of the projects completed with these funds was a renovation of the children's room.

Mr. Smolen stated that there was going to be a ribbon cutting for the Children's Room on January 19, 2023 at 3:30 pm.

He noted that the Board was invited to attend.

Mr. Smolen also explained that the rest of the donation was going to be used for a STEM related camp in the future.

DISCUSSION OF TRAFFIC PATTERNS NEAR ECHO ACRES

Mr. Colbath stated that he had requested that this subject be revisited after the Board's vote at the previous meeting to move forward with the closing of the curb cuts at Dunkin Donuts and the 99 Restaurant.

Mr. Colbath stated that the taking of that property in order to close the curb cuts would be prohibitive cost wise.

He explained that he had gone and looked at the area and there is no signage alerting traffic not to turn into Dunkin Donuts or the 99 from the South.

Mr. DegliAngeli stated that the State has recently announced road safety audit applications.

While they had been looking at submitting an application for the Intervale Crossroads intersection, they believe that the Echo Acres area would be a better intersection to have audited due to the accident history.

Mr. DegliAngeli explained that this would be a better way to go because the State would fund any work to help make that area more safe.

Mr. DegliAngeli noted that he had instructed the consultant to move forward with that application.

Shawn Bergeron appeared on behalf of Dunkin Donuts property owner Brian Fram.

He noted that they would fully support the safety audit application.

Mr. Bergeron handed out photographs of the Dunkin Donuts “pork chop”.

He noted that perhaps a second do not enter sign would be warranted.

There was note that the Dunkin Donuts franchise owner is looking to potentially create a two lane drive thru.

**Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Porter, to rescind the vote taken at the 12/20/22 meeting 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 moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to support the Town's application for the State Road Safety Audit of the Echo Acres area intersection. The motion carried unanimously.**

There was brief discussion regarding the Intervale Cross Roads intersection.

It was noted that it was submitted to the State's 10 year plan.

#### DISCUSSION OF SHELTER PLAN

Chief Solomon presented the Board with a shelter plan in which the School System has agreed to make the Middle School Gymnasium available as a shelter that would be managed by the Red Cross.

It was noted that because it would be managed by the Red Cross, the shelter would be open to anyone, not just Conway residents.

It was discussed that costs to the school district that are incurred would be paid by the Town.

Chief added that they could then apply for disaster aid to then cover a portion of those costs.

Mr. Thibodeau stated that they should adopt this plan and if there is a catastrophe, the most important thing is to take care of those who are affected.

The costs can be figured out later.

Chief Solomon noted that the two reasons they would open the shelter would be for a fire or disaster.

**Mr. Porter moved, seconded by Mr. Colbath, to adopt the Shelter Plan as presented. The motion carried unanimously.**

#### DISCUSSION OF HAZARD MITIGATION COMMITMENT LETTER

Mr. Smith explained that they would like to apply for a Hazard Mitigation Grant from FEMA to help raise the southern section of West Side Road that often floods and creates issues with residents being stuck on West Side.

He noted that this grant would pay for 90% of projects that qualify.

Mr. Smith was looking for the Board to allow him to send a commitment letter saying that if awarded, the Town would be responsible for their 10% of the costs.

There was discussion regarding how that section of road could be improved to help with flooding.

Mr. Weathers stated he was very interested in what they will come up with.

Chief Solomon noted that they will do a cost benefit analysis in this process as well to see if it is worth it.

**Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Porter, to authorize Mr. Smith to sign and send the Hazard Mitigation Commitment Letter. The motion carried unanimously.**

#### VOTE ON ELECTION LOCATION FOR APRIL 2023

**Mr. Thibodeau moved, seconded by Mr. Porter, to designate the Town Garage for the polling place for the April 11, 2023 election. The motion carried unanimously.**

#### REVIEW OF RECEIPTS

The receipts were available for review.

SIGNING OF DOCUMENTS

- a. MOU Between TOC and Jackson for Channel 3

**Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to sign the MOU between the TOC and Jackson for Channel 3. The motion carried unanimously.**

CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

- a. AP Manifest dated 1/5/2023

**Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to approve the AP Manifest dated 1/5/2023. The motion carried unanimously.**

RATIFICATION OF DOCUMENTS SIGNED OUT OF SESSION

- a. AP Manifest dated 12/29/22
- b. Payroll dated 12/29/22

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

REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF SPECIAL EVENT APPLICATION(S)

(none)

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

- a. Regular and Non-Public Minutes 12/13/22
- b. Regular and Non-Public Minutes 12/20/22

**Mr. Thibodeau moved, seconded by Mr. Colbath, to approve the Regular and Non-Public Minutes from 12/13/22 as amended, and the Regular and Non-Public Minutes from 12/20/22 as written.**

Mr. Colbath asked that the revenue report be included in the minutes for 12/13/22 for people to refer to.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Mr. Eastman stated that the New Years Eve Fire Works went off well despite some wet conditions.

He noted that the Town starts presenting departmental budgets to the Budget Committee on Monday but were attending tomorrow night to discuss the parking proposal.

Mr. DegliAngeli stated that letters went out this week in regards to enforcement for both Leavitts and Settlers Green Signs.

### BOARD REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Mr. Thibodeau stated that the airport is working on obtaining funding partners for their runway extension.

Mr. Colbath stated that the ZBA met the previous week and the Budget Committee was meeting the next evening.

### PUBLIC COMMENTS AND MEDIA QUESTIONS

Daymond Steer from the Conway Daily Sun asked if the Town Staff was getting 10% raises this year.

Mr. Eastman explained that they are not.

He noted that the negotiated Union Contract if passed would give a 4% COLA and the non-union employees would then be eligible for that as well.

He also explained that the Town uses the 30 town survey and merit raises to staff dependent on performance up to about 4%.

He noted that social security was increasing to 8.7%.

Mr. Steer noted that perhaps the Town could work out agreements with surrounding Towns like Madison and Eaton for mutual allowed use of their beaches.

It was reviewed that Town Staff would be working with Natch Greyes from the NHMA on a Homestead Exemption Bill for June.

Mr. Steer inquired as to whether the Town would put up more signage at the Dunkin Donuts entrance.

Mr. Colbath stated that he would defer to Mr. Smith to make a recommendation.

There was brief discussion regarding the type of paint the State is now using to paint lines and the difficulty people are having with being able to see them.

ADJOURN

**At 5:17 pm, Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Krista Day  
Executive Secretary