

**Minutes of Meeting
CONWAY BOARD OF SELECTMEN
January 10, 2023**

The Selectmen's Meeting convened at 4:08 pm at Conway 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 there was one addition to the agenda:

15a. Non-Public RSA 91-A :3 II (e) Pending litigation.

They would also be removing item 6, 9a. and b.

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

SELECTION OF GRANT ADMINISTRATOR FOR CDBG FOR PINE ST. PROJECT

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Ms. Seavey to choose Donna Lane as the grant administrator of the CDBG Pine Street Project. The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION OF SALE OF STATE OWNED PROPERTY (MAP/LOT 252-4.001) (BEHIND
512 EASTMAN RD)

There was brief discussion regarding this property located behind Napa on Eastman Road.

It was stated that the Town had no interest in purchasing this property.

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Porter, to purchase Map/Lot 252-4.001. The motion failed unanimously.

REVIEW OF RECEIPTS

(none)

SIGNING OF DOCUMENTS

- a. Abatement of Taxes on Map/Lot 262-86.28

- b. Abatement of Taxes on Map/Lot 277-285
- c. Abatement of Taxes on Map Lot 251-67
- d. Abatement of Taxes on Map/Lot 276-188
- e. Warrant for Land Use Change Tax on Map/Lot 269-65
- f. Municipality Land Use Change Tax Bill on Map/Lot 269-65
- g. Certification of Yield Taxes Assessed on Map/Lot 251-140
- h. Yield Tax Levy on Map/Lot 251-140

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

CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

(none)

RATIFICATION OF DOCUMENTS SIGNED OUT OF SESSION

(none)

REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF SPECIAL EVENT APPLICATION(S)

(none)

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

- a. Regular Minutes from 1/3/2023

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to adopt the minutes from 1/3/2023 as written. The motion carried (4-0-1) with Ms. Seavey abstaining.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Mr. Eastman stated that there would be a rental available at the Town Hall Annex beginning on February 1, 2023.

If interested, people should contact Krista Day for more information.

Mr. Eastman explained that while the Finance Department was still wrapping up spending from 2022, currently they have spent \$11,757,460 of the \$12,750,685 budgeted for 2022.

Mr. Eastman stated that many Town departments had presented to the Budget Committee the previous evening.

They will be back before the Budget Committee on January 23, 2023.

BOARD REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Mr. Thibodeau stated that the ESAA would be having their quarterly meeting on Thursday.

Ms. Seavey stated that the Economic Council would be meeting the next day.

She inquired as to if the Town had turned off the Christmas Tree lights at the information booth in Conway Village.

Mr. Smith stated that he did not think so but he would look into it.

Mr. Colbath stated that the Budget Committee had met the previous night and he gave kudos to all of the Town Presenters.

He noted that they would be meeting again the next evening with the school.

Mr. Porter stated that the Planning Board would not be meeting until the end of January.

Ms. Seavey added that the Preservation Society had paid for a new sign on the information booth building with the date that the Town of Conway had been incorporated.

Mr. Colbath noted that he had taken a picture of the information booth lit up and had a lot of positive feedback.

Mr. Weathers noted that the CCC would be meeting the next evening at the Whitaker Homesite.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND MEDIA QUESTIONS

Polly Howe who lives in Intervale appeared before the Board as a non-resident North Conway Village Employee.

She expressed her concern regarding employees having to walk great distances to the proposed "employee lots".

Ms. Howe gave various scenarios on how these proposed parking lots were problematic, specifically for those who have health concerns.

She stated that she would like to implore the Selectmen to exempt all employees in the Village from paying for parking.

She noted that it is illegal to discriminate against people with disabilities.

There was discussion regarding the issue of bathrooms in the Village.

Ms. Seavey reviewed all of the work that the bathroom committee had put in to no avail.

Mr. Smith noted that the parking proposal is a work in progress and nothing is set in stone yet.

Mr. Hounsell reiterated that the proposed parking program is a thing in motion.

He commended the Board of Selectmen for their willingness to do what they could to not hurt the people of Conway.

Mr. Hounsell explained that he does not believe that the current sign ordinance lines up with the expectations of the public.

He believes that through the Master Plan process, the Planning Board will work on the deficiencies.

He noted that the ZBA will always struggle with interpretation.

Mr. Hounsell stated that the Board of Selectmen is tasked with enforcement.

He believes that the Board should vote to suspend enforcement of the sign ordinance to the degree that it is inconsistent to the public's issues.

He noted that there is nothing against Mr. Gibbs as he is doing his job.

He believes that the Board should limit enforcement and abate the fines.

Daymond Steer from the Conway Daily Sun asked for clarification about how the revenue from the parking program would be used to reduce taxes.

There was clarification that it would not be directly applied to reduce taxes, but instead revenue would be placed into the highway fund that could be used towards the expense of highway maintenance such as plowing roads, salt, striping, etc.

It was stated that they could use it for ANY road, not just the roads on which parking meters were on.

In the end, this would lower the funds spend from the highway budget and therefore, it does in fact lower the burden on taxpayers.

Mr. Steer asked if the Board could waive enforcement of the sign ordinance like they did for short term rentals.

Mr. Thibodeau explained that they declined to enforce regulations on short term rentals as they needed clarification from the court system due to not having an ordinance on the books that addressed short term rentals.

In comparison, they have a current zoning ordinance that addresses signs, therefore they are enforcing that ordinance.

Mr. Hounsell noted that there is a petition circulating to establish a charter commission as it is the belief of many that SB2 form of government has not been very successful.

Mr. Colbath believed that this was a good idea as it had not been looked at for over 30 years.

At 5:13 pm, Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Porter, to go into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3 II (E). The motion carried unanimously.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION RSA 91-A :3 II (E) PENDING LITIGATION

At 5:43 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 5:43 pm, Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Krista Day
Executive Secretary