

**Minutes of Meeting
CONWAY BOARD OF SELECTMEN
May 16, 2023**

The Selectmen's Meeting convened at 4:02 pm at Conway Town Hall with the following present: Mary Carey Seavey, Carl Thibodeau, John Colbath, Steve Porter and Ryan Shepard, Town Manager John Eastman and Executive Assistant Krista Day.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ms. Seavey led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. Seavey noted that there were two additions to the agenda:

8L. Intent to Cut Wood or Timber on Map/Lot 201-01

8M. Permit to Sell Raffle Tickets for the Lions Club (5/27/23 to 9/16/23)

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

DISCUSSION OF LETTER FROM BUDGET COMMITTEE

Mr. Eastman explained that they had received a letter from the Budget Committee urging the Board of Selectmen to reach out to the State and request that there be legislation drafted to this term to allow the Town to collect an occupancy fee from local room rentals to help offset taxes.

Mr. Eastman explained that the Budget Committee had invited Senator Jeb Bradley to meet with them.

They had requested that Conway be able to get more of the rooms and meals tax back and that he support an occupancy fee to be collected.

It was stated that "that's not going to happen."

Mr. Donohoe stated that he believed there may be great value in having Town Officials network with other cities and towns to get ideas and momentum to put pressure on legislators.

Mr. Colbath noted that you would need 3 legislators and one senator to sponsor a bill.

Mr. Colbath asked Mr. Eastman to check with the NHMA to see if there is an organized group that could work on this together.

Mr. Colbath also mentioned that they are working on making the residential homestead exemption a more favorable bill as the last time it was presented it was unclear.

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Porter, to draft a letter as requested by the Budget Committee to NH Legislators and authorize the Chair to sign out of session. The motion carried unanimously.

PINE TREE FLAT PANDA PROJECT

Mr. Eastman explained that the Pine Tree School had requested that the Board of Selectmen and himself participate in the “Flat Panda Project” in which students created a panda and sent it along with some questions to be answered.

Mr. Eastman read the letter sent by a student named Sawyer from Ms. Davis’ class.

The Board then answered some questions from Sawyer.

Please see attached questions and answers.

The Board stated that it would be nice to invite both students who had their flat pandas sent to Town Hall attend the next Board meeting.

NOTIFICATION OF DEMO PERMIT APPLICATION ON 56 STARK ROAD

Ms. Seavey gave notice of the demo permit application for 56 Stark Road.

REVIEW OF RECEIPTS

The receipts were available for review.

SIGNING OF DOCUMENTS

- a. 2023 Tax Warrant
- b. Original Warrant Yield Tax Levy on Map/Lot 284-21 and 219-243.2
- c. Certification of Yield Tax Assessed on Map/Lot 284-21 and 219-243.2
- d. Permit to Sell Raffle Tickets for MWV Cal Ripken League (5/6/2023 – 6/9/2023)
- e. 2023 Special Election Warrant
- f. Permanent Application for Property Tax Exemptions on Map/Lot 258-4
- g. Permanent Application for Property Tax Exemptions on Map/Lot 276-246
- h. Permanent Application for Property Tax Exemptions on Map/Lot 259-74
- i. Assessing Official’s Response to Tax Credits/Exemptions or Tax Deferral Application on Map/Lot 204-140
- j. Assessing Official’s Response to Tax Credits/Exemptions or Tax Deferral Application on Map/Lot 254-29.136
- k. Assessing Official’s Response to Tax Credits/Exemptions or Tax Deferral Application on Map/Lot 202-118
- l. Intent to Cut Wood or Timber on Map/Lot 201-01
- m. Permit to Sell Raffle Tickets for the Lions Club (5/27/23 to 9/16/23)

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Porter, to sign the documents listed above in a. through m. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

- a. AP Manifest dated 5/18/2023

- b. Payroll dated 5/18/2023

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to sign the documents listed above in a. through m. The motion carried unanimously.

RATIFICATION OF DOCUMENTS SIGNED OUT OF SESSION

- a. AP Manifest dated 5/11/2023

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to ratify the AP Manifest dated 5/11/2023. The motion carried unanimously.

REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF SPECIAL EVENT APPLICATION(S)

- a. North Conway Community Center Food Truck Festival (5/27/2023)
- b. White Mt. Milers North Conway Half Marathon and 5K (9/24/2023)
- c. Settlers Green Block Party & Cruise Night (5/29/2023)

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to approve the special event listed above. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

- a. Deliberative Minutes from 3/6/23
- b. Regular Minutes from 3/6/23
- c. Regular and Non-Public Minutes from 5/2/23

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to adopt the minutes as listed above. The motion carried (4-0-1) with Mr. Shepard abstaining.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Mr. Eastman explained that the filing period for the Charter Commission was May 17, 2023 through May 26, 2023.

He noted that they had hired a recording secretary for the Budget Committee.

Her name is Alicia Jipson and works as a Town Administrator for another Town in New Hampshire.

He will also be asking her if she is interested in taking the minutes for the Charter Commission as well.

Mr. Eastman wanted to make the public aware that they are unable to paint the crosswalks until the night time temperature warms up a bit.

BOARD REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Mr. Porter explained that the Master Plan Consultants had been in Town to hold workshops on commercial development and housing.

He commended those who partook.

Mr. Porter noted that they would be back in July.

Mr. Colbath noted that the ZBA would be meeting the next evening for 4 hearings and had two requests for the rehearing of previous decisions.

Mr. Colbath stated that the Johnny Eastman Park in Center Conway is looking really good.

He noted that trees are being planted and they are installing an expansion tank for the irrigation system.

He added that the lighting at the pickleball courts would be running as of June 1, 2023.

Mr. Thibodeau gave the airport activity report.

He noted that the airport is continuing to get busier and attract more traffic.

Mr. Thibodeau let the Board know that they had installed security cameras as there had been theft at the airport.

He urged the public to reach out to Ms. Day at Town Hall if they had any information regarding the theft.

Mr. Thibodeau explained that they Canadian Rescue Squad had been in Town from April 30th through May 5th and would be returning in November.

Mr. Shepard noted that the Budget Committee had met the previous week.

He apprised the Board that Mr. Donohoe and Mr. Jost had been reelected as Chair and Vice Chair respectively.

They had split into three committees: Town Committee, School Committee, and the Policy and Procedure Committee.

Mr. Eastman wanted to remind everyone that the auction for 5 town-owned properties would be held on June 3, 2023 at the Marshall Gymnasium.

Mr. Eastman noted that the renovations were going on in Town Hall in the mezzanine level.

He added that Ms. Day was unable to answer the phone during the construction so please leave a message.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND MEDIA QUESTIONS

Daymond Steer from the Conway Daily Sun asked what the main purpose of the construction was.

It was explained that it was for sound proofing and privacy.

Mr. Steer inquired as to whether the Charter Commission would address potential changes to the way the School Board operates.

Mr. Eastman explained that he had spoken with an attorney about this and that the School Department would have to have their own Charter Commission and Warrant vote.

Mr. Steer asked if the Town needs to look at the definition of a short term rental and questioned how they would move forward in they do not have a definition.

Mr. DegliAngeli explained that they are not ready to talk about that but staff is working on it.

They are contemplating requiring a license for all rentals, short or long term.

Inspections would be per the building codes.

There was a brief discussion of grandfathering, but it was stated that life safety would not be grandfathered.

There was brief discussion of the second phase of the recreation path, but it was stated that it is too soon to nail down any details.

Mr. DegliAngeli stated that there would be public hearings in the future.

At 5:10 pm, Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to go into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (c). The motion carried unanimously.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION RSA 91-A:3 II (C) – TAX MATTER

At 5:36 pm, the Board returned to public session.

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Shepard to seal the minutes from this non-public session as it may affect adversely the reputation of any person other than a member of the Board. The motion carried unanimously.

At 5:36 pm, Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Shepard, to go into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (B). The motion carried unanimously.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION RSA 91-A:3 II (B) – HIRING

At 5:45 pm, the Board returned to public session.

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to seal the minutes from this non-public session as it may affect adversely the reputation of any person other than a member of the Board. The motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN

At 5:45 pm, the meeting adjourned at the call of the Chair.

Respectfully Submitted,

Krista Day
Executive Secretary