

**Minutes of Meeting
CONWAY BOARD OF SELECTMEN
August 15, 2023**

The Selectmen's Meeting convened at 4:00 pm at Town Hall with the following present: Mary Carey Seavey (4:45 pm), Carl Thibodeau, John Colbath, Steve Porter and Ryan Shepard, Town Manager John Eastman and Executive Assistant Krista Day.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Thibodeau led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Thibodeau explained that Chairman Seavey would be arriving late so he would be Chairing the meeting.

He noted that agenda item #4 would now be: Discussion of Broken Loader.

He also noted that the Request for a Streetlight on Farrington Ave would be removed.

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

LOADER AT THE LANDFILL

Mr. Smith explained that the loader at the landfill broke and would cost approximately \$30,000 to fix.

He noted that the funds could come from either ARPA or from the CRF for the Landfill.

He stated that they are going to have to reevaluate what they are asking for when budget season comes because things are more expensive.

The Board expressed skepticism about using ARPA funds.

Mr. Porter moved, seconded by Mr. Colbath, to use up to \$30,000 from the Capital Reserve Fund to repair the loader. The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION OF POLICE DEPARTMENT FEASIBILITY COMMITTEE

Mr. Eastman explained that the Police Chief and the Police Commissioners would like to create a Police Station Feasibility Committee.

This Committee would consist of a Police Commissioner, an at large member, a Budget Committee Member, some employees of the Department, and up to two Selectmen.

Chief Mattei noted that they would like input moving forward with potential construction/additions for the Police Department.

He stated that Mark Hounsell had expressed interest as being the at large member.

Chief Mattei explained that they are potentially looking at an expansion of the station and not a complete rebuild.

Mr. Thibodeau asked if the study was looking at their current needs or the potential needs of the future.

Mr. Colbath stated that normally they advertise for at large members for committees.

Mr. Hounsell stated that he would take him up on his offer to serve because he has extensive knowledge.

He also noted that this committee was appointed by the Commissioners, not the Selectmen.

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Shepard, to appoint Ms. Seavey and Mr. Porter as Selectmen Representatives to the Police Station Feasibility Committee. The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION OF STATE OWNED LAND FOR SALE (MAP/LOT 235-93)

Mr. Eastman explained that this piece of property was the Old Settlers Green Condos.

As in the past, the Town has the first right of refusal to purchase from the State of New Hampshire.

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Porter, to purchase Map/Lot 235-93 from the State of New Hampshire.

There was discussion regarding the fact that they did not know what the State was asking in terms of price.

However, it was noted that the State wanted \$136,500 for the small property that the Conway Village Information Booth was on.

Mr. Porter stated that he felt it was blind for them to refuse to purchase something without knowing the price tag.

Mr. Colbath and Mr. Thibodeau agreed, but they also acknowledged that the Town did not have the funds to purchase anything at this time.

The motion failed unanimously.

DISCUSSION OF STATE OWNED LAND FOR SALE (MAP/LOTS 235-54, 235-53, 235-52, 235-71, 235-70, 235-69, 235-68, 235-67, 235-66, 235-65, 235-61, 235-62, 235-63)

Mr. Porter moved, seconded by Mr. Colbath, to purchase the Map/Lots listed above from the State of New Hampshire. The motion failed unanimously.

DISCUSSION OF HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT

Mr. Smith explained that this was a grant that the Town applied for to look into reconstructing the south end of West Side Road to ensure that heavy rains would not cause flooding resulting in the end of the road having to be closed.

It was noted that the town would only need to pay 10% of the costs of the project.

Mr. Smith explained that they seem to like the project idea and the next step of the application process is to submit a hydraulics study to see if this is feasible.

It was noted that FEMA would pay 90% of the engineering costs even if they find the project is not feasible.

They seem to like the project. Part of the application is to submit a hydraulics study to see if it is feasible.

The total project cost would be approximately \$300,000.

Chief Mattei stated that if there is any way to remedy the flooding problem at that location, it is good money spent.

David Weathers expressed concern over the practicality of the project.

Linda Burns added that it was her understanding that they are in the process of reevaluating flood levels.

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Porter, to expend up to \$35,000 from the Capital Reserve Fund to move forward with the Hazard Mitigation Grant Project for West Side Road. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Seavey arrived at 4:45 pm.

Mr. Porter moved, seconded by Mr. Colbath, to rescind their vote to purchase Map/Lots 235-54, 235-53, 235-52, 235-71, 235-70, 235-69, 235-68, 235-67, 235-66, 235-65, 235-61, 235-62, 235-63. The motion to rescind (4-0-1) with Ms. Seavey abstaining as she was not present for the original motion.

Mr. Porter urged the Board to entertain the idea of tabling this discussion so they can obtain more information.

Mr. Porter moved, seconded by Mr. Colbath, to table this discussion and any decisions for a future meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION OF APPOINTMENT TO PEA PORRIDGE POND WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Peter Kondrat from the Big Pea Porrige Watershed Protective Association appeared before the Board to request a representative of Conway to serve on the Advisory Committee for the Pea Porrige Pond Watershed Management Plan.

He explained that it would be very beneficial to have David Weathers on the Committee due to his extensive knowledge.

Mr. Porter moved, seconded by Mr. Shepard, to appoint Mr. David Weathers to the Advisory Committee as described. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Kondrat commended Andrew Smith for the work they are doing on Modock Hill.

QUARTERLY BUDGET UPDATE

Ms. Golding gave an updated budget report for both revenue and expenditures.

Mr. Colbath stated that he was very happy with the reports and asked how it was going in the Finance Department.

Ms. Golding noted that she is very happy with the construction to her work space.

Ms. Golding stated that the employee from the Clerk's office has been a tremendous help.

REVIEW OF RECEIPTS

The receipts were available for review.

SIGNING OF DOCUMENTS

- a. MS 535
- b. Notice of Intent to Cut Wood or Timber on Map/Lot 252-48
- c. Notice of Intent to Cut Wood or Timber on Map/Lot 234-7
- d. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 219-192
- e. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 219-49
- f. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 283-8
- g. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 253-66
- h. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 276-19
- i. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 283-22.4
- j. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 276-123
- k. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 262-83.012
- l. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 261-50.029
- m. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 265-161.350
- n. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 268-126
- o. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 240-4
- p. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 202-197.2
- q. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 266-93
- r. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 254-29.010
- s. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 214-9.014
- t. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 217-11.003
- u. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 232-6
- v. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 276-53
- w. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 265-94
- x. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 284-9
- y. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 230-72
- z. Resigning of Easement Agreement Between the Town of Conway and Conway Development Partners LLC.

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

CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

- a. AP Manifest dated 8/17/2023

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Shepard, to sign the AP Manifest dated 8/17/2023. The motion carried unanimously.

RATIFICATION OF DOCUMENTS SIGNED OUT OF SESSION

- a. AP Manifest dated 8/10/2023
- b. Payroll dated 8/10/2023

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

REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF SPECIAL EVENT APPLICATION(S)

- a. Flash Foxy Trad Fest (9/29/23-10/1/23)

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Porter, to approve the special event listed above pending their liquor license. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

- a. Regular and Non-Public Minutes from 8/1/23

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Shepard, to adopt the regular and non-public minutes from 8/1/23 as written. The motion carried unanimously.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Mr. Eastman thanked Andrew Smith for the work that he has done for the renovations at Town Hall.

Mr. Eastman noted that the Davis Park Tennis/Pickleball court refurbishments have been completed.

The courts will remain closed to cure until the ribbon cutting on August 29, 2023 at 3:15 pm.

BOARD REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Mr. Shepard noted that the Budget Committee would be meeting the next evening.

Ms. Seavey explained that Valley Vision met the previous week and they are working on doing interviews for the 100 year Kennett celebration from Kennett graduates.

She commended Valley Vision for the work they have done to their space.

Mr. Colbath noted that the Economic Council would meet again in September and that the ZBA would be meeting the following evening.

Mr. Porter stated that the Planning Board had met the previous Thursday.

There had been some discussion regarding the intersection out of the North Conway Water Precinct onto Route 16 and whether the DOT needs to look at it for improvements as there will soon be more traffic after the housing is built on the old Drive-In property.

Mr. Thibodeau gave the July Operations report for the ESAA.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND MEDIA QUESTIONS

Janine Bean expressed frustration that the Board voted to not buy a piece of property without having more information.

Mr. Porter noted that they had revisited that vote and tabled the discussion until they had more information.

There was discussion regarding price where the money would come from.

It was also noted that the State has deadlines and would most likely not be able to wait until the Spring for a Town Vote.

Daymond Steer from the Conway Daily Sun asked if there had been any movement with the Cranmore Shores issue.

Mr. Eastman explained that the Association had reached out to schedule a meeting and he has yet to hear from them again.

Mr. Steer asked about if there had been any feedback on the rental program.

Mr. Porter noted that the people who had approached him were happy with the Board's decision to move forward.

At 5:49 pm, Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Porter, 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 6:06 pm, the Board returned to public session.

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Porter, 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 6:06 pm, the meeting adjourned at the call of the Chair.

Respectfully Submitted,

Krista Day
Executive Secretary