

**Minutes of Meeting
CONWAY BOARD OF SELECTMEN
December 19, 2023**

The Selectmen's Meeting convened at 4:00 pm at Town Hall with the following present: Mary Carey Seavey, Carl Thibodeau, John Colbath, Steve Porter, 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 would be two additions and one removal as follows:

9f. Certification of Yield Taxes Assessed on Map/Lot 252-48

9g. Yield Tax Levy on Map/Lot 252-48

Ms. Seavey noted they would be removing agenda item 17.

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

REQUEST FOR SECOND DRIVEWAY AT 892 HURRICANE MT. ROAD

The homeowner was not in attendance so the Board did not have any discussion.

SELECTION OF GRANT WRITER FOR CDBG FOR AVESTA PHASE II

It was stated that Donna Lane was the only candidate who had submitted interest.

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to select Donna Lane as the grant writer for CDBG Avesta Phase II. The motion carried unanimously.

VOTE ON ADDITIONAL UNION CONTRACT WARRANT ARTICLES

Mr. Eastman explained that there were always two warrant articles that followed the proposed Union Contracts for both the Police and the Public Works Department.

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Porter, to place the following on the warrant after each Union Contract Warrant Article:

Shall the Town, if article (#) is defeated, authorize the governing body to call one special meeting, at its option, to address article (#) cost items only.

The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION OF COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION TAX RELIEF INCENTIVE

Town Planner Ryan O'Connor gave the Board an overview of a potential warrant article that the Board could choose to place on the warrant for 2024.

He explained that RSA 79-E was a Community Revitalization Tax Relief Incentive.

See attached for Mr. O'Connor's presentation.

Mr. Porter stated that he was in favor of this idea as it puts incentives for investors to build.

It was noted that every project's incentive would be at the discretion of the Board.

Mr. O'Connor noted that he would plan to have a public hearing about this on January 2, 2024.

REVIEW OF RECEIPTS

The receipts were available for review.

SIGNING OF DOCUMENTS

- a. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 266-91
- b. Abatement of Taxes for Map/Lot 266-91
- c. Notice of Intent to Cut Wood or Timber on Map/Lot 296-19
- d. Abatement of Taxes for Map/Lot 258-68.2
- e. Abatement of Taxes on Map/Lot 252-37.3
- f. Certification of Yield Taxes Assessed on Map/Lot 252-48
- g. Yield Tax Levy on Map/Lot 252-48

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

CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

- a. AP Manifest dated 12/21/2023

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to sign the AP Manifest dated 12/21/2023. The motion carried unanimously.

RATIFICATION OF DOCUMENTS SIGNED OUT OF SESSION

- a. Response Letter to Eliza Grant et al.

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to ratify the response letter to Eliza Grant et al. The motion carried unanimously.

REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF SPECIAL EVENT APPLICATION(S)

(none)

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

- a. Regular and Non-Public Minutes from 12/12/2023

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Porter, to adopt the regular and non-public minutes from 12/12/2023 as written. The motion carried unanimously.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Mr. Eastman noted that the American Legion Post 95 were forced to cancel their event due to damage of the Brown Church.

It will be rescheduled to sometime in January.

Mr. Eastman reviewed the events of the storm that had just affected Town.

He noted that during Hurricane Irene in 2011 the River had crested at 17.2 feet.

He noted that during this last storm it had crested at 17.71 feet.

The emergency management director said that there had been damage to over 100 buildings and residences.

Mr. Eastman wanted to commend all Fire personnel and First Responders.

He added that they had to call in a Black Hawk to make a rescue in Transvale.

Mr. Eastman thanked Eversource.

Mr. Eastman stated that they are in the process of creating a 311 and emergency alert system.

Mr. Colbath noted that he and Chairman Seavey helped to open the shelter at the High Schools.

He commended the first responders.

Mr. DegliAngeli explained that Mr. O'Connor is planning to make application to various funding sources in order to secure the lands for Phase II of the Rec Path.

He added that the Conservation Commission have acquire a proposal from a consultant to do what is necessary to get the Quarry in Redstone registered as a Historic Location.

Mr. DegliAngeli stated that the DOT project for safety at the 302 and East Conway Road intersection has been now been delayed until a construction date of 2025.

There will be a public hearing for the process of the rec path. Maybe at the end of February Mr. DegliAngeli explained that they had scheduled a meeting on January 18, 2024 for rental questions.

However, they had only received two emails from the public at this point.

BOARD REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Mr. Shepard noted that they had a Budget Committee the previous week and that the Budget Committee was questioning whether the Selectmen could in fact include wording in the warrant article for the police station bond to committee the use of fund balance for 25 years.

After some discussion, it was determined that they would ask Chairman Donohoe to come to the next meeting to clarify.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND MEDIA QUESTIONS

Shawn Sylvester appeared before the Board.

He explained that he was a lifetime resident of Conway and owned and operated Cornerstone Mobile Home Park.

He stated that he was concerned over the price tag of having to license each one of his 20 trailers.

After some discussion, Mr. DegliAngeli stated that he would have a conversation with Nick DeVito and see if they could come up with a different price structure for the mobile home parks as the original fee was based upon a home with a basement and two floors.

It was noted that the North Conway Fire Department invoices the Town at \$250 per each inspection.

Mr. Sylvester will communicate with Mr. DegliAngeli and Mr. DeVito.

Al Yalenezian stated that he is the owner of Conway Mobile Home Park and he had not heard anything about this program.

Mr. DegliAngeli stated that they had been discussing in since the Spring with 4 public hearings as well as multiple news stories.

Mark Hounsell stated that he is still questioning whether the Board has the legal authority to do this program.

He wanted to know the RSA that gives them the right.

Shawn Bergeron gave some examples of tax bills and stated that he believed there to be something wrong with the revaluation.

Justin Hussey explained that he did not know how his farm would survive.

He noted that some towns handle taxing farms differently.

Homeowner Chris Vachon from 892 Hurricane Mt. Road appeared and apologized that he was not present earlier in the meeting.

He asked if they could discuss his request for a second driveway permit.

He noted that this request had already been approved by the State.

Mr. Smith noted that there were no issues that he could think of as it was a State Road.

Mr. Eastman noted they have approved multiple second driveway permits in the past.

Mr. Thibodeau moved, seconded by Mr. Shepard, to approve the second driveway for 892 Hurricane Mt. Road. The motion carried (4-0-1) with Ms. Seavey abstaining

Mr. Steer asked if the Fire Chiefs were concerned with inspections due to the new issues after the flooding.

It was stated that nothing had been brought to the Town's attention.

Mr. Shepard explained that he had heard a lot of arguments against why they should not be doing this program.

He reiterated that this program is not about revenue, it is about life safety.

At 6:03 pm, Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Shepard, to go into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (D). The motion carried unanimously.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION RSA 91-A :3 II (D) – Acquisition

At 6:24 pm the Board returned to public session.

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Thibodeau, to seal the minutes from this non-public session as divulgence of the information would render the proposed action ineffective. The motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN

At 6:24 pm, the meeting adjourned at the call of the Chair.

Respectfully Submitted,

Krista Day
Executive Assistant