

**Minutes of Meeting
CONWAY BOARD OF SELECTMEN
February 13, 2024**

The Selectmen's Meeting convened at 4:08 pm at Conway 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

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Thibodeau noted they would be adding agenda items as follows:

- 11aa. Notice of Intent to Cut Wood/Timber on Map/Lot 274-35
- 11bb. Notice of Intent to Cut Wood/Timber on Map/Lot 274-36

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

PUBLIC HEARING PER RSA 40:13, II-B(A); 33:8-A, I ON POLICE STATION ADDITION
WARRANT ARTICLE

Mr. Thibodeau opened the public hearing at 4:02 pm.

Chief Mattei explained that they had a feasibility study done by the Turner Group who had determined that that the Police Department needs 50%-70% more space than they have now and that was looking 20-30 years out as well.

Their suggestion was to add 5,200 square feet to the existing structure as well as to renovate the current building.

Mark Hounsell noted that he is in favor of the bond.

He also noted that with the Casino being approved for Town, there is a proposed amendment that would allow a host community to be able to receive 10 nights of funds raised for charities as they know that there is an impact on the Town, for instance, the increased demand on police.

This revenue could help to offset the bond.

He said that the Police Station is in desperate need of this work and encouraged the voters to support it.

Jim LeFebvre stated that he is convinced this work needs to be done.

He asked if they had asked the Court if they were going to be involved due to the shared water and/or sewer.

Chief Mattei noted that he had reached out but they are not going to be touching those shared systems in the renovation or addition.

Mr. Thibodeau read the warrant article as follows:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$8,800,000 (gross Budget) for the design, permitting, construction, and equipping of an **ADDITION TO THE POLICE STATION** (the “Project”); to authorize \$8,800,000 of such sum to be raised through the issuance of bonds or notes in accordance with the Municipal Finance Act (RSA Ch. 33); to authorize the Board of Selectmen to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the date, maturities, interest rate, and other details of such bonds or notes; and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to apply for, accept, and expend any federal, state, or private Funds that may become available in respect of the Project to reduce the amount that must be bonded or to pay debt service on such bonds or notes.

Jim McQueeney asked how much the police station was going to cost the tax payers.

Steven Steiner noted that using the old interest rates, it would be about \$130 on the average tax bill of a home assessed at \$500,000.

However, it was stated that interest rates are going down at the moment so they may be lower when the Town goes to the bond bank in July.

Carlin Burkee asked what the most vital parts of the building are in need.

Chief Mattei explained all of the deficiencies including windows, heating and cooling systems, the security issues, etc.

Wryan Feil noted that he had a chance to tour the building.

He noted that he does not feel spending \$8.8 million is the way to address the issues.

He is concerned that this is the only option being presented to the voters.

He noted that he also felt the police could use another town building for their trainings.

Mr. Feil stated that the Town should push to get evidence retention laws changed to address the issues.

Chief Mattei noted that they had multiple people look into the cost estimates and that this was the actual projected cost.

Mr. Shepard noted that he was 100% in favor of the bond.

He noted that the needs of Conway in 2024 are drastically different then the needs in 1989.

Mr. Colbath noted that he would be interested in doing whatever the Chief thought we could do to help, but does not believe they should be reinventing the wheel.

Chief Mattei noted that when the original police station was built, evidence did not need to be retained like it does now.

Chief Mattei noted that there are both State and Federal requirements that would need to be changed in order to change the retention of evidence and weapons.

Mr. Thibodeau closed the public hearing at 4:52 pm.

DISCUSSION OF REC PARKING PASS GUIDELINE UPDATE

Mr. Eastman explained that he would like to amend the parking pass guidelines for 2024 to include that every second homeowner is entitled to two parking stickers per property with additional stickers available for those with more than two deeded owners. 2 per second homeowner.

Ms. Inkell noted that this was one of the things that was highly debated last year and changing it would cut down on lengthy conversations and applications for extra stickers.

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Porter, to update the 2024 Parking Program Guidelines to include that every second homeowner is entitled to two parking stickers per property with additional stickers available for those with more than two deeded owners. The motion carried unanimously.

STATE NH DOT USE AND OCCUPANCY AGREEMENT FOR MAP/LOT 277-321

Mr. Eastman explained that the State had come up with a Use and Occupancy Agreement for the information booth property in Conway Village after the Town declined to purchase the property for the \$139,000 the State was asking.

Mr. Shepard moved, seconded by Mr. Porter, to authorize Mr. Eastman to sign the use and occupancy agreement with the State of NH for Map/Lot 277-321. The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION OF PETITIONED PLANNING/ZONING ARTICLE FOR STRS

Mr. O'Connor explained that he wanted to give the Board a little information on the petitioned warrant article relating to short-term rentals that had come before the Planning Board.

He noted that they were unsure of the legality of classifying all short-term rentals as R1 as well as how the Town would be able to enforce the language of the article.

He noted that they cannot legally create separate standards for short term rentals vs single family homes.

Mr. Porter noted that these are the biggest reasons that the Planning Board voted to not recommend this article.

While the Board of Selectmen's recommendation for this article would not show on the warrant, the Board wanted to take a vote on their recommendation to let the public know where they stood on the issue.

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Porter, to recommend the STR petitioned warrant article. The motion failed (0-5-0).

DISCUSSION OF CHARTER COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS

Chair of the Charter Commission Thomas Holmes and Charter Commission Secretary Karen Umberger appeared before the Board to deliver their final report from the Charter Commission.

Mr. Holmes explained that they had received the stamp of approval from the State on their proposed Charter amendments that would look to change to an Official Ballot form of Town Council for Conway.

Mr. Holmes highlighted the changes as follows:

- 1. Changes Conway's form of government from SB2 to an Official Ballot Town Council.**
 - a. SB2 allows for a deliberative session and a separate day to vote on warrant Articles. In this Official Town Council proposal, these meetings are retained.**
- 2. Converts the five member Board of Selectmen into a seven member Town Council.**
- 3. Reduces the current seventeen member Budget Committee to thirteen.**
- 4. Converts the Zoning Board of Appeals from appointed to elected positions.**
- 5. Requires that the Town create a ten year Capital Improvement Plan.**
- 6. Voters retain control of the annual Budget, capital reserves and zoning Articles.**
- 7. Voters still weigh in on Union Contracts.**
- 8. Voters keep the right to petition.**
- 9. The Town Council is given the tools to reduce the size of the warrant.**
 - a. By being able to combine capital reserve accounts into a single Article.**
 - b. Grants the Council limited bonding authority.**
 - i. Requires a vote of 5 out of 7 Councilors.**
 - ii. Capped at \$2 million.**
 - c. By being able to incorporate non-profit requests into the Budget.**
 - i. If the requests have been approved by the voters for three years running.**
 - ii. And if there is no increase in the requested amount.**
 - d. The Town Council is given the authority to accept roads that meet town standards**
- 10. Requires the Town Council to meet with the Chairs of all Boards, Commissions and Committees annually.**
- 11. Places a Planning Board member on the Conservation Commission as "ex-officio" (non-voting).**

Mr. Hounsell stated that he does not believe in the proposed changes.

He noted that they did a good job presenting something different, but that they are working on the premise that they can help the apathetic by taking away the rights of those who do exercise their right to vote.

Mr. Hounsell stated that he had hoped they could have corralled the school, but did not take that on.

Mr. Holmes noted that they knew people wanted to change the school, but there were other court cases that showed it could not be done during this process.

Mr. Holmes noted that the proposed charter would mirror sb2 and that anything the Town Council put in the budget, the voters would have to approve.

Karen Umberger stated that the voters would lose nothing by taking on this new form of government.

David Weathers noted that this was a hard decision, but regardless, the existing charter needs changes.

Mr. Hounsell stated that he believed a 7 member board would lead to political intrigue.

Ray Leavitt noted that this gives the voters an option.

Harrison Kanzler stated that there are a lot of powers that could be given to a Town Council that the commission decided not to give.

Ms. Seavey noted that when the topic of representation from North Conway is brought up, she takes offense.

She stated that everyone has the same opportunity to run.

Mr. Hounsell stated that the comment that more people would be able to get involved is misleading.

He noted that it is a sacrifice to serve.

He did commend the work of the commission.

Mr. Porter moved, seconded by Mr. Shepard, to recommend the following:

Shall the Municipality approve the Charter recommended by the Charter Commission?

- 2. Changes Conway's form of government from SB2 to an Official Ballot Town Council.**
 - b. SB2 allows for a deliberative session and a separate day to vote on warrant Articles. In this Official Town Council proposal, these meetings are retained.**
- 2. Converts the five member Board of Selectmen into a seven member Town Council.**
- 3. Reduces the current seventeen member Budget Committee to thirteen.**
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 - c. By being able to incorporate non-profit requests into the Budget.**
 - i. If the requests have been approved by the voters for three years running.**
 - ii. And if there is no increase in the requested amount.**
 - d. The Town Council is given the authority to accept roads that meet town standards**
- 10. Requires the Town Council to meet with the Chairs of all Boards, Commissions and**

Committees annually.

11. Places a Planning Board member on the Conservation Commission as “ex-officio” (non-voting).

The motion carried (3-1-1) with Mr. Porter in the negative and Mr. Thibodeau voting present.

After a brief recess,

Ms. Seavey moved, seconded by Mr. Shepard, to reconsider the motion to recommend the following:

Shall the Municipality approve the Charter recommended by the Charter Commission?

- 3. Changes Conway's form of government from SB2 to an Official Ballot Town Council.
 - c. SB2 allows for a deliberative session and a separate day to vote on warrant Articles. In this Official Town Council proposal, these meetings are retained.****
- 2. Converts the five member Board of Selectmen into a seven member Town Council.**
- 3. Reduces the current seventeen member Budget Committee to thirteen.**
- 4. Converts the Zoning Board of Appeals from appointed to elected positions.**
- 5. Requires that the Town create a ten year Capital Improvement Plan.**
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 - a. By being able to combine capital reserve accounts into a single Article.**
 - b. Grants the Council limited bonding authority.
 - i. Requires a vote of 5 out of 7 Councilors.**
 - ii. Capped at \$2 million.****
 - c. By being able to incorporate non-profit requests into the Budget.
 - i. If the requests have been approved by the voters for three years running.**
 - ii. And if there is no increase in the requested amount.****
 - d. The Town Council is given the authority to accept roads that meet town standards****

10. Requires the Town Council to meet with the Chairs of all Boards, Commissions and Committees annually.

11. Places a Planning Board member on the Conservation Commission as “ex-officio” (non-voting).

The motion carried unanimously.

The Board moved to re-vote on the aforementioned motion.

The motion failed (1-1-3) with Mr. Colbath in the positive, Mr. Porter in the negative, and Mr. Thibodeau, Ms. Seavey and Mr. Shepard voting present.

In regards to this article on the warrant, it will read:

Not Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (1-1-3).

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PETITIONED WARRANT ARTICLES

The Board agreed to take the vote on each of the following petitioned warrant articles without the full reading of each individual warrant article.

a. Kevin Peare Memorial Skatepark

Harrison Kanzler spoke about the immense support they had received regarding this petition and hoped they would recommend it.

Mr. Colbath noted that as a father and grandfather to skateboarders, he is very much in favor of having a designated place.

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Porter, to vote to recommend the following petitioned warrant article:

To see if the Town of Conway will vote to accept necessary Funds from the Kevin Peare Memorial Skatepark to construct and adopt a skatepark as a Town Park to then, and forever, be known as the “KEVIN PEARE MEMORIAL SKATEPARK”, and to have The Kevin Peare Memorial Skatepark raise and provide Funds for repairs and upgrades for the park in perpetuity. Submitted by Petition.

The motion carried unanimously.

b. Rec Path

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Porter, to vote to recommend the following petitioned warrant article:

To see if the Town will vote to accept a transfer from the New Hampshire Department of Transportation and/or the State of New Hampshire of certain real property commonly known as the Conway By-Pass Corridor, and more specifically identified as Tax Parcels 235-55, 230-113.01, 230-126.1, 219-310.3, 219-257, 219-261.1, 219-243, and 214-27.1, or any portion thereof, and including without limitation the North Conway Multi-Use Alternative Transportation and RECREATION PATH (commonly known as the “Rec Path”). Such transfer shall be for no consideration or nominal consideration of less than \$10.00. This land shall be used for recreational purposes, and any other use that does not conflict with the primary recreational purpose of the land. Submitted by Petition.

The motion carried unanimously.

c. Acceptance of Pemigewasset Drive and a Portion of Old Goshen Road

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Porter, to vote to recommend the following petitioned warrant article:

To see if the Town will vote to ACCEPT PEMIGEWASSET DRIVE AND A PORTION OF OLD GOSHEN ROAD (9/10 of a mile) as Town Roads. Submitted by Petition.

Public Works Director Andrew Smith explained that both of these roads were built to Town standards and were monitored during construction.

Association President John Buonavolonta noted that he had worked with the staff at Town Hall and had completed everything that was asked of them and hoped for the Board's support.

The motion carried unanimously.

- d. Acceptance of Southview Loop

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Porter, to vote to recommend the following petitioned warrant article:

To see if the Town will vote to ACCEPT SOUTHVIEW LOOP as a Town Road. Submitted by Petition.

Mr. Smith noted that this same article has been petitioned three years in a row, however, they are not communicating with the Town and part of the road is not up to Town standards.

The motion failed (0-5-0).

- e. Acceptance of Settlers Green Drive and Private Portions of Common Court

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Porter, to vote to recommend the following petitioned warrant article:

To see if the Town will vote to conditionally ACCEPT SETTLERS GREEN DRIVE AND THE PRIVATE PORTIONS OF COMMON COURT AS PUBLIC RIGHTS-OF-WAY, provided that, pursuant to NH RSA 231:29, the abutters to the roads shall be required to pay a Betterment Assessment not to exceed One Million Three Hundred and Forty Thousand, Eight Hundred and Eight Dollars (\$1,340,808) which Betterment Assessment shall be prorated over a period not to exceed 10 years and shall, pursuant to NH RSA 231:30, create a lien upon the lands so assessed which shall continue until fully discharged, shall be subject to interest, and shall be subject to any other charges as are applicable to the collection of delinquent taxes, and further provided that any work required to bring the roads up to the standards and requirements currently in effect in the Town shall be secured with a performance bond pursuant to NH RSA 447:16. Submitted by Petition.

Mr. Smith noted that the roads are not currently to Town standards and the cost of the betterment would be paid by the two abutters through a bond.

Mr. Thibodeau stated that given the current state of affairs, he would submit to Settlers Green that they should just pay to bring the roads to Town standards and then the Town will take it over.

It was stated that by statute, there would be a public hearing on this warrant article on February 20, 2024. Colbath yes everyone else yes

The motion failed (1-4-0) with Mr. Colbath in the positive and Mr. Thibodeau, Ms. Seavey, Mr. Porter and Mr. Shepard in opposition.

- f. North Conway Community Center

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Porter, to vote to recommend the following petitioned warrant article:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Sixty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$65,000) said sum to be allocated to the NORTH CONWAY COMMUNITY CENTER for programs of the North Conway Community Center. Submitted by Petition.

The motion carried (3-0-2) with Mr. Thibodeau voting present and Ms. Seavey abstaining.

g. Tri-County Community Action Program

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Porter, to vote to recommend the following petitioned warrant article:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-Two Thousand One Hundred Dollars (\$22,100) for the operation of TRI-COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM, INC. service programs in Conway: Transportation, Energy Assistance, Weatherization, Guardianship, Head Start, Homeless Intervention and Prevention, Tamworth Dental Center. Submitted by Petition.

The motion carried unanimously.

h. Gibson Center

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Porter, to vote to recommend the following petitioned warrant article:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty-Six Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$36,500) to support Conway home delivered meals (Meals on Wheels), congregate meals, transportation and program services provided by the GIBSON CENTER FOR SENIOR SERVICES, INC. Submitted by Petition.

The motion carried unanimously.

i. Children Unlimited

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Porter, to vote to recommend the following petitioned warrant article:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fourteen Thousand Dollars (\$14,000) for the Family Resource Center at CHILDREN UNLIMITED, INC. Submitted by Petition.

The motion carried unanimously.

j. Vaughan Community Service

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Porter, to vote to recommend the following petitioned warrant article:

4-0-1 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000) for VAUGHAN COMMUNITY SERVICE, INC. Submitted by Petition.

The motion carried (4-0-1) with Mr. Colbath abstaining.

k. Vaughan Learning Center

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Porter, to vote to recommend the following petitioned warrant article:

4-0-1 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$7,500) for VAUGHAN LEARNING CENTER. Submitted by Petition.

The motion carried (4-0-1) with Mr. Colbath abstaining.

l. Starting Point

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Porter, to vote to recommend the following petitioned warrant article:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Eighteen Thousand One Hundred Seventy-Four Dollars (\$18,174) for the support of STARTING POINT. Submitted by Petition.

The motion carried unanimously.

m. MWV Adult Day Center

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Porter, to vote to recommend the following petitioned warrant article:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twelve Thousand, Five Hundred Dollars (\$12,500) for the support of MOUNT WASHINGTON VALLEY ADULT DAY CENTER to supplement support services for elderly Conway residents attending the day center. Submitted by Petition.

The motion carried unanimously.

n. The Way Station

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Porter, to vote to recommend the following petitioned warrant article:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000) for the support of THE WAY STATION for the purpose of continuing to provide safe, welcoming, non-judgmental space and supportive services for the homeless and housing insecure of the Mount Washington Valley. Submitted by Petition.

The motion carried unanimously.

o. Conway Area Humane Society

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Porter, to vote to recommend the following petitioned warrant article:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) for the CONWAY AREA HUMANE SOCIETY for the purpose of supporting continuing services for stray, abandoned and neglected animals brought to the shelter by Animal Control or private citizens no longer able to care for them. Submitted by Petition.

The motion carried unanimously.

- p. White Mt. Community Health Center

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Porter, to vote to recommend the following petitioned warrant article:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty-Five Thousand, Seven Hundred Seventy-Eight Dollars (\$35,778) for the support of WHITE MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER to help meet the healthcare needs of the uninsured and underinsured residents of the Town of Conway. Submitted by Petition.

The motion carried unanimously.

REVIEW OF RECEIPTS

The receipts were available for review.

SIGNING OF DOCUMENTS

- a. Elderly and Disabled Tax Deferral Application on Map/Lot 262-79.007
- b. Recommendation for Abatement for Map/Lot 262-79.007
- c. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 254-29.016
- d. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 254-29.083
- e. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 263-25
- f. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 268-154
- g. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 262-83.033
- h. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 230-32.034
- i. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 265-23
- j. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 260-19
- k. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 218-82
- l. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 203-126
- m. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 284-13
- n. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 232-1
- o. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 233-6
- p. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 219-83
- q. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 269-27
- r. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 240-37
- s. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 277-147
- t. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 203-143
- u. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 234-62

- v. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 254-87
- w. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 263-80.1
- x. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 263-28
- y. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 254-29.113
- z. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 269-18
- aa. Notice of Intent to Cut Wood/Timber on Map/Lot 274-35
- bb. Notice of Intent to Cut Wood/Timber on Map/Lot 274-36

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Shepard, to sign the document listed above in a through bb. motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

- a. AP Manifest dated 2/15/2024

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Porter, to sign the AP manifest dated 2/15/2024. The motion carried unanimously.

RATIFICATION OF DOCUMENTS SIGNED OUT OF SESSION

(none)

REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF SPECIAL EVENT APPLICATION(S)

(none)

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

- a. Regular Minutes and Non-Public Minutes from 2/6/2024

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Shepard, to adopt the regular and non-public minutes from 2/6/2024. The motion carried unanimously.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Mr. Eastman explained that there had been some confusion regarding the Town's authority to have the public hearings on the precinct budgets, and it was clarified that the public hearings are only for Center Conway and East Conway.

Mr. Colbath noted that both North Conway and Conway precincts include areas outside of the Town of Conway, therefore they are exempt from the Town's normal budget procedures.

Mr. Eastman explained that Ms. Day had come up with the idea to start getting information about individual warrant articles on Facebook to provide clarification on what each actually means.

They would be beginning that later this week.

Mr. Eastman also noted that they planned to have a “Meet the Candidates” page on the website where each candidate could put a picture and a short write-up about themselves.

There was discussion regarding the Town Staff's willingness to help all candidates complete this if they wished.

The Board was in favor of this idea.

BOARD REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Mr. Shepard noted that the Budget Committee would be holding their public hearing at 6:00 pm the next evening and Town Deliberative would be on March 6, 2024.

Ms. Seavey gave a brief report from Valley Vision.

Mr. Thibodeau read the following statement from the Deputy Chief of Fryeburg Rescue:

Many of you have heard of the tragic events in Fryeburg that took place on Tuesday, January 30, but you may not realize the important role Eastern Slope Regional Airport played in those events. Briefly, a car chase through Conway resulted in a crash in Fryeburg involving multiple vehicles and law enforcement agencies. All this took place on the road in the area of the Fryeburg Fire station where Fryeburg Fire Chief Andy Dufresne was having a meeting with Conway Fire Chief Phil Remington. Witnessing the events unfolding, Fryeburg Fire trucks were quickly deployed to protect the scene and divert traffic and a quick size up of the event by Chief Dufresne, EMT and Chief Remington, paramedic, revealed serious injuries. LifeFlight of Maine was notified and two helicopters were dispatched to ESRA. Brownfield Fire responded to Fryeburg for traffic control and Denmark Fire Chief Chris Wentworth responded to the airport to secure a landing zone. Fryeburg Rescue took one patient to Memorial Hospital and Conway Ambulance responded to the scene with two more ambulances while patients were extricated by Fryeburg Fire from a vehicle involved in the crash.

Two LifeFlight Helicopters landed at ESRA. Conway Ambulance took one patient to the where one of the waiting helicopters flew the patient to Maine Med while the other Helicopter responded to Memorial Hospital to intercept another patient. As a local pilot, airport authority pilot liaison, and Deputy Chief with Fryeburg Rescue I was still involved with an earlier call but monitoring the situation. I contacted Dave Cullinan, our airport operations manager to give him notice of the incoming LifeFlights. Dave assured me of the airports readiness and his availability should any fuel or services be needed. This was a tragic situation all around but the airport as a public safety asset was and is invaluable.

The next day, Wednesday, January 31, a snowmobile crash in Chatham, NH resulted in the need for another LifeFlight helicopter. This time the landing zone was off-airport due to the proximity of the patient but it's important to note that ESRA is used for navigation

purposes and real-time regional weather as well as a fuel and service location should circumstances demand. The airport is always maintained and can be counted on if necessary for LifeFlight operations if the situation requires an alternate landing zone.

He emphasized the importance of the people of Conway supporting the airport.

Mr. Porter reviewed the previous Planning Board meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND MEDIA QUESTIONS

Daymond Steer from the Conway Daily Sun asked if they were going to get something on the warrant this year for the electric co-op.

Mr. Eastman explained that they had not been able to get it organized in time this year but it is in the plan for 2025.

Mr. Colbath stated that he is in support of the electric co-op but noted that a lot of it depends on volunteers.

Wryan Feil expressed his difficulty navigating the website.

Mr. Eastman explained that they are in the process of creating a new website.

At 7:12 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

The Board returned to public session at 7:21 pm.

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. The motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN

At 7:21 pm, Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Shepard, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Krista Day
Executive Secretary

