

**Minutes of Meeting  
CONWAY BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
May 14, 2024**

The Selectmen's Meeting convened at 4:01 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

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. Seavey noted that they would be adding the following:

5a. Discussion of Memorial Bench

14o. Notice of Intent to Cut Wood/Timber on Map/Lot 214-31.3

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

CONSIDERATION OF UNANTICIPATED REVENUE LESS THAN \$10,000/RSA 31:95-B III

- a. \$500.00 from Infinger Insurance for Summer Camp T-Shirts
- b. \$500.00 from Eastern Slope Dental for Summer Camp T-Shirts
- c. \$500.00 from Garland Waste Management for Summer Camp T-Shirts
- d. \$500.00 from Rotten Rock for Summer Camp T-Shirts
- e. \$500.00 from Senne Presidential for Summer Camp T-Shirts
- f. \$500.00 from On Demand Painting for Summer Camp T-Shirts

Recreation Director Mike Lane explained that these donations would go towards helping to offset the cost of Summer Camp T-Shirts.

**Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Shepard, to accept the unanticipated revenue as listed above in a. through f. and to apply the funds to purchasing summer camp t shirts. The motion carried unanimously.**

PUBLIC HEARING FOR STARTING POINT

Ms. Seavey opened the public hearing at 4:02 pm.

Executive Director for Starting Point, Deb Weistein appeared before the Board.

She explained that they had applied for, and been awarded federal funding that they will use to purchase the building they currently occupy located at 30 Pleasant Street.

Ms. Weinstein thanked Joy Tarbell and Eddie Minard for working with Starting Point to get this opportunity.

Ms. Weinstein explained that in order to receive the federal funds, they needed to have this public hearing and get the Board's blessing.

There were not comments from the public.

The public hearing was closed at 4:06 pm.

**Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Porter, to support the awarding of the grants for Starting Point to be used to purchase their building located at 30 Pleasant Street. The motion carried unanimously.**

#### DISCUSSION OF MEMORIAL BENCH

Mr. Lane explained that a gentleman had reached out to request that he be allowed to purchase and place a bench in memory of his son in Schouler Park.

Mr. Lane explained that if approved, they would match the look of the other benches that are in Schouler Park.

Mr. Lane added that this would be the last bench he would recommend for Schouler Park as more would be too crowded.

The consensus of the Board was that they would like to see a bench made of a material that will last the longest with the dark brown wood look.

Mr. Lane noted that he would make sure the bench matched that description and that Mr. Goldman would be paying for the cost of the bench and anything necessary for installation.

**Mr. Porter moved, seconded by Mr. Colbath, to authorize the memorial bench as presented for Schouler Park. The motion carried unanimously.**

#### DISCUSSION OF TOWN HALL ANNEX

Mr. Smith explained that they had looked into the deed restrictions for the Town Hall Annex, and regardless of if they sell the property or not, the Center Conway Fire Department would have an easement to get to the dry hydrant and fire pond.

There was note that the Town Hall annex did not supply water to any surrounding buildings so that would not be an issue.

Ms. Seavey asked about the maintenance of the building.

Mr. Smith noted that the most immediate needs will be the heat and HVAC systems.

He added that the roof would be a significant cost in the future.

Mr. Eastman noted that he had heard from the Center Conway Precinct and they have no interest in the building.

Mr. O'Connor explained that he had been asked to look into an option to preserve the structure.

He noted that there were options from registering it as a Historic building through the State, a preservation easement or deed restrictions.

Each option has a different timeline and pros and cons.

After some discussion, Mr. Thibodeau stated that he believed they should continue this conversation at a future meeting after Mr. O'Connor has the chance to compile information on all of the options.

#### COMMUNITY POWER COALITION COMMITTEE UPDATE

Mr. Colbath explained that he and Mr. Eastman had attended a public information session regarding community power in Tamworth.

In order for community power to go on this next warrant, they need to create a committee.

**Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to advertise for volunteer committee position for a community power committee. The motion carried unanimously.**

#### NHDOT REDUCTION IN SPEED LIMIT FOR EAST SIDE ROAD

Mr. Eastman explained that they had received a notification from NHDOT that if the Town had no objections, they would be reducing the speed limit on Eastside Road from 40 mph to 35 mph.

Mr. Thibodeau agreed with the speed limit reduction and also urged Mr. Eastman to suggest to the state that they do something to warn and stop trucks that are over the weight limit to go over the covered bridge.

There were no objections from the Board.

#### NHDOT LAND SALE PROPOSAL

Mr. Eastman explained that the State was looking to sell a piece of property on Eastman Road located at map/lot 246-64 for \$940,000 and an administration fee.

**Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Porter, to purchase map/lot 246-64 from the State of New Hampshire. The motion failed unanimously.**

#### DISCUSSION OF FIRE SERVICE

Mr. Eastman explained that staff believe they should start to entertain the idea of creating a committee to look at the different options for ambulance service moving forward as the contract will end in 2026.

The purpose would be to educate and prepare voters for what this might look like in the future.

It was determined that those interested would send a letter or email to Ms. Day and the committee would be called the Emergency Services Advisory Committee.

Ms. Seavey expressed that she does not believe this committee should take at all about fire.

Mr. Thibodeau and Mr. Porter believed that you cannot talk about ambulance without talking about fire.  
Send an email to Krista

Linda Burns stated that she believed they should invite someone from the Hospital to be involved.

**Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Porter, to advertise for open positions on this committee with a deadline to apply of June 11, 2024. The motion carried unanimously.**

#### PROCLAMATION FOR NATIONAL EMS WEEK

Ms. Seavey presented a proclamation to Chief McCarthy, Chief Merrill, First Deputy Chief Tim Anderson, and Deputy Emergency Management Director Linda Burns for National EMS Week.

#### VOTE AND SIGNING OF LETTER TO NH SECRETARY OF STATE FOR VOTING WORKS

Ms. Day explained that per statute, the Board needed to vote tonight to have the Town of Conway to purchase and to begin to use the Voting Works machines at Town Elections.

**Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Shepard, to purchase and use Voting Works ballot counting machines in the Town of Conway. The motion carried unanimously.**

#### REVIEW OF RECEIPTS

The receipts were available for review.

#### SIGNING OF DOCUMENTS

- a. Permit to Sell Raffle Tickets for Pope Memorial Library (5/30/24-8/1/24)
- b. Permit to Sell Raffle Tickets for Pope Memorial Library (5/15/24-6/12/24)
- c. Permit to Sell Raffle Tickets for Conway Congregational Church (7/13/24)
- d. Permit to Sell Raffle Tickets for Kevin Peare Memorial Skate Park (6/9/24)
- e. Notice of Intent to Cut Wood/Timber on Map/Lot 296-19
- f. Abatement of Taxes Recommendation on Map/Lot 268-162.16 and 268-162.18
- g. Abatement of Taxes Recommendation on Map/Lot 247-91
- h. Abatement of Taxes Recommendation on Map/Lot 219-172
- i. Abatement of Taxes Recommendation on Map/Lot 258-60
- j. Abatement of Taxes Recommendation on Map/Lot 219-176
- k. Abatement of Taxes Recommendation on Map/Lot 219-142, 219-142.001, 219-142.002 and 219-142.003
- l. Abatement of Taxes Recommendation on Map/Lot 235-80
- m. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 235-6.020
- n. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 254-29.012
- o. Notice of Intent to Cut Wood/Timber on Map/Lot 214-31.3

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

CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

- a. AP Manifest dated 5/16/2024
- b. Payroll dated 5/16/2024

**Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to sign the AP manifest and payroll dated 5/16/2024. The motion carried unanimously.**

RATIFICATION OF DOCUMENTS SIGNED OUT OF SESSION

- a. AP Manifest dated 5/9/2024
- b. Permit to Sell Raffle Tickets for NCCC (May 2024 through April 2025)

**Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to ratify the documents signed out of session as listed above in a. and b. The motion carried unanimously.**

REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF SPECIAL EVENT APPLICATION(S)

- a. Annual New England Classic Charity Bike Tour (7/15/24)
- b. Conway Village Congregational Church Flood Recovery Event (7/13/24)
- c. Run the Whites (10/4/24-10/6/24)

**Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to sign the special event applications as listed above in a., b. and c. The motion carried unanimously.**

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

- a. Regular and Non-Public Minutes from 4/30/2024

**Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to adopt the regular and non-public minutes from 4/30/24. The motion carried unanimously.**

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Mr. Eastman reminded the Board that Ms. Inkell would be hosting a poll pad demonstration Poll Pad

Mr. Eastman reviewed that after discussions with the State that stemmed from a question regarding whether hunting is allowed in Whitaker Woods and/or Pudding Pond, hunting is not allowed in Whitaker Woods, but hunting is allowed on the Pudding Pond land.

Mr. Eastman noted that the salvage cut in Whitaker Woods would be starting the next day.

BOARD REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Mr. Shepard praised the Revel Race Marathon for bringing so many people from different parts of the world to our area.

He hoped that they return again.

Mr. Thibodeau gave the April airport report.

He noted they would be hosting and aerobatic camp from May 29, 2024 – May 31, 2024.

Mr. Thibodeau noted that the Conway School District was receiving a \$500,000 grant from the FAA to boost their aviation curriculum.

Ms. Seavey noted that her organization RSVP assisted REVEL Race in stuffing bags for the participants.

### PUBLIC COMMENTS AND MEDIA QUESTIONS

Mike DiGregorio noted that he believed the hospital should be included in discussions about future ambulance service.

Tom Eastman from the Conway Daily Sun asked who was doing the salvage cut.

It was stated that it would be Khiel.

Mr. Eastman asked the Board what they felt about the growth in Town, specifically the Continuum project with the planned additional Dunkin Donuts.

Ms. Seavey explained that people need to understand that the Board of Selectmen can only enforce what the legislative body (the voting public) have put in place.

If the public wants thing to change, they need to take initiative to get zoning changed.

Mr. Shepard echoed what Ms. Seavey said that people need to get involved.

He noted that he believed that the Board agrees more with the public than they think.

Mr. Thibodeau noted that the Board of Selectmen have no authority to stop the development as they do not get involved with planning and zoning.

Mr. Porter stated that the planning board can only enforce what the voters have voted for them to enforce.

**At 5:47 pm, Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, 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 € PENDING LITIGATION

**The Board returned to public session at 6:44 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.**

**At 6:44 pm, Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to go into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (a). The motion carried unanimously.**

NON-PUBLIC SESSION RSA 91-A :3 II (A) PERSONNEL

**The Board returned to public session at 6:55 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 6:55 pm, Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Shepard, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Krista Day  
Executive Secretary