

**Minutes of Meeting
CONWAY BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

February 1, 2005

The Selectmen's Meeting convened at 4:02 p.m. in the meeting room of Conway Town Hall with the following present: Selectmen, Gary Webster (Chair), David Weathers, Karen Umberger, and Larry Martin; Town Manager, Earl W. Sires; and Recording Secretary, Karen Hollowell.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Webster led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

SIGNING OF DOCUMENTS

The Board reviewed and signed various documents contained in the signature folder.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

The Board reviewed and approved the manifest dated 2/3/05.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Umberger moved, seconded by Mr. Weathers, to approve the minutes of 1/14/05 as written. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING: TO ACCEPT UNANTICIPATED REVENUE
\$34,610.20 FROM THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

North Conway Fire Chief, Pat Preece, and North Conway Water Precinct Commissioner, Jim Umberger, were present.

Mr. Webster read aloud the public hearing notice regarding accepting unanticipated revenue in the amount of \$34,610.20 from the State of New Hampshire and opened the public hearing at 4:05 p.m.

Mr. Sires advised that Fire Chiefs, Preece and Wade, have advised that this money is Homeland Security funding from the State for an air compressor for firefighters. Chief Preece explained the uses and benefits of the new system and advised that it will be used by all five fire departments in Conway.

Mr. Webster asked for comments or questions from the public. There being none, Mr. Webster closed the public hearing at 4:10 p.m.

Ms. Umberger moved, seconded by Mr. Weathers, to accept the \$34,610.20 for the purchase of the air compressor and give same to the North Conway Water Precinct to purchase it. The motion carried 4-0-0.

DISCUSSION REGARDING PETITION RECEIVED FOR THE
ADOPTION OF AN ORDINANCE TO LIMIT NOISE LEVELS OF MOTORCYCLES IN
THE TOWN OF CONWAY

Don Trimble, joined the meeting. Mr. Trimble submitted a Petition for the Town Warrant for the adoption of an ordinance to limit noise levels of motorcycles in the Town of Conway. Mr. Trimble explained that a few years ago he started out by going to the Police Department regarding the noise levels of motorcycles and offered to buy noise decibel meters. Mr. Trimble next advised that the Police told him the meters would need to be calibrated and he offered to go to Concord to have this done. Mr. Trimble next advised that he went to a Police Commissioners meeting and also contract State representatives relative to this matter but had not heard back from anyone other than Representative Mock and that is when he decided to start this petition.

Mr. Trimble next demonstrated a decibel meter for the Board. Mr. Trimble spoke about how loud motorcycles can be heard from a distance and his feelings about same. Mr. Trimble also spoke about how he felt that the state law could be improved upon. Mr. Trimble advised that he would buy the decibel meters if they can not be put in the budget. There was discussion with the Board regarding the difficulties of enforcing the laws that that are in place now. There was also a review of an opinion received via e-mail from Town Counsel advising that even if the petition is accepted by the voters it would still be an enforcement issue. Mr. Trimble stated that he feels this petition will give people a chance to vote and say if they want it enforced.

BUDGET DISCUSSION AND WARRANT ARTICLES

Mr. Sires distributed a copy of a proposed warrant articles to date along with a copy of a letter from the Budget Committee to the Board of Selectmen for review. (Copies attached).

Ms. Umberger advised that the Budget Committee held a meeting on January 31, 2005 and held discussion on the town's budget and made recommendations as set forth in the letter.

The Board first reviewed item #3 in the letter from the Budget Committee. Ms. Umberger explained the Budget Committee felt that legal expenses could be reduced from \$45,000 to \$40,000 due to the fact that expenses have been significantly less over the last few years. **Ms. Umberger moved, seconded by Mr. Weathers to reduce legal by \$5,000. The motion carried 4-0-0.**

The Board next reviewed item #1 in the letter from the Budget Committee concerning the Conservation Commission budget. Ms. Umberger explained the Budget Committee looked at the fact that the Conservation Commission had again underspent what was budgeted. The Budget Committee recommends reducing the Conservation Commission budget to \$16,620, which is the amount they had spent last year. There was discussion by the Board. **Ms. Umberger moved, seconded by Mr. Martin, that we reduce the Conservation Commission budget to \$16,260.** Mr. Weathers pointed out that over the last few years there was a lot of revenue generated from cutting and also other benefits that came about from projects of the Conservation Commission. **A**

vote was taken and the motion carried by a vote of 3-1-0 with Mr. Weathers opposed.

Ms. Umberger next discussed items #2 and 9 in the Budget Committee's letter concerning Valley Vision. Ms. Umberger advised that the Chair of the Budget Committee sent a letter to Valley Vision asking them to attend a Budget Committee meeting and they declined which caused some consternation amongst the committee due to the warrant article that passed last year about Valley Vision coming before the Budget Committee. Ms. Umberger explained that no one is opposed to the PEG channel or that Valley Vision provides the service but the Budget Committee felt they should have some sort of input.

There was next brief discussion regarding the draft Valley Vision Memorandum of Agreement. Mr. Sires advised he could provide a copy of same to the Budget Committee at their next meeting. The Board agreed.

Ms. Umberger next reviewed item #4 of the Budget Committee letter regarding safety equipment for Public Works. Ms. Umberger stated the Budget Committee didn't have sufficient knowledge about why we needed this equipment. The Budget Committee is recommending that we take this article off the warrant and that some of the safety equipment be absorbed in our budget. There was discussion by the Board. Mr. Sires explained there is a variety of equipment needed to require the safety of employees and as packaged together they came to \$12,000. Mr. Sires recommended keeping signs and the manhole box in the warrant article as they are crucial for the safety of employees. Mr. Sires advised this article could then be reduced to \$10,000 to cover these two items and then could look elsewhere for the other items needed. **Mr. Martin moved, seconded by Mr. Weathers, to reduce the warrant article for safety equipment from \$12,700 to \$10,000 for the purchase of a manhole box and signs. The motion carried 4-0-0.**

Ms. Umberger next reviewed item #5 of the Budget Committee letter regarding 911 signs. Ms. Umberger advised the Budget Committee requests this item be withdrawn as they feel if we have done without the streets signs before than we can continue to do without them. The Board discussed the importance of this article for the completion of the 911 enhancement. The Board further discussed and agreed to clarify the wording of this article to read 911 Emergency Response System. **Mr. Martin moved, seconded by Mr. Weathers, to leave article on and add amended language as suggested. The motion carried 4-0-0.**

Ms. Umberger next reviewed item #6 of the Budget Committee letter concerning the article for vehicle registration equipment for the Town Clerk's office. Mr. Sires explained that the original amount requested of \$7,500 was to fund a mandatory connection to the state system for on line registration but the town has since found out that this project has been put on hold with the state; however, the town will still need to upgrade the computer system in the town clerk's office and needs to have a windows based program. There was brief discussion by the Board. **Mr. Martin made a motion, seconded by Mr. Weathers, that the warrant article dealing with vehicle registration equipment be changed to read "...to purchase office management software at the cost of \$4800." The motion carried 4-0-0.**

Ms. Umberger next advised that items 7 and 8 of the Budget Committee's letter are with regard to the raises requested by the Supervisors of the Checklist and the Police Commissioners and they are asking that these two articles be withdrawn. The Budget Committee feels that they are public servants and are not serving for the money and knew what the job entailed when then ran for the position. There was brief discussion by the Board and the Board agreed they should stay on the warrant and should go to the voters. **Mr. Martin moved, seconded by Mr. Weathers to leave the two articles as they are. The motion carried 4-0-0.**

Mr. Sires next reviewed the sheet distributed earlier in the meeting with proposed warrant articles with the Board. Mr. Sires advised that the articles have been reviewed by the DRA and some changes have been made. Further changed will be made pursuant to the Board's discussions regarding recommendations from the Budget Committee.

Mr. Webster reviewed that on Saturday, February 5, 2005, the Budget Committee and the Board of Selectmen will meet and review non profit budgets.

Mr. Sires reviewed that February 8, 2005 is the deadline for receiving petitions. Also February 9, 2005 the Budget Committee will hold public hearings on the budgets, the warrant is due to be posted on February 18, 2005 and Town meeting is scheduled for March 7, 2005.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

ESAA – Mr. Sires reported there is a meeting of the Eastern Slope Airport Authority later this same evening and he will be attending. Mr. Sires further reported that the snow removal equipment storage building at the airport is at a state of substantial completion and that much of the funds to build this were covered by grants. Further the fuel farm at the airport is new this year and the pumps can be accessed with credit cards. Mr. Sires next reported that there has been discussion regarding an Airport Master Plan as federal aviation requires airports to update the plan. Mr. Sires also reported that another project for the airport this year is brush removal, tree cutting, etc., on the runway. Mr. Sires next reported that the FBO operator, Oxford Aviation, has been in place since August and they are providing maintenance services. Oxford Aviation is also talking about grant funding for an airplane refurbishing facility.

Perambulation – Mr. Sires reported that, as required by state law, we are starting the perambulation process, which is to mark the borders of the town.

Grant for East Conway Fire Department – Mr. Sires reported the Town received a letter from Hastings Law Office advising that the Mulford Trust would like to award \$3,000 to the East Conway Fire Department to convert air packs. They are asking that the town serve as the conduit and pass the money on to East Conway. There was brief discussion and the Board agreed to set a public hearing to accept the funds. Ms. Umberger questioned why East Conway could not accept the money directly and would like this information prior to setting the hearing. Mr. Sires advised that he would research this and advise.

Carroll County Delegation – Mr. Sires reported the town received a copy of a letter today from the Carroll County Delegation concerning the increases to the County Budget and requesting that the Commissioners take another look at the budget.

Citizens Design Review Committee (CDRC) – Mr. Sires reported a CDRC meeting is scheduled for 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 8, 2005.

Southern Terminus Subcommittee of CDRC – Mr. Sires reported a Southern Terminus Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, February 8, 2005.

Mount Washington Valley Preservation Association (MWVPA) – Mr. Sires reported that he and Mr. Martin have a meeting with the MWVPA on Thursday, February 10, 2005 at 7:00 a.m. to talk about scheduling, timing, etc. Mr. Sires advised he will also be inviting the MWVPA to come before the Board to provide an update in the near future.

BOARD REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Planning Board – Mr. Martin commented on a very productive meeting of the Planning Board on January 17, 2005 and encouraged the public to watch same on Valley Vision.

Budget Committee – Ms. Umberger reported the Budget Committee will meet tomorrow night, February 2, 2005 and they will be making recommendations on the school budget.

Conservation Commission – Mr. Weathers reported a Conservation Commission meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 9, 2005 at the Whitaker Meeting House.

PUBLIC COMMENT/MEDIA QUESTIONS

There were no public comments or media questions.

ADJOURN

Mr. Martin made a motion, seconded by Mr. Weathers to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 5:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen J. Hallowell
Executive Secretary