

**Minutes of Meeting
CONWAY BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

February 8, 2005

The Selectmen's Meeting convened at 4:08 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 Hallowell.

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 2/10/05.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Consideration of the minutes of 1/4/05 was carried to the next meeting.

BUDGET DISCUSSIONS

Mr. Sires distributed and reviewed an updated copy of the revised proposed 2005 operating budget. Mr. Sires also distributed default budget calculations to the Board and reviewed same.

Mr. Sires next reviewed proposed ambulance contract figures with the Board which included a 6% increase plus a one-time \$4,500 increase to the Conway Village Fire Department.

There was next a brief discussion on the bottom line figure of proposed 2005 budget. **Ms. Umberger moved, seconded by Mr. Weathers, to approve the bottom line budget of \$8,480,202 for the year 2005. The motion carried 4-0-0.**

Mr. Webster next reviewed and confirmed the default budget figure of \$8,318,938. **Mr. Weathers moved, seconded by Ms. Umberger, to accept the default budget figure of \$8,318,938. The motion carried 4-0-0.**

Mr. Sires next reviewed the draft warrant with the Board. (Copy attached).

Article 11 - **Ms. Umberger moved, seconded by Mr. Weathers, to accept Article 11 with the proposed budget of \$8,480,202 and the default budget of \$8,318,938. The motion carried 4-0-0.**

Article 12 – The Board agreed to defer discussion on this article until later in the meeting.

Article 13 – Mr. Sires reviewed additional information received today regarding the police collective bargaining contract with the Board. The net cost to the contract is \$1,423. **Mr. Martin moved, seconded by Mr. Weathers, to place Article 13 on the warrant as written with the figure of \$1,423. The motion failed by a vote of 2-2-0, with Mssrs. Martin and Weathers in favor and Mr. Webster and Ms. Umberger opposed.**

Article 14 – Mr. Sires next reviewed the proposed warrant article concerning the Capital Reserve Fund for the maintenance of Town buildings and facilities. Mr. Sires advised that he and Recreation Director, John Eastman, recently looked at the gym floor and determined that the entire floor needs to be replaced. Mr. Sires recommended moving this item from the year 2007 to 2005 and, further, it was determined that town hall shingles could wait until 2007 and it is recommended these two projects be swapped on the plan. **Mr. Martin moved, seconded by Mr. Weathers, to place Article 14 on the warrant pending the schedule shown to the Board as revised today. The motion carried 4-0-0.**

Article 15 – Mr. Sires next reviewed the proposed warrant article concerning the Wildland Fire Expendable Trust with the Board. **Ms. Umberger moved, seconded by Mr. Weathers, to accept Article 15 for the establishment of the Wildland Fire Expendable Trust Fund. The motion carried 4-0-0.**

Article 16 – Mr. Sires next reviewed the proposed warrant article regarding repairs for the Conway Public Library. **Mr. Weathers moved, seconded by Ms. Umberger, to accept Article 16 as written, the motion carried. The motion carried 4-0-0.**

Article 17 – Mr. Sires next reviewed the proposed warrant article regarding the PEG Expendable Trust Fund. **Ms. Umberger moved, seconded by Mr. Martin, to place \$92,972 into the PEG Expendable Trust Account. The motion carried 3-1-0 with Mr. Martin in opposition.** The Board next discussed and agreed to remove the language “majority vote required” from this proposed article. **Ms. Umberger moved, seconded by Mr. Weathers to accept article 17 as modified. The motion carried 4-0-0.**

Article 18 – Mr. Sires next reviewed the proposed warrant article for \$10,000 for safety equipment for the Public Works Department with the Board. **Mr. Weathers moved, seconded by Ms. Umberger, to accept Article 18 as written. The motion carried 4-0-0.**

Article 19 – Mr. Sires next reviewed the proposed article for \$1,000 for safety equipment for the Adopt a Highway program. **Mr. Martin moved, seconded by Mr. Weathers, to place Article 19 on the warrant as written. The motion carried 4-0-0.**

Article 20 – The Board briefly reviewed the proposed warrant article for \$8,750 for street signs for the 911 emergency response program. **Mr. Weathers moved, seconded by Ms. Umberger, to accept Article 20 as written. The motion carried 4-0-0.**

Article 21 – The Board briefly reviewed the proposed article for \$4,800 for office management software for the Town Clerk's office. **Ms. Umberger moved, seconded by Mr. Weathers, to accept Article 21 as written. The motion carried 4-0-0.**

Article 22 – The Board next briefly reviewed the article regarding a raise for the Supervisors of the Checklist. **Mr. Weathers moved, seconded by Ms. Umberger, to accept Article 22 as written. The motion carried 3-1-0 with Ms. Umberger voting in the negative.**

Article 23 – The Board next briefly reviewed the article regarding a raise for the Police Commissioners. **Mr. Martin moved, seconded by Mr. Weathers, to accept Article 23.** The Board questioned how many times per month the Commissioners hold meetings. Mr. Sires advised they hold meetings two times per month. A vote was taken and the motion failed by a vote of **0-3-1.**

Article 24 - The Board next reviewed the warrant article regarding the Sunoco station property. After brief discussion, the Board agreed to move the sentence about the property becoming town owned park to the end of the article, to bold the sentence about "all funds", and to change River Road to Pine Street. **Ms. Umberger moved, seconded by Mr. Weathers, to reword the article to read:** To see if the Town will vote to accept **THE NORTH CONWAY SUNOCO STATION PROPERTY** (Map 215 Lot 83) located at the intersection of NH Rt. 16 and Pine Street in North Conway as a gift of land. **All funds to purchase the property, demolish the existing building and landscape the site will be raised from private donations.** This property will become a town owned park. **The motion carried 3-1-0 with Mr. Weathers voting in the negative. Ms. Umberger moved, seconded by Mr. Martin to accept the reworded article. The motion carried 3-1-0 with Mr. Weathers voting in the negative.**

Article 25 – Mr. Sires briefly reviewed the warrant article regarding a Capital Improvement Program Committee with the Board. **Ms. Umberger moved, seconded by Mr. Weathers, to place Article 25 on the warrant. The motion carried 4-0-0.**

Article 26 – The Board next briefly reviewed Article 26 regarding delegating the determination of the default budget to the Budget Committee. **Ms. Umberger moved, seconded by Mr. Weathers, to place Article 26 on the warrant. The motion carried 4-0-0.**

Articles 41 and 42 - The Board next briefly reviewed two petitioned articles; 41, to accept Adams Circle and Sands Circle as town roads, and 42, regarding an ordinance to limit noise levels of motorcycles in town. **Mr. Martin moved, seconded by Ms. Umberger, to place articles 41 and 42 on the warrant. The motion carried 4-0-0.**

Mr. Sires next distributed and reviewed a copy of a petitioned warrant article received just prior to the start of this meeting regarding a disabled exemption. Tax Assessor, Tom Holmes joined the meeting and reviewed asset and income limitation guidelines with the Board. Mr. Holmes pointed out that the amounts put forward in the petition are in excess of what elderly exemptions currently are in the town. After further brief discussion, **Ms. Umberger moved, seconded by Mr. Webster, to place this article on the warrant. The motion carried 3-1-0 with Mr. Martin voting in the negative.**

The Board next reviewed and briefly discussed the non-profit warrant articles.

Article 27/North Conway Community Center – **Mr. Weathers moved, seconded by Ms. Umberger to support Article 27. The motion carried 4-0-0.**

Article 28/North Conway Day Care – **Mr. Martin moved, seconded by Mr. Weathers, to support Article 28. The motion carried 3-0-1, with Ms. Umberger abstaining as she is a Board member for North Conway Day Care.**

Article 29/Gibson Center – **Mr. Weathers moved, seconded by Ms. Umberger, to support Article 29 as submitted. The motion carried 4-0-0.**

Article 30/Tri County Community Action – **Ms. Umberger moved seconded by Mr. Weathers to support Article 30.** There was brief discussion regarding the fact that this article is for processing paperwork and that it increased \$2,000 this year. **The motion failed 0-4-0.**

Article 31/Vaughan Community Service – **Mr. Martin moved, seconded by Mr. Weathers, to support Article 31. The motion carried 3-0-1 with Ms. Umberger abstaining.**

Article 32/Eastern Slope Airport Authority – **Mr. Weathers moved, seconded by Ms. Umberger to support Article 32.** The Board held brief discussion on the improvements and progress made at the airport. There was also discussion about the plans for the future of the airport. **The motion carried 4-0-0.**

Article 33/Center of Hope – **Ms. Umberger moved, seconded by Mr. Weathers, to support Article 33. The motion failed 0-4-0.**

Article 34/Children Unlimited – **Mr. Weathers moved, seconded by Mr. Martin to approve article 34. The motion carried 4-0-0.**

Article 35/Red Cross – **Mr. Weathers moved, seconded by Ms. Umberger, to support Article 35.** There was brief discussion on the \$5,000 surplus from last year's budget. There was also brief discussion by the Board regarding the fact the town subsidizes the local Red Cross chapter with a building which is rent free. The Board further discussed the great job done by the Red Cross. **The motion failed 1-3-0 with Mr. Weathers in favor and Mssrs. Webster and Martin and Ms. Umberger voting in the negative.**

Article 36/Starting Point – **Ms. Umberger moved, seconded by Mr. Martin, to approve Article 36.** There was brief discussion by the Board regarding the high percentage of the budget for personnel and benefits. There was also brief discussion regarding the services provided by Starting Point and the many volunteers involved. **The motion carried 3-0-1 with Mr. Weathers abstaining.**

Article 37/Conway Village Area Chamber of Commerce – **Mr. Martin moved, seconded by Ms. Umberger, to support Article 37.** There was brief discussion by the Board regarding the activities and events of the Conway Chamber. **The motion carried 4-0-0.**

Article 38/White Mountain Community Health Center – **Mr. Martin moved, seconded by Ms. Umberger, to support Article 38. The motion failed 1-3-0, with**

Ms. Umberger in favor and Mssrs. Webster, Weathers and Martin voting in the negative.

Article 39/Carrol County Mental Health – **Mr. Weathers moved, seconded by Mr. Martin, to support Article 39. The motion failed 0-4-0.**

Article 40/Loon Preservation Committee – **Mr. Martin moved, seconded by Ms. Umberger, to support Article 40. The motion failed 0-4-0.**

The Board next reviewed Article 12 concerning the public works contract. Mr. Sires reviewed negotiations were held with the Union and reviewed the changes agreed to with the Board. **Ms. Umberger moved, seconded by Mr. Weathers, to approve warrant article 12. The motion carried 4-0-0.** There was next brief review of the ratification sheet. **Ms. Umberger moved, seconded by Mr. Martin, to ratify the changes to the union contract that were made. The motion carried 4-0-0.**

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

School Funding Meeting – Mr. Sires reported he received notice yesterday afternoon about a meeting being held today in the Governor's office regard School Funding. Mr. Sires advised that he contacted Dr. Carl Nelson regarding this meeting.

HB 89 – Mr. Sires advised that NHMA is opposing HB89 as it would make it so that you cannot amend petitioned articles at the Deliberative Portion of Town Meeting. NHMA is asking this Board to contact representatives if we do not agree. **Ms. Umberger moved, seconded by Mr. Martin, that we support HB89. The motion failed 0-4-0.** Mr. Sires advised that he would make calls in this regard in the morning.

BOARD REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Budget Committee – Ms. Umberger reported the Budget Committee will hold Budget Hearings tomorrow night, February 9, 2005, on the Precinct, Town and School budgets. Further, after the close of the budget hearings, the committee will meet to vote on budgets, etc.

Conservation Commission – Mr. Weathers reported the Conservation Commission will meet tomorrow night, February, 9, 2005 at the Whitaker Meeting House.

PUBLIC COMMENT/MEDIA QUESTIONS

There were no public comments or media questions.

ADJOURN

Mr. Martin moved, seconded by Mr. Weathers, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen J. Hallowell
Executive Secretary