

Minutes of Meeting CONWAY BOARD OF SELECTMEN

April 26, 2005

The Selectmen's Meeting convened at 4:07 p.m. in the meeting room of Conway Town Hall with the following present: Selectmen Larry Martin (Chair), David Weathers, Karen Umberger and Mark Hounsell; Town Manager, Earl W. Sires; and Recording Secretary, Karen Hallowell.

Selectman, Gary Webster, was on vacation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Martin 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 4/28/05.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was agreed that consideration of the minutes of 3/15/05 would be carried to the next meeting.

PUBLIC HEARING: TO ACCEPT UNANTICIPATED REVENUE/\$1,000 FROM STATE OF NH/POLICE STANDARDS AND TRAINING TO CONWAY PD

Chairman Martin opened the public hearing regarding accepting unanticipated revenue at 4:08 p.m.

Police Lieutenant, Ed Wagner, explained the money will be used for training. Mr. Hounsell questioned if the Police anticipated the money or if it was a surprise. Lt. Wagner explained the Police Department had to apply for the money.

There were no questions from the public and Mr. Martin closed the public hearing at 4:10 p.m.

Ms. Umberger moved, seconded by Mr. Weathers, to accept the \$1,000 from the State of New Hampshire to be given to the Conway Police Department for the purpose of training. The motion carried 4-0-0.

PUBLIC HEARING: TO RECEIVE INPUT ON AN OFFER OF GIFT OF LAND (TAX MAP/LOT # 276-212)

Chairman Martin opened the public hearing regarding an offer of gift of land (Tax Map/Lot #276-212) at 4:10 p.m.

Mr. Sires reviewed this is an offer of a gift of land by a citizen. The lot is wet and is on Pequawket Pond. Mr. Sires reviewed the process by which the town can accept parcels wherein the offer must be reviewed by the Planning Board and Conservation Commission and then two public hearings must be held before the Board can vote on whether or not to accept same. Mr. Sires advised that the Planning Board and Conservation Commission have both reviewed this offer and have made the recommendation to accept the lot.

Mr. Martin asked for public comments. There were none.

Mr. Martin asked for Board comments. Ms. Umberger commented that the Planning Board and Conservation Commission have both looked at the lot and feel it is a worthwhile piece of property and she agrees it would be a good idea as well. Mr. Hounsell agreed it is a good idea as well but also encouraged the public to come to the next public hearing to give comments. Mr. Sires advised the next public hearing in this matter is scheduled for May 10, 2005. Mr. Weathers explained that if we accept this lot we will be able to combine it with another lot the town owns that abut this lot.

There being no further comments, Mr. Martin closed the public hearing at 4:15 p.m.

APPOINTMENTS TO ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT (ZBA)

Mr. Martin reviewed a memo provided by Planning Director, Tom Irving, concerning filling vacancies on the ZBA. **Mr. Hounsell moved, seconded by Mr. Weathers to appoint John Colbath and Luigi Bartolomeo to the ZBA.** The appointments are for the two three-year positions. Ms. Umberger questioned if there was any interest in the alternate positions that are available as well. Mr. Sires advised that the Town did advertise but received no response. Ms. Umberger suggested contacting old ZBA members to see if they would be interested in sitting as alternates. **The motion carried 4-0-0.**

DISCUSSION REGARDING NAMING A FACILITY IN HONOR OF DICK O'BRIEN

Mr. Sires reviewed that after Dick O'Brien passed away at the beginning of the year a couple of individuals brought up naming something in Town after him. Mr. Hounsell stated that since some time has passed since Mr. O'Brien's passing, it is not just an emotional response now and he proposes naming the Recreation Center in Center Conway or the Field at the Recreation Center after Mr. O'Brien. There was a brief discussion by the Board regarding naming the field at the Recreation Center after Dick O'Brien. Ms. Umberger suggested that in the future the Board consider looking at a policy for naming things in town after people, such as how and why we would do so. **Mr. Hounsell moved, seconded by Ms. Umberger, to name the sports field at the Recreation Center in Center Conway the Dick O'Brien Memorial Field.** Mr. Martin suggested waiting until next week to vote on this motion when Mr. Webster returns from vacation and the Board agreed. Mr. Weathers also stated that he would like to get input from the public on this issue as well. Mr. Martin requested that this matter be placed on the next agenda as a special order of business.

DISCUSSION OF SCHOOL BUILDING PERMIT AND INSPECTIONS

Mr. Sires reviewed information provided by the Building Inspector, David Pandora, concerning building permit and inspection fees for the new high school with the Board. (See copy of letter attached hereto). Building Inspector, David Pandora, also reviewed his estimate of permit costs with the Board.

There was a lengthy discussion by the Board and the Board agreed that this matter should be placed on a future agenda after further review. It was further agreed that the Precincts and Fire Chiefs should be contacted to get their perspectives on this matter as well.

HIGH SCHOOL PROPERTY/CURRENT USE

Tax Assessor, Thomas Holmes, explained that the property for the new high school was 100% in current use and that, in his opinion, the Conway School District will incur a penalty to take in out of current use. There was a brief discussion with the Board and the decision was made to further review this matter and bring same back for discussion in the future.

DISCUSSION REGARDING HOLDING BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETINGS AT DIFFERENT LOCATIONS AROUND THE TOWN OF CONWAY

Mr. Hounsell stated that he feels that holding the Board meetings at different locations around the Town, such as the Gibson Center or East Conway Fire Station, would make them more accessible to people. Mr. Hounsell suggested this occur quarterly. There was a brief discussion and the Board generally agreed and Mr. Martin advised that he would set this up with Town staff.

DISCUSSION OF SCHOOL SECURITY ISSUES

Mr. Sires advised that discussions have been held with various town and school officials concerning the issue of the recent bomb threats at that school and that the individuals involved may also be involved with town programs and activities. Mr. Sires stated the Town would like to be notified regarding the individuals involved so that we can handle any situations accordingly. Mr. Sires next advised that the school has advised that they are prohibited from divulging this information. Mr. Sires advised that the Town and School have agreed to have their respective attorneys discuss this matter between them.

Mr. Hounsell next briefly reviewed the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) with the Board and there was a brief discussion. Mr. Hounsell stated he feels it essential that information be shared between the school and the town in these situations as this is about protecting kids, facilities, etc. Mr. Hounsell stated that it is his position that town's recreation department has right to know if a person comes to their program. Ms. Umberger suggested having one contact person for information. After further brief discussion, it was agreed that this matter would be brought after hearing back from the attorneys.

TOWN MANAGER GOALS

Mr. Sires distributed an updated list of goals to Board. The Board agreed they would like to review and discuss same at the next meeting.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Critical Thinking Seminar – Mr. Sires advised that a Critical Thinking workshop is being held May 19 and 26 at the Local Government Center in Concord.

Recreation Programs Update – Mr. Sires reported that Recreation Director, John Eastman, will be at the next meeting to talk with the Board about summer recreation programs.

MWVEC – Mr. Sires reported a meeting of the Mount Washington Valley Economic Council is scheduled for tomorrow morning, April 27, 2005 at 7:30 a.m.

Valley Vision Agreement – Mr. Sires reported he is meeting with Bob Barriault and Zach Ambrose on Thursday, April 28, 2005 to talk about the Valley Vision agreement.

ESAA – Mr. Sires reported a meeting of the Eastern Slope Airport Authority board is scheduled for Tuesday, May 3, 2005.

Vacation – Mr. Sires advised that Karen Hallowell would be out of the office on vacation next week.

BOARD REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Valley Vision – Mr. Hounsell questioned if the Town of Conway can cut Valley Vision off to other towns. Mr. Sires advised that a letter has been sent to Adelphia regarding this issue and we are awaiting a response. Ms. Umberger stated that she had read through the franchise agreement and there was nothing that indicated that we had to provide broadcast outside of town.

Library – Mr. Weathers questioned if we have heard from the library regarding insurance coverage on the damage to the library recently. Mr. Sires advised that he would check into this with the Finance Director, Lucy Philbrick, and advise.

Charter - Ms. Umberger reviewed that that the subject of the Town's Charter was brought up last week. Ms. Umberger stated the Town does have a Charter but that it is out of date and needs some revision. Further, in her reading of the charter, there is no need to go back to legislative body to make revisions. Ms. Umberger next stated that she would have no problem with someone looking into what changes have made through legislative process since the charter started and updating same, but she does not agree with Mr. Hounsell in moving toward a town counsel form of government. Mr. Hounsell clarified that what he said was that we may need to establish a Charter Commission.

Board Schedule – Ms. Umberger advised that she would be out of town on May 24, 2005. Ms. Umberger next questioned if there would be a Board meeting on May 31, 2005. Mr. Martin suggested the Board look over the schedule in the next few weeks.

Budget Committee – Ms. Umberger reported the Budget Committee meets tomorrow night, April 27, 2005, at the Police Station meeting room.

Planning Board – Mr. Martin advised that the Planning Board meets Thursday night, April 28, 2005 at Town Hall.

PUBLIC COMMENT/MEDIA QUESTIONS

There were no public comments or media questions.

ADJOURN

Ms. Umberger 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. Hollowell
Executive Secretary