

**Minutes of Meeting  
CONWAY BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

May 31, 2005

The Selectmen's Meeting convened at 4:00 p.m. in the meeting room of Conway Town Hall with the following present: Selectmen Larry Martin (Chair), Karen Umberger, David Weathers, Gary Webster, and Mark Hounsell; Town Manager, Earl W. Sires; and Recording Secretary, Karen Hallowell

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 6/2/05.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was agreed that consideration of the minutes of the 5/10/05 meeting would be carried to the next meeting.

CODE COMPLIANCE REPORT

Code Compliance Officer, Jim Yeager, joined the meeting. Mr. Yeager distributed copies of logs for Code Compliance Activity, Sign Permit Applications, Tent Sale/Temporary Event Permits, Home Occupation Permits, and Vending Cart Permits to the Board and reviewed same.

Mr. Sires questioned if there is one type of violation occurring consistently. Mr. Yeager advised it is a range of violations, not just one type. Mr. Sires questioned if Mr. Yeager felt that most businesses are now aware of the codes for the Town. Mr. Yeager commented that sign violations are usually people who are new to the area, but once familiar with the codes, they comply right away. Further, there are minor violations that are occurring, but when he calls on them, they are corrected immediately and these incidents do not show up on the log provided. Mr. Yeager advised that the log provided shows activity that requires more follow up because of non compliance.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE REPORT

General Assistance Officer, Billie Jo Parker, joined the meeting. Ms. Parker distributed statistics for the General Assistance Department, including a Voucher Tally Sheet to date for the year 2005 and monthly office contacts report for 2005 to date, and reviewed same with the Board.

Ms. Parker advised that she will be seeking out temporary housing options for the summer, which is a very busy season. Ms. Parker advised that currently there are only a few hotels accepting vouchers and she will be seeking out better rates and more options for the summer.

Ms. Parker advised that the Medication Bridge and Fuel Assistance programs have been helpful in keeping costs down.

Mr. Sires questioned the issue of people coming from other towns seeking assistance from Conway. Ms. Parker explained that she is keeping track of where people are coming from on the statistics forms and that she is tracking this information to see if there is a pattern. Ms. Parker advised that there is a law that towns must share the costs for general assistance, but some towns don't necessarily always comply with this rule. Ms. Parker further explained that when this does happen, there is no mechanism to enforce the law without having to pay more money to do so. There isn't a no cost mediation system to help with these situations.

Mr. Sires next asked Ms. Parker to give an explanation of why Conway helps people who come from other towns or even states. Ms. Parker explained that the law states we have to assist whether or not they are from the Town of Conway or from any other town or state.

Mr. Hounsell questioned if Ms. Parker felt that people who are legitimately applying are receiving assistance. Ms. Parker replied in the affirmative, the people who need assistance are getting assistance. Ms. Parker further added that there is paperwork involved in applying for assistance and commonly people who are abusing the system don't follow through with the paperwork.

Mr. Weathers questioned what constitutes "other" on the statistics report provided. Ms. Parker advised that this can include burials, transportation or other extenuating circumstances. Mr. Hounsell questioned how much is spent on bus tickets and/or transportation a year. Ms. Parker advised that typically this is under \$1,000 per year.

Ms. Umberger questioned prescriptions stating she thought the Town was not paying for prescriptions any more. Ms. Parker explained that the Town has to pay for prescriptions at times. The Medication Bridge program is also available for people and this program has helped out a lot. Ms. Parker further advised that she now requires a letter from the doctor saying what they are prescribing and that we can have it filled.

#### DISCUSSION OF AMBULANCE CONTRACT

Mr. Sires reviewed that the current Ambulance Contract had rollover agreements and is valid until 2006. Mr. Sires stated this is a good time to start thinking about where we are at and where we will be going with the contract. Mr. Sires next reviewed discussions about the contract started approximately three years ago. Compensation for the rollover agreements have been agreed to so far but now we need to think about what happens in 2006.

Mr. Sires next reviewed a letter received from North Conway Ambulance asking how the town will proceed with regard to the contract.

Mr. Sires next reviewed that he, Karen Umberger and Gary Webster, had, in the past, met with the providers for negotiations. The Board now needs to think about how they want to approach this contract, either renew, rollover, etc. Ms. Umberger stated that the contract is somewhat confusing and agrees it is time to start thinking about same. Her feeling is she would like a new contract written as there are areas of the current contract that need to be cleaned up and we need something easier to understand. Mr. Webster stated that we are also dealing with two different entities, one public and one private, and there are different issues for both.

Mr. Martin questioned if the Board would like to work on this as a Board or have a subcommittee. There was a brief discussion and the Board agreed to look at the contract collectively and then, at a point, could consider this be assigned such as before. Mr. Weathers pointed out that due to his involvement with Conway Village Fire he would abstain from any voting in this matter.

#### DISCUSSION OF ADELPHIA'S RESPONSE TO PEG CHANNEL SHARING REQUEST

Mr. Sires reviewed a letter was sent to Adelphia recently asking about the possibility to direct the programming the town pays for just to Conway residents. Mr. Sires explained that this is due to the fact that some towns are not paying for the service. Mr. Sires advised the Town received a response from Gerald Buckley of Adelphia relaying a legal opinion advising this would not be permissible. Mr. Sires next distributed a copy of page 12 of the Cable Franchise Agreement which talks about the franchise providing one access channel. Mr. Sires stated the language is not really specific but seems to indicate that the Town has certain rights to the channel and believes we could make a case that we can use our pro rata share of the channel as we see fit. There was a discussion by the Board. The Board agreed a letter should be sent back to Adelphia stating that we don't agree with Adelphia's position. The Board also agreed to see what comes out of the meeting with the other towns who share the PEG channel which will be scheduled in the near future.

Mr. Sires next advised that it is also time for Adelphia's annual discussion with the Board and same would be scheduled for the near future.

#### TOWN CLERK/TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT

This agenda item was carried to the next meeting.

#### TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Portsmouth Naval Shipyard – Mr. Sires reported the Town has received a letter from the City of Portsmouth regarding the possible closure of the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. The letter is asking for letters of support for the shipyard and financial support as well. Mr. Sires suggested that staff draft a letter to send regarding this matter for the Board's review and the Board agreed.

Department Head Meeting – Mr. Sires reported that a meeting with Department Heads is scheduled for Wednesday, June 1, 2005 at 8:30 a.m.

Infrastructure Committee – Mr. Sires reported a meeting of the Infrastructure Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, June 7, 2005 at 11:00 a.m. in the meeting room at Town Hall.

ESAA – Mr. Sires reported there is an ESAA meeting at the Fryeburg Airport scheduled for June 14, 2005.

Conservation Commission – Mr. Sires reported a Conservation Commission meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 8, 2005.

Budget Committee – Mr. Sires reported a Budget Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 8, 2005 at Town Hall.

Fryeburg Airport Day – Mr. Sires reported that Fryeburg Airport Day is scheduled for June 11, 2005. There will be an airplane show, display and other activities.

Workshop – Mr. Sires reported he would be attending a workshop for Local Officials in Lincoln, New Hampshire, on June 13, 2005.

Scenic Byways Committee – Mr. Sires reported a Scenic Byways Committee meeting is scheduled for June 14, 2005 in Bethlehem, New Hampshire.

Open House – Mr. Sires reported that Sandy George has been employed with the Town for twenty years and an Open House is planned for June 17, 2005.

Kennett High School Graduation – Mr. Sires reported that the Kennett High School Graduation ceremony is scheduled for Saturday, June 18, 2005.

MWVEC – Mr. Sires reported that a groundbreaking ceremony for the Mount Washington Valley Economic Council is scheduled for June 24, 2005.

Photo Display – Mr. Sires reported there has been an offer to have some photography displayed at town hall if the Board approves. The Board agreed.

#### BOARD REPORTS AND COMMENTS

MWVEC – Mr. Hounsell reported that the MWVEC met last week. A groundbreaking ceremony for the Tech Village has been scheduled for June 24, 2005. Mr. Hounsell further reported that discussion was held at the meeting as to what they need to complete the project.

School Board – Mr. Hounsell reported the School Board is meeting later this evening. The School Board will be receiving information on how much the new High school will cost. They will receive information that will lead to the guaranteed maximum price.

Whitaker Woods – Mr. Weathers reported he received an e-mail in reference to a situation where some youngsters built a ramp up at Whitaker Woods. The youngsters have now restored the site to its original condition. Mr. Weathers wanted this noted to get the word out that this can't be done at Whitaker Woods.

Digging in Black Cap Area – Mr. Weathers reported that during some clear cuts in the areas of Hurricane Mountain Road and Black Cap Mountain is was discovered that some active digging was being done, some substantially large with no indication of who was doing it or where. Don Johnson came upon some people who were digging for tourmaline. There are concerns as this could be a safety problem and there are concerns over how much land is being impacted.

Infrastructure Committee – Mr. Hounsell stated that he needs to understand how the recently approved capital reserve plan dovetails with the Infrastructure Committee meetings. Further, with regard to the Infrastructure Committee meetings, he was wondering why there was a discussion about a particular project in town at the meeting on April 11, 2005. Mr. Hounsell questioned if this project was an agenda item. Mr. Sires advised it was an agenda item and that proponents of the development had approached the Chair of the Infrastructure Committee and it was put on the agenda as it was thought that there may be a tie in to have the discussion at that meeting. Mr. Sires further explained that they should have met with the precinct instead. Mr. Sires and Ms. Umberger next further explained that it is understood that this is not what the Committee is for and this will not happen at future meetings of the Infrastructure Planning Committee. Ms. Umberger further explained that this Committee was formed to discuss work between precincts and the Town.

Planning Board – Mr. Martin reported there was discussion at a Planning Board meeting regarding the CIP and they are looking into forming a Committee. Mr. Martin further reported that he also took the information from the last Selectmen's meeting regarding the North-South Road to the Planning Board and presented same.

Meeting Schedule – Mr. Martin reviewed that the next meeting of the Board of Selectmen will be held in two weeks on June 14, 2005.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT/MEDIA QUESTIONS

There were no public comments or media questions.

#### ADJOURN

**Mr. Webster moved, seconded by Mr. Weathers to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Karen J. Hollowell  
Executive Secretary