

**Minutes of Meeting  
CONWAY BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

July 18, 2008

The Selectmen's Meeting convened at 2:20 p.m. in the Meeting Room of Conway Town Hall with the following present: Selectmen, Larry Martin (Chair), C. David Weathers, Mark Hounsell, Howard C. Dickinson, and Bob Drinkhall; Town Manager, Earl W. Sires; and Recording Secretary, Karen Hallowell

Also present were New Hampshire Department of Transportation Representatives, George Campbell, Commissioner; Jeff Brillhart, Assistant Commissioner, David Rodrigue P.E., Assistant District Engineer; District One Representative, Councilor Raymond S. Burton; and Town of Conway Public Works Director, Paul DegliAngeli. There were also approximately 25 members of the general public in attendance.

Chairman Martin set forth rules for discussion at the meeting and asked for all questions to please be directed through the chair.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions of New Hampshire Department of Transportation of Officials, Campbell, Brillhart, and Rodrigue were made Councilor Burton was next introduced. Chairman Martin next called for all former Selectmen in the audience to stand and be recognized as follows: Ray Leavitt, Bill Hounsell, Karen Umberger, Theresa Kennett, Bayard Kennett, and Crow Dickinson (present and former Selectmen). Chairman Martin next introduced staff, Town Manager, Earl Sires, Public Works Director Paul DegliAngeli and Recording Secretary, Karen Hallowell.

(The Valley Vision Videographer arrived at the meeting at 2:28 and began taping the meeting).

PRESENTATIONS BY NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
COMMISSIONER CAMPBELL

Commissioner Campbell advised he is here to talk about towns concerns about bypass. Commissioner Campbell stated he feels it is better to be here face to face to discuss concerns.

Commissioner Campbell discussed the rising costs of goods, fuel oil, salt, carbide blades etc. This is a concern and they are making adjustments in contracts. They need to deal with costs of goods.

Commissioner Campbell next discussed general highway funds. Commissioner Campbell explained how these are collected, sent to Washington DC, and when they come back they have some money to spend. Commissioner Campbell also spoke about general fund dollars.

Councilor Burton and Commissioner Campbell next briefly discussed cycling for transportation funds and the planning process. They discussed how the money gets through GACIT and to the Governors desk. Councilor Burton encouraged the Town to think about plans for the next two years.

### BOARD OF SELECTMEN CONCERNS AND ISSUES

A. Southern Bypass Segment Schedule and Funding – Mr. Martin questioned if the Southern Bypass is still on scheduled for 2015. Mr. Brillhart advised it is in the 10year plan. Mr. Brillhart explained the 10 year plan is now fairly well contained and the time frames are in fact exact unlike past plans that were inflated and no doable. Mr. Brillhart stated this plan is doable and realistic. However, should there be a new rash of inflation and they will still need to revisit the plan. Mr. Brillhart further advised the Southern Bypass segment permits are in place and have money and can move forward. Mr. Brillhart further advised there is also potential for it to move up in 10 year plan.

Commissioner Campbell stated that if Conway has ideas as to how to advance the plans they (NHDOT) are open to this. Commissioner Campbell stated if anyone has a creative way for them to move forward they are open to hearing about it.

Chairman Martin called for Board questions. Mr. Weathers stated we have heard \$50,000,000 and \$60-65,000,000 with a projection of eight years away. Mr. Weathers questioned if this figure is still realistic and has the eight years been figured in. Mr. Brillhart stated that in the past they have put in the value of the project at the time and now with the increases in inflation they did work in the inflation at 3% inflation rate. The prices could go up more, they do update the plan every two years and they could update this information as well. Commissioner Campbell advised there are also contingencies imbedded in the project costs as well.

Mr. Hounsell questioned, given our past experiences, is this actually a dependable date? Commissioner Campbell stated that in the past they promised thirty eight year of work, which just isn't possible. This now is a much more disciplined and much more real project. Mr. Campbell further added this is a more realist project and we are much more accountable now. There is a ten year plan now and not a thirty eight year plan and there is no place to hide in this plan. Further, we have the permits for the projects and we want to get the southern bypass going.

Mr. Hounsell discussed that water and sewer work was held pending the bypass work. Can we still hold this plan off or should we do the infrastructure improvements that we need to do. Mr. Brillhart stated he needs to sit with Conway Village and Paul DegliAngeli and then the Board of Selectmen and talk about this matter. The idea previously was to get the bypass done and now we need to look and see what should be started before the bypass. Mr. Hounsell questioned if Mr. Brillhart has a timeframe for meeting with Paul. Mr. Brillhart advised that he does not have a timeframe right now but will advise soon.

Mr. Maritn opened the meeting up to public comments on the subject of the Southern Bypass Segment Schedule and Funding. There were no public comments and the public comment portion was closed.

B. Southern Terminus Design -Mr. Dickinson stated that some people in town would like to see a different design for the southern terminus. Mr. Dickinson stated he

feels there is a specific paragraph in the permit to change the plan and he would like confirmation from the corp regarding the issue of amending the permit and he feels the Commissioner is best equipt to handle this matter. Commissioner Campbell stated yes we do have enough time and promise to speak about the permitting with Mr. Burack on this issue and report back to the Town Manager on this issue. He will find out if we have any flexibility in the permitting.

Chairman Martin opened the meeting to public comments on the subject of the Southern Terminus Design.

Joe Quick stated he has concerns for the Conway business community. The transition of Conway Villlage is of concern.

Ray Leavitt stated he echoes Crow's (Mr. Dickinson's) comments on the permits. Mr. Leavitt next referred to a letter to the NHDOT written when he was a Selectman in 1993.

Mr. Hounsell asked about the Albany project to the Conway town line. Mr. Hounsell questioned if this is in the 10 year plan. Mr. Brillhart stated there are three plans in the 10 year plan, but he will check to be sure is this is one,

C. Highway Trust Fun – Mr. Hounsell questioned if the highway trust fund can only be used for roads and bridges. Commission Campbell stated that diversion only in the eye of the beholder. Commissioner Campbell further added that when you have millions the legislation tries to come up with creative ways to spend. There was further discussion on the highway trust funds.

D. Discussion of the value of all DOT takings in the Town of Conway for the Bypass – Mr. Dickinson discussed property taken for all 3 segments of the bypass. Some segments the land will be used but other segments the land will not be built. The property was taken and people are concern about selling property etc, their values and this leaves frustration and uncertainty for people. Mr. Dickinson asked can you please let us know about the central and northern bypass. Mr. Dickinson stated he would also like to know how much the state has paid out for the takings along the sections of the bypass. Councilor Burton stated they are all approved by Governor and Council and this information can be gathered. Mr. Brillhart can get this information by the segments. Commissioner Campbell asked for a letter requesting the information we would like on the takings. Mr. Sires advised that he has had several conversations with someone at DOT and they are in the process of obtaining this information.

Mr. Hounsell pointed out that one of the reasons this information is important is because state took the land and now the town is not collecting property taxes on same.

Mr. Campbell reviewed the other part of Mr. Dickinson's question was regarding the central and northern section of bypass. Mr. Campbell advised they are looking at this and need to have further discussions.

Chairman Martin opened the meeting for public comment.

Bayard Kennett discussed a zoning change and special highway corridor distruct zoning and stated that good and valuable property was hamstrung by this zoning. Mr. Kennett asked how soon can you tell us if the two segments will be done so that this phantom zoning can be dealt with. Commissioner Campbell stated it would be

misleading for him to give a date today. Commissioner Campbell further stated that getting information the Board want today is the first step in this. The GACIT process to reevaluate the central and northern segments.

Mr. Sires questioned if there is going to be a yes or no decision on the central and northern segments or is there going to be a process that we will go through. Commissioner Campbell stated the second suggestion is the only rational suggestion. We go here together and should continue to make decisions together. Commission Campbell stated you have my word it will be collaborative.

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS / MEDIA QUESTIONS

Bob Pletchski commented on the gridlock that occurred when the Majestic Theater caught on fire. He stated he feels the bypass is an issue of public safety for emergencies, etc. so that people can get around.

Theresa Kennett asked about property owners who were unsure if state is still purchasing property. Mr. Brillhart advised the property owners would contact the State.

Rob Adair asked about bike lanes in North Conway. Mr. Brillhart did not know the answer but asked that Mr. Adair drop him a note about the property in question and he did not know about the permitting process for same. Commissioner Campbell stated they certainly would look more toward non motorized vehicles. Commissioner Campbell referred to a booklet he brought to the meeting for information.

Peter Benson talked about railcars in Conway and pointed out that the infrastructure is still there and usable.

Chairman Martin, on behalf of the Board of Selectmen, thanked Commission Campbell, Council Burton and Mr. Brillhart for attending the meeting today.

Commissioner Campbell thanked the Board and Town Manager Sires, Councilor Burton and Representative Buco for meeting today. Commissioner Campbell advised that his trip to the north country was extremely helpful and enlightening.

Mr. Martin thanked the public for coming to the meeting.

#### ADJOURN

At 4:05 p.m. **Mr. Hounsell moved, seconded by Mr. Dickinson to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Karen J. Hallowell  
Executive Secretary