

Minutes of Meeting
CONWAY BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Thursday, November 13, 2008

The Selectmen's Meeting convened at 2:50 p.m. in the Meeting Room of Conway Town Hall with the following present: Selectmen, Larry Martin, (Chair), C. David Weathers, Mark Hounsell, and Bob Drinkhall; Town Manager, Earl W. Sires; and Recording Secretary, Karen Hallowell.

Selectman, Howard C. Dickinson, was not present for the Board meeting as he was attending the LGC Annual Conference in Concord, NH.

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.

CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

The Board reviewed and signed the manifest dated November 13, 2008.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Consideration of minutes was carried to the next meeting.

REVIEW OF PROPOSED 2009 BUDGET

It was agreed the Board would review the proposed budget line by line.

Mr. Sires reviewed the Board of Selectmen vote on a recommended budget and then forwarded same on to the Budget Committee for consideration. Mr. Sires further stated that it is the Budget Committee's budget that goes to public hearing. Mr. Sires further reviewed the budget can then be amended up or down by the voting body if they so choose at the Deliberative Session in March.

Public Works – Public Works Director, Paul DegliAngeli, joined the meeting and reviewed and discussed the Highway and Solid Waste Budgets with the Board.

The Board discussed turning off some or all streetlights in town to save on costs. Mr. Martin advised it would cost to have some lights turned off and a letter and information would need to be submitted to the utility company to have this coordinated. Mr. Drinkhall suggested random lights and no intersections – not turning all lights off in town.

There was next a brief discussion as to whether there should be a warrant article proposed for an analysis to be done for lights etc. Mr. Drinkhall stated it would not be a good idea to pay for an analysis with the economy the way it is now. Mr. Hounsell suggested maybe

making it a goal or a warrant article. There was further discussion and it was agreed that town staff would look into whether this could be done in house.

There was next discussion regarding contracted snow removal and whether to cut the level of service in areas of town. Mr. Hounsell suggested waiting until December 9 to decide on this as it may be a better time to discuss as we can better gauge how much snow. Mr. Drinkhall supported lessening the areas with snow removal and clearing sidewalks using a snow blower as other areas do. Paul DegliAngeli disagreed with the usage of a snow blower on sidewalks. There was further discussion regarding the level of snow removal on roads and sidewalks in town. **Mr. Drinkhall moved, seconded by Mr. Weathers, that we look into reducing the level of service in the manner in which we discussed here – along the North-South Road and Route 16 on the strip, sidewalks on both sides of the strip and sidewalks on both sides of North-South Road.** The Board further discussed looking into this further and then take a second look at this later. It was pointed out that the motion states to look into this matter. Mr. Sires advised that staff would report back. After further brief discussion, **Mr. Weathers withdrew his second and Mr. Drinkhall withdrew his motion.** The Board requested that Mr. Sires and Mr. DegliAngeli look into what the cost of the reduction of services would be for the areas named.

There was next discussion regarding asphalt, materials, roads, etc. There was a discussion as to the possibility of proposing a warrant article for doing work including bike lanes, etc. There was discussion regarding the bike lane planned on Kearsarge Road. **Mr. Hounsell moved, seconded by Mr. Drinkhall, that we schedule a public hearing on the matter of widening Kearsarge Road for the purpose of a bike lane.** There was a brief discussion regarding the time frame for holding same. Mr. DegliAngeli advised we would need to know by the end of February, but the sooner the better. **Mr. Hounsell amended the motion, seconded by Mr. Drinkhall, that we schedule a public hearing on the matter of widening Kearsarge Road for the purpose of a bike lane and that the date of the hearing is to be set by the Town Manager. The motion carried unanimously 4-0-0.**

Solid Waste – The Board next reviewed and held a discussion regarding the Solid Waste budget. The Board discussed the need, or not, of the solid waste recycling attendant. Mr. Sires reviewed the purpose of the attendant is to extend the life of the landfill. Mr. DegliAngeli and Mr. Sires reviewed that the tonnage of trash going into the landfill has decreased since enforcement action has taken place. There was next a brief discussion on the idea of reducing hours at the landfill as a way to save. Mr. DegliAngeli explained that right now transfer station employees work mandatory overtime and the transfer station is open 6 days a week. Mr. Sires explained that if they go to a 40 hour work week the transfer station would have to be open to the public less hours. Mr. DegliAngeli explained the current labor agreement states employees have to have off two consecutive days. Mr. DegliAngeli suggested closing Sunday if the Board decides to cut the hours. Mr. Weathers stated that a savings would be better realized by reducing the hours at the transfer station rather than getting rid of the recycling attendant. Mr. Hounsell felt that closing Tuesday and Wednesday may be a better option. Mr. Drinkhall questioned how long the employees have been getting the overtime and how much do they depend on same. Mr. Drinkhall pointed out that we have long term employees at the transfer station. There was further brief discussion regarding the possibility of reducing hours. The Chairman instructed town staff to look into the idea of closing the transfer station two consecutive days, and which days would be best. Mr. Sires pointed out that if any changes are made we would need to proceed under the terms of the current union agreement.

Government Buildings – The Board next briefly reviewed and held a general discussion on the proposed Government Buildings budget.

Capital Reserve Funds – Mr. DegliAngeli distributed information to the Board regarding the Government Buildings Capital Reserve budget and reviewed same. Mr. Hounsell suggested a warrant article for a bond for \$700,000 for the garage. Mr. DegliAngeli reported on the condition of the building used for the highway garage, i.e. the roof, electrical, mortar, no insulation, etc. and there was a discussion regarding same. The Board next discussed the option of bonding for the replacement of the garage as well. **Mr. Hounsell moved, seconded by Mr. Drinkhall, that staff prepare a bond article with a recommended amount for construction of a new highway garage and that we do not seek the \$175,000 in the capital reserve budget for 2009. The motion carried 4-0-0.**

Mr. DegliAngeli next distributed a roads maintenance budget to the Board and reviewed same.

Recreation – Review and discussion of the proposed 2009 Parks and Recreation budget was rescheduled to the next meeting.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Red Jacket – Mr. Sires reviewed the Board had previously requested a letter be written to the Planning Board regarding the Red Jacket matter. Mr. Sires reviewed a proposed letter and the Board approved same. Chairman Martin signed the letter as prepared.

Cable Franchise Renewal Committee – Mr. Sires reported a Cable Franchise Renewal Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, November 18, 2009. Representatives from the Cable Company will be attending.

BOARD REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Letter to Governor Lynch – Mr. Hounsell commented he liked the letter prepared and sent to Governor Lynch regarding the Birch Hill matter.

Jack Zemla – Mr. Martin commented on the recent passing of Supervisor of the Checklist, Jack Zemla. Mr. Martin advised he would be attending visiting hours for Mr. Zemla on Friday and questioned if any of the other Selectmen would be attending the funeral. Mr. Martin also stated condolences to the Zemla family.

Veterans Day – Mr. Martin commented on the Veterans Days activities in Conway and stated the people who put this together did a great job.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND MEDIA QUESTIONS

Casey Conley of the Conway Daily Sun questioned if the Board has considered bonding any road projects. Mr. Martin stated that he, personally, is not in favor of this to do ongoing maintenance. Mr. Drinkhall agreed.

Mr. Conley next questioned snow removal in the village and what was meant by a reduction in service in the village – some, none or less. Mr. Drinkhall stated less frequent

snow removal. The Board added that they have made no decisions yet but that they would have to determine what "less" means.

ADJOURN

At 6:05 p.m. **Mr. Drinkhall moved, seconded by Mr. Weathers, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Karen J. Hallowell
Executive Secretary