

**Minutes of Meeting
CONWAY BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

January 13, 2009

The Selectmen's Meeting convened at 4:04 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

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 January 15, 2009.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

The Board held consideration of the minutes of 11/18/08 for the next meeting.

The Board next considered the minutes of 12/2/08 and 12/4/08 meetings. **Mr. Drinkhall moved, seconded by Mr. Weathers, to accept the minutes of 12/02/08 and 12/04/08 as written. The motion carried 5-0-0.**

REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF SPECIAL EVENT APPLICATION(S)

There were no Special Event Applications for consideration.

TOWN OF CONWAY/CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT FUNDS AND
ENTER INTO A GRANT AGREEMENT WITH NHDES REGARDING HOUSEHOLD
HAZARDOUS WASTE DAY

Mr. Sires reviewed a Certificate of Authorization to Accept Funds and Enter into a Grant Agreement with NHDES with the Board and advised this is done yearly. **Mr. Hounsell moved, seconded by Mr. Drinkhall, to approve and authorize Town Clerk, Rhoda Quint, to sign the Certificate of Authorization to Accept Funds and Enter into a Grant Agreement with NHDES. The motion carried unanimously.**

REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF MUNICIPAL WORK ZONE AGREEMENT

Mr. Sires reviewed the NHDES Engineer David Scott made a presentation to the Board last week concerning repairs to three bridges on river road. Mr. Sires advised Town Counsel has reviewed the Municipal Work Zone Agreement provided by the

NHDOT. **Mr. Drinkhall moved, seconded by Mr. Weathers, to accept the Municipal Work Zone Agreement. The motion carried unanimously.**

SET PUBLIC HEARING DATE FOR BOND HEARING

Mr. Sires reviewed estimates received from a bond bank for the proposed garage bond with the Board. Mr. Sires advised the amounts are all estimates at this time and could change. Mr. Sires new reviewed that two public hearings are required for the bond and Mr. Sires reviewed the requirements for setting same. Mr. Sires recommended setting the Board of Selectmen's public hearing on the proposed bond for January 27, 2009. Mr. Sires next advised he will be speaking to the Budget Committee regarding the requirements at their next meeting. **Mr. Hounsell moved, seconded by Mr. Drinkhall, that we move forward.** Mr. Hounsell stated that he would like to let everyone know that if he was present at the meeting last week he would have voted the same as everyone else did although he would have liked to have seen six bays in the garage. Mr. Drinkhall stated he wants the public to know that we will be raising up to \$1,000,000. Mark asked for permission to amend the motion and all agreed. **Mr. Hounsell amended the motion, seconded by Mr. Drinkhall, that the Town Manager be instructed to set the Bond Hearing for January 27, 2009. The motion carried 5-0-0.**

BUDGET / WARRANT ARTICLES

Police – Chief Wagner and Police Commissioner, Dave Doherty, joined the meeting.

Mr. Dickinson questioned where money goes if he gets stopped by the Police Department and gets a ticket. Chief Wagner advised the money goes to the State of New Hampshire.

With regard to the Police Union Contract, Chief Wagner advised it is a two year contract and is staying the same as the prior contract. There were no questions from the Board on the Contract.

Valley Vision – Station Manager, Bill Edmunds, of Valley Vision joined the meeting. Valley Vision Board member, Karla Ficker and Selectmen's Representative to Valley Vision, Mike DiGregorio, were also present for this discussion. Mr. Edmunds distributed a copy of the proposed Valley Vision 2009 budget to the board and reviewed same. Mr. Edmunds discussed equipment needs for the future as well. Mr. Edmunds advised the budget he presented provides for a gradual transition for digital equipment in the future. Mr. Edmunds stated they will also be looking into applying for grants for equipment and also holding fundraisers.

Mr. Dickinson requested that the Valley Vision budget show expenditures. Mr. Edmunds advised that he would provide this information.

Mr. Sires asked about high definition. Mr. Edmunds advised there is no requirement that Channel 3 go high definition.

Mr. Hounsell moved, seconded by Mr. Drinkhall, that the Board of Selectmen direct Mr. Sires to prepare a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in

the amount not to exceed \$75,000 contingent upon Valley Vision agreeing upon monthly reporting requirements as determined by Mr. Sires and that a letter be sent to Valley Vision inviting them to submit a grant request for needed equipment with documentation. There was brief discussion. **Mr. Hounsell amended the motion, seconded by Mr. Drinkhall, that the Board of Selectmen direct Mr. Sires to prepare a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in the amount not to exceed \$65,000 contingent upon Valley Vision agreeing upon monthly reporting requirements as determined by Mr. Sires and that a letter be sent to Valley Vision inviting them to submit a grant request for needed equipment with documentation.** Mr. Edmunds questioned if the grant requests are being submitted to the Town of Conway. Mr. Hounsell replied in the affirmative. There was next discussion regarding grants, equipment, expenses, and monthly reporting. The motion was reread for clarification. It was agreed by the Board this is for a one year contract. **Mr. Hounsell amended the motion, seconded by Mr. Drinkhall, that the Board of Selectmen direct Mr. Sires to prepare a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in the amount not to exceed \$65,000 contingent upon Valley Vision agreeing upon monthly reporting requirements as determined by Mr. Sires and that a letter be sent to Valley Vision inviting them to submit a grant request for needed equipment with documentation and that this is for a one year contract. The motion carried 5-0-0.**

Mr. Drinkhall asked Mr. Edmunds about televising government meetings on weekends. Mr. Drinkhall stated that this was started and now has stopped. Mr. Edmunds stated he will try to air government meetings on weekends. They don't air meetings on weekends but if that is what the Board wants then he can re-air them on the weekends. Mr. Drinkhall stated he would like to see them aired on the weekend. The consensus of the Board was that meetings be aired on the weekends.

Mr. Edmunds stated that a chief complaint received was the huge amount of repeats shown and instead there is a lot of community calendar. He would like the Board's input on this matter. Mr. Martin commented that if it is a systematic repeat of shows this would be okay. Mr. Edmunds stated if there are any further suggestions he would like to here them. Mr. Martin advised this Board would send suggestions through the Board's representative.

KEARSARGE ROAD WIDENING PROJECT

North Conway Water Precinct (NCWP) Superintendent, David Bernier, and Bill Hounsell joined the meeting.

Mr. Bernier advised he has just received approval from the NCWP Commissioners to attend this meeting today and plead the case for the Kearsarge Road Widening Project. Mr. Bernier advised that a consultant, CDM, was paid a fair amount of money to include in the bid package the road widening as part of their contract. This is to widen the strip and put in a bicycle lane on this road. Mr. Bernier further added the Selectmen are applauded for trying to save money wherever they can but we cant do this project in the future for cheaper than you can now.

Bill Hounsell stated that all the workshops he has sat in on and the Master Plan calls for bike lanes. Bill Hounsell asked the Board of Selectmen to rely on the Master Plan and urged them to include the bike lane. Bill Hounsell further asked that the Board not wait as this project is out to bid with the Parks Company and the costs will go up

after March. Mr. Hounsell requested the Budget Committee representative take this back to the Budget Committee as well.

Mark Hounsell reviewed the Selectmen have made cut and went through the process. The Selectmen reduced the proposed budget \$450,000. Mr. Drinkhall reviewed the savings to the town by taking this project out was \$80-\$100,000. Mr. Hounsell suggested if a grant was available for the widening he may be will to consider this option. There was further discussion on the budget. Mr. Martin pointed out the Budget Committee is asking the Selectmen for \$400,000 more in cuts. Mr. Sires advised the Budget Committee is asking for a list of what the Selectmen might cut if they took 5% more of the budget. Mr. Martin stated the point that is being made is that we have that battle ahead of us and we cant consider this now with the fact that we are being asked for further cuts to be made. Mark Hounsell stated that this Board has made cuts and this budget is tight and he cannot support cutting any more. Jim LeFevbre, member of the Budget Committee, was in the audience and stated that the Budget Committee has asked that this Board take a look and that is your prerogative.

Bill Hounsell stated he felt it was important for the public to hear these discussions on the budget. Bill Hounsell further questioned if this Board would be adverse to he and Mr. Bernier looking for funds to do the project. Mr. Sires pointed out that just like they are being contacted by agencies asking about projects so is the Town and so we could add this project to the list. We could work together on this. Mark Hounsell stated he would be agreeable to this so long we are not putting this on the backs of the taxpayers. Mr. Dickinson questioned if the time frame is possible to look for funds and will we know if there is money available or can we make the decision contingent on it being available. Mark Hounsell next stated other than staff time who would be bearing the cost to seek out the grants. Mr. Bernier stated it should be collectively. Bill Hounsell stated the town taxpayers would bear the pay Mr. Sires and Mr. DegliAngeli's time. Mr. Dickinson responded that that if NCWP wants to look for the grants and we help that would be okay with him. Mr. Martin next took a straw poll regarding having this project done through a grant with staff working with David Bernier and Bill Hounsell. The straw poll was unanimous in the affirmative. It was clarified that it was agreed to proceed with the widening so long as it doesn't come off the back of the taxpayer and then can get grant monies for the project. **Mr. Hounsell moved, seconded by Mr. Dickinson, that we seek funding for but no way will it be paid for by the property tax base of the Town of Conway.** There was brief discussion on the motion. It was agreed it should be reworded. **Mr. Dickinson withdrew his second and Mr. Hounsell withdrew his motion. Mr. Hounsell moved, seconded by Mr. Dickinson, the Board of Selectmen direct staff to work with the North Conway Water Precinct to pursue funding for the widening/bike lane for Kearsarge Road through whatever funding source that may be available. The motion carried 5-0-0.**

BUDGET/WARRANT ARTICLES continued

Warrant Article/Henderson Road – Mr. Sires advised a subdivision has come in and brought this road up to standard and it is time to upgrade the road to Class V from Class VI. There was a discussion by the Board on costs for plowing, new homes on the road and property taxes. **Mr. Hounsell moved, seconded by Mr. Drinkhall, that we include an article to reclassify a portion of Henderson Road from Class VI to Class V Highway. The motion carried unanimously.**

Warrant Article/Capital Reserve Account – Mr. Sires reviewed information concerning the Capital Reserve account with the Board. Mr. DegliAngeli distributed information to the Board on Capital Reserve accounts and reviewed same. Mr. DegliAngeli explained the Town owns buildings and needs to put money in the account for future maintenance. Mr. Sires recommended \$50-75,000 be put into the account for buildings. The Board asked for a schedule of the cost for different maintenance items for the next meeting. Mr. Sires and Mr. DegliAngeli will provide same.

Budget – Mr. Drinkhall advised the Budget Committee has asked for a reduction in the Selectmen's budget. Mr. Drinkhall stated he thinks this Board needs to stick to what we have presented. Mr. Hounsell discussed wages. Mr. Hounsell stated that when someone earns a raise they earn it with more work pressures, etc and he fully supports the staff getting raises and benefits as proposed by the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Drinkhall stated he agrees with Mr. Hounsell. Mr. Hounsell further added he rejects the idea of misery enjoys company and that it does no good whatsoever to increase the number of people who are having a hard time. Mr. Lefebvre of the budget committee advised point taken. Mr. Lefebvre next stated that the purpose of the Budget Committee's discussion yesterday was to put this Board and the School Board on the same level and how you do this is not the Budget Committee's mission. It is up to the person who puts the budgets together and it is the Board's job and if you don't want to do that it is your prerogative.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Zoning Petitions – Mr. Sires reported Zoning Petitions are due by tomorrow.

Non Profit Budgets – Mr. Sires reported non profit budget forms are due by January 16, 2009. The meeting to review non profit budgets is scheduled for February 7, 2009.

Budget Committee Public Hearing – Mr. Sires reported the Budget Committee's Public Hearings on budgets are scheduled for February 11, 2009.

Board of Selectmen Photo – Mr. Sires advised that next week the Board of Selectmen photo will be taken for the Annual Town Report.

BOARD REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Budget Format – Mr. Dickinson stated he would like to have Valley Vision provide their budget in a different format. The Board reviewed that Valley Vision has indicated they would be providing the budgets in the new format.

Cost Shifting – Mr. Dickinson stated he feels there should be a letter or resolution that we should send to our legislators in Concord that states that under no circumstance will we support any changes which will cost shift the money for programs onto the backs of towns. There was brief discussion and it was agreed that Mr. Dickinson and Mr. Hounsell would work together on drafting something in matter.

Conservation Commission – Mr. Weathers reported the Conservation Commission meets tomorrow, January 15, 2009, at the Whitaker Home Site. The town

received a Forest Practices Report from the Town Forester and this is available at Town Hall.

PUBLIC COMMENTS / MEDIA QUESTIONS

Andrea Osmun of the Conway Daily Sun asked for clarification on the Valley Vision motion regarding grants. The Board advised reviewed same.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned by call of the Char at 6:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen J. Hallowell
Executive Secretary