

Minutes of Meeting  
CONWAY BOARD OF SELECTMEN

March 17, 2009

The Selectmen's Meeting convened at 4:05 p.m. in the Meeting Room of Conway Town Hall with the following present: Selectmen, C. David Weathers (Vice Chair), Mark Hounsell, Howard C. Dickinson and Bob Drinkhall; Town Manager, Earl W. Sires; and Recording Secretary, Karen Hallowell

Selectman, Larry Martin (Chair), was not present. Selectman Weathers served as Chair for this meeting.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Weathers 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 March 19, 2009.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**Mr. Drinkhall moved, seconded by Mr. Dickinson, to approve the minutes of 1/27/09 as written. The motion carried 4-0-0.**

REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF SPECIAL EVENT APPLICATION

There were no Special Event Applications to consider

AGREEMENT RELATED TO COMPENSATION FOR THE TAKING OF THE SALT SHED PROPERTY FOR THE TOWN OF CONWAY BY THE NHDOT

Mr. Sires advised the attorney has sent an agreement for the Board's review and this would cap payment but we are not sure this is the replacement cost for the building. Mr. Sires stated what we would propose to the DOT instead of the agreement to compensate for land value only and then at some point ask them to compensate for the building. Mr. Sires stated we would like to get compensated for the land this year due to the revenue situation. Buy the land this year and let us continue to use the salt shed. Mr. Sires stated if the Board agrees this is where we will continue to go. **Mr. Hounsell moved, seconded by Mr. Dickinson, that we communicate to the NHDOJ our desires to receive compensation for the land and to leave the matter of replacement cost of storage shed open for further discussions at the time that the central bypass moves forward. The motion carried 4-0-0.**

NCVA REQUEST TO PLANT STREET TREES  
IN CONNIE DAVIS WATSON PARK

Mr. Sires reviewed a letter from the North Conway Village Association stating they would like to start a discussion regarding planting trees in Connie Davis Watson Park. Mr. Sires asked how the Board would like to proceed on this matter. Mr. Weathers stated it would be appropriate to know what species, how many they would like to plant, and where in the park they would like to plant the trees. Mr. Hounsell stated he thought there was a committee established to make recommendations to this Board about this park and he would like to hear from them on this matter. Mr. Hounsell further stated he agrees with Mr. Weathers and feels the species of trees are important to know. Mr. Sires advised he would contact them for this information.

REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST FOR  
PROCLAMATION FOR SILVER STAR DAY

Mr. Sires advised the Town received an email from an organization representing wounded veterans. The e-mail asks towns to support wounded and ill veterans by proclaiming Silver Star Day. Information was given to the Board to review and the Board agreed this matter should be placed on the next agenda for discussion.

REPORT OF NHMA MEMBERSHIP MEETING BY CROW DICKINSON

Mr. Dickinson distributed buttons to his fellow Board members stating "Don't downshift to property owner" and asked the Board to wear them.

Mr. Dickinson next discussed a decision by Governor Lynch to restore the Rooms and Meals revenue to the towns. Mr. Dickinson distributed an article to the Board regarding this issue and reviewed same.

**Mr. Dickinson moved, seconded by Mr. Hounsell, that we ask Representatives Bucu and Butler to appear before us next Tuesday the 24<sup>th</sup> and Representatives Chandler and Umberger on the following Tuesday the 31<sup>st</sup> to explain what is going on in Concord and how they plan to solve New Hampshire's fiscal problems.** Mr. Dickinson stated we can't get to the bottom unless we ask them to stop playing a scrabble game down in Concord. Mr. Dickinson further added we need to get a hold of the representatives and find out what they plan to do. Mr. Weathers stated we can request they appear according to their schedules. Mr. Dickinson stated he knows they may have to be in Concord but they could also make it to a meeting here. Mr. Hounsell stated he would also like to have candidates for Senate Bradley and Martin in as well. **The motion carried 4-0-0.**

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Road Work – Mr. Sires reported that work on Route 302 in Redstone will be done this summer. They will be overlaying the deteriorated section from Burger King down Eastman Road to the North-South Road intersection.

Stimulus Projects - Mr. Sires reported that the Town did get notice on one project, Tasker Hill, regarding stimulus funds. Mr. Sires further advised that we have also checked with Congresswoman Shea-Porter's office for earmarks for the garage and

we were sent forms to fill out which have been completed and returned. Mr. Sires next advised that the Town received notice that we can replace all of our diesel engines; however, we assume we will not want to do this because this will cost us money. Mr. Sires further advised the Town has also received notice that we can hire more police, however, we do not have money for this either.

Census – Mr. Sires reported the census people will be here next week and he will be meeting with them.

Interconnect – Mr. Sires briefly discussed information regarding the interconnect. It was agreed this matter would be scheduled for the next agenda.

Auditors – Mr. Sires reported the auditors will be at the Town Office next week.

HB197 – Mr. Drinkhall asked about the letter requested by the Board on HB197. Mr. Sires advised this will be prepared and advise when same is ready for signature.

### BOARD REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Planning Board – Mr. Drinkhall reported conditional approval ran out on Stonehurst Manor. The abutter has hired an attorney. The Planning Board requests the Town Attorney be at their next meeting.

Election – Mr. Dickinson reviewed the election is scheduled for Tuesday, April 14. Mr. Dickinson urged people to get an absentee ballot if they can not make it to the polls. Mr. Dickinson further urged the public to support the budget and reviewed that it is less than the default budget.

Town Garage – Mr. Hounsell requested a discussion on the garage be on the next agenda. Mr. Hounsell stated that at the Deliberative Portion of Town Meeting, Mr. Gilmore brought up the idea of using the existing facility for cold storage. Mr. Hounsell stated the Town needs a place for archiving, etc. Mr. Hounsell stated the existing building could be made into cold storage and this could be done for considerably less than tearing it down. Mr. Hounsell stated he would like an agenda item to discuss refurbishing this building instead of demolishing the building.

Town Staff – Mr. Hounsell stated he is impressed by Town staff. He has watched Lucy Philbrick and Lauri Roode and is impressed with the timeliness and, also, their professionalism and expertise. The product is on time and is top shelf. Mr. Hounsell next commented on Assessor, Tom Holmes, and Assistant Assessor, Dale Schofield, stating that Mr. Holmes is detail oriented and Ms. Schofield has shown herself to be Assessor. Mr. Hounsell commented that these are real people doing real work.

Gas Tax – Mr. Dickinson commented there is a deafening silence about increasing the gas tax. There wasn't a peep about this and there should have been.

Conservation Commission – Mr. Weathers reported the Conservation Commission is in agreement to come back before the Board of Selectmen regarding using the \$10,000 for the USVLT study. Mr. Sires advised they will be appearing in April.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND MEDIA QUESTIONS

Andrea Osmun of the Conway Daily Sun questioned where the salt shed is located. Mr. Sires advised the salt shed is located behind the police station on Meetinghouse Road.

NON PUBLIC SESSION: RSA 91-A,II(c) / Tax Matter

The non public session regarding the tax matter was canceled.

Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at the call of the Chair at 4:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen J. Hallowell  
Executive Secretary