

Minutes of Meeting  
CONWAY BOARD OF SELECTMEN

March 24, 2009

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), C. David Weathers, Mark Hounsell, Howard C. Dickinson and Bob Drinkhall; Town Manager, Earl W. Sires; and Recording Secretary, Karen Hallowell

APPROVE AGENDA

Chairman Martin advised there are amendments to the Agenda. Item 12 - Board of Selectmen Assignments for April 14 Voting Day should be amended to "Board of Selectmen Assignments for April 14 & 21 Voting Day". Further, before or after agenda item 8 David Bernier of the North Conway Water Precinct will be in give an update on projects and the interconnect. **Mr. Drinkhall moved, seconded by Mr. Weathers, to approve the agenda as amended. The motion carried 5-0-0.**

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 March 26, 2009.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Consideration of minutes was carried to the next meeting.

REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF SPECIAL EVENT APPLICATION(S)

There were no Special Event Applications for the Board review and consideration.

MID-YEAR REVIEW OF PEG EDUCATION GRANT  
TO KENNETT HIGH SCHOOL – NEAL MOYLAN

Neil Moylan, Director of the Kennett High School Career and Technical Center, joined the meeting. Mr. Moylan distributed information to the board on PEG grant provided by the Town to the school and reviewed same. Mr. Moylan reviewed information regarding shows produced between October and February, the hours of programming, and types of programs.

Mr. Hounsell commented that he hopes the next Board will consider supporting this program again.

Mr. Sires questioned for every program hour -how much work goes into the program hour. Mr. Moylan stated the students spend a lot of time and it is not unusual for 30-40 hours of in and out of classroom time to be put into this. Mr. Moylan further advised that a number of students are pursuing post secondary education in related fields.

Mr. Moylan next advised that he went with Mr. Sires to see the head in station at the Time Warner Cable office. Mr. Moylan stated it is not out of the realm of possibility that we would be able to broadcast live from the high school, i.e. football, graduation, concerts, etc. This is very possible and they have much of the equipment in place and will look at this further as we move forward next year.

Mr. Martin questioned if the person who follows Mr. Moylan in his position at the Career and Technical Center have the same vision as him. Mr. Moylan advised that he will be on the selection committee and he hopes that and will make every effort that the standard of excellence will be carried forward.

Syndi White commented that she went to the Career and Technical Center and was impressed with what she saw.

#### NCWP – UPDATE ON PROJECTS & INTERCONNECT

David Bernier, Superintendent of the North Conway Water Precinct, joined the meeting. Mr. Bernier advise he did not have much to report on with regard to the interconnect. They are doing a full scale study on this approved through the DES and Rural Development through Conway Village. The engineers are conducting a sampling. Without this study in hand he doesn't have too much to report. Mr. Bernier went on to state that once the study is completed they plan to hold a public hearing and then bring this to a special meeting. They are prepared to move forward with this and they are trying to save Conway Village money. He can't say where this will come out because the study has not been concluded.

#### BRIEFING ON SPRING SPORTS PROGRAMS

Recreation Director, John Eastman and Assistant Director, Mike Lane, joined the meeting.

Mike Lane first reported on pond hockey. Mr. Lane advised this is the 5<sup>th</sup> year for pond hockey at Ham Area and this is the biggest year yet for attendance. They are entering the fifth week and final week of the program and at the beginning of the program they had 10 kids who couldn't skate and now they all skate. Mr. Lane commented this is a great program. Mr. Eastman advised that a videotape was made of pond hockey for airing on Valley Vision.

Mr. Eastman next advised that on Sunday afternoons the gym is open for basketball (pre-spring program). Mark Hounsell and Sut Marshall have been helping out with this and this is a drop in program. This has also been running on Monday and

Thursday as well. This program is for in between seasons. Kids preregister for this program and they do skills and drills

Mr. Eastman next reported on the Easter Egg Hunt scheduled for Saturday at 10:00 a.m. Mr. Eastman advised they will have over 100 children in attendance ages 1 through 9 years, rain or shine.

Mr. Eastman next reported they are now taking registrations for spring programs. T-ball starts April 27 and girls softball starts on April 15. Mr. Eastman next advised that summer programs will start after school lets out. Mr. Eastman advised people can register Conway Recreation Center or on the website. A form can be printed and mailed in to the office. Mr. Eastman next advised there are scholarships available as well.

Mr. Weathers questioned if there is a spring trip to Foxwoods scheduled. Mr. Eastman advised there is no date schedule yet for a trip to Foxwoods.

Mr. Sires pointed out that it is important to note that spring programs are not just for kids. The Conway Recreation Department also serves adults and the senior population as well. Monday is scrabble day and Thursday is adult Bingo.

Mr. Martin next congratulated Mike Lane, on behalf of the Board of Selectmen, for his hockey season and commented that Mr. Lane and the kids did a nice job.

#### BRIEFING ON 2010 CENSUS

Mr. Sires reported he met with the local census coordinator recently and they are gearing up for the next census. Mr. Sires advised there is information provided in the Board's agenda packets regarding the census. Mr. Sires reviewed that an accurate count is important. The Town is bumping up against the 10,000 population mark and this may affect rural status and we need to make sure an accurate count is made. Mr. Sires further reviewed additional information in the packet including hiring, etc, by the Census Bureau. **Mr. Hounsell moved, seconded by Mr. Dickinson, to formally request by letter our desire that Senator Judd Gregg, Senator Jeanne Shaheen, Congressman Paul Hodes, and Congresswoman Carol Shea-Porter introduce federal legislation increasing the rural development population number from 10,000 residents to 14,000. The motion carried 5-0-0.**

#### REVIEW OF LETTER FROM GOVERNOR LYNCH REGARDING COST SHIFTING

Mr. Sires next advised there is a letter in the Board's agenda packet from Governor Lynch concerning cost shifting to review.

Mr. Martin stated he saw in the newspaper there were supposed to be state representatives at the meeting this week. Ms. Hallowell advised that contact was made with Representative Buco who advised he could not attend this week as they were in a three day session and Representative Butler advised he would provide a letter to the Board. Mr. Sires advised that Representative Umberger asked for a list of information the Board would like to discuss that Representative Chandler stated he would advise as to whether he could attend next week's meeting.

Mr. Dickinson next commented on the letter from the Governor stating that the idea of using federal stimulus money to augment state monies that we have always used for operating expenses is wrong. If we use it, it will not be there next year. He wants to emphasize this is foolishness and voodoo economics and hopes the legislature will not comply with this. Mr. Hounsell stated the he does like Governor Lynch but is floored about the use of stimulus money for operating money and agrees with Mr. Dickinson.

Mr. Sires next advised that the Town did receive email from the Governor's office regarding stimulus money regarding the garage project and they advised that the avenue for this project is rural development funds and what would be available to us is in the neighborhood of \$50,000 grant or they could give us a loan. We have submitted this to Shea-Porter's office for 2010 as an earmark project but the only avenue for 2009 is rural development and we will certainly apply if this is available.

#### CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST FOR SILVER STAR DAY

**Mr. Hounsell moved, seconded by Mr. Weathers, that we forward this to American Legion Post 95 in North Conway for review and for them to send back with comments.** Mr. Dickinson asked why North Conway. Mr. Hounsell stated he was thinking this could go to Frank McCarthy for review. **The motion carried 5-0-0.**

#### BOARD OF SELECTMEN ASSIGNMENTS FOR APRIL 14 & 21 VOTING DAY

Mr. Martin reviewed the Board of Selectmen duty to man the poles on Election Day. Mr. Martin distributed a packet of information prepared by the Town Clerk for informational purposes to the Board for review regarding Election Day duties.

The Board agreed to the following schedule for April 14: 8:00 am to 10:00 am - Larry Martin (Mr. Martin however will be outside because he is running for reelection); 10:00 am to 1:00 pm – David Weathers; 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm – Crow Dickinson; and, 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm – Bob Drinkhall. Mr. Hounsell was not assigned any shifts for April 14. The Board next agreed to the same schedule for the April 21, 2009 Special Election with the 8:00 am shift pending Mr. Martin's reelection.

#### TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Economic Council - Mr. Sires advised that he and Mr. Dickinson are scheduled for the upcoming Eggs and Issues at which Governor Lynch is scheduled to speak. Mr. Sires advised this is scheduled for April 2 at 9:00 am at the White Mountain Hotel in Hales Location and if anyone else wants to go to please advise as the Economic Council is requesting no drop ins as space is limited.

Tax Cap Press Release – Mr. Sires distributed and reviewed a press release regarding a tax cap case filed in the Merrimack Superior Court regarding the matter City of Concord v. Gardner, et al.

HB197 – Mr. Sires reviewed that the Board had asked that a letter be sent out regarding HB197 relative to apportionment of damages in civil actions. This bill was found to be inexpedient and therefore the letter will not be sent now.

Cable Franchise Renewal Agreement - Mr. Sires reported the next phase of the Cable Franchise Renewal Agreement will be receiving public input.

Executive Councilor Burton – Mr. Sires reported Councilor Burton has written letter of support for the bike lane to the DOT Commissioner. A copy will be provided to the Board when we are in receipt of same.

### BOARD REPORTS AND COMMENTS

First River Bridge – Mr. Weathers state he notice work has started again on First River Bridge. Mr. Weathers stated he feels it is a long cycle to get over the bridge. Mr. Weathers also questions when the work is to be finished. Mr. Sires advised he will check into when the work is to be completed as well as getting the cycle changed and report back.

Board Meetings – Mr. Drinkhall questions the Board meeting schedule for April 14 and 21 due to elections. Mr. Martin advised there will no meetings held on either date. The next meeting of the Board of Selectmen is scheduled for Tuesday, April 28, 2009 unless something comes up. All agreed.

The Board next briefly discussed the meeting scheduled for April 7<sup>th</sup> and agreed they would like to have the State Representatives and candidates for State Senator come in to discuss the state budget if possible.

News Article on Proposed Tax Increases – Mr. Dickinson distributed a copy of a news article to the Board and explained it is a summary of all taxes before the Ways and Means Committee and is a tremendous amount of increases in taxes. Mr. Dickinson asked the Board to please read over the article.

Town Staff - Mr. Hounsell stated he has enjoyed thanking town staff over the last few weeks and this week he would like to thank the Library staff. Mr. Hounsell stated the Library is in a class by itself and he wants to draw attention to Margaret Marschner, Betty Parker and other staff at the library as they all do a tremendous job.

Budget Cut/Lighting – Mr. Martin stated that when going through the budget process the Board cut \$5,000 for lights on the strip. Mr. Martin reviewed a bill for streetlights with the Board and advised that this year we will have a savings of \$4863. Mr. Sires advised that Tom Irving will be doing a survey of the streetlights in town and a report on same will follow.

### PUBLIC COMMENTS AND MEDIA QUESTIONS

Andrea Osmun questioned who the Board is planning on asking to the meeting on the April 7th. The Board agreed they would like to ask all four state representatives and, also, candidates for State Senate Bradley and Martin.

### NON PUBLIC SESSION: RSA 91-A,II(C) / GENERAL ASSISTANCE MATTER

At 5:10 pm, **Mr. Drinkhall moved, seconded by Mr. Weathers, to go into non public session under NHRSA 91-A,II(c) regarding a general assistance matter.**

Town Manager, Earl Sires, and Recording Secretary, Karen Hallowell, would be included in the non public session. **The motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.**

At 5:12 pm, the Board returned to public session. **Mr. Hounsell moved, seconded by Mr. Weathers to seal the minutes of the non public session. The motion carried unanimously.**

ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at the call of the Chair at 5:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen J. Hallowell  
Executive Secretary