

**Minutes of Meeting
CONWAY BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

March 31, 2009

The Selectmen's Meeting convened at 4:02 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 .4/2/09

PUBLIC COMMENT

Debra Jendal of the Maple Leaf Motel advised that she brought in a petition with signatures for the Board. She is here to talk about when the Selectmen turned the lights out on Route 16 and hopes the Board will reconsider this decision. Ms. Jendal stated she feels this is a safety issue for pedestrians and also for equality. Route 16 to Artist Falls was turned off and Artist Falls to Intervale is all lit. Ms. Jendal suggested that consideration be given to every other light. She stated she understands budgeting but feels maybe every other light could be on or off.

Mr. Drinkhall stated that he would propose and has proposed the Town turn off more lights. The savings so far is \$6,000. Mr. Drinkhall advised that other towns, such as Fitchburg, Massachusetts, and Portland, Maine, are turning off their lights also and we should look at turning more lights off to save money. Mr. Drinkhall added that with the amount of light in the area for people to walk and very little foot traffic this should not present a present a problem.

Ms. Jendall stated that during summer and foliage there are large amounts of people in that area and that is why she thinks every other light better or that they be put on a timer. Ms. Jendal also suggested they be put on different schedules monthly.

Mr. Martin stated he would be happy to look at every other light down the road but, for now, feels we need to stick with the decision we made for this year so far. Mr. Martin further advised that it will cost the Town money to turn them back on in the future.

Mr. Weathers pointed out that every other light or every three lights could be a problem also as someone may say that the lights were turned on selectively.

Mr. Hounsell requested that Mr. Sires send someone to assess the safety issue.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Board first reviewed the minutes of 2/3/09. Mr. Dickinson offered the following amendment: Page 6 under Discussion of HB445 METHADONE CLINICS The sentence that reads "Mr. Dickinson next stated that he does not have a problem with a hospital helping people who have problems in the valley but when you have a for profit clinic bringing people in that becomes a situation." Should be amended to ". Mr. Dickinson next stated that he does not have a problem with a hospital helping people who have problems in the valley but when you have a for profit clinic bringing people in to the Valley that becomes a different problem.

Mr. Drinkhall moved, seconded by Mr. Weathers, to accept the minutes of 2/3/09 as amended and the minutes of 2/10/09 as written. The motion carried unanimously.

REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF SPECIAL EVENT APPLICATION(S)

The Board reviewed a public event application for the WMWV Home Show. The Home show is scheduled for May 9 & 10, 2009. **Mr. Hounsell moved, seconded by Mr. Weathers, to approve the application for special event for the WMWV Home Show for May 9 and 10. The motion carried unanimously.**

ELM TREE

Donna Woodward was present for discussion. Mr. Sires reviewed that Donna Woodward was before the Board this past fall to discuss planting an Elm Tree at Whitaker Woods. Ms. Woodward stated she asked to dedicate this to Steve Eastman and she would like to put a stone on with it in memory of Steve Eastman on April 25. Mr. Hounsell stated he has no objection to the stone being placed. Mr. Hounsell stated he made the suggestion to her in a private conversation about the stone but realizes this Board makes the decision. Ms. Woodward next reviewed that Mr. Dickinson stated in the fall he would help plant the tree. Mr. Weathers asked Ms. Woodward what size stone she would like to place with the tree. Ms. Woodward advised it is a 12 inch cobble stone. Ms. Woodward further advised it is one of the standard stones they use in North Conway Village. Ms. Woodward states she is proposing the stone read In memory of our Steve Eastman and includes the dates. Mr. Martin reviewed there is a memorial for Mr. Eastman at Hog Coliseum. **Mr. Drinkhall moved, seconded by Mr. Weathers, that we accept the stone in the park as Donna has mentioned. The motion carried 5-0-0.** Mr. Sires requested Ms. Woodward call him to arrange for the site work to be done and Ms. Woodward agreed.

DISCUSSION REGARDING RECOMMENDATIONS ON SILVER STAR DAY

Mr. Sires advised the Town has contacted Frank McCarthy and Mr. McCarthy recommended the Town be involved with Silver Star Day and, also, recommended that other organizations in town be involved and that he would help with the preparation of

the Proclamation. Mr. Hounsell pointed out there are several phrases in the sample proclamation provided by the Silver Star Organization that may not apply to Conway. Mr. Sires advised the Proclamation would be tailored to Conway. **Mr. Dickinson moved, seconded by Mr. Drinkhall, that we support Silver Star Day.** Mr. Hounsell stated he appreciated Frank McCarthy's work on this matter. **The motion carried 5-0-0.**

Mr. Martin requested that Mr. McCarthy be notified. Mr. Hounsell pointed out that we should have further conversation with Mr. McCarthy as he has agreed to help and see if both posts can be involved and ask him to organize this. The Board agreed.

CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO NON UNION PERSONNEL MANUAL

Mr. Sires advised that from time to time the NHLGC Risk Management advises on additions that could be made to our existing policies. Mr. Sires distributed copies of proposed changes to the Personnel Manual regarding Sexual Harassment and Prevention of Workplace Violence. Mr. Sires advised this suggested changes more clearly defines policy.

Mr. Hounsell stated that with regard to Workplace Violence, on page 3 of the handout, he feels illegal carrying of weapons should be described differently, for instance, if someone has a permit. Mr. Dickinson added he felt language could be added –without appropriate permits. Mr. Sires reviewed that for participants at the youth recreation center this would be prohibited. There was further brief discussion. Mr. Sires and the Board agreed to look into this further and make sure polices reconcile. Mr. Dickinson will work with Mr. Sires on same. The Board will also further review the proposed changes to the policy and bring back any concerns or questions.

Lastly, Mr. Drinkhall pointed out that on page 5, Item number 1, the last two bullets in the paragraph, where it talks about the that the employee will be notified of action, this should be made clearer regarding the person who is accused.

DISCUSSION REGARDING CONVERTING EXISTING GARAGE TO COLD STORAGE

Mr. Hounsell reviewed that at Town Meeting, Mike Gilmore suggested using the garage for cold storage. Mr. Hounsell stated that he feels we could fit this building out for future use. Mr. Hounsell stated this could be used to store town documents, etc. Mr. Dickinson stated he did not agree and feels we will need to retrofit the building and it wont be worth it to do it to the building and, further, the town documents need to be protected. Mr. Drinkhall stated he agrees with Mr. Dickinson and added that it is also not convenient for staff to go across the street for documents; it will be cold, etc. Mr. Sires advised that Mr. DegliAngeli has not had a chance to speak to Town Clerk , Rhoda Quint, to see what her storage needs are. Mr. Sires spoke about the current condition of the building and explained if converted to cold storage would need to shore up the building because of snow load. Mr. Sires further discussed the leaks in the building, etc., and stated this would need to be looked at further. Mr. Hounsell stated he wants to look at this as he does not like the idea of tearing down buildings. After further brief discussion, the Board agreed this should be put on an agenda after the vote in April to see if the bond passes. Mr. Hounsell stated if the vote is positive for the bond he would like this matter to be considered by the next Board.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Town Report – Mr. Sires reported the Town Reports are now available. The reports can be picked up at Town Hall, Conway, Intervale, Kearsarge and North Conway Post Offices, the Gibson Center, Conway Library and North Conway Library, Shaws and Shop n Save Supermarkets and Webster's Country Store. Mr. Sires reviewed the back section of the report containing the 2009 Voting Guide and Sample Town Ballot.

Courthouse Bond – Mr. Sires reported he had a meeting with Attorney Hastings regarding the courthouse bond. The last bond payment for the courthouse has been satisfied. A document now needs to be created that transfers ownership and discusses maintenance, etc.

BOARD REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Fuel – Mr. Drinkhall questioned how long the town stores gas and diesel. Mr. Sires advised that it fluctuates with the season. Mr. Drinkhall stated that the new formula received only allows it to be stored for a certain amount of days and questioned how this will affect the town. Mr. Sires and Mr. DegliAngeli advised they would look into this and report back.

Medical Malpractice Fund – Mr. Dickinson distributed a newspaper clipping to the Board for review concerning the medical malpractice fund set up by doctors. Mr. Dickinson advised the state is trying to get these funds although these are private funds.

Profile Motor Signs – Mr. Dickinson commented that he is not criticizing the sign, it was a good idea, but unfortunately it doesn't comply with our ordinance. It is also unfortunate that the newspaper did not report that when someone is frustrated with an ordinance, they can propose a change to it and put it on the warrant to be voted on. Mr. Dickinson stated that he suggests that anyone frustrated can go through the process and he would be happy to let them know how to do this.

Rooms & Meals – Mr. Hounsell briefly spoke about rooms and meals tax and stimulus money.

Conservation Commission – Mr. Weathers reported the Conservation Commission will hold their next meeting on Wednesday, April 8, 2009 at the Whitaker Meeting House.

Voting Day – Mr. Martin reviewed that April 14, 2009 is voting day. Voting will be at the Conway Recreation Center and the polls are open from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Mr. Martin further advised that absentee ballots are also available. Mr. Martin next reviewed a special election will be held on April 21, 2009 for Senate District 3 seat.

Meeting Schedule – Mr. Martin reviewed the Board meeting schedule and advised there will no meetings held on April 14 and 21 unless needed. Mr. Martin next commented that April 7, 2009 will be Mark Hounsell's last meeting as a Selectman. There will be no fanfare as per Mark's request, but there will be a surprise.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND MEDIA QUESTIONS

There were no public comments or media questions.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at the call of the Chair at 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen J. Hallowell
Executive Secretary