

**Minutes of Meeting
CONWAY BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

April 7, 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.

Chairman Martin noted this is Selectman Hounsell's last meeting as a Selectman and turned over the seat of Chairman to Selectman Hounsell for this meeting.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Acting Chairman, Mark Hounsell, led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

APPROVE AGENDA

The Board reviewed and approved the agenda with no changes.

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 April 9, 2009.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Board agreed to carry consideration of the minutes of 2/17/09, 2/24/09, 3/4/09, 3/10/09, 3/17/09 to the next meeting.

REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF SPECIAL EVENT APPLICATION

(a) Celebration of Young Children Parade – **Mr. Martin moved, seconded by Mr. Dickinson to grant the Special Event permit for the Celebration of Young Children Parade.** The Board reviewed the date and location of the parade. **The motion carried 5-0-0.**

(b) Saco Valley Gem and Mineral Show – It was noted this is a new event to the area this year. The Board reviewed the location and particulars of the event. **Mr. Weathers moved, seconded by Mr. Dickinson to approve the special event application for the Saco River Gem and Mineral Show. The motion carried 5-0-0.**

(c) Gibson Center Craft Fairs – The Board reviewed the application for the Gibson Center Craft Fairs. It was noted that the insurance certificate could not be provided by the Gibson Center until early May as this is when their insurance renews. **Mr. Drinkhall moved, seconded by Mr. Weathers, to approve the special event application for the Gibson Center Craft Fairs conditional upon receiving the insurance certificate in May. The motion carried 5-0-0.**

(d) Pine Tree School/Spring into Spring 5k Road Race – **Mr. Dickinson moved, seconded by Mr. Martin to approve the Pine Tree School Spring into Spring 5k Road Race Special Event Permit The motion carried 5-0-0.**

Mr. Drinkhall questioned the status of the Rally in the Valley special event application. Mr. Sires advised that there have been a number of discussions with the group organizing the event. We have a signed application; however there is some complexity to the event. The site they have applied for is the former LL Bean site. Also, Merlino's, which is next door to the old LL Bean site, would like to have a food and alcohol tent and we need to get this all together for further review.

Mr. Hounsell stated that the American Legion sees this as an opportunity also and he has advised them to get their information in as well. Mr. Hounsell further commented that he see this as a strain on the Police Department too.

Mr. Hounsell next stated the event is growing and there is more and more activity and this is becoming a handful for staff. Mr. Hounsell questioned if staff sees the need for additional help with this event if it keeps growing. Mr. Sires stated that if the event continues to grow we may need additional help. Mr. Sires pointed out that the town of Laconia spends much of the year planning and reviewing events for bike week and they have boards, etc for this matter.

DISCUSSION OF STATE BUDGET ISSUES STATE REPRESENTATIVES AND CANDIDATES FOR STATE SENATE

State Representatives, Bucu, Butler, Chandler and Umberger and candidates for State Senate Jeb Bradley and Bud Martin were present for discussion of state budget issues with the Board. Each Representative and Senate Candidate spoke with the Board on the proposed State budget individually about the issues. Revenue sharing, highway funds, rooms and meals tax, stimulus funds and school building aid funds were discussed. (A copy of this meeting is available on CD at the Town Office).

LANDFILL ODOR ISSUE

Public Works Director, Paul DegliAngeli, joined the meeting. Mr. DegliAngeli advised the town has received some complaints about an odor and that some people assume this is coming from the landfill. Mr. DegliAngeli stated we are aware that we are getting an order at the landfill that we haven't experienced previously. We don't know if it produces methane as methane is odorless but gasses can carry other odors. Mr. DegliAngeli further advised that other landfills in New England have had these issues and the town is meeting with consultants on April 18 regarding this matter. We are doing testing and will try to get a handle on what is the smell and what causes it and why it is happening and, further, what we can do about it. Mr. DegliAngeli next advised

that we have asked people to keep a log with times and dates but we haven't gotten much definite information from this approach. Mr. Weathers suggested that anyone from the public who notices the odor to keep a log and to let Town Hall know about same. Mr. Drinkhall questioned the cost for the consultants. Mr. DegliAngeli advised \$120 per hour plus the cost for gas testing .

Member of the public, Mike DiGregorio, pointed out this is not proven to be a town issue yet. Mr. DiGregorio further added that Mr. Weathers suggestion of logs is good and, also, it would be helpful to keep wind directional information, etc. as well.

CAPITAL RESERVE

Mr. Sires and Mr. DegliAngeli updated the Board on Capital Reserve, Maintenance of Buildings and Road Maintenance.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Town Report - Mr. Sires reported the Town Report is out and available around town, post offices, libraries, town hall, supermarkets, etc.

Courthouse Bond – Mr. Sires reported the Courthouse bond was paid off last year. We need to give them agreement for the property and we are working with David Hastings on same.

Cable Franchise Committee – Mr. Sires reported the Cable Franchise Committee is ready to do some outreach to the community and this probably will involve a survey and a public meeting regarding Time Warner services.

Mark Hounsell – Mr. Sires thanked Selectman, Mark Hounsell, for the opportunity to work with him last several years.

BOARD REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Valley Vision – Valley Vision Representative, Mike DiGregorio, advised the next Board meeting of Valley Vision is scheduled for April 14. Mr. DiGregorio advised that Valley Vision has 3 cameras out of service right now; 2 going out for repair and one cant be repaired and it cant accept audio.

Mr. DiGregorio next commented there was a question on where channel three goes and this needs to be clarified. Mr. Sires advised he will get information from Time Warner.

Mr. DiGregorio thanked Mr. Hounsell for his service on Boards in Town, for the research he does, and for his efforts.

Mr. DiGregorio next thanked the Board for inviting the Representatives to the meeting today.

Mr. DiGregorio thanked his opponent, Larry Martin, in the Selectman race for a clean campaign.

Board Meeting Schedule – The Board reviewed the upcoming meeting schedule. There are no Selectmen meetings scheduled for April 14 and 21 due to elections.

Mark Hounsell – Mr. Drinkhall stated thank you to Mr. Hounsell for helping him get elected and as the newest member of the Board of Selectmen.

Election Day Schedule – Mr. Dickinson requested a copy of the Election Day schedule for Board members. Staff will provide same.

School Building Aid – Mr. Dickinson stated the proposed house democrat budget is not funded. Mr. Dickinson stated he would like to have Mr. Sires contact NHMA to find out what comprises revenue sharing. Also find out from school what is the figure they are counting on for school aid. Mr. Dickinson further added he thinks it may be time to write another letter. Mr. Hounsell stated he would like to have a part in writing the letter. Mr. Sires advised he will get information requested. Mr. Dickinson advised he will prepare a letter to the Governor for the Board's review.

Mark Hounsell – Mr. Dickinson stated he appreciated serving with Mark Hounsell as a Selectman.

Elections – Mr. Martin reviewed that the April 14 is the town election and April 21 is the section election for the senate seat. Polls are open from 8:00 am to 7:00 p.m. Absentee ballots are available.

Conservation Commission – Mr. Weathers reported a Conservation Commission meeting is scheduled for tomorrow evening, April 8, 2009 at the Whitaker Meeting House.

Mark Hounsell – Mr. Weathers commented that the first year Mark asked him to run was eight years ago and it has been a pleasure.

Mark Hounsell – Mr. Hounsell stated that he came on Board in April of 1999 and had to leave January of 2001 as he had to take a job in Connecticut. Mr. Hounsell stated it was a pleasure to serve with all of the Selectmen he served with as everyone had dedicated themselves to the town. Mr. Hounsell stated that he has served his community as his father and his brother has. Mr. Hounsell further added it has been a real honor and what stands out is when the Board of Selectmen hired Town Manager, Earl Sires. Doing that was such an important thing – we have grown accustomed to it and he is the best at it. He can take the egos of people who serve and deals with the public, is supportive of staff and family, and one of the best things he did was hire Executive Secretary, Karen Hallowell. Mr. Hounsell next pointed out that one of the best things done also was the roundabout. We were at it for a long time and when we made the decision we knew it would work out. Mr. Hounsell next stated this Board here was the most fun. Mr. Hounsell thanked them for their service and also thanked them for putting up with his verbosity. Mr. Hounsell next thanked the people of Conway and stated he is retiring and this is it for him.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND MEDIA QUESTIONS

There were no public comments or media questions.

ADJOURN

Mr. Martin moved, seconded by Mr. Drinkhall, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen J. Hallowell
Executive Secretary