

**Minutes of Meeting  
CONWAY BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 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, Howard C. Dickinson and Bob Drinkhall and Michael DiGregorio; 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 June 11, 2009.

DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED TE BIKE LANE APPLICATION

Mr. Sires reviewed past discussions on bike lane funding and the project. Mr. Sires distributed a map of the proposed bike lane and reviewed same.

Ews reviewed past discussions on bike lane funding and project. Mr. Sires distributed a map and described same. Mr. Sires advised the proposed lane would run from Skimobile to Intervale Crossroad along Kearsarge Road. The project now is shorter than was originally described as it was to go to Hurricane Mountain Road. Mr. Sires reviewed the costs associated with the project. Mr. Sires advised the project is shorter and that reduced the cost a little but we are adding in so we make sure we cover all the costs associated with the project - \$20,000 for the final paving that would happen in 2010 if the project goes forward, and so the total budget is \$104,280. Mr. Sires further reviewed there is an opportunity to get a grant through TE, but there is no guarantee it will be funded; however, it is worth pursuing. We are here today to present the project and present the budget and proposed plan.

Mr. Sires next reviewed the TE program on \$104,280 would require a 20% match which is just under \$21,000. In the budget we included \$9,000 in engineering and the design has already been paid for by the precinct. The task at hand is trying to figure out we might come up with the additional \$11,000 as the Selectmen were clear that given the budget situation and given the fact they were reducing programs this was not coming from the Town Budget. Mr. Martin confirmed that the amount that would need to be matched is \$11,856 and Mr. Sires replied in the affirmative.

Cindy Briggs stated that this matter was brought to her attention this morning and it is her understanding there is quite a bit of interest in the community in getting the bike lane done. She stated she felt there could be contributions made toward this project. Ms. Briggs stated that she knows there are private individuals who are interested in contributing and also knows that the Mount Washington Valley Chamber of Commerce (MWVCC) is interested as well. Ms. Briggs further added she can not say she can guarantee up to that amount but they know there is interest. Ms. Briggs further added that it is her understanding that the MWVCC will act as the recipient for any donations for this project and, also, any contributions can be directed to the Mount Washington Valley Preservation Association (MWVPA) and are tax deductible.

Mr. Sires next explained that this special meeting had to be called today because timing for this is critical. If the Board of Selectmen approves this application, the Town can send it tomorrow and by Tuesday we can advise of what is going on with same.

Mr. Dickinson stated the Board of Selectmen did not feel we could justify and afford 20%; however, in the last 24 hours people have been calling and asking if they can contribute toward this and he is hoping that more people are listening to this and will come forward concerning this matter. He hopes biking clubs, etc., will come forward with funding. Mr. Dickinson advised that he has promised that any checks received will not be cashed and co-mingled with other funds unless this goes forward.

Mr. Drinkhall next discussed the motion wording and stated he felt it should reflect total and complete funding for the match and not any money to be used through taxes. Mr. Dickinson stated that this is entirely consistent with the direction given to Mr. Bernier and Mr. Hounsell that if this happens it would not be with taxpayer money. Mr. Drinkhall also asked that the Mr. DegliAngeli advise on the costs involved for future years for the bike lane as we would like everyone to be aware of the future costs to maintain same. Mr. DegliAngeli reviewed maintenance, paving and striping needs and costs for the future.

There was discussion regarding where donations for the grant match should be sent and there was general agreement that it should be sent to the MWVPA.

Janice Crawford of the MWVCC stated she would like to clarify where the money should be sent MWVPA or the Town. Mr. Martin stated the contributions should be sent to the MWVPA and the majority of the Board agreed. Ms. Crawford advised the address for the MWVPA is P O Box 2300 North Conway NH 03860 and anyone would like to provide money, public or private can send to this address. Mr. Dickinson expressed concerns regarding the funds being sent to the MWVPA because he had told people to send the checks to the Town of Conway and that we wouldn't cash or co-mingle the funds. Janice Crawford and Cindy Briggs advised they will return the money to anyone who sends money if this project does not happen.

Mr. Weathers left the meeting at 4:25 p.m.

There was next discussion on appropriate wording for the motion. Mr. Dickinson also continued the discussion over his concerns about where to send the contributions.

Janice Crawford of the MWVCC advised the MWVCC has decided that branding the Mount Washington Valley as a cycling destination is very good for business and for our individual bicycling community any funds we can encourage a bicycle enthusiast to donate will mean we that we can assure this bike lane as well as the \$20,000 the MWVCC has planned for marketing for the area as a cycling destination. So she is asking the public whatever you can donate is going to help the cycling environment of this community. Whether we use it specifically for the match of this which is hopefully for the bike lane or by donating to bike lane it will relieve the MWVCC of responsibility to support this effort and we have more money for the market aspect and the bicyclist community thought the Velo Club, Bike Path Committee they all know the MWVCC has made this decision and hopefully they will step up to the plate and will be involve just as much as the MWVPA and MWVCC so we have money for other projects.

**Mr. DiGregorio moved, seconded by Mr. Drinkhall, to direct town staff that if any money comes in for this project that we direct them to the MWVPA.** Ms. Crawford advised the MWVPA is a 501c3 and stated they will not cash the checks until the Town says they need the \$20,000 for the match. Further, they will return the funds if the grant does not come through. Bill Hounsell pointed out that that the real strength we can use in the application is that that we have many firm in the community committed and we have also have a strong commitment, broad support, and are working collaterally. **The motion carried 4-0-0.**

**Mr. DiGregorio moved, seconded by Mr. Drinkhall, to approve application for the grant and to commit the funds raised by the MWVPA as a match for the grant.** Mr. DiGregorio thanked the MWVPA and the business community. Mr. DiGregorio stated that he also wanted to mention we are on the fast track for this project now because there was a lack of interest during the budget season and people need to come during this process. People did not come out to discuss this issue at the Deliberative Session of Town Meeting. Mr. DiGregorio stated he is going to support this tonight because of the support of the community. Mr. Martin echoed Mr. DeGregorio's comments and also thanked Bill Hounsell, David Bernier, Earl Sires and Paul DegliAngeli for their work on this matter. Mr. Dickinson stated he wanted to thank Andrea Osmun of the Conway Daily Sun. Mr. Martin stated that he disagreed on this one as there was some negative publicity thrown at us on this one. Mr. DegliAngeli advised that he and Earl Sires now have to set up a meeting and travel to Concord to meet on this matter. Mr. DegliAngeli further advised that there is also a contractor involved and we would have to let him know on this in the next two weeks. **The motion carried 4-0-0.**

#### PUBLIC COMMENT/MEDIA QUESTIONS

Andrea Osmun of the Conway Daily Sun questioned the amounts agreed to by the MWVPA and MWVCC. Janice Crawford of the MWVCC advised the MWVPA has agreed to make up the difference between the donations and the \$11,000 needed.

David Bernier of the North Conway Water Precinct asked who will commit funds for the project in the meantime. Janice Crawford stated it may be possible but they would have to look and see what funds are but hope they can help with this. Mr. Sires advised he would not commit the Town to anything without reviewing this first with the Board of Selectmen and we cant do anything until we get this going and know if we are getting the grant.

Mr. Drinkhall questioned what the chance is of getting this quickly. Mr. Drinkhall added they are scheduled to do paving in mid July. Bill Hounsell stated that our Counselor, Ray Burton, is trying to fast track this through his committee. This commitment today allows us to put the ball in their hands. Mr. Sires advised they may say they can fund this but cant do so for four or five months. In that case we can also ask for a irrevocable commitment letter.

Mr. Drinkhall next commented that he agreed with Mr. Martin's comments earlier in the meeting and feels there was misreporting on this story in the newspaper. Further, he also agrees with Mr. DiGregorio regarding the lack of attendance at budget time and at the Deliberative Portion of Town Meeting and encourages people to show up in the future.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at the call of the Chair at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen J. Hallowell  
Executive Secretary