

**Minutes of Meeting
CONWAY BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

October 20, 2009

The Selectmen's Meeting convened at approximately 3:10 pm at the Conway Historical Society, 100 Main Street, Conway, NH with the following present: Selectmen, Larry Martin (Chair), C. David Weathers, Howard C. Dickinson, Bob Drinkhall, and Mike DiGregorio; Town Manager, Earl W. Sires; and Recording Secretary, Karen Hollowell

PRESENTATION OF THE BOSTON POST CANE

Present were Mildred "Middy" Heath, the oldest resident of the Town of Conway, her daughter, Judy McGinty and several other members of Ms. Heath's family. Also present was Mr. Stevens, Historian for the Conway Public Library, Jim Arnold, Curator of the Conway Historical Society, State Representative Karen Umberger and many other members of the public and the media.

Chairman Martin asked everyone in attendance to introduce themselves for the benefit of Ms. Heath and the media. Thereafter, Mr. Martin read aloud the Proclamation signed by the Board of Selectmen declaring Ms. Heath the Holder of the Boston Post Cane (see attached) and also spoke a few personal words regarding Ms. Heath.

At the conclusion of the Boston Post Cane Ceremony the meeting was recessed by the call of the chair. Mr. Martin advised the meeting would reconvene at Town Hall.

The Selectmen's Meeting reconvened at 4:10 p.m. in the Meeting Room of Conway Town Hall with the following present: Selectmen, Larry Martin (Chair), C. David Weathers, Howard C. Dickinson, Bob Drinkhall, and Mike DiGregorio; Town Manager, Earl W. Sires; and Recording Secretary, Karen Hollowell

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 October 22, 2009

CONSIDERATION 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 to consider.

BOSTON POST CANE PRESENTTION

Mr. Martin reviewed that earlier today the Boston Post Cane was presented to Mildred "Middy" Heath who is 100 years old at the Conway Historical Society.

TOWN CLERK/TAX COLLECTOR

Mr. Martin advised that Town Clerk/Tax Collector, Rhoda Quint, has been elected the President of the New Hampshire Tax Collectors Association. Mr. Martin invited Ms. Quint to join the meeting to discuss same.

Ms. Quint advised that with all the changing laws, rules, etc, the Town Clerk Tax Collector's Association keeps Town Clerks and Tax Collectors in Towns in New Hampshire up to date with the changes and requirements. Ms. Quint next advised that the Town of Conway has a rich history of involvement in the Town Clerk's Association advising that Henry Hill, John Stevens and others were also past presidents of the Association.

There was next brief discussion with the Board regarding Ms. Quint's length of service as Town Clerk Tax Collector for the Town of Conway. Ms. Quint advised she has been in the position for seven years. Mr. Martin commented on behalf of the Board of Selectmen that he would like to thank Ms. Quint for the fine job she and her staff do in the Town Clerk and Tax Collector Departments.

CROP ZONE

Jac Cuddy, Director of the Mount Washington Valley Economic Council joined the meeting.

Mr. Sires prefaced this matter explaining that the program formerly known as CROP Zone is now known as an ERZ which is an Economic Revitalization Zone and Mr. Cuddy is here to discuss same.

Mr. Cuddy stated the State of New Hampshire does not have a lot of business incentives to offer and businesses do look for incentives. DRED does have some incentive programs and one is this Economic Revitalization Zone, which is formally known as the CROP zone, which allows businesses to move into a certain area and apply for a certain tax credit. Mr. Cuddy distributed information to the Board for review. Mr. Cuddy next advised that one such area in Town which has been designated is where Trafford RV is located.

Mr. Cuddy next stated that he is asking that the Technology Village be designated as an Economic Revitalization Zone. Mr. Cuddy advised the Town would have to fill out forms to request the area be designated as such and then each business that moves into the Tech Village would have to apply individually.

There was a discussion with the Board and Mr. Cuddy regarding the 81 acre commercial area. There was discussion as to whether this could restrict a residential area. It was felt it would not restrict a residential area. Mr. Cuddy explained this is an incentive credit for someone to take if they so choose. Mr. Cuddy next requested that the Board of Selectmen endorse this and agree this area could be a Economic Revitalization Zone and make application to DRED for the designation. After further discussion, **Mr. DeGregorio moved, seconded by Mr. Dickinson to approve the application and direct staff to work with the Mount Washington Valley Economic Council to submit the application to DRED. The motion carried 4-1-0 with Mr. Weathers voting in the negative.**

Mr. Dickinson moved, seconded by Mr. Drinkhall to reconsider. There was discussion. Mr. DiGregorio pointed out that there is a company in town using the program and it is working out for them. **Mr. Drinkhall withdrew his second and Mr. Dickinson withdrew his motion to reconsider.** No further discussion.

PAVEMENT PRESERVATION PLAN FOR ROUTE 302 BETWEEN 16 & 113

David Smith, Engineer, Wendy Johnson, Project Engineer, and David Rodrigue, Maintenance Engineer of the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT), joined the meeting. Town of Conway Public Works Director, Paul DegliAngeli, was also present for discussion.

Mr. Smith gave an overview of the upcoming pavement preservation plan for Route 302 and 113. Wendy Johnson reviewed maps of the paving project with the Board.

Mr. Dickinson asked about if the NHDOT could put some extra pavement at the turn on E Conway Road and Eastman Road. The NHDOT representatives made note of this request.

Mr. DegliAngeli asked about the type of pavement they will use for the project. Mr. Smith advised it would be up to the contractor and the paving department of the NHDOT. Mr. DegliAngeli advised the Town thinks the pavement should be at least a ¾ inch aggregate. The NHDOT representatives made note of this request.

There was next discussion regarding the life of this project. David Rodrigue explained the purpose of a pavement preservation project is to put down layer to extend the life of the pavement

Mr. Martin discussed flooding in area of Eagles Way, and the pot holes etc. The NHDOT representatives made notes of these concerns.

Ms. Johnson stated they anticipate work to start in spring of 2010 and be finished in fall of 2010. Further, as far as traffic control, they expect to keep both lanes of traffic open as much as they can. The anticipated cost of the project is \$900,000.

Mr. DegliAngeli asked about the islands at the intersection of 113 and advised they are damaged. Mr. DegliAngeli advised they now have 1 inch or less and the NHDOT may want to look at this as well. The NHDOT representatives made notes of these concerns.

Mr. DiGregorio asked about how the NHDOT identifies parts of this road that don't need paving over and, also, other roads that do need paving such as East Conway Road, etc. Mr. Smith advised they identify which roads they will do by traffic loads, etc.

Mr. Martin asked about the 4th of July weekend, etc. Mr. Weathers also questioned Friday afternoons as well. Mr. Smith stated they understand it is tourist season. They will be working at night etc, and doing drainage and guardrail during the day. They will shut down prior to the 4th of July and Memorial Day holidays. The construction bureau will put out alerts to staff that these time frames are to be avoided. Mr. Smith next asked the Board if they are looking to have Friday at noon too. Mr. Martin replied in the affirmative that we would look for that as well. Mr. Smith acknowledged this fact stating okay.

Mr. Weathers next asked if the NHDOT foresees multiple areas being worked on at once. Mr. Smith stated that typically they work on one area at once but this is not to say a guardrail and some drainage cant be done at once – this could happen. Mr. Weathers commented that anything that could be done to minimize delays would be helpful.

Mr. Smith stated they envision using traffic control officers. Mr. Smith next stated they sent a Municipal Work Zone Agreement to the Town regarding same for review.

Mr. Martin noted the Town uses officers and feels blue lights alert drivers to upcoming traffic.

The Board next discussed that Route 153 and E Conway Road need attention and asked Mr. Smith to look into this matter. Mr. Smith made note of these concerns.

At 5:34 pm Mr. Martin called for a recess of the meeting. The meeting reconvened at 5:40 pm.

NORTH SOUTH ROAD SAFETY ISSUES

Mr. Sires reviewed this matter was before the Board a couple of months prior. The data has now been reviewed and brought back to the Board for review and discussion.

Mr. DegliAngeli advised that a majority of the accidents on the North-South Road happen between 8 am and 5 pm on good weather days. Bad weather does not seem to be a factor. Also alcohol was not a factor in a majority of the accidents. Further the accidents are equally dispersed in age groups. Visitors versus locals were examined and there are more accidents for locals. They next looked at views from streets and there is no common denominator. Mr. DegliAngeli next reviewed not seeing the stop signs at the North-South Road and stated the recommendation is to put a blinking light over the stop signs or on the sign itself and these could be solar or some other type of power.

The Board held discussion on various options. The Board agreed to try a strobe type light at this time. **Mr. Dickinson moved, seconded by Mr. Weathers, to install a**

strobe at Seavey and Grove on the east west travel lanes. The motion carried 5-0-0.

BUDGET DISCUSSION

Tasker Hill Bridge - Mr. Sires advised the Town received 3 proposals regarding the work for the Tasker Hill Bridge. The Town has awarded the work to AJ Coleman. AJ Coleman will have one lane open and flaggers directing traffic

Landfill Aroma - Mr. Sires reported the Town had tried a temporary fix for the landfill aroma however this plan did not work. The sulfur content of gypsum has been increasing and we have slowly stopped using it. We have now gotten into a 3 way partnership with and the cost to fix the problem is \$18,000 and the cost to each is \$6,000 but it is experimental. We will need to use \$4,000 out of the budget this fall. Mr. DiGregorio questioned why the Town has to pay any part to get rid of the odor if the problem. Mr. DegliAngeli explained the company who was selling the Town the cover is taking part of the responsibility. It was pointed out that if no one contributed and we stopped using the cover, we would still have the odor problem. There was further brief discussion by the Board. **Mr. Dickinson moved, seconded by Mr. DiGregorio, that we approve this demonstration project to eliminate this odor at the landfill for our share of the odor at the landfill. The motion carried 5-0-0.**

Public Works Storage Garage Roof - Mr. DegliAngeli explained the steel roof on the storage garage was put up at minimal standards with minimal insulation and causing condensation in this steel building and it is now leaking. It is felt that the best fix is to put down insulated board and cover over it. The best price is \$70,000. There was discussion. Mr. Drinkhall stated he felt we should look at how long we want the building and should look at all options regarding fixing it. The Board agreed. Mr. DegliAngeli will look into options and report back on same.

Tax Rate – Mr. Sires advised the Town is having a meeting regarding the tax rate in the next couple of weeks with the DRA representative. Mr. Sires next reviewed tax rate information with the Board and advised that the Board needs to decide how much, if any, of the fund balance they would like to use toward taxes. Mr. Sires reviewed that if they put \$400,000 the rate would essentially be level but would have less of a cushion next year. Mr. Drinkhall stated he feels it would be a mistake to take anything over \$300,000. There was further discussion by the Board. **Mr. Drinkhall moved, seconded by Mr. Weathers, that we take the \$300,000 from the fund balance against this year's taxes.** Mr. Sires reviewed that is about a 2% increase on taxes. **The motion carried 4-1-0 with Mr. DiGregorio voting in the negative.**

CRF - Mr. Sires questioned if the Board would like staff to submit a CRF for Highway Equipment, Infrastructure, etc., that would get the town back on track with projects etc. The Board agreed they would like staff to submit one that will get the town back on track. They agreed that is the direction at this point.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Valley Vision Quarterly Report – Mr. Sires advised the Valley Vision quarterly report is available for review.

Kearsarge Metalurgic - Mr. Sires reported there is new information that may make it easier for public to take over property. Mr. Sires advised when the Town receives the letter from the state he will provide more information to the Board regarding this matter.

Budget – Mr. Sires reported he has received most of the departmental budget information and will start reviews tomorrow.

USDA and NCWP - Mr. Sires reported there is a celebration of funding achievement at the NCWP scheduled for this Monday. Federal and State representatives will be in attendance. Mr. Dickinson advised he will be attending.

Cable Franchise Renewal Committee – Mr. DiGregorio reported the Town submitted the proposed cable agreement to Time Warner Cable. Also, there is a meeting scheduled with all the sending towns to discuss PEG TV.

Lighting Committee – Mr. Drinkhall reported the Lighting Committee met and received a report from both lighting companies.

Dairy Queen – Mr. Martin asked if there was any activity at the Planning Board level with regard to a new Dairy Queen in town. Mr. Drinkhall advised he did not know. Andrea Osmun of the Conway Daily Sun advised there will be a story in the newspaper reporting on this in the near future.

Conservation Commission – Mr. Weathers reported the Conservation Commission met last week. At the meeting there was discussion regarding Forester, Don Johnson, performing work for the town.

ZBA – Mr. Weathers reported the ZBA will meet tomorrow night, October, 21, 2009. At the meeting, there will be discussion regarding the cell tower.

US Navy Day Proclamation – Mr. Martin reviewed the Board discussed at a previous meeting a Proclamation making November 14, 2009 US Navy Day.

Chapter 113/Traffic – Mr. Martin questioned if the traffic Public Hearing has been scheduled. Mr. Sires advised the draft is being develop and a hearing will be set.

PUBLIC COMMENTS/MEDIA QUESTIONS

Ms. Osmun of the Conway Daily Sun asked about the CROP zone area discussed earlier in the meeting. The Board advised it is 81 acres.

NON PUBLIC SESSION: RSA 91-A.II(c) / TAX MATTER(S)

Mr. Drinkhall moved, seconded by Mr. Weathers, to go into non-public session under RSA 91-A,II(c) to discuss tax matters. The non public session included Town Manager, Earl Sires, Town Clerk/Tax Collector, Rhoda Quint, several citizens to discuss tax matters, and Recording secretary, Karen Hallowell. **The motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.**

At 7:29 pm, **Mr. Weathers moved, seconded by Mr. Drinkhall, to return to public session, the motion carried unanimously.**

NON PUBLIC SESSION: RSA 91-A,II(c) / TOWN MANAGER EVALUATION

At 7:30 pm, **Mr. Drinkhall moved, seconded by Mr. Weathers, to go into non public session under RSA 91A,II(c) to discuss the Town Manager Evaluation.** Included in the non public session was Town Manager, Earl Sires. Recording Secretary, Karen Hallowell, was excused from the meeting at this time. **The motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.**

The Board returned to public session at conclusion of the non public meeting. The minutes of the non public session were sealed by unanimous vote in non public session.

ADJOURN

At approximately 8:15 pm, the meeting adjourned at the call of the chair.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen J. Hallowell
Executive Secretary