

**Minutes of Meeting
CONWAY BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

November 16, 2010

The Selectmen's Meeting convened at 4:04 p.m. in the Meeting Room of Conway Town Hall with the following present: Selectmen, C. David Weathers (Acting Chair), Bob Drinkhall, and Michael DiGregorio; Town Manager, Earl W. Sires; and Recording Secretary, Karen Hallowell

Selectmen, Larry Martin and Howard C. Dickinson were not present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Weathers led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Signing of Documents

1. Notice of Intent to Cut Wood or Timber / Map-Lot 272-12 & 272-13
2. Notice of Intent to Cut Wood or Timber / Map-Lot 265-157
3. Tax Abatement / Map-Lot 202-136
4. Tax Abatement / Map-Lot 214-82.064
5. Tax Abatement / Map-Lot 230-29
6. Tax Abatement / Map-Lot 272-36
7. Tax Abatement / Map-Lot 276-188
8. Tax Abatement / Map-Lot 277-51
9. Tax Abatement / Map-Lot 277-67

B. Consideration of Bills:

1. Manifest dated 11/118/10
2. Payroll dated 11/18/10

Mr. Drinkhall moved, seconded by Mr. DiGregorio, to accept the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously. The Board signed the documents, manifest and payroll.

REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF SPECIAL EVENT APPLICATION(S)

There were no special event applications for consideration.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

Mr. Drinkhall moved, seconded by Mr. DiGregorio, to accept the minutes of 10/26/10 as written. The motion carried 3-0-0.

REQUEST FOR "CHILDREN - SLOW" SIGNS FOR ARTIST FALLS ROAD

Skip Groves, joined the meeting. Mr. Groves advised that he resides on Artist Falls Road. Mr. Groves stated that Artist Falls Road is used as a raceway for cars. He has spoken to people about the speed and received both negative and positive responses. Mr. Groves stated there are a lot of children in the neighborhood and he is at odds to get people to slow down on the road. Mr. Groves next stated the speed limit

on Artist Falls Road is currently 30 miles per hour and he would like to see it posted at 25 miles per hour. Other than posting the speed limit he does not see anything else he can do.

Lt. Perley of the Conway Police Department was present. Lt. Perley stated that he has not spoken with Mr. Groves and he has not called the police department. Lt. Perley stated they do get speed calls for all over the town. Lt. Perley made a note to go to Artist Falls Road and advised they will put out either the speed trailer or a directed patrol in the area.

There was a brief discussion with the Board regarding signs. Mr. Weathers reviewed that the police will be putting patrols and/or the radar trailer out and we can see how affective this is and then Mr. Groves can come back before the Board if he feels there is still a need for signs. Mr. Groves agreed.

Mr. Groves thanked the Board for their time and Mr. Weathers thanked Mr. Groves for coming in to speak with the Board.

PRESENTATION OF THE PROPOSED 2011 BUDGET

Conservation – Paul Pinkham, Chair of the Conservation Commission appeared before the Board. Mr. Pinkham advised the budget presented is level funded from last year. Mr. Pinkham explained there are different items in the budget from last year however it is level funded. Mr. Pinkham next gave a brief explanation of the changes.

Mr. Sires stated a resident asked if we are going to cut back openings on the Red Tail Trail. Mr. Pinkham explained it is the intent to keep the bike trail open. The Mountain Bike Association has done this work in the past. Mr. Pinkham further explained there are no plans though at this point to make Red Tail Trail a ski trail. Mr. Pinkham also explained there are six compartments up in Whitaker Woods and they are being managed for wildlife, view and hardwoods.

Planning and Zoning - Mr. Sires reviewed the Planning and Zoning budget and advised that it is status quo.

Finance – Finance Director, Lucy Philbrick, briefly reviewed the Finance budget with the Board.

Elections and Registration – Town Clerk/Tax Collector, Rhoda Quint, joined the meeting. Ms. Quint reviewed the Elections and Registration budget with the Board. Ms. Quint reviewed that everything is pretty much flat, however, the seminars line is up slightly. Ms. Quint advised this is for motor vehicle registration training. With all the changes it is recommended that everyone in the office get the training. Ms. Quint further advised there is one election next year, which is the town election and so they will be spending less on elections next year. Ms. Quint next reviewed the Supervisors pay is constant even though there is one election next year. They will be doing a 10 year purge of records next year as well. Ms. Quint next advised that the supplies, ballots and postage line is up a little for next year as well. Ms. Quint next advised that in 2009 they stopped requesting money for meals for elections. Ms. Quint advised that out of pocket they do spend money for coffee, water, etc., and she is asking for \$100 to fund these items.

Bob Barriault questioned the amount for training. Ms. Quint advised \$1,000. Mr. Barriault questioned if this includes the cost of sending people to Concord for the training. Ms. Quint advised this amount does cover mileage and that the training may be in different locations around the state. Ms. Quint further advised this also includes the Spring Workshop and Annual Conference.

Mr. DiGregorio stated that some rules and laws regarding elections were changed this year for keeping track of things, etc. Mr. DiGregorio stated he knows this was extra work and questioned if this training is part of it. Ms. Quint advised the state does provide training so they do their job properly. Mr. DiGregorio questioned if the extra things they were made to do this year were necessary. Ms. Quint advised there was a burden put on clerks in addition to the regular work they do which included tallying, etc.

Police - Police Chief, Edward Wagner, and Police Lieutenant, Chris Perley, appeared before the Board. Police Commissioners, Theresa Kennett, David Doherty and Rodney King were also present.

Mr. Sires noted the budget the Police are submitting today differs from the budget submitted previously and requested copies. Chief Wagner advised they will supply copies for the Board.

The Chief advised the new budget figure proposed by the Police is \$2,271,439. The Chief next reviewed the significant increases in the budget with the Board, i.e., labor, etc. The Chief reviewed the budget request for officers includes one new officer for six months (for the second half of the year). Chief Wagner pointed out that the line actually shows a decrease but they moved information in one line for the prosecutor position. Chief Wagner also reviewed there is an increase in the overtime line of \$5,000.

The Board asked for explanation of the prosecutor position. The Chief discussed the number of arrests in the town. The Chief explained they hired a prosecutor to handle the 850 cases they have in a year, not including the summons they hand out. The prosecutor will be in court approximately 1500 time per year.

The Chief next briefly reviewed the increases in the dispatcher line is basic raises. The Chief also reviewed there is an increase of \$.75 per hour for the Animal Control Officer.

With regard to the benefits line, professional liability, medical insurance, workers compensation insurance, etc went up this year. The Chief reviewed increases of about \$24,000. The Chief further reviewed that life and disability went down. The Chief further reviewed that retirement and social security went up. Earned benefits went down and hopefully no one will retire in the middle of the year.

With regard to operations, this went up \$3570. The Chief reviewed the increases consisted of the computer line, increases in dues for the IMC program, an increase for NH Bar Association dues, training, and exams and physicals.

The Chief next reviewed the total proposed is \$2,721,439 and this includes one new officer for six months of the year. Chief Wagner advised that he was asked to come up with costs regarding the new officer. Chief Wagner advised the cost for one officer for five months is around \$35,000 and the tax impact is around two or three cents.

Mr. Drinkhall questioned if the Police will still be proposing a warrant article for two additional officers. The Chief replied in the affirmative. Mr. Drinkhall questioned the dollar amount of the warrant article. The Chief advised \$70,000. The Chief further added the tax impact for next year would be approximately six cents. Mr. Weathers next reviewed they are asking for one new officer in the budget and two officers through a warrant article.

There was next a discussion with the Board and Police concerning past requests for officers. The Police reviewed past requests for officers, workload, crime statistics then and now, increases in calls for service, reports, etc. There was also a discussion regarding the amount of officers available at a time in town, scheduling for extra patrols for grants received, and how the police have to triage calls and sometimes people have to wait for an officer.

The Chief next advised the three proposed officers would be working the road. They have no intention of promoting anyone right now; this would be in the future. The Chief next reviewed the command structure in other Towns compared to the Town of Conway. Mr. DiGregorio questioned the command structure in the Town of Conway. The Chief advised it is just the two of them, himself and Lt. Perley.

There was next discussion with the Board concerning the use of the Sheriff's Department and State Police. The Chief advised that they only call them when they need them. Lt. Perley added this would be for critical situations such as barricaded person, etc and not for routine calls.

Bob Barriault asked about road construction traffic detail in the budget. The Chief advised this is in a revolving fund. Mr. Barriault questioned when a police officer is carrying out this duty -is that part of a normal shift. The Chief advised it is off duty officers and the town actually makes a little money off of the details. Mr. Barriault questioned if the police had looked into eliminating road detail and adding more overtime. Mr. Barriault stated he felt it would be cheaper to pay overtime than to pay for additional officers. If they are available why not have them work the overtime. The Chief explained that half of the overtime is court time. If you were to do this you would be asking nine people to work overtime and you would have to raise the overtime budget. Mr. Barriault stated he did not think it was a good year to hire new officers -he thinks we would save more money by using overtime instead. Lt. Perley explained why, from a police perspective, using more overtime would be a bad idea, i.e., hours worked, etc.

Assessing – Tax Assessor, Tom Holmes, appeared before the Board. Mr. Holmes advised he submitted his budget to the Town Manager, and Mr. Sires did make a cut to same. Mr. Holmes advised the cut was made to summer help. Mr. Holmes next advised that he just received word from the software company that there will be an increase of \$1500. Mr. Holmes next advised that he could shave some dollars off of supplies, etc to try and find \$1500 to keep the Assessing budget as was submitted by the Town Manager.

BOARD REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Road Scholar Program - Mr. Weathers reported that Lance Foss and Jody McDonald completed the Road Scholar Program and congratulated both.

There were no further Board reports.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Abenaki – Mr. Sires reported he spent time with the road crew this morning at the Abenaki Camp doing some work. They were taking ruined materials out etc., and the camps are all cleaned out at this point.

Town Report Award. – Mr. Sires reported that Karen Hallowell will be traveling to the LGC Conference in Manchester on Thursday, November 18, 2010, to accept the 3rd place award for the Town of Conway 2009 Town Report.

LED Installation – Mr. Sires reported the installation of the LED test lights at Schouler Park will take place on Friday, November 19, 2010 at 10:00 a.m.

Lighting Project – Mr. Sires reported the FOX Business Network contacted the Town regarding the lighting project and Mr. Drinkhall will appear on the show in the near future to discuss the project.

Tasker Hill Bridge – Mr. Sires reported the final inspection of the Tasker Hill Bridge has been completed.

Fairpoint – Mr. Sires reported that he and Tax Assessor, Tom Holmes, met with town counsel earlier in the week to prepare for the mediation scheduled in the Fairpoint matter.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND MEDIA QUESTIONS

There were no public comments or media questions.

NON PUBLIC SESSION: RSA 91-A,II(E) / LITIGATION MATTER

The non public session was canceled.

ADJOURN

At approximately 5:40 pm, **Mr. Drinkhall moved, seconded by Mr. DiGregorio, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Karen J. Hallowell
Executive Secretary