

**Minutes of Meeting
CONWAY BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

January 4, 2011

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, 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.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Weathers moved, seconded by Mr. Drinkhall, to consent to the agenda. The motion carried without objection.

A. Signing of Documents

1. Petition and Pole License - 1 new pole
2. Petition and Pole License - 1 new pole 955/10 1/2 on Thompson Rd

Mr. Drinkhall moved, seconded by Mr. Dickinson, to sign the Petition and Pole License for one new pole 21/5 1/2 on Kearsarge Road and one new pole 955/10 1/2 on Thompson Road The motion carried 5-0-0

B. Consideration of Bills:

1. Manifest dated 1/6/11

Mr. Drinkhall moved, seconded by Mr. Dickinson, to approve the manifest dated 1/6/11. The motion carried 5-0-0,

C. Ratification of

1. Transfer \$91,774.32 from Police Special Duty Revolving Fund to Town of Conway General Fund

Mr. Weathers moved, seconded by Mr. Dickinson, to ratify the Transfer \$91,774.32 from Police Special Duty Revolving Fund to Town of Conway General Fund. The motion carried 5-0-0.

2. Transfer \$110,378.16 from Solid Waste Revolving Fund to Town of Conway General Fund

Mr. Weathers moved, seconded by Mr. Drinkhall, to ratify the Transfer \$110,378.16 from Solid Waste Revolving Fund to Town of Conway General Fund. The motion carried 5-0-0.

3. Manifest dated 12/30/10
4. Payroll dated 12/30/10

Mr. Drinkhall moved, seconded by Mr. Weathers, to ratify the Manifest of 12/30/10 and Payroll of 12/30/10. The motion carried 5-0-0.

REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF SPECIAL EVENT APPLICATION(S)

There were no Special Event Applications for consideration.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

The consideration of the minutes of 12/14/10 was postponed to the next meeting.

CONSIDERATION OF UNANTICIPATED REVENUE LESS THAN
\$5,000/RSA 31:95-B, III (b-): A \$500 FROM AN ANONYMOUS DONOR
TO THE TOWN OF CONWAY FOR A "SPECIAL NEEDS FUND" FOR
CONWAY RESIDENTS

Mr. Weathers moved, seconded by Mr. Drinkhall, to accept the unanticipated revenue in the amount of \$500 from an anonymous donor to the Town of Conway for the Special Needs Fund for Conway residents. Mr. Sires advised the funds will go into the existing Special Needs Fund for the Welfare Department. **The motion carried 5-0-0.**

PUBLIC HEARING - SOLID WASTE ORDINANCE

Mr. Martin read aloud the Public Hearing notice and opened the public hearing at 4:05 p.m.

Mr. Martin first set forth the rules by which the public hearing would be held. Mr. Sires reviewed the public hearing is being held regarding the hours at the transfer station. Mr. Sires further reviewed the Mount Washington Valley Solid Waste District includes the Towns of Conway, Albany and Eaton and that this is the first of two public hearings to be held. The next public hearing will be held on January 25, 2011.

Robert Barrett of Pequawket Drive, Conway, stated he understands the Selectmen are trying to save \$42,000 off the budget. However, he thinks they should keep Sunday open and close Monday and Tuesday. If the dump is closed on Sunday the "flatlanders" will leave garbage outside as they did years ago when they closed the dump on a Sunday.

Bob Barriault stated he didn't have a problem with Sunday being the day chosen by the Board of Selectmen; however, he thinks this will pose a problem for people who work during the week as the dump closes at 3:00 pm. Mr. Barriault next questioned if it would be possible to achieve roughly the same by cutting five days by one hour. Instead of closing at 3:00 p.m. close at 2:00 p.m. and then stay open on Sunday. Mr. Barriault further added that the savings wouldn't be quite as much as you would have from eliminating four days of time and half but that it would be close. Mr. Martin stated we can take this suggestion under consideration.

Pat Dick of Davison Way stated that she has been here for around 20 years. She understands closing on Sunday is important to the town and the taxpayers. Ms. Dick stated that she doesn't think the Board is making it okay for people who work. She further stated she feels the transfer station should be left open on Sunday and close on Monday and Tuesday and that this would also alleviate the jam on Saturday.

Ed Wagner stated that he feels Sunday is the busiest day. Mr. DegliAngeli advised that Saturday is the busiest day at the transfer station. Mr. Wagner suggested closing Monday and a half day Tuesday and keep the transfer station open on Sunday. Mr. Wagner suggested opening on Tuesday from noon to 6:00 p.m. and this way it won't really affect the hours that much but you give people a chance to dump trash that would have done it in the morning to do it in the afternoon or evening.

David Haine of Nash Avenue stated he commended the Town for looking at ways to save money but thinks we should leave the dump the way it is. Mr. Haine next stated this is facility that works well, the people are nice, there is good service and it is clean. Mr. Haine stated that closing some hours at the transfer station will be like when the Post Office closed Saturday afternoons and he feels this isn't for the customers. He feels it facilitates workers and not clients and the clients are the people of the Town of Conway. Sunday is a real busy day for people and some people work most of the time and don't have any other time to go but Sunday and he doesn't think we should take that away from them. Mr. Haine next stated that for the next meeting the question is how much per taxpayer does this add up to. Mr. Haine added that he thinks it is only a few dollars per resident and so he thinks we should leave the town dump the way it is as it runs well.

Sarah Young Knox stated that she is an Albany Selectman but is not here at the meeting today as a representative of Albany, but a resident. Ms. Knox stated she would be in favor of closing on Tuesday instead of Sunday. Mr. DiGregorio questioned if the Albany Board of Selectmen have taken a position on this matter. Ms. Knox advised stated no they did not. Ms. Knox next pointed out that the Albany representative to the Mount Washington Solid Waste District is present at the meeting today.

Colleen Cormack advised that she is the Albany representative to the Mount Washington Solid Waste District. Ms. Cormack stated that she has concerns because Sunday is a busy day at the dump – Saturday and Sunday are both busy. Ms. Cormack further stated she is concerned as vacation owners leave on Saturday and Sunday and she worries that we may have an issue with Albany and Eaton as they are further away from the transfer station and taking trash to the dump ends up being a weekend chore. Ms. Cormack stated she is in favor of closing Tuesday but would like to talk more with the Solid Waste District about this first.

Stacy Sand advised she is a resident of North Conway. Ms. Sand stated there are a lot of second homeowners who are here only on weekends. If garbage is sitting in dumpsters all week long this could be a bear problem. Ms. Sand next stated that she also saw a meeting on television and Mr. Martin stated that workers are getting a cut in pay so we gave them a choice regarding days to be closed. In terms of cutting pay you said that it was overtime and that as a taxpayer she does not see this as a cut in pay –their pay is the salary they receive but overtime is never part of pay in terms of taxpayers, although she is sure there is something built into the budget to allow for special circumstances. As an unemployed taxpayer she resents calling overtime part of the pay.

Mr. Martin asked for further comments. There were none and the public hearing closed at 4:20 p.m.

Mr. Dickinson reviewed the second public hearing on this matter will be held on January 25, 2011 and after that hearing the Board will make a decision. Mr. DiGregorio stated he would be curious about what the comments would be if we had hours at night for one night a week.

Mr. Martin stated that the Town appreciates the input and encouraged the public to attend the next public hearing as well.

EMERGENCY GENERATOR GRANT APPLICATION

Chief Solomon, Emergency Management Director for the Town of Conway joined the meeting. Mr. Sires reviewed that Chief Solomon is the Fire Chief for the Conway Fire District and, also, also the Emergency Management Director for the Town of Conway.

Chief Solomon advised that since he has taken over as Emergency Management Director for the Town he has been working on pieces of the Emergency Management Plan that need work. The biggest one of those is shelter. Our existing shelter plan just relies on the American Red Cross to handle shelter for us and the current location is Kennett Middle School. The School District is willing to participate but the Middle School does not have a generator and if power is knocked out it won't work as a shelter for us. Also, there is no agreement with the American Red Cross for them to provide that shelter it is just written into our plan. Chief Solomon next advised he has been working with the Red Cross to find out what we need to do to have a Red Cross approved shelter. We need to designate a location and the Red Cross inspects it and makes sure it meets ADA requirements, size requirements, etc. One the requirements is also back up power. Through discussions with Mr. Sires and others it was determined the thing to do is get a generator for Recreation Center and have the shelter on town property. Chief Solomon next referred to the big ice storm in southern part of state about a year or so ago and advised they had problems when the schools were ready to open for kids but the shelters weren't ready to close and this created some logistical problems. We can avoid this as we have a building that meets requirements except for backup power that is owned by the town and so it won't affect school operations. We are seeking a grant to get this accomplished. There are a couple of different grant options. One is and Emergency Management Performance Grant and we are eligible for this but it is only for 50% of the bill and he does not see, in the current tax situation in Conway, us coming up with other half of that money. For this reason he would like to choose to seek out a Homeland Security Grant which will pay the entire cost for the generator. The estimate for the generator is \$45,000 and this has to go out to bid if we get approved for the grant; however that figure is a working estimate. Mr. Solomon next advised that to proceed he needs to have the blessing of the Board of Selectmen and, also, the caveat of this is the town has to agree to maintain this generator and this has an annual expense of \$550 per year to have the generator serviced. Also, the generator has to start and run periodically and would use gas and this would also cost about \$1000 per year to run and any additional gas costs if there is an emergency. **Mr. Drinkhall moved, seconded by Mr. Weathers, to allow Chief Solomon to pursue the grant from the State Homeland Security Program.** Mr. Dickinson questioned if this would run on diesel. Chief Solomon advised it would use propane gas. Mr. Dickinson stated he hopes the generator is big enough to handle the situation. Chief Solomon advised it takes approximately 60kbw to run that building and we went with propane because it is easier to store than diesel. Also, the generator can run for three days and then we can refill it if needed. Further, it would be more expensive for a diesel generator. Mr. Sires stated we have recommended the need for this for years and, also, he feels the shelter should be under the control of the Town of Conway. Mr. Sires stated if we are lucky enough to get the grant it will not be until halfway through the year and further pointed out that there will be a cost to same. Mr. DiGregorio questioned how many people the Recreation Building can hold. The Chief advised 60 plus and they can also use the additional rooms in that building. Mr. DiGregorio asked about the septic at the site. Mr. Sires stated it is not perfect for this situation but if we got overwhelmed at that site we could also use the school and this site. It is our best alternative. Mr. Weathers questioned when we would hear about the grant. Chief Solomon advised he does not know the date they will award but the deadline to submit the application is the end of January. **The motion carried 5-0-0.**

REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF ANNUAL OPERATING AGREEMENT
BETWEEN TOWN OF CONWAY, CONWAY SCHOOLS AND MWVSTF

Mr. Sires reviewed discussion was held regarding the Mount Washington Valley Ski Touring Foundation during the budget process and the Board approved same. The Annual Operating Agreement between the Town of Conway, Conway Schools, and the Mount Washington Valley Ski Touring Foundation before the Board today is the same as last year and the only change is the dates of the Agreement. **Mr. Dickinson moved, seconded by Mr. DiGregorio, to sign the Annual Operating Agreement between the Town of Conway,**

Conway Schools and the Mount Washington Valley Ski Touring Foundation. The motion carried 5-0-0.

BUDGET/WARRANT ARTICLES

Mr. Sires advised the police will be at the next meeting as requested to review the Police Union Contract. Also John Eastman will be here to discuss cemetery maintenance.

Mr. Sires next reviewed the other item that was tabled was Valley Vision. Mr. Sires distributed information regarding the PEG fund and reviewed same. (copy attached). There was discussion by the Board as to how much to propose putting into the fund and/or whether to transfer some to the general fund. Mr. DiGregorio stated he felt we should not transfer any to general fund this year as there may be equipment needs, etc. There was discussion as to whether this could be left alone until we know if we are getting the \$400,000 from the state. Mr. Sires advised we cannot do this because of timing. Mr. Sires next suggested having one or two articles this year, one to accept franchise fees and put money into PEG fund, and another for and equipment fund. We could also accept \$10,000 as a grant and handle as same. There was further discussion. Mr. Sires reviewed that a decision is needed to either put all or part of \$125,000 into fund. There was next discussion on warrant article language and options. Mr. Sires advised we could suggest an amount for the PEG fund through a warrant article of \$100,000 and then carry expense in the budget; however, that would make the budget go up but you would have the money if needed. Mr. Martin requested Mr. Sires draw this up on paper so the Board could review same and the Board agreed.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Budget Committee - Mr. Sires reported the Budget Committee meets tomorrow night at 6:30 p.m. here at Town Hall. There will be an overview of the Town Budget and they will also review Assessing, Election and Registrations and Library budgets.

PSNH – Mr. Sires reviewed the town has been in touch with PSNH regarding the removal of the fixtures when the lights are turned out. Mr. Sires advised that he spoke with the liaison from PSNH several times, got the rate sheet and then was advised that if he wanted to pursue the issue further he was advised to write a letter, which we did. After receiving the letter, PSNH contacted the Town and advised that we were misinformed about the fixtures. We were told that if they take the fixture down that people would have to pay for it if they wanted the light turned back on and this is not the case. We were now told by PSNH that people will not have to pay if the fixture is taken down and they want to have it put back up.

CDRC – Mr. Sires advised we have been contacted by NHDOT regarding scheduling a CDRC meeting. This meeting has been scheduled for January 18, 2010 at 2:00 pm. There will be a discussion about progress and where the town wants to go.

Flag Pole Light – Mr. Drinkhall advised the light on the flag pole in front of town hall is out. Mr. Sires advised he would look into this.

Snow Removal – Mr. Drinkhall questioned what the policy is for picking up snow. Mr. Sires advised that we wait until there is a certain amount and then they pick up the snow; however the weather forecast can influence this as well. Mr. Drinkhall questioned how much it cost the town when it was picked up after the last storm.

BOARD REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Landfill Odor – Mr. Martin reported that he has heard comments regarding the landfill being ripe smelling. We need to ask Mr. DegliAngeli to look into this issue. Mr. Martin advised that he experienced the odors himself this past New Year's Eve.

Invitation to State Representatives – Mr. Dickinson suggested inviting the State Representatives and Senator Bradley to attend a Board of Selectmen meeting in the month of February so we can hear about what is going on and have discussion on issues such as State Revenue Sharing, Rooms and Meals, Retirement, etc. These three things are due to expire this year and we need to emphasize to our legislature that we want them to expire so that we get the money again. **Mr. Dickinson moved, seconded by Mr. Drinkhall, that we invite the four State Representatives, Chandler, Umberger, Pettingill and McCarthy as well as Senator Jeb Bradley in the month of February when convenient for them to hear about this from us and that we write a letter to be signed by the Chair.** Mr. Martin pointed out that in a recent press release; Representative Chandler stated that we would get the \$400,000. Mr. Dickinson stated he would still like to discuss all of the issues with the Representatives. Mr. Drinkhall stated he believes they have all said we would see this but this does not guarantee it and, also, not one of them has said where the money will come from. **The motion carried 5-0-0.**

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND MEDIA QUESTIONS

Bob Barriault stated he realizes the work put into the budget but feels it would also be prudent to look at worse case scenarios and think about what we would do in the situation if we don't receive the money from the state.

Doug Swett questioned that after the person retires from the dump, how many workers will be left. The Board advised 6 altogether at the landfill and transfer station. Mr. Swett stated this is a 15% reduction and why cant this be done at the school, etc. It wouldn't hurt for the rest of them to do this as well.

Mr. Barriault commented that even if we find out we will not get the money we will still have to raise and appropriate at town meeting and this won't help the tax rate.

Mr. Barriault next stated the town overall budget is down 1% and that you have also done a worksheet regarding the tax rate which is about a 3.5% tax increase. Mr. Barriault stated he doesn't think that our income is keeping up with our spending and that we are spending beyond our means. Mr. Barriault stated that he feels we need to find additional ways to raise money other than taxes. Mr. Barriault added that other towns are reducing police and fire and increasing service fees such as building permits etc as they just weren't getting enough money from these sources. Mr. Sires advised that we are looking at some fees charged by the town such as septic, etc. Also, Building Permit fees were adjusted a couple of years ago. Mr. Weathers stated that he understands what Mr. Barriault is saying but he has a feeling that after town meeting it may be even worse from what he is hearing. If people stand up at the Deliberative Session and put money back into the budget then we have no control over this increase.

Mr. Martin questioned the impact to the Recreation budget if the Town of Eaton pulls out of the town program –will this affect revenue. Mr. Martin advised that Eaton has a committee looking into recreation. Mr. Sires pointed out that the Recreation program is not just for children and that there are programs for children, teens, adults and seniors. Mr. Sires further pointed out that the Town of Eaton does not include any of this information on their town webpage. We treat the Recreation program with the same formula as the school, transfer station etc. Mr. DiGregorio questioned if we have anyone going to the meeting planned by

Eaton on the 6th of January. Mr. Sires advised they have not invited the Town of Conway. Mr. DiGregorio stated he thinks someone should attend so they can hear the whole picture. **Mr. Drinkhall moved, seconded by Mr. Weathers, that Mike DiGregorio represent the Board of Selectmen at the meeting in Eaton on January 6, 2011.** Mr. DiGregorio advised he will take the position of the Board of Selectmen at that meeting and also explain the formula. **The motion carried 5-0-0.** Mr. Weathers advised that he may be attend the meeting in Eaton as well. Further, he will contact Rick Young and confirm the date and time for the meeting.

ADJOURN

At 5:40 p.m., **Mr. Weathers moved, seconded by Mr. DiGregorio to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned without objection.**

Respectfully submitted,

Karen J. Hallowell
Executive Sec