

**Minutes of Meeting
CONWAY BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

March 1, 2011

The Selectmen's Meeting convened at 4:05 p.m. in the Meeting Room of Conway Town Hall with the following present: Selectmen, C. David Weathers (Acting Chair), Selectman, Larry Martin, Howard C. Dickinson, Bob Drinkhall, and Michael DiGregorio; Town Manager, Earl W. Sires and Recording Secretary, Karen Hallowell.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Signing of Documents
1. Certification of Yield Taxes Assessed – Map/Lot 223-15
 2. Current Use Land Use Change Tax Collector's Warrant – Map/Lot 253-93
 3. Land use Change Tax – Map/Lot 253-93
 4. Current Use Land Use Change Tax Collector's Warrant – Map/Lot 253-94
 5. Land use Change Tax – Map/Lot 253-94
 6. Notice of Intent to Cut Wood or Timber – Map/Lot 231-98 & 231-99
 7. Permanent Application for Property Tax Exemptions - Map/Lot 203-113-73
 8. Permanent Application for Property Tax Exemptions - Map/Lot 215-42
 9. Permanent Application for Property Tax Exemptions - Map/Lot 255-13
 10. Permanent Application for Property Tax Exemptions - Map/Lot 265-23
 11. Permanent Application for Property Tax Exemptions - Map/Lot 275-73
 12. Permit to Sell Raffle Tickets-Gibson Center/Drawing monthly 2/11 to 12/11

Mr. Drinkhall moved, seconded by Mr. Dickinson to approve and sign the Certification of Yield Taxes Assessed – Map/Lot 223-15; Current Use Land Use Change Tax Collector's Warrant – Map/Lot 253-93; Land use Change Tax – Map/Lot 253-93; Current Use Land Use Change Tax Collector's Warrant – Map/Lot 253-94; Land use Change Tax – Map/Lot 253-94; Notice of Intent to Cut Wood or Timber – Map/Lot 231-98 & 231-99; Permanent Application for Property Tax Exemptions - Map/Lot 203-113-73; Permanent Application for Property Tax Exemptions - Map/Lot 215-42; Permanent Application for Property Tax Exemptions - Map/Lot 255-13; Permanent Application for Property Tax Exemptions - Map/Lot 265-23; Permanent Application for Property Tax Exemptions - Map/Lot 275-73; Permit to Sell Raffle Tickets-Gibson Center/Drawing monthly 2/11 to 12/11. The motion carried unanimously.

- B. Consideration of Bills:
1. Manifest dated 3/3/11
- C. Ratification of
1. Manifest dated 2/24/11
 2. Payroll dated 2/24/11
 3. Tax Abatement – Map/Lot 223-15

Mr. Drinkhall moved, seconded by Mr. Dickinson, to approve the manifest of 3/3/11 and to ratify the manifest and payroll dated 2/24/11 and to ratify a tax abatement application for Map/Lot 223-15. The motion carried unanimously.

REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF SPECIAL EVENT APPLICATION(S)

Gibson Center for Senior Svcs/Craft Fairs 5/28-5/29/11, 7/2-7/4/11, 9/3-9/4/1 and 10/8-10/9/11 – **Mr. Drinkhall moved, seconded by Mr. DiGregorio, to approve the Public Event Application for the Gibson Center for Senior Services Craft Fairs on 5/28 to 5/29/11, 7/2 to 7/11/11, 9/3 to 9/4/11 and 10/8 to 10/9/11. The motion carried unanimously.**

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES: 2/8/11 AND 2/15/11

Consideration of the minutes of 2/8/11 and 2/15/11 was carried to the next meeting.

BOARD COMMENT

Mr. Drinkhall stated there was an article in the paper this past Friday, February 25, 2011 and on page eight where it discusses that Mr. Drinkhall has his hand up to say something at the meeting --the article also stated that he accused Mr. Weathers of ignoring him on purpose and this is not the case. Mr. Drinkhall stated he is upset with the newspaper as they refuse to correct this statement in the paper.

PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATION TO ERIC MEADOR

Eric Meador appeared before the Board. The Board presented Mr. Meador with a Proclamation regarding his retirement from employment from the Town of Conway. (A copy of the Proclamation is attached hereto).

DISCUSSION OF STATEWIDE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Mr. Sires reported the town received a letter from North Country Council and reviewed same. (See attached). Mr. Sires further reviewed the Town of Conway is not a member of North Country Council and, therefore, do not have a representative on the committee that approves the statewide transportation plan for our region. We do not have a vote, although they are asking for our input on same.

Mr. Sires next reviewed this is an opportunity if the Board wants to provide any comments to North Country Council about the current status of the bypass project and its placement on the ten year plan. Mr. Sires next reviewed previous discussions held by the Board regarding the phases of the bypass, etc. Mr. Sires next stated that we could write a letter and convey the Board's position on the matter.

Mr. Martin stated he doesn't think that getting around the town is a bad idea. Also, he feels if we send a letter forward we should send a message that we don't need such a grand design and they should tone it down a little and then maybe they would be able to extend it. If they dump traffic on Route 302 and the North-South Road was extended on the other side of the hospital this may help. If they tone down the southern end and put funds into the existing North-South Road then some of the jam up could jump onto the North-South Road and go to North Conway. Mr. Martin stated he feels we should ask them to relook at the design.

Mr. Dickinson stated that he agreed with Larry and, also, feels we could mention the use of roundabouts as well.

Mr. DiGregorio stated he opposes the bypass being dumped into where it is planned now without extending the North-South Road. He would rather see them scrap the southern

portion, rehab the Village of Conway, and then do what Mr. Martin said. He is afraid the southern bypass will push everything to Walmart and the traffic will sit there.

Mr. Weathers next reviewed discussions held at recent a recent Citizens Design Review Committee with the Board.

Mr. Martin moved, seconded by Mr. Drinkhall, that we pass along a comment to have the state, before moving forward with the southern bypass, take a look at their design concept to see if it can be toned down a bit to use roundabouts etc, and get best traffic flow for the buck and maximize what they can do in the area. The Board agreed the comments should be passed along in a letter to North Country Council. Mr. Dickinson stated he feels that the Board should add to the letter that we have no intention of transmitting to you a recommendation until the NHDOT has done the traffic flow study as they had promised. Mr. Dickinson felt the Board should also mention in the letter that we were disappointed that the NHDOT didn't produce the traffic study and we are not taking a position until they do so. Mr. Drinkhall stated that he doesn't understand how they can consider a project of this nature when they can't take care of what they have now. The Board agreed. Mr. DiGregorio stated his main concern is that the southern bypass will dump by Walmart.

Mark Hounsell stated that on this issue there is so much in the public memory that sometime we forget the North Country Council works with the state. Mr. Hounsell stated that he feels that at this point any letter to the North Country Council would be premature. He feels the Town should withhold comment until such time as the state fulfills its promise to do the traffic study.

There was further discussion. **Mr. Dickinson moved, seconded by Mr. Martin, to amend the motion to add to the letter that furthermore we do not intend to take a position until we hear from the state on the traffic counts and how it will affect the traffic flow in the valley between 113/302 and 16.** There was brief discussion on the letter. **Mr. Dickinson further amended the motion, seconded by Mr. Martin, that if the motion passes that staff write a letter and have the chair sign and send along to North Country Council.** Mr. Drinkhall stated he would like his comment included in the letter as well. The Board agreed Mr. Drinkhall's comment should be included. There was further brief discussion. Mr. Drinkhall called the question. **The motion carried 5-0-0.**

SENATOR JEB BRADLEY

Senator Jeb Bradley was introduced by Selectman Dickinson.

Mr. Bradley held discussion with the Board on the state government budget and its implications for cities and town, the NH Retirement system and pending legislation, Rooms and Meals Tax, state revenues, SB133 concerning the pole tax exemption, and SB156 regarding retail vehicle dealers acting as agents for registrations.

The Board thanked Senator Bradley for coming to the meeting to speak today.

ASSIGNMENTS FOR TOWN MEETING

Mr. Sires reviewed the Public Information Packet prepared for the Deliberative Session of Town meeting with the Board. Mr. Sires reviewed that in the past assignments for the Selectmen were made should questions arise at the Deliberative Portion of Town Meeting. The Board held brief discussion. It was agreed that staff would field most of the questions on

warrant articles and the budget. Mr. Drinkhall stated he would discuss Article 7 and Mr. DiGregorio stated he would speak to Articles 15, 16 and 17 should questions arise.

Mr. Sires stated that he, Paul, and Lucy did review fuel, materials, etc. and, at this time, would not be suggesting changes at Town Meeting. Mr. Weathers questioned increased fuel costs. Mr. Sires stated that so far it is not an issue we can predict unless the Board wants to add a figure to this line.

Mr. DegliAngeli joined the meeting to discuss fuel costs with the Board. Mr. DegliAngeli stated that we have left the fuel at the current price as there still may be some wiggle room. We haven't expended enough at this time to increase it and we are using current pricing as a best guess at this time.

Mr. DiGregorio pointed out there was also discussion that we may have to amend our own budget at town meeting due to not cutting back at the Transfer Station until Town Meeting. Also, there were a number of other items cut during the year that may be brought up at town meeting and questioned these costs as well. Mr. Sires stated we could estimate for lighting, to fully fund the transfer station, and to put lifeguards back on should this be discussed at town meeting.

The Board next discussed rising fuel costs. Mr. Martin stated he feels this should be amended as we may see this cost at \$4.50 per gallon by summer. We have cut the budget, but we should adjust this number for fuel costs. **Mr. Martin moved, seconded by Mr. Dickinson that we use a fuel adjustment figure of \$4.00 per gallon for diesel.** Mr. DegliAngeli questioned if estimating do we base this on last year and some assumptions for November and December. The Board responded in the affirmative. Mr. Drinkhall stated that if we are doing this for diesel we should also do the same for heating. **Mr. Drinkhall amended the motion to include heating fuel #2 to adjust to \$4.00. The motion carried unanimously.**

There was next discussion concerning the transfer station. The Board reviewed we are waiting to see if the voters want to reinstitute opening on Sunday. There was discussion of the different scenarios and possible costs. Mr. DegliAngeli further pointed out that there are also policy issues involved i.e., will snow days be a delayed start, overtime, etc. After further discussion, it was agreed that staff would bring figures for the different scenarios to town meeting.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Town Meeting – Mr. Sires reported the Deliberative Portion of Town Meeting is scheduled for next week, Monday, March 7, 2011. Also, the Town is finishing up work on the Town Report.

Mr. Drinkhall stated there had been discussion recently concerning at 5-4-1 vote taken by the Budget Committee and if this is a pass or fail motion. Mr. Sires reported that per town counsel there were 5 in the affirmative and so it is a positive motion.

Snow Removal Tape - Mr. Drinkhall next asked about the information on snow removal. Mr. Sires advised someone evidentially has a tape on the process of snow removal. The Board suggested obtaining a copy and showing same on Valley Vision. Mr. Sires advised he will inquire about the tape and ask to show same on Valley Vision.

BOARD REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Police Budget – Mr. DiGregorio stated that last week there were articles in the newspaper concerning the police budget. Mr. DiGregorio questioned if this Board wants to ask the Commission to come in and discuss same. There was discussion as to the responsibility of the Police Budget by the Board. After debate, Mr. Weathers questioned if it was the consensus of the Board to ask the Police Commission to come before this Board to have discussion. The Board unanimously responded in the affirmative.

Next Meeting – Mr. Drinkhall questioned if there will be a Board of Selectmen meeting on March 8, 2011. There was discussion and it was agreed that if the Board needed to have a meeting after the Deliberative Session it would be brief. Mr. Sires advised that staff could also post a meeting notice for after the Deliberative meeting if there are changes to the budget. The Board agreed to post both meetings in the event they are needed.

School Board letter to Budget Committee – Mr. Drinkhall reviewed the School Board sent a letter to the Budget Committee last week and that the Budget Committee held a meeting on Sunday, February 27, 2011 regarding same. Mr. Drinkhall reported the Budget Committee vote on the budget stood after the two hour meeting. Mr. Drinkhall next reported the school board will be meeting to decide what, if any, action they will take. Mr. Dickinson commented that Dave Sordi did a wonderful job chairing the Budget Committee meeting held on Sunday.

Legislative Publication from LGC – Mr. Dickinson pointed out the Board receives legislative publications from the LGC and asked that everyone always read and call him with any questions or comments.

Police Commission Discussion – Mr. Martin apologized to Mr. DiGregorio for making assumptions regarding the police commission discussion earlier in the meeting.

Budget Committee/School Budget – Mr. Martin questioned the Budget Committee vote to cut the 11% from the school budget and will they lose money off the budget if they get to the Deliberative portion. Mr. Drinkhall advised that at the Deliberative Meeting they can put back in up to 10% but this would result in a 2% decrease over the actual presented budget by the school board.

Mr. Martin next asked if the Board would ask the Board's representative to the Budget Committee to take a vote back to the School Board on the bussing situation. Mr. Drinkhall reviewed the vote was 4-5-1. There was brief discussion on the proposed privatization. There was also discussion as to whether the Board of Selectmen would and/or should provide a direction on this to the Selectmen's representative. There was no action taken by the Board to ask the Selectmen's representative to take this to the Budget Committee.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND MEDIA QUESTIONS

Mark Hounsell stated that he thinks the Board should consider writing a letter of support for the retirement reform. He feels it helps in Concord if a Board of Selectmen goes on record. Mr. Dickinson suggested the letter could state there is interest and strong support regarding the retirement reform. Mr. Sires advised he would work on a letter and have it signed out of session. The Board agreed.

Mr. Martin left the meeting at 6:28 p.m.

NON PUBLIC SESSION: RSA 91-A:3II(C) –TAX MATTERS

At 6:29 p.m., **Mr. Drinkhall moved, seconded by Mr. DiGregorio, to go into non public session under RSA 91A:3II(c) to discuss tax matters. The motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.**

At 6:55 p.m. the Board returned to public session. There was no vote to seal the minutes.

ADJOURN

At 6:56 p.m., **Mr. Drinkhall moved, seconded by Mr. DiGregorio, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Karen J. Hallowell
Executive Secretary