

**Minutes of Meeting
CONWAY BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

September 1, 2011

An Emergency Meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called pursuant to NH RSA 91-A:2,II to discuss emergency management issues.

The Selectmen's Meeting convened at 2:10 p.m. in the Meeting Room of Conway Town Hall with the following present: Selectmen, C. David Weathers (Chair), Howard C. Dickinson and Mary Carey Seavey; Town Manager, Earl W. Sires and Recording Secretary, Karen Hallowell.

Selectmen, Michael DiGregorio and Lawrence Martin, were not in attendance.

DISCUSSION REGARDING DISASTER RELIEF

Mr. Sires advised this meeting was called to bring the Board up to date regarding disaster relief in the Town.

Mr. Sires advised the fire department pulled about 22 people from Transvale Acres on Sunday night. There were approximately 15 people in the shelter on Sunday night. As of Monday afternoon there were approximately four left and the shelter was closed and the people were put up at the Saco River Motor Lodge. However, after that more people showed up looking for shelter and there was evidence of an ongoing need for shelter and we asked the Red Cross to come in and they have now set up a shelter at the Conway Recreation building. There are approximately 12 people there and there may be more people coming tonight.

Mr. Sires next advised the Town is spending money. At this time it is not huge amounts but we are expecting reimbursement; however, there is no guarantee of reimbursement. Mr. Sires stated to the Board of Selectmen if there is anything you don't want us to do at this point after today's discussion we will need to know.

Mr. Weathers asked about reimbursement for staff time. Mr. Sires advised we won't be reimbursed for overtime, etc. Mr. Sires next advised that we have spent money for some necessities for people and staff time. Mr. Sires advised the State got the Red Cross Shelter to stay for the next ten days and then we need to see if we can find a place for them.

Mr. Sires next advised they have separated the Recreation activities from the shelter area at the Recreation building. He has also asked the Recreation staff to pull out from being involved at the shelter at this time as Red Cross has come in to take care of feeding people, shelter, etc.

Mr. Sires next advised that the only part of town that continues to have problems at this time is Transvale. There were also issues with the Hillside Avenue area but this seems to be okay now.

Mr. Sires next reported that with regard to Transvale, there are 80 plus residences impacted by flooding. A number of the people impacted are renting and some have the least resources available to them. There are social workers and mental health counseling available at the shelter.

Mr. Sires next reported Governor Lynch and other government officials were in town yesterday and the Governor is committing to help for the area.

Mr. Sires next reported the State Fire Marshall staff and the Conway Village Fire Department are in the Transvale area doing a house to house search. They are looking for any deceased persons and, also, looking at the condition of properties. They are looking at this for FEMA to see if there is disaster help. FEMA can make a public or private declaration. If they make a public declaration, FEMA will help with infrastructure and if they make a personal declaration, they will help individuals. This is why they are doing an assessment. Mr. Sires next advised that FEMA doesn't provide assistance for property owners to relocate and won't give money to help rebuild in a floodplain. There may be some assistance available for renters to relocate; however, we don't know all of the information at this point.

Mr. Sires next reported there were some issues with erosion at Hussey Field. Mr. Weathers stated there were some contractors out there today to look into restoring the area. It will cost thousands to repair and clean up this area. If we don't do the work we will lose the field. Mr. Sires commented that he will need to know if the Board wants to do the repairs and, if so, we will try to get FEMA money for same. If the Board does not want this done, then please let him know.

Building Inspector, David Pandora, joined the meeting at approximately 2:25 p.m.

Mr. Sires next advised that we have put 8-10 dumpsters in at Transvale Acres to assist with clean up. The Town is paying for them at this time but hope to get some reimbursement for this expense. If the Board wants to discontinue the dumpsters, please advise.

Mr. Sires next advised that the other thing we are looking at doing is working with the campgrounds. If they are determined to be a public safety issue, we can get help with cleaning up the campgrounds and try to get reimbursement. We may get 75% reimbursement and we would look to the campground to pay the other portion. If the Board is okay with this, we will proceed with an agreement with the campgrounds to help them. We do not know at this point if we will get reimbursed. Mr. Dickinson questioned if there is any way of knowing if we will get reimbursement before entering into an agreement with the campgrounds. Mr. Sires advised we are trying to find out this information. Mr. Sires next advised we could hire a contractor and do repairs, mainly debris removal; however, if you do not want us to get involved with this the Board needs to let staff know now. Mr. Weathers stated that Eastern Slope Camping area floods and they have never come to the Board of Selectmen before for help. Ms. Seavey stated she does not believe we can move forward with this right now –not with the Transvale problems. Mr. Weather advised that if we help campgrounds then other businesses may want the same, i.e. the golf course, etc. Mr. Sires advised that we could let them know the town is not in a position to help with their issues right now. There was further brief discussion by the Board. It was agreed by the Board to let the businesses know that we will not be assisting them at this time.

Ms. Seavey stated she thinks debris, etc, is a huge issue right now and, also, what to do with the people who have been displaced. Mr. Sires advised that with regard to debris and other issues the State and staff looked at the area yesterday. We will also be linking up with other state staff personnel to look at issues. The State may offer assistance possibly with the National Guard to help with the debris. With regard to the hazardous materials, the NHDES is

looking at these issues. They are also doing an agricultural damage assessment to see if there is a loss of corn, etc.

Mr. Sires next advised that the Town Planner is working with the Town Attorney to look at legal authority and tools the town may have to work through these issues –both long and short term issues. We need to make sure we understand all of the legal issues. There are health, rental, fire code, life safety, etc, issues. Also, many, if not most of the places in Transvale, may not be by codes suitable for living.

Mr. Sires next advised that after today's walkthrough, every electrical service at a certain level there -60 to 80 meter sockets have been under water. Most, if not all, of those places need an electrician to come in and look at the systems for safety purposes.

Mr. Pandora advised that he has spoke with PSNH and the sites need to be looked at to see if they are safe or not. Mr. Sires stated they need the services looked at because of safety issues before they are turned back on. Mr. Pandora advised he will be assessing the situation further and it depends on if they were under water or not. They may be able to reenergize some. PSNH is talking about disconnecting the lower section of the area and this will shut down power. Mr. Pandora advised that people are complaining they want service back but this all needs to be checked out first. Mr. Sires pointed out that geographically some spots are worse than others. Mr. Sires next advised that another issue is the type of house or structure on the lots. Some stick built may be able to be lived in again. There are owner occupied and owner occupied seasonal places and the seasonal will not get help from FEMA. Also, many of these were illegal. There were also rental properties with landlords providing substandard housing and this is an issue as well. With regard to FEMA, there will be a focus on relocation for the renters but they have to be willing to relocate. With regard to seasonal structures, we will make sure that what they rebuild, if they can, is legal. Mr. Sires advised there may also be money available to try to buy land. Some people may not be willing however. It is a quandary also, as some people may have nowhere else to go but on the other hand it is a safety issue for first responders. Mr. Weathers stated if they buy some, why not take all in the lowest area and don't allow any camping, etc.

Mr. Sires next advised that per the Assessor, Tom Holmes, the assessed value of the Transvale Aves is approximately \$6,000,000. There are 100 plus lots in Transvale.

Ms. Seavey questioned if there are people with illegal residences is there anything we can do about this. Mr. Sires replied in the affirmative and advised we will have to start enforcement. Mr. Sires next advised another quandary is that people are down there now cleaning up and the police cant tell them to stay off of their of own property. Mr. Sires advised that enforcement actions will be pursued in the future.

There was next a brief discussion of the condition of the travel trailers, etc. in Transvale. Mr. Weathers questioned how soon we would hear back from FEMA. Mr. Sires advised information is being submitted tomorrow and we expect to hear something back in 1-2 weeks.

Public Works Director, Paul DegliAngeli, joined the meeting at 2:50 p.m. Mr. DegliAngeli reported that the North Conway Water Precinct lost well house #2 located behind the Up Country restaurant. Mr. Sires advised the issue is it is in the river and it needs to be removed. There was brief discussion.

Mr. Sires next advised that on Tuesday, September 6, 2011, there will be another Board of Selectmen meeting to further address the issues. Mr. Sires advised he will sit with staff, gather further information and report back to the Board next week.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen J Hallowell
Executive Secretary