

**Minutes of Meeting
CONWAY BOARD OF SELECTMEN
January 30th, 2018**

The Selectmen's Meeting convened at 4:03 pm in the Meeting Room of Conway Town Hall with the following present: Selectmen, C. David Weathers, Mary Carey Seavey, Carl Thibodeau, John Colbath, Steven Porter, Town Manager, Thomas Holmes, and Executive Secretary, Krista Day.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Weathers led the Board in the Pledge of the Allegiance to the flag.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Weathers noted that agenda item #4, the Discussion of the Equalization Rate for 2017, was being removed because Assessor, Dale Schofield, was unable to attend.

He also noted that in its place an agenda item would be added regarding a previously voted upon warrant article referencing the Capital Reserve Fund for Police Communication Equipment.

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Ms. Seavey, to approve the agenda as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION OF POLICE COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT WARRANT ARTICLE

Chief Wagner was present to give an update regarding the warrant article for a Capital Reserve Fund for Police Communication Equipment. He explained that he had given the same update to the Budget Committee the previous night.

Chief Wagner stated that he had followed up with New Hampshire State Police regarding a few questions that had been asked previously.

The State Police confirmed that the Town could not go onto their tower on Mt. Washington for a couple. They do not own the tower; they pay \$70,000 a year to be on it. Also, they said it would not work for Conway.

The State confirmed that they have some digital interface units available in the event that the Town needed one.

Chief Wagner noted that he would be attending a meeting with the company out of Portland on Friday, February 2.

Chief Wagner suggested to the Selectmen that they consider rescinding the warrant article that was previously voted on for the Town to raise and appropriate \$100,000 to be put in a Capital Reserve Fund for Police Communication Equipment. He believes that it would be in the best interest of all parties to wait. He noted that nothing was going to be done in regards to the

communication system in 2018, so the time would allow for more informed decisions to be made.

Chief Wagner explained that if the department receives the grant for the communications console, they can go ahead and upgrade the console which would need to be done first anyway. In the event that they do not get the grant, it would give them 6-8 months to think and make decisions.

Chief Wagner noted that direct contact has been made with Motorola which could possibly save money compared to going through a third party.

Mr. Colbath asked for clarification regarding the current communications console software issue and the potential availability of a digital interface unit from the New Hampshire State Police and if Chief Wagner could give the public reassurance regarding potential problems that may arise with the existing equipment. Chief Wagner explained that the software we currently have is outdated; if it were to go down, it would cost approximately \$40,000 to fix it. He explained that while there is a cost associated, it is a solvable problem. He stated that the NH State Police made it sound like they had several digital interface units available if needed. He also added that if necessary, the Sheriff's equipment could be utilized.

Chief Wagner referenced a discussion with Paul DegliAngeli, Public Works Director, about whether a consultant would be beneficial in this process. It was decided that this would best to handle in house seeing as there are only two companies; Harris and Motorola.

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Porter, to rescind the previous motion to place an article on the warrant that would see if the Town would vote to establish a Capital Reserve Fund for Police Communication Equipment for the purpose of purchasing equipment that supports the Police Department's effort in communicating with police officers, police dispatch, fire departments, and the public. Also, to authorize the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from it; and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$100,000 to be placed into this Capital Reserve Fund. The motion carried unanimously.

REVIEW OF RECEIPTS

The receipts were available for review.

SIGNING OF DOCUMENTS

- a. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credit/Exemptions Map/Lot 258-68.22
- b. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credit/Exemptions Map/Lot 219-183
- c. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credit/Exemptions Map/Lot 259-109
- d. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credit/Exemptions Map/Lot 277-297
- e. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credit/Exemptions Map/Lot 202-108
- f. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credit/Exemptions Map/Lot 272-52.29

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Ms. Seavey, to sign the Permanent Application for Property Tax Credit/Exemptions Map/Lot 258-68.22, Permanent Application for Property

Tax Credit/Exemptions Map/Lot 219-183, Permanent Application for Property Tax Credit/Exemptions Map/Lot 259-109, Permanent Application for Property Tax Credit/Exemptions Map/Lot 277-297, Permanent Application for Property Tax Credit/Exemptions Map/Lot 202-108, Permanent Application for Property Tax Credit/Exemptions Map/Lot 272-52.29. Mr. Colbath asked Mr. Holmes for clarification regarding these Veteran tax exemptions. Mr. Holmes explained that Assessor, Dale Schofield has received at least 27 of these applications so far and the deadline for submission is April 15, 2018. He stated that every \$500-dollar credit for a Veteran shifts a \$500 tax burden to the rest of the non-veteran tax payers. He believes that last year the number of Veteran applicants was much lower because the time between the Town vote and deadline for taxes was only a week apart. The projected number of applicants for this year is much higher. Mr. Holmes explained that there is a potential bill in the legislature currently that is proposing that Towns would have the option via local petition warrant article to increase the Veterans' tax credit to \$1000. **The motion carried unanimously.**

CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

- g. Accounts Payable Manifest dated 2/1/18
- h. Payroll dated 2/1/18

Mr. Colbath Moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to sign the Accounts Payable Manifest dated 2/1/18 and Payroll dated 2/1/18. The motion carried unanimously.

RATIFICATION OF DOCUMENTS SIGNED OUTSIDE OF SESSION

(none)

REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF SPECIAL EVENT APPLICATION(S)

(none)

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

- i. 1/23/18 Regular and Non-Public

Mr. Thibodeau moved, seconded by Mr. Colbath, to approve the Regular and Non-Public meeting minutes from 1/23/18 as written. The motion carried unanimously.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Mr. Holmes explained that the Budget Committee had submitted some questions to the Town regarding things like salaries and positions. They had also inquired as to what things are mandated by statute for the Town to do versus what is optional. Mr. Holmes explained that once a Town decides to do certain things over the years, mandated statutes come into effect. He believes these answers gave the Budget Committee a better idea of why our budgets are so intricate.

Mr. Holmes noted that the budget process and committee had been a very positive experience.

Mr. Holmes stated that he was able to meet the Governor, Chris Sununu, at a reception at Cranmore on Sunday, January 28.

Mr. Holmes explained that he was bringing forward a letter to Representative Belanger regarding the Town's support of HB 1634, relative to disorderly houses. He was looking for Board approval to have the Chairman sign the letter to show Conway's support. He noted that this bill would have the potential to allow police to cite disorderly households as a response to the transient rental issue the Town is facing. Mr. Holmes briefly discussed the long process that would have to be followed by just changing the Town's zoning laws. Instead, under the Selectmen's' police powers, police could fine the owner of the property.

Mr. Holmes noted that the Budget Committee welcomed new member, John Greenleaf Whitter, who was sworn in by Selectmen Colbath on January 30, 2018.

Mr. Holmes noted that in preparation for his speech to the MWV Leadership Class of 2018 the previous week, he had counted over 100 elected officials in the Town of Conway.

BOARD REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Planning Board – Mr. Porter stated that the Planning Board met the night before to discuss a boundary line adjustment on West Side Road. They also presented changes in zoning articles pertaining to signage from buildings constructed prior to 1930. This change in rhetoric would be presented on ballot

Budget Committee – Mr. Colbath said that at the Budget Committee meeting the night before, they had gone over the questions that had been given to the Town and School. They were meeting Wednesday, January 31, for non-profit budget presentations regarding their warrant article requests.

ZBA – Mr. Colbath explained that the ZBA met the previous week to discuss the change of use of a building located on Pine Hill. It had been decided to allow a zoning change from a retail space to an office space.

ESSA – Mr. Thibodeau stated that the ESSA met last Thursday, January 25. They were given a presentation from auditor about the financial condition of the airport. It was determined that the airport is in excellent financial conditions. Their next meeting is in April.

Economic Council – Ms. Seavey presented both Mr. Holmes and Daymond Steer from the Conway Daily Sun, a copy of her Economic Council report for 2017.

Valley Vision – Ms. Seavey noted that there was a fundraising event this evening at Black Cap.

Mr. Weathers noted that the joint meeting between the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee for the non-profit budget presentations was the next night; January 31, 2018.

Mr. Weathers presented the Board with a letter that was written to Chief Wagner from the Fryeburg Fire Chief Andrew Dufresne praising Conway Police Department's Sergeant Boucher for his quick actions at an incident on December 31, 2017.

Mr. Thibodeau moved, seconded by Mr. Porter, to allow the Chairman of the Board to sign a letter to Representative Belanger regarding the Town's support of HB 1634 which would afford communities a more effective and timely means to address nuisance properties. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Porter added that he believes this bill makes perfect sense in order for Towns to be given a fair and equitable chance to monitor disruptive properties.

Ms. Seavey asked if rental properties are registered with the Town. Mr. Holmes answered in the negative.

There was brief discussion of the process of taxes being collected and paid by companies such as AirBnB.

Ms. Seavey questioned if there was a way of getting the names of all the rental properties in Town. Mr. Holmes explained that the only way to do this would be to go on to the rental websites and get a count.

Mr. Weathers stated that while it was unofficial, long time resident, Chet Lucy had passed away over the weekend. He expressed his condolences to the Lucy family and noted that he really enjoyed his interactions with Mr. Lucy.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND MEDIA QUESTIONS

Daymond Steer from The Conway Daily Sun, asked what the Board has been hearing in regards to housing in the Valley and why the letter to Representative Belanger was important. Mr. Holmes asked Mr. Steer to clarify whether he was talking about the issue of transient rentals or lack of affordable housing. Mr. Steer confirmed that he was talking more about the issue of party houses. Mr. Holmes explained that with the high number of short term rental properties in Town, the Town is only hearing complaints about 12-16 properties. The purpose of the bill that Representative Belanger is supporting would not be to target all of the short-term rental properties; just the one who are causing problems. Mr. Porter added that the economic benefits of rental houses have been beneficial to the Town of Conway over 60 years, however, there is no recourse on disturbances. The Town needs an avenue to target repeat offenders.

Mr. Steer asked what had been discussed with Chief Wagner earlier in the meeting. Mr. Holmes explained that they were rescinding the warrant for the Police Communications System, but keeping the article for the communications console that a grant had been applied for to assist with the cost.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION/RSA-91-A:3 II(c) TAX MATTER

At 4:31 pm, Mr. Porter moved, seconded by Ms. Seavey, to go into non-public session under NH RSA-91-A:3 II(c) to discuss a tax matter. Included in the non-public session were Town Manager, Thomas Holmes, Public Works Director, Paul DegliAngeli, Tax Collector/Town Clerk, Rhoda Quint, and Executive Secretary, Krista Day. **The motion carried unanimously.**

At 4:33 pm, the Board returned to public session.

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Ms. Seavey, to seal the minutes of this non-public session. The motion carried unanimously.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION/RSA-91-A:3(d) CONSIDERATION OF ACQUISITION SALE OR LEASE OF REAL OR PERSONAL PROPERTY

At 4:34 pm, Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to go into non-public session under NH RSA-91-A:3(d) to discuss the consideration of the acquisition, sale, or lease of real estate or personal property. Included in this non-public session were Town Manager, Thomas Holmes, Public Works Director, Paul DegliAngeli, and Executive Secretary, Krista Day. **The motion carried unanimously.**

At 4:38 pm, the Board returned to public session.

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to seal the minutes from this non-public session. The motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN

At 4:39 pm, the meeting adjourned at the call of the Chair.

Respectfully submitted,

Krista Day
Executive Secretary