

Minutes of Meeting
CONWAY BOARD OF SELECTMEN
May 19, 2020

The Selectmen's Meeting convened at 4:00 pm in the Meeting Room of Conway Town Hall with the following present: C. David Weathers, Mary Carey Seavey, Carl Thibodeau, Town Manager Thomas Holmes, and Executive Secretary, Krista Day

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Weathers stated that they would be moving up the discussion of the Garage Renovation under the Drive-Thru Voting Recap and they would be replacing 16b. with the MOU with Bartlett for Channel 1301.

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

Mr. Weather noted that they were utilizing the Zoom Platform. The number to call in to the meeting was:

1 646 558 8656 Meeting ID: 839 1030 2139

They would also be streaming the meeting live on their Facebook Page "Town of Conway, NH"

Mr. Colbath congratulated Mr. Weathers and Ms. Seavey on being re-elected. He also congratulated Mr. Robert Nelson for running. He noted that he had heard from the public that they wished the Board would engage with the public and listen to their opinions before making decisions. Mr. Colbath expressed that they always welcome the publics input and concerns and invite them to attend their meetings.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS, COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS, AND MEETING SCHEDULE

Town Clerk Louise Inkell swore newly re-elected Selectmen Mary Carey Seavey and C. David Weathers into office.

Ms. Seavey thanked everyone for their hard and dedication for getting the election to go off so smoothly.

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau to nominate Mr. C. David Weathers as Chairman of the Board of Selectmen. The motion carried (4-0-1) with Mr. Weathers abstaining.

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau to nominate Ms. Mary Carey Seavey as Vice Chair of the Board of Selectmen. The motion carried (4-0-1) with Ms. Seavey abstaining.

They decided to table the committee assignments until next meeting.

Mr. Holmes recommended that the Board plan to meet weekly unless there is a lack of agenda.

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to continue to meet weekly. The motion carried unanimously.

DRIVE-THRU VOTING RECAP

Mr. Holmes asked if Moderator Fauver had called into Zoom. Ms. Day answered that Ms. Fauver was having technical difficulties.

Mr. Thibodeau noted that this only concern with drive through voting in the fall would be with weather and how they would deal with handing in the ballots.

Discussions of potential traffic backups were discussed. Ms. Seavey stated that she really felt as if people need to have a little patience when it comes to the voting days.

Mr. Colbath stated that they could get creative with the driveways.

Mr. Colbath also wanted to reiterate that the November Presidential Election was already scheduled to be held at the High School.

Ms. Inkell stated that if they maintain the 60% of voters who cast their vote absentee, she believes they could handle the Primary as a drive thru set up.

Mr. Colbath commended the Highway Crew.

Mr. Thibodeau stated that Moderator Fauver deserved a lot of praise. He said it was a spectacular organizational feat.

Ms. Seavey stated she as super impressed by Highway Foreman Andrew Smith.

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to send letters of appreciation to Moderator Fauver, School Moderator Doug Burnell, Andrew Smith and the Highway Department for their work on the Town Election and authorize Chairman Weathers to

sign it on behalf of the Board. The motion carried unanimously.

Town Clerk Louise Inkell noted that she had received notice from the Secretary of State that she needed to post the polling location for the September Primary within 7 days.

Mr. Holmes explained that they are looking at two things. One, whether the Board wishes to go forward with the primary at the Town Garage, but also, whether they would like to go forward with a potential garage renovation.

However, there was a question regarding whether the proposed garage renovation would interfere with an election if it was to be held in the garage in September.

Mr. DegliAngeli explained that the only portion of the garage that was used during this last election that would be potentially unfinished would be the breakroom which was used to count absentee ballots. However, they could perhaps either look into using the Center Conway Fire Station for that or configuring a space in the garage for that purpose.

Mr. Colbath asked what they proposed renovation would include. Mr. DegliAngeli summarized that the renovation included a remodeled breakroom, 2 bathrooms, vestibule, and upstairs office. He also added that they would be adding an alarm. The cost would be approximately \$200,000 which was in the Capital Reserve Fund.

Mr. DegliAngeli explained that hopefully next year they would be able to do the addition which would add 4 bays and a fire suppression system.

Mr. Colbath moved, second by Mr. Thibodeau, to hold the September Primary Election at the Conway Town Garage. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to allocate \$200,000 to renovate the Conway Town Garage as presented.

There was discussion regarding the actual cost of this project. Mr. DegliAngeli noted that he was still in the process of piecemealing this project together as it was originally meant to be both the addition and renovation.

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to amend his motion read as follows:

to allow Mr. DegliAngeli to continue planning for a garage renovation and come back to the Board with more definite cost figures.

The motion carried unanimously as amended.

DISCUSSION OF SHEDD WOODS

Mr. Weathers explained that the Conservation Commission had received a request from the owners of the O'Reilly House which is on the southern end of the Shedd Woods property. There are 6 marked Pine trees that the owner's insurance company would like removed. They had reviewed the trees, and only one was determined to be leaning enough to be taken down, however, there was nothing in the budget to be able to do it this year. In further discussion, the owner had said he wanted to take all 6 trees down at his expense, but this needed to come before the Board.

There was brief discussion regarding the visual impact. Rob Adair, Chair of the CCC, phoned into the meeting and said that there would be little to no visual impact as it was on the boundary line.

Mr. Thibodeau stated that he didn't believe they should promote the cutting of 5 healthy trees. Mr. Porter agreed.

Mr. Colbath stated that he was of the opposite opinion; if the insurance company tells you that you should do something, you should do it.

Mr. Adair stated that normally he would be in agreement with Mr. Thibodeau, however, the removal of these 6 trees would not change the look of Shedd Woods, and as the property owners were looking to pay for it themselves, he would recommend to let them cut all 6.

Mr. Colbath asked what would happen if any of the 6 trees came down on the O'Reilly house property. Mr. Holmes stated that it would be the Town's liability.

Mr. Weathers stated that he was in agreement with Mr. Adair.

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Ms. Seavey, to allow for the owners of the O'Reilly House property to remove all 6 pine trees at their own expense after they sign a waiver of liability, and Rob Adair will oversee the operation to ensure that it gets cleaned up correctly. The motion carried (4-1-0) with Mr. Porter in the negative.

Moderator Fauver called into the meeting after technical difficulties.

She noted that she believed that looking forward to the September Primary Election, she had been made aware that the Secretary of State was not crazy about a drive-thru election.

Mr. Colbath stated that they had just chosen the Town Garage as the polling place but left it open ended as to whether it would be used as an in person or drive thru polling location.

Mr. Colbath thanked Ms. Fauver for her work.

DISCUSSION OF WHITAKER WOODS CUTTING

Mr. Adair stated that when the NH Electric Coop had cleared the powerlines in Whitaker Woods, they left about 30 cords of uncut hardwood. Peter Donohoe had reached out and volunteered to cut it up and give it to people in town who cannot afford it.

Mr. Holmes explained that when Mr. Adair brought this up, issues of liability were raised. When Mr. Donohoe was asked to sign a waiver of liability, he refused stating that he did not believe he should have to sign away his liability as he was doing a service for the Town.

Mr. Holmes stated that he contacted Primex and they are saying that if something were to happen without a waiver, they would cover him up to \$10,000.

Mr. Holmes needed to know what the Board wanted to do.

Mr. Colbath wondered if the Town crew could do the work as it was a good idea, but would not want it to be done without a waiver of liability. Mr. Porter agreed.

Mr. Weathers stated that he had checked with Welfare Director BJ Parker and she did not know of any of her clients that could use the wood. Ms. Seavey said that she is sure other people in town could use it.

Mr. Colbath suggested that maybe the Gibson Center would know of people.

Mr. Holmes stated that he would contact Mr. Donohoe and let him know that the Selectmen would require a waiver if he wanted to proceed and check with the Public Works Department regarding availability.

Mr. Adair stated that he would like the Town to have a system in place that could address issues such as these as they rely on volunteers to do so much of their trail work.

DISCUSSION OF FIREWORKS

Mr. Eastman stated that Mr. Holmes had a copy of the fireworks contract if the Selectmen choose to go forward and have fireworks on Labor Day Weekend.

He did note that while the fireworks would look the same, he could not envision them having the same entertainment and vendors as they normally would during the 4th of July Celebration as he just does not have the staff at that time of year.

Mr. Eastman did note that there is a possibility of a parade. He had a conversation with Kevin Richard about the potential collaboration between the town and the school for a parade but that was very much up in the air.

Mr. Colbath asked what provisions were included in the event they had to cancel. Mr. Eastman noted that they would be able to cancel up to 15 days before and reschedule for the following year.

Mr. Thibodeau suggested that they do the fireworks and see what develops.

Ms. Seavey asked if they were having any craft fairs that weekend. Mr. Eastman was unsure. Ms. Seavey stated that she was not really in favor of only holding the fireworks by themselves.

Mr. Porter asked if Atlas would be willing to work with Conway again if they do not sign a contract with them this year. Mr. Eastman believed they would as they understand with the current situation, we all are facing.

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Ms. Seavey, to sign the contract with Atlas Fireworks for Saturday, September 5, 2020. The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION OF TOWN BEACH AND FIRST BRIDGE

Mr. Eastman explained that last Thursday he had received a called from Police Chief Wagner to see if the Town had decided to close First Bridge as he was getting complaints as people were congregating. He wanted to bring it before the Board.

Mr. Holmes noted that it would be his recommendation that they do not try and close public beaches and park access. He stated that they would be chasing their tails in enforcement. He suggested looking at signed promoting social distancing. He stated that they could try and close places such as Conway Lake, but people were still going to come.

Mr. Thibodeau agreed.

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to reopen the tennis courts at Davis Park. The motion carried unanimously.

RESULTS OF SUMMER PROGRAM SURVEY

Mr. Eastman went over the Summer Program survey results. In summary, 64 parents responded that they would send their children to camp this summer. That added up to a total of 138 children. 25 parents were unsure of whether they would send their children, and only 9 parents said they would not send their children. Mr. Eastman was optimistic because normally, surveys only receive a response rate of 10-15%.

There was discussion regarding whether the Coronavirus relief money could be used to help pay for children to attend camp. Mr. Holmes explained that you have to be able to document that it was an excess amount of money that was spent due to the virus.

Mr. Eastman said that he heard the Governor was not going to make a decision regarding day camps for at least another week.

Ms. Seavey asked Mr. Eastman to give an update regarding outdoor dining.

Mr. Eastman gave the Board a list of 12 restaurants that had applied for the outdoor dining permits. He explained that it was going really well and the feedback was very positive.

DISCUSSION OF OLD REC

Mr. Holmes explained that the Town had voted and had given the Board the power to sell the Old Recreation Center property if they so choose. He wanted to know how they wished to proceed.

Mr. Thibodeau and Mr. Porter wanted to get a more detailed proposal from the tennis group for the property.

Mr. Colbath noted that he would like to receive official realtor input.

Ms. Seavey would like to see it listed with 3 different firms.

It was stated that there had been no further commercial inquiries regarding the property in over a year.

CONSIDERATION OF TRUCK LEASE TO OWN

Mr. DegliAngeli noted that when they purchase trucks, it takes them 10 months to get them and two separate purchases from two vendors. As they were scheduled to purchase a truck this year, they had issued a purchase order for a cab and chassis back in January and were going to wait for the vote to order the dump cart and plow package. However, with the current economic situation, they had asked the voters to vote down the funds they were planning to use for this purchase. However, they had gone back to the vendor of the cab and chassis and negotiated a deal to make 5 yearly payments with a 3.7% interest rate in order to allow them to still purchase the truck as the truck they were replacing was 13 years old.

Mr. DegliAngeli was looking for the approval of the Board to move forward with that deal.

Mr. Thibodeau moved, seconded by Mr. Colbath, to allow the Town to move forward with the proposal as presented by Mr. DegliAngeli above. The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION OF CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUNDS

Mr. Holmes noted that they had signed the GOFERR Grant Application for \$240,897 which would allow them to submit coronavirus related costs for reimbursement up to that amount. Examples of allowable costs included increased welfare costs, interest on TANS, increased election expenses, etc. He noted that it could not be used for previously budgeted items or revenue shortfalls.

Ms. Seavey noted that she had been contacted by some people who did not feel safe attending these meetings at the current location and perhaps a new sound system at the recreation center could be reimbursable and would allow for proper social distancing.

Mr. Holmes noted that it possibly could be reimbursed, but it would need to be purchased first, then submitted and approved for reimbursement.

Mr. Colbath agreed that a good sound system would be a beneficial purchase.

Mr. Porter agreed that holding the meetings at the Recreation Center would be a good idea with the proper sound system.

REVIEW OF RECEIPTS

(none)

SIGNING OF DOCUMENTS

- a. MS-232
- b. MOU Between Bartlett and Conway for Channel 1301
- c. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 263-11
- d. Tax Collector's Warrant 2020
- e. Abatement of Taxes on Map/Lot 244-10
- f. Abatement of Taxes on Map/Lot 254-34
- g. Abatement of Taxes on Map/Lot 263-87
- h. Abatement of Taxes on Map/Lot 230-32.042
- i. Abatement of Taxes on Map/Lot 219-171
- j. Permit to Sell Raffle Tickets for Mt. Washington Valley Old Car Club (Every Monday Evening, 5/25/2020-9/15/2020)

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to sign the documents listed above in a. through j. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

- a. AP Manifest dated 5/21/2020
- b. Payroll dated 5/21/2020

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to sign the AP Manifest and Payroll dated 5/21/2020. The motion carried unanimously.

RATIFICATION OF DOCUMENTS SIGNED OUT OF SESSION

- a. AP Manifest dated 5/14/2020
- b. Notice of Intent to Cut Wood or Timber on Map/Lot 222-1, 226-2, 227-4
- c. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 258-58
- d. GOFERR Grant Application

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to ratify the documents listed above a. through d. The motion carried unanimously.

REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF SPECIAL EVENT APPLICATION(S)

- a. Mt. Washington Old Car Club Car Cruise Nights (Monday Nights July 6, 2020-Sept. 15, 2020)
- b. White Mountain Milers Tuesday Night Run at Whitaker Woods (July 7, 2020 – Sept. 11, 2020)

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to sign the special event applications listed above in a. and b. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

- a. Regular Minutes from 5/5/2020
- b. DPTM from 3/4/2020

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to adopt the minutes listed above in a. and b. as written. The motion carried unanimously.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Mr. Holmes explained that he had received questions as to whether the Town was planning to allow yard sales. The guidance given from the State was that yard sales would fall under the umbrella of retail and that people should follow social distancing guidelines and limit people to less than 10 on the property at a time.

Mr. Holmes noted that he had heard from their local census representative that their response rate is low. He urged residents to respond.

Mr. Holmes apprised the Board that as they are beginning to look at reopening, they have a cleaning company coming in to do an ozone cleaning. They are planning to take it day by day and limit the number of people in the building at a time. He had requested a quote for a buzzer system for the door, and is looking to perhaps continue by appointment only.

Ms. Seavey asked if they would require masks in the building. Mr. Holmes stated that NHMA said that they can supply and require masks if the Board so chooses. Mr. Colbath, Ms. Seavey, and Mr. Porter all agreed as they believed they should be conscientious of the people around them. Mr. Thibodeau stated he had mixed emotions regarding the issue.

Mr. Holmes went on to review some other safety steps such as face shields, plexiglass, and a half door to be installed in the assessing department.

Mr. Colbath suggested that Mr. Holmes have the citation regarding requiring masks be made into a sign.

Chairman Weathers read the following statement:

National Emergency Medical Services Week
May 17 – 23, 2020

On behalf of the Board of Selectmen, we would like to recognize all of the medical responders, emergency medical technicians, advanced EMTs and paramedics serving the Town of Conway.

Your dedication to keeping us safe makes us all proud especially now when we are facing a worldwide pandemic.

Thank you for all that you do for our town.

Mr. Colbath inquired as to what was going on with the move to the new Town Hall. Mr. Holmes noted that he had send the recommended changes to the lease to the Bank two weeks prior and heard nothing.

BOARD REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Mr. Porter stated that the Planning Board had met at the Conway Recreation Center. He thanked Mr. Eastman and his staff for setting up and breaking down the meeting. He also wanted to thank Mr. Ray Shakir for serving on the Planning Board and stated that Mr. Steiner had asked to be considered as an alternate.

Mr. Colbath congratulated all the newly elected board members and pointed out that there are now 4 younger people serving on committees who are graduated of Leadership MWV.

Mr. Colbath noted that the ZBA would be meeting on May 20, 2020 and the Budget Committee would be meeting on May 27, 2020, both to be held at the Recreation Center.

Mr. Thibodeau stated that there is not much to report at the airport as they are still reviewing the bids for the transient hangar.

He noted that he was extremely disappointed at the results from the Town vote. He believes that the airport is going to be a vital assist in getting the economy back up and running and the \$10,000 contribution from Conway would have been helpful.

Ms. Seavey noted that she would like to see them have a discussion soon regarding the potential of Valley Vision occupying the current Town Hall building when they move. They will put it on a future agenda.

Mr. Weathers stated that he had attended three zoom meetings. The CCC had met to discuss the issues at Shedd Woods. The Swift/Saco River Advisory Board had discussed updating the corridor management plan, and the Pine Hill Management Committee is going after a grant to do extensive work on the trail systems.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND MEDIA QUESTIONS

Daymond Steer from the Conway Daily Sun inquired as to when they would be discussing the letter regarding redistricting. Mr. Holmes noted that it would go on a future agenda.

Mr. Steer asked when the Short-Term Rental Committee would be meeting. Mr. Holmes noted that he would be planning a zoom meeting. He added that short-term rental issues have been the number one issues he has been dealing with. He wants to get regulations in place as soon as possible. He stated that some people who own these short-term rentals have decided to defy the Governor's orders and have put the entire community at risk.

Mr. Holmes noted that Diana's Bath is open and he has the parking area scheduled to be fully staffed for Memorial Day Weekend.

ADJOURN

At 6:27 pm, Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Krista Day
Executive Secretary

