

**Minutes of Meeting
CONWAY BOARD OF SELECTMEN
August 4, 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, 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 Allegiance to the Flag.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Weathers stated that item 4, Discussion of Ski Museum Bathrooms, had been removed.

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

DISCUSSION OF COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

Matt Leavitt, the Emergency Management Director for the Town of Conway, spoke to the Board via Zoom. He explained that the most recent numbers he had been given for COVID-19 cases were 26 new daily cases for the State, a total of 397 cases, and 89 of those total cases were in Carroll County.

Mr. Leavitt did note that the problem with these numbers is that they only show those individuals whose primary residence is in New Hampshire.

Mr. Leavitt stated that a big problem is that people are not wearing masks.

Mr. Colbath stated that he had talked to a representative from the NHMA because he is on the sub-committee responsible for updating the Budget Committee Bylaws. He had been told that the Selectmen must have written procedures regarding COVID-19 for all meetings that are going to be held in the Marshall Gymnasium.

It was decided that perhaps Mr. Eastman could assist in drafting something for the next meeting.

Mr. Leavitt gave an overview of what to expect for the storm that was forecasted in Town later that evening.

DISCUSSION OF SACO/SWIFT RIVER ADVISORY VACANCY

Mr. Holmes noted that there had been a resignation from the Saco/Swift River Advisory Committee. He noted that this was a State Appointment, however, they would be looking for a Selectmen's recommendation. If anyone was interested, they should get their name into the Board before the next meeting by emailing Mr. Holmes at tholmes@conwaynh.org.

Mr. Colbath asked Mr. Weathers if there were any specific qualifications for this committee? Mr. Weathers noted that there were not, however, knowledge of the watersheds, recreation, water qualities, and landowner rights would be beneficial.

REVIEW OF RECEIPTS

The receipts were available for review.

SIGNING OF DOCUMENTS

(none)

CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

- a. AP Manifest dated 8/6/2020

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to sign the AP Manifest dated 8/6/2020. The motion carried unanimously.

RATIFICATION OF DOCUMENTS SIGNED OUT OF SESSION

- a. AP Manifest dated 7/30/2020
- b. Payroll dated 7/30/2020
- c. Notice of Intent to Cut Wood or Timber on Map/Lot 214-42.01
- d. American Legion Post 46 Family Campout (8/21/2020-8/24/2020)

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

REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF SPECIAL EVENT APPLICATION(S)

(none)

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

- a. Regular and Non-Public Minutes from 7/21/2020

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to adopt the regular and non-public minutes from 7/21/2020 as written. The motion carried unanimously.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Mr. Holmes stated that they had received final approval for Main Street Project

Mr. Holmes noted that they had increased trash pickup to include Saturdays.

Mr. Holmes explained that he had been misquoted in the paper regarding the potential increase cost to the tax payers due to increase expenses from the influx of people traveling to our area as a result of the pandemic to the pandemic. He explained that if the trend continues next year, they will not be able to apply for reimbursement with the GOFERR funds, therefore, there is real potential for an increase in the tax rate in 2021.

Mr. Holmes noted that the silver maple on Meeting House Road had been pruned, the parking area had been realigned, and a protective boundary had been installed.

Mr. Holmes noted that the request for proposals for the short-term rental inventory had gone out and were due on August 20, 2020.

Mr. Holmes explained that they had received 100% of the reimbursements for the Marshall Gymnasium and the second payment for the highway block grant.

Mr. Holmes noted that he had toured the Bank of New Hampshire building again. The lease will need to be ratified by their Board of Directors on August 17, 2020.

Mr. Holmes reminded the Board that they had postponed their annual 4th of July fireworks until Labor Day weekend. However, as this was only 30 days away, they need to consider whether they still want to move forward with that event.

Mr. Porter stated that he did not believe they should move forward with the event. Mr. Colbath agreed. He stated that knowing the issues they are already having on regular weekends, he believed it would be compounded.

Mr. Thibodeau moved, seconded by Mr. Porter, to have Mr. Eastman contact Atlas to cancel the fireworks scheduled for Labor Day weekend and have them hold the deposit and use it for the 4th of July of 2021. The motion carried unanimously.

BOARD REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Mr. Porter noted that the Planning Board had met the week prior to discuss the project at the former Junge's Motel. They had received conditional approval.

Mr. Colbath stated that the Budget Committee would be meeting on August 17, 2020 and the ZBA had met the previous week.

Ms. Seavey reported that Valley Vision is back on Channel 3. She also noted that she would be joining Mr. Edmunds and Mr. Holmes later on that week to begin potential lease discussions.

Mr. Weathers stated that the CCC would be meeting in September.

Mr. Eastman apprised the Board that there would be a craft fair taking place in Schouler Park in August that they had approved.

Mr. Colbath asked Mr. Eastman for a Summer Camp update. Mr. Eastman explained that they had only one week left of camp and that everything had been going well. He added that they had taken down 6 tents in preparation of the storm.

Ms. Seavey commended Mr. Eastman on their Summer Camp Parent's Night. Mr. Eastman said it was the great work of his staff, particularly Mike, Todd, and Robby who put that together.

Mr. Colbath stated that the pictures of summer camp on Facebook have been wonderful.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND MEDIA QUESTIONS

Daymond Steer from the Conway Daily Sun phoned in via Zoom. He asked for clarification regarding when the taxpayers may see an increase. Mr. Holmes reviewed that if the conditions they are seeing persist next year, and there is no other source of funding, the tax rate for 2021 may increase.

Resident Peter Gagne expressed concerns over what he believes to be a lack of enforcement by the police department regarding issues with parking and trespassing.

Mr. Weathers stated that he believed that cars were being towed and ticketed.

Mr. Holmes added that River Road does allow parking off of pavement and that the police do swing by areas of town to check for parking violations a few times a day, but as he has stated before, Town is overrun. He added that the Town does not have jurisdiction on the river.

Mr. Holmes explained that the day to day operations of the Police are overseen by the Police Commissioners, the Town just has budget authority.

Ms. Seavey noted that she would like to see Davis Park and Conway Lake Beach as residents only parking.

Mr. Holmes explained that it was his plan to come up with a comprehensive plan with Mr. Eastman for next year on how to deal with parking for next summer.

Linda Burns who works as a Diana's Bath Attendant, explained that the Police Department had been very responsive to issues when they arise at Diana's Bath. She added though that the copious amounts of trash is a major problem.

At 4:40 pm, Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to go into non-public session under RSA 91: A:3 II(D) – consideration of the acquisition, sale, or lease of property. The motion carried unanimously.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION RSA 91:A:3 II (D)- CONSIDERATION OF THE ACQUISITION,
SALE, OR LEASE OF PROPERTY

At 5:02 pm, the Board returned to public session.

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

ADJOURN

At 5:02 pm, the meeting adjourned at the call of the Chair.

Respectfully Submitted,

Krista Day
Executive Secretary