

**Minutes of Meeting
CONWAY BOARD OF SELECTMEN
April 19, 2022**

The Selectmen's Meeting convened at 4:00 pm in the Meeting Room at the New 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 noted that they would be moving item 11 to 7a. and that 20a. would be amended to read, 4/5/2022.

The non-public session for legal advice was also removed.

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

VOTING ON CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Mr. Colbath congratulated Mr. Thibodeau for his reelection.

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Ms. Seavey, to appoint C. David Weathers as the Chair of the Board of Selectmen. The motion carried (4-0-1) with Mr. Weathers abstaining.

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

ADOPTION OF BOS MEETING SCHEDULE

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to adopt the Board of Selectmen meeting schedule as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

The committee assignments that were decided on are as follows:

Budget Committee	John Colbath
	Mary Carey Seavey, Alternate
Conservation Commission	David Weathers
ESAA	Carl Thibodeau
Economic Council	Mary Carey Seavey
Historic District Commission	Steve Porter
Legislative Liaison	Carl Thibodeau
Lower MWV Solid Waste	David Weathers John Colbath
Planning Board	Steve Porter
Union Negotiations	David Weathers Mary Carey Seavey

PUBLIC HEARING AVESTA - PROJECT AMENDMENT REQUEST CDBG PROJECT #20-016CDHS

Mr. Weathers opened the public hearing at 4:10 pm.

Mr. Weathers noted that there were handouts available at the front table.

Kaela Tavares from North Country Council introduced herself and summarized the amendment request.

Ms. Tavares explained that Community Development Block Grant (CDGB) Gap Funds are available to municipalities through the NH Community Development Finance Authority to provide additional gap funds for previously approved projects. All CDBG projects just directly benefit low- and moderate-income persons. Approximately \$1,500,000 is available this year as part of the Gap Funds. This public hearing will hear public comments on the following Gap Fund and amendment requests:

This project amendment requests an additional \$400,000 in funds to close a gap in project funding associated with changing (increasing) costs of materials and labor. Additionally, the project will seek a six-month extension to allow completion by 12/31/2023 instead of 6/30/2023. The project has encountered a \$1,500,000 increase in the total project budget due to changes market conditions and increased costs of materials and labor for construction. Additionally, the extension requested will allow for additional time for project completion utilizing the complete

2023 construction season. Of the additional funds requested, \$395,000 will be used to for construction related costs, and \$5,000 will be used for additional administration.

This amendment and the project it supports continues to conform with the Town of Conway's Housing and Community Development Plan as presented in the application.

Ms. Tavares added that the increase in cost is due to labor and material increases since their initial estimates in November of 2021.

Mr. Weathers asked if there were any questions or comments from the Board of Selectmen or public.

There were no comments or questions.

Mr. Weathers closed the public hearing at 4:14 pm.

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Porter, to authorize the submittal of the CDBG amendment on behalf of the Town of Conway and Avesta Housing for Gap Funding of \$400,000. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Porter, to authorize the Town Manager to execute any and all documents necessary to effectuate the potential CDBG contract amendments thereto. The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION OF GARAGE SECURITY

Mr. Smith explained that after discussions with the School District about the theft that occurred to the school buses at the Town Garage, they would like to install security cameras.

The estimate from Pope Security came in at \$12,600 and the School Department has agreed to pay 1/3 of that.

Mr. Smith noted that he believed that had enough money in the capital reserve account to cover this purchase.

Mr. Porter stated that the School Department should pay half.

There was discussion about using ARPA funds for this purchase.

Mr. Thibodeau stated that because the benefits were equally shared, the cost should be equally shared.

Mr. Weathers agreed.

Mr. Smith will report back after reaching out to the School Department.

DISCUSSION OF CARROLL COUNTY BROADBAND – LEO DWYER

Leo Dwyer, Director of NH Electric Co-op and Executive Chair of New Hampshire Broadband, appeared before the Board.

Mr. Dwyer gave a history of the Co-op.

He noted that they cover 14% of the households electricity in the State and operate at cost.

He explained that two years ago their customers were complaining about the lack of Broadband.

He believes fiber is the solution.

He explained that they are currently beginning to bring fiber to the most underserved areas in the state.

Mr. Holmes asked how they are currently financing these projects and expansions into other Towns.

Mr. Dwyer stated that they are borrowing through the co-op.

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION FOR PHYLLIS SHERMAN

Mr. Colbath explained that because Ms. Sherman could not attend the meeting, they would be signing a certificate of appreciation for her service to the Town of Conway.

Ms. Sherman served over 42 years on the ZBA.

Ms. Seavey stated that she also volunteers for Meals on Wheels and helps with medical transports in Town.

Mr. Colbath noted that she had also been recognized as a White Mountain Treasure by the Chamber of Commerce.

DISCUSSION AND SIGNING OF EASEMENT FOR VALLEY SPRINGS CAR WASH, LLC

Town Planner Jamel Torres explained that the easement in question was a ten-foot-wide pedestrian access easement at the conditionally approved car wash.

This easement was to allow for a connection to the pedestrian facility located across the street.

It was noted that there was currently a stop work order on that project.

Mr. Porter moved, seconded by Mr. Colbath, to sign the easement for Valley Springs Car Wash, LLC. The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION OF DAVIS PARK PARKING EXPANSION

Mr. Eastman had the Board refer to an aerial photo of Davis Park.

He directed them to an area that he feels could be used for more parking if they place boulders there.

He noted that there could be 15-20 more spaces.

Mr. Porter moved, seconded by Mr. Colbath, to have Mr. Eastman move forward with the new parking area at Davis Park. The motion carried unanimously.

There was a brief discussion regarding the issues of parking on the road by First Bridge as it creates traffic and pedestrian hazards.

Mr. Eastman noted that the recreation department would be issuing tickets to those who parked on the road in the area between Route 16 and First Bridge on River Road.

Mr. Eastman said that they could have the discussion regarding no parking signs between Frist Bridge and West Side Road.

ARPA APPROVAL FOR PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED PICKLEBALL EXPENDITURE

To allow for proper documentation, the Board was informed that they needed to make a formal motion for the additional \$10,000 from the ARPA funds for the pickleball courts.

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Ms. Seavey, to allocate \$10,000 from the ARPA funds for the pickleball courts. The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION OF ELECTION

There was a discussion of the polling place for upcoming elections.

Ms. Inkell explained that the Board had already voted to hold the September election at the Town Garage.

Ms. Inkell noted that Ms. Day had reached out to Superintendent Richard regarding the Mid-Term election that would be taking place in November.

Ms. Day read the following response from Mr. Richard.

We can no longer go remote for a day of school except for weather (as per the DOE). We can have the building open for voting that day, but students would be in school and parking could be an issue. I can't change the entire calendar as it was adopted in

December. If the select board would like to discuss the use of a facility with students in attendance I would be happy to entertain doing so.

Ms. Inkell explained that we could not hold an election during an active school day because you cannot restrict anyone from voting.

Therefore, anyone who has restrictions due to prior convictions that would prohibit them from being near children or those with open carry permits would legally be entitled to vote but school policies are in opposition to both of those scenarios.

Ms. Seavey stated that she believed voting at the Town Garage worked great.

Mr. Thibodeau asked Ms. Inkell if she felt the Town Garage would be adequate for the number of voters expected at the Mid-Term vote.

Moderator Chris Meier stated that he believed it would work as they only utilized half the space at this last election.

Ms. Seavey stated that she would only change the layout of the check in area.

Ms. Inkell noted that according to State Statute, she was to mail a notification of the time and place for the recount on Article 22 to the first signatory on the petition for recount.

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Porter, to hold the recount on Article 22 on Monday, April 25, 2022 at 9:00 am at Town Hall. The motion carried unanimously.

REVIEW OF RECEIPTS

The receipts were available for review.

SIGNING OF DOCUMENTS

- a. Notice of Intent to Excavate on Map/Lot 238-1
- b. Notice of Intent to Cut Wood or Timber on Map/Lot 243-21
- c. Notice of Intent to Cut Wood or Timber on Map/Lot 242-1
- d. Notice of Intent to Cut Wood or Timber on Map/Lot 223-36
- e. Notice of Intent to Cut Wood or Timber on Map/Lot 225-37
- f. Notice of Intent to Cut Wood or Timber on Map/Lot 243-21
- g. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 262-83.016
- h. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 277-240
- i. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 262-83.110
- j. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 262-83.004
- k. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 225-40

- l. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 261-50.006
- m. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 263-3
- n. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 284-22
- o. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 232-104
- p. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 230-33.003
- q. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 262-83.098
- r. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 269-53
- s. Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions on Map/Lot 263-76.6

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Ms. Seavey, to sign the document listed above in a. through s. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

- a. AP Manifest dated 4/21/2022
- b. Payroll dated 4/21/2022

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to sign the AP Manifest and Payroll 4/19/2022. The motion carried unanimously.

RATIFICATION OF DOCUMENTS SIGNED OUT OF SESSION

- a. AP Manifest dated 4/14/2022
- b. Intent to Cut Wood or Timber on Map/Lot 255-5.12

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Ms. Seavey, to ratify the documents listed above. The motion carried unanimously.

REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF SPECIAL EVENT APPLICATION(S)

- a. White Mountain Milers Summer Series 5K Tuesday Night Runs (Tuesday nights 6/7/2022-8/9/2022)
- b. Tri Tek Events Stephen Siller Tunnel to Tower 5K Walk/Run (7/9/2022) Pending Insurance
- c. Upper Saco Valley Land Trust Indoor Open House (7/8/2022 – 7/10/2022) Pending Liquor License
- d. North Conway Community Center Mud Bowl 9/9/2022 – 9/11/2022)
- e. Conway Village Congregational Church Brown Church Festival (5/21/2022)
- f. Ski The Whites Running Race (10/1/2022)
- g. Friends of Conway Rec Mountainfest Girls Softball Tournament (6/24/2022-6/26/2022)

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to approve the special event permits as listed above in a. through g. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

- a. Regular and Non-Public Minutes from 4/5/2022

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to adopt the regular and non-public minutes from 4/5/2022 as written. The motion carried unanimously.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Mr. Holmes noted that April 30th was the deadline for entering expenses into the Treasury Portal for the ARPA funds and that action has been completed.

Mr. Eastman wanted to see if there was any interest for him to pursue information on pricing to redo one of the tennis courts at Davis Park into three pickleball courts.

The consensus of the Board was that they would like Mr. Eastman to look into it.

Mr. Holmes noted that at the Department Head meeting there was much discussion on how this summer is going to be extremely busy in terms of construction.

Mr. Holmes stated that there were still slots for non-profits to set up booths at the 4th of July Celebration.

He encouraged those who were interested to reach out to the Recreation Center.

Mr. Colbath asked Mr. Holmes to look into electric car chargers. He noted that the future of school buses is also going to be electric.

BOARD REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Mr. Thibodeau gave the airport's March activity report.

He noted that the transient hangar should be ready to rent by the beginning of June.

Mr. Thibodeau expressed his disappointment that the Town did not support the warrant article for the support of the airport.

Mr. Colbath noted that the ZBA would be meeting the next evening and the Budget Committee would be meeting on Wednesday, April 27, 2022.

Mr. Porter noted that the Planning Board met the previous Thursday.

He congratulated Mr. Hounsell and Mr. Barbin on their victories.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND MEDIA QUESTIONS

Mr. Hounsell congratulated Mr. Thibodeau.

Mr. Hounsell expressed his displeasure on the low voter turnout.

He noted that less than 20% of registered voters voted in this last election.

In his opinion, SB2 has been a failure.

He believes the Town needs to put together a Charter Commission to explore a potential representative town meeting or town council.

Mr. Hounsell noted that he planned to see how many of the people who signed the petition for a recount regarding article 22 actually voted.

Mr. Hounsell also wanted to congratulate Governor Sununu for voicing his objections on SB 249 as well as the committee voting to do an interim study on the bill.

Daymond Steer from the Conway Daily Sun mentioned that there was a bad accident on Seavey Street and the North South Road.

He stated that some of his colleagues believe there should be flashing stop signs.

At 5:34 pm, Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to go into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (A). The motion carried unanimously.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION RSA 91-A:3 II(A) – PERSONNEL

At 7:06 pm, the Board returned to public session.

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Thibodeau, to seal the minutes from this non-public session as divulgence of the information would render the proposed action ineffective. The motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN

At 7:06 pm, the meeting adjourned at the call of the Chair.

Respectfully Submitted,

Krista Day
Executive Secretary