

**Minutes of Meeting
CONWAY BOARD OF SELECTMEN
July 12, 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 the Pickleball Update to 7a.

He also noted that they would be removing agenda item #15, Discussion of Building Permit Fees.

Mr. Weathers explained that they would be amending item #28 to read "Regular Minutes from 6/21/2022" and would be adding 31a. Non-Public RSA 91-A:3 II (a) – Personnel.

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

PRESENTATION FROM BIRD SCOOTERS

Jeremy Lynch from Bird Scooters appeared before the Board via Zoom to present the idea of introducing electric scooters to Conway.

He explained that the reasoning behind electric scooters is to get people out of cars, alleviate traffic, and decrease CO2 emissions.

Mr. Lynch went over the basic business model and how the scooters would be placed around Town.

He noted that this program is app based and only available to those 18 years or older.

He also added that local rules can be added to their user agreements.

Mr. Lynch explained that they would hire a fleet manager locally to take this project on.

He added that you can create no ride zones in Town for areas where the scooters would not be allowed.

Mr. Thibodeau inquired about insurance.

Mr. Lynch explained that as long as the member riding the scooter does not break the user agreement, Bird Scooters would cover it any insurance claims.

It was made clear that the scooters were not meant to be ridden on the sidewalks.

It was noted that the scooters would be pulled off the road before winter as this would only be a seasonal program.

Mr. Lynch stated that both Manchester and Nashua started programs last year.

Mr. Porter stated that he believed this needs to be looked at more before they make a decision.

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to authorize that the Town of Conway enter into a pilot agreement with Bird Scooters for the purpose of a stand up electric scooter sharing system with the agreement in effect upon the agreement signing. Furthermore, to authorize the Chairman to sign the agreement ending on December 31, 2022. The motion carried (3-2-0) with Mr. Porter and Mr. Weathers in opposition.

Mr. Holmes noted that the agreement had been vetted by the Town Attorney.

CONSIDERATION OF UNANTICIPATED REVENUE LESS THAN \$10,000/RSA 31:95-B III

- a. \$2,306 from Fourth of July vendors and donations

Mr. Lane explained that \$1,200 of this revenue was from vendor fees at the Fourth of July Celebration and \$1,106 from donations at the event as well.

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Ms. Seavey, to accept the \$2,306 from Fourth of July vendors and donations. The motion carried unanimously.

RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL PARKS AND RECREATION MONTH

Mr. Weathers recognized Recreation Director Mike Lane and the Conway Recreation Department for National Parks and Recreation Month.

Mr. Weathers read a proclamation and presented it to Mr. Lane.

FOURTH OF JULY REVIEW

Recreation Director Mike Lane appeared before the Board.

He wanted to recognize his staff for all of the time and effort they put in to help carry out the Fourth of July festivities.

He also wanted to thank White Mt. Oil who sponsored the parade.

Mr. Lane thanked members of the Friends of Rec, the Conway PD and the Fire Department for their work.

He noted that the entertainment was great.

PICKLEBALL UPDATE

Mr. Lane explained that the pickleball courts are getting a lot of use.

He noted that the signs with the rules have gone up.

The final project will be bringing the fill in to surround the courts.

He added that they have not fielded complaints about usage.

Mr. Colbath stated that players need to be courteous to the taxpayers.

Mr. Lane stated that the summer program at the recreation center is very busy and they are on course for a record number of visits this year.

DISCUSSION OF PAID PARKING IN NORTH CONWAY VILLAGE

Mr. Holmes explained that they have been continuing to explore opportunities to raise revenue from something other than property taxes.

He noted that if they decide to move forward with paid parking in North Conway Village, it would be a separate program from the recreation parking program whose revenues currently go into the Recreation Revolving Fund.

Under RSA, funds raised from paid parking in North Conway Village would be able to be spent on street maintenance including painting, paving and the maintenance and purchase of the equipment needed for those projects.

Mr. Holmes stated that they could perhaps put an article on the warrant to appropriate \$250,000 into the infrastructure capital reserve fund specifying that no monies would be raised from taxes.

He emphasized that they are not going to be able to budget cut out of this inflation and they need to find alternative revenue sources.

Staff is looking for direction from the Board.

Mr. Porter noted that this would be we need to create more positions.

Mr. Holmes explained that they would need to create a position, but they could be looking at revenues upwards of a million dollars with expenses only 15% of that.

Mark Hounsell stated that he believed the Town should absolutely pursue this.

He emphasized that the taxpayers need some relief.

He noted that the objections that have been expressed are self-interest objections.

Mr. Hounsell also added that the delegation in Concord could add wording into the RSA in the future to expand what they could spend the revenue on.

Larry Martin thanked the administration for being proactive at looking to generate revenue.

He emphasized that they need to do what is best for the overall Town.

Mr. Martin stated that it is time to let the tourists pay for the pressure they put on the Town.

He added that he believed the paid parking would encourage rotation and businesses would actually see more money generated.

Mr. Holmes added that NHMA recommends warrant article for this project which would have a public hearing involved at the Budget Committee and the Town Meeting.

Jim Lefebvre stated that they should make sure to do their due diligence as the devil is in the details.

Amy Snow stated that it was time that the tourists help us.
She did note that she had concerns about being able to fill newly created positions.

Frann Ravid explained that she works in the Valley and volunteers in the community.

She stated that this area is not the same as it was 10 years ago.

She now worries about paying taxes.

She urged the Board to look diligently at all kinds of revenue sources for the Town.

She said now is the time to be open minded, creative and bold.

It was said that to date, parking revenues for the recreation parking areas have net \$19,723.

It was clarified that the \$5.00 fee per sticker was to limit peoples request for stickers as last year the traffic in the building for parking stickers was overwhelming.

Mr. Martin noted that in other areas he has visited they have paid a hospitality fee that went directly back to the Town.

It was stated that the authority to do that never made it past the Senate.

Mr. Eastman stated that he spent the day in Portsmouth looking into their paid parking program and got some very good information.

Mr. Thibodeau moved, seconded by Ms. Seavey, to direct staff to provide a detailed plan for paid parking in North Conway Village to be presented at their earliest convenience. The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION OF ARPA FUNDS

a. Ski museum bathroom attendant

Mr. Holmes explained that they had donated \$2,000 of ARPA funds to the Chamber to help fund the upkeep of the Ski Museum bathrooms.

The Town had received an email request from the Chamber for more funds to help continue this.

Mr. Weathers clarified that they still have not received the second half of the ARPA funds.

Mr. Colbath stated that he would like to see the approved projects and budget figures prior to taking any further action on ARPA requests.

Ms. Seavey stated that she feels strongly that the Village of North Conway should be helping to fund the bathrooms.

Mr. Hounsell stated that there seems to be a disconnect between what the Chamber has said in terms of their contribution for public bathrooms and their actions.

b. CV Precinct Commissioners

DISCUSSION OF TOWN EMAIL ACCOUNTS

Mr. Holmes explained that the Town's technology consultants do not recommend changing from the Google platform for Town business.

He explained that they have protections in the Google system and many communities are under attack.

Mr. Holmes stated that he would recommend having Board/Committee members create their own email for strictly Town business.

Ms. Seavey stated that she feels the Town should protect the Board members and should pay for their email addresses.

Mr. Hounsell noted that having a Town email address gives Board/Committee members a sense of security.

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Porter, to authorize the expenditure of \$3,600 for email addresses for all Town Board and Committee members and that staff budget for this expense next year. The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION OF SIGN REQUEST FOR CROSSWALK AT DEPOT STREET

Mr. Eastman explained that he had received a request for a crosswalk sign at the North-South Road/Depot Street intersection.

Ms. Seavey moved, seconded by Mr. Porter, to place a crosswalk sign at the intersection of North-South Road and Depot Street. The motion carried unanimously.

REQUEST FOR LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR NH COOP BROADBAND GRANT

Mr. Holmes explained that Mr. Dwyer had appeared before the Board previously discussing NH Coop's plans to bring broadband to their service area.

They were looking for a letter of support for a grant to help with this project.

Ms. Seavey moved, seconded by Mr. Porter, to authorize the Chairman to sign a letter of support for the NH Coop Broadband grant. The motion carried (4-1-0) with Mr. Thibodeau voting in opposition.

NOTICE OF DEMO PERMITS

- a. 1550 White Mountain Highway

The Selectmen were made aware of the demo permit application for 1550 White Mountain Highway.

SCHOOL/TOWN ANNUAL REPORT

As required, the Town and the School have produced an annual summary of how it is going in terms of having the recreation center lease the space at the Middle School.

It was stated that things continue to go very smoothly.

NCWP FRANCHISE AGREEMENT

Jason Gagnon from the North Conway Water Precinct appeared before the Board to request a letter of support for the Water Precinct enter into a franchise agreement to cover a portion of land near Pine Hill that does not currently have water or sewer and does not fall in any precinct.

The Selectmen had previously asked for a letter of support from the CVFD before acting on this request.

A copy of that letter of support was presented to the Selectmen in their packet.

Mr. Porter moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to send a letter of support for the franchise agreement for the North Conway Water Precinct. The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION OF DAVIS PARK PARKING

Mr. Holmes noted that there had been a request to consider changing the way we are charging for parking at Davis Park.

Mr. Thibodeau explained that he had received a lot of feedback and would like to consider placing a kiosk at Davis Park instead of an attendant and charging 3 dollars and hour like they do at Smith-Eastman Landing.

Ms. Seavey noted that this would encourage non-residents to park there and use the facilities instead of the taxpayers. She said she was not in favor of that.

Ms. Inkell noted that she would be hesitant to remove the attendant because they seem to help with the parking and traffic issues.

Mr. Holmes emphasized that because the Town had received Federal funds for Davis Park a number of years ago, they cannot prevent people from using the park whether they are taxpayers or not.

Mr. Colbath noted that this should be looked into again during a review of the parking program this winter.

CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY FOR HAZARDOUS WASTE

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, that Andrew Smith, Public Works Director is duly authorized to enter into contracts or agreements on behalf of the Town of Conway with the State of New Hampshire and any of its agencies or departments and further is authorized to execute any documents which may in his/her judgment be desirable or necessary to affect the purpose of this vote. The motion carried unanimously.

AUTHORIZATION FOR CHAIRMAN TO SIGN EASEMENT DEED FOR CONTINUUM AT NORTH CONWAY, LLC.

Mr. DegliAngeli explained that this is the final easement deed to sign for the Continuum project on Pine Hill.

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Ms. Seavey, to authorize the Chairman to signed the easement deed to Continuum at North Conway, LLC. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. DegliAngeli noted that the roundabout construction for the new Market Basket would be beginning next week.

REVIEW AND REAFFIRMATION OF SELECTMEN POLICIES

- a. Gifts of Land to the Town
- b. Hardship Tax Deferrals
- c. Housing and Community Development Plan

Ms. Seavey moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to reaffirm the policies listed above in a., b. and c. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC FACILITIES COMMITTEE UPDATE

Ms. Seavey noted that the committee met and they decided that before they work anymore on a design or detailed plan, they need to have a location.

There was discussion that the bathrooms at Whitaker were tentatively going to be open from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm, Wednesday through Sunday, beginning next week.

There was brief discussion on the ARPA funds that have been allocated to fund this seasonal position.

REVIEW OF RECEIPTS

The receipts were available for review.

SIGNING OF DOCUMENTS

- a. Permit to Sell Raffle Tickets for MWV Arts Jubilee (7/14/22, 7/21/22, 7/28/22, 8/4/22, 8/11/22)

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to sign the item listed above. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

- a. AP Manifest dated 7/14/2022
- b. Payroll dated 7/14/22

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Ms. Seavey, to sign the AP Manifest and Payroll dated 7/14/22. The motion carried unanimously.

RATIFICATION OF DOCUMENTS SIGNED OUT OF SESSION

- a. AP Manifest dated 6/30/22
- b. Payroll dated 6/30/22
- c. AP Manifest dated 7/7/22
- d. Permit to Sell Raffle Tickets for NH Association of Chiefs of Police (7/1/22 – 12/3/22)

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

REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF SPECIAL EVENT APPLICATION(S)

- a. Granite Outdoor Alliance (7/20/22)

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to approve the special event application as listed above. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

- a. Regular Minutes from 6/21/2022

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to adopt the regular minutes from 6/21/2022 as written. The motion carried unanimously.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Mr. Holmes explained that he would be meeting with Charge Point to discuss electric car charging stations on Town property.

Mr. Holmes explained that the Town had received communications from the Nichols family.

He stated that the Town salt shed that was abutted by the Nichols family was taken by the State for the bypass years ago.

The Nichols family, whose land was also taken, is interested in purchasing it back from the State.

Mr. Holmes would like permission to contact the State and request that the Town be able to get back the land on which the salt shed sits.

Mr. Weathers moved, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to authorize staff to contact the State to request the land under the salt shed. The motion carried unanimously.

BOARD REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Mr. Thibodeau gave the ESAA's June activity report.

He noted that they would be having a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new transient hangar on August 26, 2022.

Mr. Colbath stated that the ZBA would be meeting next week and the Budget Committee meets again in August.

Mr. Porter noted that the Planning Board would be meeting on Thursday.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND MEDIA QUESTIONS

Daymond Steer from the Conway Daily Sun, inquired as to how the new transfer station hours went.

Mr. Smith stated that one person said they did not like the new hours.

Mr. Colbath noted that the transfer station workers said that 24 people used the extended hours.

Mr. Steer inquired as to whether the Town has the authority to put parking meters on a State Highway.

It was stated that Keene, Portsmouth, and Littleton all do it.

At 6:45 pm, Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Ms. Seavey, 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 7:23 pm, the Board returned to public session.

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Weathers, 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 7:23 pm, the meeting adjourned at the call of the Chair.

Respectfully Submitted,

Krista Day
Executive Secretary

