

**Minutes of Meeting
CONWAY BOARD OF SELECTMEN
January 16, 2024**

The Selectmen's Meeting convened at 4:08 pm at Conway Town Hall with the following present: Mary Carey Seavey, John Colbath, Steve Porter, Ryan Shepard, Town Manager John Eastman and Executive Assistant Krista Day.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ms. Seavey led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

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

- a. \$3,000 from Gregory Mark for Town Clerks Office and Police Department

Mr. Eastman explained that Mr. Mark had donated in the past and would like to donate \$2,000 towards elections and \$1,000 to go towards the Police uniform equipment line.

Chief Mattei thanked Mr. Mark.

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Porter, to accept the \$3,000 from Gregory Mark and apply \$2,000 to elections and \$1,000 to the Police uniform equipment line. The motion carried unanimously.

APPOINTMENT OF HEALTH OFFICER AND ASSISTANT HEALTH OFFICER

Mr. Eastman explained that Mr. Pandora had resigned as Health Officer, so they were looking for the nomination of Jeremy Gibbs as the Health Officer and James Hounsell as the Assistant Health Officer.

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Porter, to nominate Jeremy Gibbs as Health Officer and James Hounsell as Assistant Health Officer. The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION OF VETERANS TAX CREDIT

Mr. Eastman explained that he had been approached by Mr. Marvel to see if the Town would be looking to increase the current Veteran tax exemption from \$500 to \$750.

Currently there is only one Town in Carroll County that offers the \$750.

Last year there were 433 Veterans that qualified.

It was stated that if the Selectmen supported it, this would appear on the warrant for voters to decide.

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Shepard, to place the following on the 2024 as follows:

ARTICLE : Shall the Town re-adopt the “ALL VETERANS” PROPERTY TAX CREDIT UNDER RSA 72:28-B. If amended the tax credit will change from \$500 to \$750. It will be available to any resident, or the spouse of any resident, who (a) served no less than 90 days on active service in the armed forces of the United States and was honorably discharged or was an officer honorably separated from service, or an officer who continues to serve or the spouse or surviving spouse of such resident, provided that training for active duty or state active duty by a member of the national guard or reserve shall be included as service under this paragraph and (b) is not eligible for and not receiving the credit for veterans who served in a qualifying war or armed conflict or for veterans with a service-connected disability. If amended the credit will be in the amount of \$750, which is the same amount as the credit for a veteran who served in a qualifying war or armed conflict. If the credit is amended, any person desiring to claim the credit will be required to file an application with the assessors by April 15 of the tax year. This article shall take effect for the 2024 tax year. Submitted by the Assessor. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-0-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (0-0-0).

ARTICLE: Shall the Town amend the “OPTIONAL VETERAN” PROPERTY CREDIT UNDER RSA 72:28 72:28 Standard and Optional Veterans' Tax Credit. If amended the optional veteran's tax credit will be available to every resident of this state who is (a) a veteran, as defined in RSA 21:50, and served not less than 90 days on active service in the armed forces of the United States in any qualifying war or armed conflict listed in this section, and continues to serve or was honorably discharged or an officer who continues to serve or was honorably separated from service; or the spouse or surviving spouse of such resident, provided that training for active duty by a member of the national guard or reserve shall be included as service under this subparagraph;

Every resident of this state who was terminated from the armed forces because of service-connected disability; or the surviving spouse of such resident; and

(c) The surviving spouse of any resident who suffered a service-connected death.

V. Service in a qualifying war or armed conflict shall be as follows:

(a) "World War I" between April 6, 1917 and November 11, 1918, extended to April 1, 1920 for service in Russia; provided that military or naval service on or after November 12, 1918 and before July 2, 1921, where there was prior service between April 6, 1917 and November 11, 1918 shall be considered as World War I service;

(b) "World War II" between December 7, 1941 and December 31, 1946;

(c) "Korean Conflict" between June 25, 1950 and January 31, 1955;

(d) "Vietnam Conflict" between December 22, 1961 and May 7, 1975;

(e) "Vietnam Conflict" between July 1, 1958 and December 22, 1961, if the resident earned the Vietnam service medal or the armed forces expeditionary medal;

(f) "Persian Gulf War" between August 2, 1990 and the date thereafter prescribed by Presidential proclamation or by law; and

(g) Any other war or armed conflict that has occurred since May 8, 1975, and in

which the resident earned an armed forces expeditionary medal or theater of operations service medal.

If amended the credit will be in the amount of \$750, the optional veterans' tax credit shall be subtracted each year from the property tax on the veteran's residential property. However, the surviving spouse of a resident who suffered a service-connected death may have the amount subtracted from the property tax on any real property in the same municipality where the surviving spouse is a resident. If the credit is amended, any person desiring to claim the credit will be required to file an application with the assessors by April 15 of the tax year. If amended, this article shall take effect for the 2024 tax year. Submitted by the Assessor. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-0-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (0-0-0).

The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION OF HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT

Public Works Director Andrew Smith explained that their application had been approved for the Hazard Mitigation Grant that would pay for 90% of the engineering study to see if there were improvements that could be made to the southern end of West Side Road to help keep it from flooding out the road.

The next step will be to put out an RFQ for someone to do the study to see if there are improvements that can be done.

Daivd Weathers wanted the Town to be aware of the flooding levels in that area.

He noted that he has records for over 30 years.

He stated that he does not see these improvements being viable.

Ms. Seavey noted that it would be nice if they could use Mr. Weather's knowledge during this process.

DISCUSSION OF WARRANT ARTICLES FOR CONWAY VILLAGE WATER, SEWER AND FIRE

Mr. Eastman explained that there are a number of warrant articles that are necessary for the Town to vote on as they are taking over Conway Village Precinct in 2025.

He noted that these have been run by Town Council and none are monetary.

Mr. Porter moved, seconded by Mr. Shepard, to place these articles on the 2024 Warrant as follows:

ARTICLE : (Special – not included in Budget Appropriation Article #). To see if the Town will adopt the provisions of Chapter 149-I of NH RSAs, as it pertains to Sewers, to enable the Town and Selectboard to operate and maintain the sewer system and also the sewer department that will become part of the Department of Public Works on January 1, 2025. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-0-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (0-0-0).

ARTICLE : (Special – not included in Budget Appropriation Article #). To see if the Town will adopt the provisions of Chapter 38 of NH RSAs as it pertains to water, to enable the Town and Selectboard to acquire, operate, and maintain the existing Conway Village Fire District plant for water and also the water department that will become part of the Department of Public Works on January 1, 2025. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-0-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (0-0-0).

ARTICLE : (Special – not included in Budget Appropriation Article #). To see if the Town will vote to create the Conway Water System Improvement and Maintenance Capital Reserve Trust Fund, effective January 1, 2025, by accepting and utilizing the remaining balance as of the effective date in the existing Conway Village Fire District trust fund created for such purpose, and to name the Board of Selectmen Agents to Expend from said Trust Fund for the purpose that it was originally intended by the Conway Village Fire District: water system improvements and maintenance. (This article is not an article to raise and appropriate any new funds.) (Balance of Trust Fund as of 12/31/2023 \$111,477.54) Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-0-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (0-0-0).

ARTICLE : (Special – not included in Budget Appropriation Article #). To see if the Town will vote to create the Conway Sewer Projects and Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund, effective January 1, 2025, by accepting and utilizing the remaining balance as of the effective date in the existing Conway Village Fire District trust fund created for such purpose, and to name the Board of Selectmen Agents to Expend from said Trust Fund for the purpose that it was originally intended by the Conway Village Fire District: sewer projects and maintenance not related to the Force Main Project. (This article is not an article to raise and appropriate any new funds.) (Balance of Trust Fund as of 12/31/2023 \$98,681.77) Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-0-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (0-0-0).

ARTICLE : (Special – not included in Budget Appropriation Article #). To see if the Town will vote to create the Conway Sewer Debt Expendable Trust Fund, effective January 1, 2025, by accepting and utilizing the remaining balance as of the effective date in the existing Conway Village Fire District trust fund created for such purpose, and to name the Board of Selectmen Agents to Expend from said Trust Fund for the purpose that it was originally intended by the Conway Village Fire District: Phase I & II debt off-set. (This article is not an article to raise and appropriate any new funds.) (Balance of Trust Fund as of 12/31/2023 \$392,257.66) Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-0-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (0-0-0).

ARTICLE : (Special – not included in Budget Appropriation Article #). To see if the Town will vote to create the Conway Force Main Asset Replacement Expendable Trust Fund, effective January 1, 2025, by accepting and utilizing the remaining balance as of the effective date in the existing Conway Village Fire District trust fund created for such

purpose, and to name the Board of Selectmen Agents to Expend from said Trust Fund for the purpose that it was originally intended by the Conway Village Fire District: Short Term Asset Replacement related to the Force Main project. (This article is not an article to raise and appropriate any new funds.) (Balance of Trust Fund as of 12/31/2023 \$150,929.01) Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-0-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (0-0-0).

ARTICLE : (Special – not included in Budget Appropriation Article #). To see if the Town will vote to create the Conway Water & Sewer Equipment Capital Reserve Trust Fund, effective January 1, 2025, by accepting and utilizing the remaining balance as of the effective date in the existing Conway Village Fire District trust fund created for such purpose, and to name the Board of Selectmen Agents to Expend from said Trust Fund for the purpose that it was originally intended by the Conway Village Fire District: purchasing water and sewer equipment. (This article is not an article to raise and appropriate any new funds.) (Balance of Trust Fund as of 12/31/2023 \$149,047.39) Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-0-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (0-0-0).

ARTICLE : (Special – not included in Budget Appropriation Article #). To see if the Town will vote to create the Conway Fire Rescue Capital Reserve Trust Fund, effective January 1, 2025, by accepting and utilizing the remaining balance as of the effective date in the existing Conway Village Fire District trust fund created for such purpose, and to name the Board of Selectmen Agents to Expend from said Trust Fund for the purpose that it was originally intended by the Conway Village Fire District: purchasing fire/rescue equipment. (This article is not an article to raise and appropriate any new funds.) (Balance of Trust Fund as of 12/31/2023 \$281,701.35) Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-0-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (0-0-0).

ARTICLE : (Special – not included in Budget Appropriation Article #). To see if the Town will vote to create the Conway Ambulance Capital Reserve Trust Fund, effective January 1, 2025, by accepting and utilizing the remaining balance as of the effective date in the existing Conway Village Fire District trust fund created for such purpose, and to name the Board of Selectmen Agents to Expend from said Trust Fund for the purpose that it was originally intended by the Conway Village Fire District: purchasing, repairing, rehabilitating, and remounting ambulances. (This article is not an article to raise and appropriate any new funds.) (Balance of Trust Fund as of 12/31/2023 \$141,343.58) Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-0-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (0-0-0).

The motion carried unanimously.

ELECTION ASSIGNMENTS

It was noted that Chairman Seavey, Mr. Colbath and Mr. Shepard would be at the election all day and that Mr. Thibodeau and Mr. Porter would be there in the afternoon.

REVIEW OF RECEIPTS

The receipts were available for review.

SIGNING OF DOCUMENTS

- a. Elderly and Disabled Tax Deferral on Map/Lot 262-83.277

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

CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

- a. AP Manifest dated 1/18/2024

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Shepard, to sign the AP manifest dated 1/18/2024. The motion carried unanimously.

RATIFICATION OF DOCUMENTS SIGNED OUT OF SESSION

(none)

REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF SPECIAL EVENT APPLICATION(S)

(none)

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

- a. Regular and Non-Public Minutes from 1/9/2024

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Shepard, to adopt the regular and non-public minutes from 1/9/2024 as written. The motion carried unanimously.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Mr. Eastman reminded everyone that there would be no Selectmen's meeting on January 23, 2024 as the Board would be at the election.

He noted that they would be flooding the ice rink this week.

Mr. Eastman noted that Mr. Lane would like to post the summer program registration forms on February 1, 2024 and wanted to know if the Board was going to consider raising the fees or holding them where they are.

He stated that they had increased it last year and this would normally be the year where they do nothing.

Mr. Porter moved, seconded by Mr. Colbath, to keep the summer program fees where they are for 2024. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Eastman noted that he was having another meeting about a new website.

Mr. Colbath requested a “query” feature.

DEPUTY TOWN MANAGERS REPORT

Mr. DegliAngeli reminded the Board that they were having the public information meeting for the rental inspection program on Thursday.

He reviewed that the Town is continuing to work closely with NHHFA towards the hopeful purchase of the two lots by Settlers Green/North South Road that are currently owned by the state.

He noted that the hope is for a 104 unit project on the Common Court lot and to let the other lot remain as greenspace.

Mr. DegliAngeli reviewed that they are due to wrap up the master plan process next month.

He also noted that Mr. O'Connor had applied for and been awarded a \$20,000 grant from NHDES.

The plan is to use those funds towards engineering and background science for zoning rewrites.

Mr. DegliAngeli noted that the proposed Casino would again be before the Planning Board on February 8, 2024.

Mr. DegliAngeli explained that they continue to meet for the completion of the next phase of the Main Street Project which is looking at a late 2025 award and a split construction season.

There was discussion regarding the differences between workforce and affordable housing.

It was noted that workforce housing does not have to be affordable in accordance with State guidelines.

BOARD REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Mr. Shepard noted that the Historic District Commission would be meeting the next evening as well as the Budget Committee.

Mr. Colbath stated that the ZBA would be meeting on Wednesday and that the Economic Council was scheduled to meet on Wednesday, January 24, 2024.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND MEDIA QUESTIONS

Resident Bill Marvel thanked the Board for placing the Veterans credit on the warrant and stated that it would be another relief mechanism for a certain population in Town.

Daymond Steer from the Conway Daily Sun suggested a calendar feature on the new website.

Mr. Steer asked about what will happen in the Chapter 72 amendment fails; he wondered if they would discontinue the rental program.

Mr. DegliAngeli did not believe it was an “either/or” situation, but instead two tracks running in parallel.

Ms. Seavey agreed with Mr. DegliAngeli.

Mr. DegliAngeli again thanked Eliza Grant, Joy Tarbell, Ed Mennard, and Shawn Bergeron for their work on the Chapter 72 Amendment.

Mr. Porter also agreed that it was not his intention to do one or the other.

Mr. Steer asked what would happen if the warrant article did not pass.

Mr. Porter stated that if it fails it does not mean they are not going to do the inspection program.

Mr. Colbath stated that they would cross that bridge when they get to it.

Mr. Steer asked if someone could petition to do another revaluation.

The legality of that was unknown but it was stated that it could potentially increase valuations as well.

Mr. Shepard noted that people who are questioning things should go through the abatement process.

He noted that he is going through process himself as it is something there to protect the taxpayers.

At 5:17 pm, Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Shepard, to go into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (B). The motion carried unanimously.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION RSA 91-A :3 II (B) HIRING

At 5:50 pm, the Board returned to public session.

Mr. Colbath moved, seconded by Mr. Shepard, 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 5:50 pm, the meeting adjourned at the call of the Chair.

Respectfully Submitted,

Krista Day
Executive Assistant