

**CONWAY VILLAGE FIRE DISTRICT
COMMISSIONER'S MEETING
Thursday December 22, 2016
Minutes**

Meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m.

Commissioners present: Janine Bean, Michael Digregorio, Steve Bamsey

Others present: Gregg Quint- Superintendent, Chief Solomon, and Amy Snow-Municipal Bookkeeper

ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

Mr. DiGregorio made a motion to approve items A through B, motion seconded by Mr. Bamsey; motion passed 3-0-0.

Mrs. Bean signed the Superintendent's and Fire Chief's time sheets for week ending 12/18/2016
Mr. DiGregorio made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes dated 12/15/2016, Mr. Bamsey seconded the motion; motion passed 3-0-0.

SUPERINTENDANT'S BUSINESS

The water budget was reviewed first. Ms. Snow handed out a packet to review (See attached). She got a revised transmittal from Health Trust and it is a little less than what was quoted in October, bringing the budget down a bit. We went from a \$60,000 net gain to \$8,515.92. She then reviewed page three the rates. Right now we are at \$62.10 we go to \$65.70 on a 5/8 meter. The usage fee goes from \$4.49 a gallon to \$5.23. Discussion ensued around numbers. Mr. DiGregorio questioned why workman comp is so high. Ms. Snow will look at it to make sure it is not a mistake or a typing error.

Mr. DiGregorio made a motion after the workman's comp is verified to set the rate at \$5.23 and the demand fees as recommended, Mr. Bamsey seconded the motion; motion passed 3-0-0.

The General Fund was discussed next. Ms. Snow said she needed them to finish the revenue side.

The Sewer Budget was discussed next. Ms. Snow reviewed page three (See attached). The entire operating budget is on usage. Ms. Snow explained the White Deer Motel is only two units. The card with the Town of Conway states twelve units. The card will be updated in April. Ms. Snow recommended The White Deer Motel be charged for two units, the Board agreed.

Ms. Snow reviewed with the Board the numbers for status quo vs betterment. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Bamsey made a motion to move the Sewer Rate structure to the Betterment Fee System as proposed, Mr. DiGregorio seconded the motion; motion passed 3-0-0.

Mr. Bamsey made a motion to set the sewer usage fee at \$14.34, Mr. DiGregorio seconded the motion; motion passed 3-0-0.

Mr. Quint updated the Board that the roller system is in.

FIRE CHIEF'S BUSINESS

Chief Solomon reported to the Board, he talked to Earl Sires and the Town of Conway received a counter proposal from Care Plus. Care Plus agreed to reduce their figure to what the Town asked and agreed to cover our proposed area (non- precinct land and service area two) at what the Town asked. The Commissioners are on the agenda for January 3rd to discuss the taxation component. Chief Solomon needs to know from the commissioners today whether we are going to do anything to try and keep that area or let it go. If we stick to our guns we will not cover area two. Chief then stated regardless if the Town awards the contract to Care Plus or not the Commissioners still need to have a discussion with the Board of Selectmen around taxing CVFD for coverage they are not providing to CVFD. The new contract eliminates CVFD. Discussion ensued around taxation and intercepts for Care Plus. Chief Solomon wanted to focus on if we are going to try and work with the Town at all on this or are we going to draw a line in the sand. Chief Solomon stated if we draw a line in the sand, by not reducing our number we are not going to have the contract, and what will come of that is that he will have to lay off two full time staff, it will massively reduce night coverage and we will not have paramedic's at night anymore. Mr. DiGregorio stated that Mr. Sires argument is that we are providing too much of a higher coverage or service. Discussion ensued. Mr. Bamsey asked how much money we lose if we go with the Town. Chief Solomon responded we asked for \$115,000 they offered \$105,000. So \$10,000 he thinks he can make that up. He went on to say the past two years on billing have been better than what he has predicted and he thinks he can safely increase the anticipated revenue from billing by \$10,000.00 it zeros out there reduction however it does not deal with the tax piece. Ms. Bean said that is a separate issue. Mr. DiGregorio said he thinks it is time to publicly talk about how inefficient Care Plus is including the fact that the hospital has thrown them out because their service was so bad and they do not provide paramedics. Mr. DiGregorio went on to say he does not want the Town telling us what to do. Ms. Bean asked why we are negotiating on an RFP. Chief Solomon said he brought that up and their response was this is common practice to negotiate after an RFP, it is not a request for bid, and it is a request for proposal. They have the proposals and now the town is negotiating the final arrangements of the proposals the Town went on to say if you want us to go with low bidder than we will go with Care Plus, your choice. Mr. DiGregorio stated I know your fighting for your department; I'm fighting for the Precinct because I don't want the Town telling us what to do. Discussion ensued. Mr. Bamsey said we can't keep taking losses. Discussion ensued.

Chief Solomon said if we do not respond after tonight's meeting with anything different than what we responded with after the last meeting, which is exactly what we bid plus the tax rebate; they will give it to Care Plus. Mr. DiGregorio's response is we not provide ambulance or fire service for the next six months. Discussion ensued around what it would cost to maintain the existing coverage without the contract with the Town. Fire and ambulance would cost \$3.17 a thousand now it \$2.34. This reflects status quo and as of May 1st not covering service area two.

Ms. Bean and Mr. DiGregorio suggested building the budget status quo. And fight the Town on the taxes. After much discussion Mr. DiGregorio said he was holding strong and that we should tell them we are not providing ambulance, they will have to provide it in the Village and we are voiding the contract with the Fire department in six months and rewrite it. If they want to rewrite that language now we will do it. Mr. Bamsey asked; do you want him to negate the coverage in the village. Mr. DiGregorio said no, I want him to build a budget for a year status quo. Nothing will change in the Village for a year except for the tax rate if we don't work this out with the Town. More discussion ensued. Chief Solomon said he is doing his best to look out for the Conway Village tax payer. He personally feels it is in the best interest of the Conway Village tax

payer to agree to the \$105,000 and argue the taxes. He went on to say we continue to provide the service they ask for and he thinks he can do better for the Village financially then if we stop doing it. Discussion ensued.

Ms. Bean went off subject for a minute to request a motion for a release of funds from the Trust Fund.

Mr. DiGregorio made a motion to request \$ 79,585.50 to be released from the Conway Village Fire Districts CVF Fire and Rescue Trust Fund, Mr. Bamsey seconded the motion; motion passed 3-0-0.

Discussion resumed around the Ambulance contract with the Town of Conway.

Mr. Bamsey made a motion to send a letter to the Selectmen to have a discussion about turning over the Conway Village Ambulance Service to the Town of Conway; Ms. Bean seconded the motion,

Ms. Bean opened the discussion by saying if they want to have a vote to sit down at the table let's give them that vote, here is the letter we want to discuss town wide ambulance; Chief Solomon said our Fire and Ambulance is so intergraded I don't know how you would just turn over the ambulance. Mr. DiGregorio said we can't afford to do one without the other.

Ms. Bean withdrew her motion as well as Mr. Bamsey. Mr. Bamsey said he would like to take care of the ambulance.

Ms. Bean suggested counter offer for \$105,000.

Mr. Bamsey suggested counter offering \$105,000 and taking it to the voters and letting them decide.

Mr. Bamsey made a motion to accept the Towns counter proposal to be ratified by the voters at the 2017 annual meeting, Ms. Bean seconded the motion; motion passed 2-1-0.

There being no further business to come before this Board, the meeting adjourned without objection at 7:33 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Stacy Bolduc, Receptionist

OLD AND PENDING
Policies and Procedures
Ambulance Billing Write-Off Policy
Review of Non Public Meeting Minutes 2013 (14)
Goals for Supervisor's
Mentoring Program

FUTURE DATES
January 3, 2017 Town of Conway Selectmen
January 5, 2017 Commissioner's Meeting