

**CONWAY VILLAGE FIRE DISTRICT
COMMISSIONERS MEETING
Thursday, December 11, 2020, 5:00 p.m.**

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m.

Commissioners present: Steve Bamsey, Michael Digregorio, Tom Buco
Others present: Chief Solomon, Superintendent Adam LePrevost, Amy Snow
Absent:

Public: Via Zoom Tim Westwig Executive Director for Conway Area Humane Society, Nate Marles Chairman of the Board for the Conway Area Humane Society.

TIM WESTWIG ON BEHALF OF THE CONWAY AREA HUMANE SOCIETY

Tim came before the Board to discuss the Board's recent decision not to approve the abatement they applied for due to an irrigation issue.

Tim explained they had a timer that was not functioning, and nobody noticed that the water was running nonstop for three months because water comes through copper piping with pinholes in it so it is not a massive amount of water that comes out all at once. Tim did notice a puddle around the base of the planter, and he turned the water off. He also stated there was no usage recorded after that and he understands that the Board wants a photograph as proof, but he does not know how he can photograph the device not working at that time. Nate commented that it is pretty clear that they have never used this amount of water in the past.

A few years ago, Mr. Bamsey explained, the Board updated the Sewer Abatement Policy to include proof be provided, whether it be a picture or documentation from a plumber verifying water did not go into the sewer. There is no evidence that the water did not go into the sewer and that the usage is not the result of a tap or a toilet running in the house. Tim responded that there was no operational water in the house until he requested the water be turned on when the garden was installed. When the house was being cleaned out, he has witnesses that no water was being used in the house.

Discussion ensued around when Adam inspected the house and discovered it was charged, and also witnessed a leaky faucet in the bathroom. Mr. Bamsey stated he is not challenging Tim's word and does not believe there is any deceptiveness and that CVFD has a policy in place to avoid situations like this where we have no proof that the water did not go into the sewer system. Mr. Bamsey explained that CVFD has the highest sewer rates in the State which is why the policy was revised to protect the taxpayers from paying for water that is not theirs going into the sewer system.

Tim stated there was no more usage after he shut the water off that day, so if it were a sink or toilet, there would have been usage. Mr. Bamsey asked what this bill does to the Humane Societies operating budget. Tim said \$738.00 would be a significant gift. A brief discussion ensued.

Tim did not feel that if he had taken a picture of the puddle in front of the flower bed, it would prove 50,000 gallons did not go into the sewer system and does not know how a picture would prove the timer was not working.

Amy pointed out that the policy prints out with the sewer abatement form, and number seven states: "*Filling swimming pools, hot tubs, irrigation or any other planned excessive usage is not cause for an abatement.*" Other points discussed were purchasing of a deduct meter and that a payment plan can be worked out. There was also discussion around previous sewer abatements that have been denied for not having sufficient proof of the water not going into the sewer system.

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The discussion closed with the option for the Conway Area Humane Society to set up a payment plan. Tim stated it is not an issue if they can pay the bill but more how the funds that have been donated are being used.

Mr. Bamsey stated that unfortunately the outcome is not favorable for the Humane Society but based on our policy and what has happened in the past, the decision not to approve the abatement is the correct decision for the Board to make.

Tim and Nate left the meeting at 5:22 p.m.

Adam will do a meter read tomorrow to make sure there is no usage, and because the irrigation is underground, Adam will discuss with Tim having a backflow device installed.

FIRE CHIEF'S BUSINESS

Chief Solomon reported on the gazebo in the park. He handed out pictures to show the structural soundness of the gazebo. There are broken trim boards that need replacing and some separation, there is a spot where the decorative detail at the top is barely being held on by anything, there are missing screws, and the turnbuckles may be the only thing holding it together. Also, the underside of the wooden shakes looks rotted. Discussion ensued around the pictures and the structural soundness of the gazebo. After some discussion, the board decided to increase the Park Maintenance line by \$5,000.00 and replace the one board near the top before the snow load.

Discussion ensued around COVID. The Fire Department will be giving vaccinations of the Pfizer vaccine to Northern Carroll County first responders. Chief Solomon also explained the logistics of vaccinating the First Responders.

SUPERINTENDENT'S BUSINESS

Adam reported that he attended the kickoff meeting for the I/I project yesterday. They will all get back together in the spring when the flows pickup. Mr. Bamsey questioned if the drawdown of the Pequawket Pond will affect the study. Adam will check with David Mercier.

There will be a Christmas potluck on December 17th for Water/Sewer staff. Adam invited Commissioners to attend, and he is going to close the office at noon for the event.

Adam may have a budget roughed out for next week's meeting.

Adam reported he has a couple of quotes for the new truck. The first quote is \$27,000 for a 3500 single axel and the second quote is \$29,000 for a dually. The utility box quote came in at \$22,000 and \$6,000 for a plow setup. Discussion ensued around the difference in the boxes and plowing with a truck with a box on it, or does it make sense to put a plow on the one-ton. Adam said if you put a plow on the one-ton it will need a sander in the back because it is too light. This new truck will replace Bruno's truck.

BOOKKEEPER'S BUSINESS

Amy updated the commissioners on CVFD's valuation. Between 2019 and 2020, both our land and building valuations went up \$2,601,147 however, a new law passed that favors utilities resulting in a decrease in the

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utilities valuation. Utilities valuation went down \$67,553.00. The Town also increased both the elderly and disabled exemptions. The exemptions went up \$377,000. The decrease in the utility's valuation and the increase in exemptions lowered CVFD's valuation.

Amy had the board resign the lien from last week.

Mr. Buco made a motion for a notice of lien for unpaid charges for water/sewer for 29 Bald Hill Rd. Conway NH, 03818 Tax map 277-226 in the amount of \$649.91, Mr. Digregorio seconded the motion; Motion passed 3-0-0.

Mr. Buco made a motion to accept any additional grant money from the Drinking Water and Ground Water Trust Fund to help fund the water main replacement project on Main St., motion seconded by Mr. Digregorio; Motion passed 3-0-0.

ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

- a. Ratify and sign checks for Payroll Manifest for the week ending 12/6/20
- b. Ratify A/P Manifest dated 12/9/2020 and sign checks dated 12/11/2020
- c. Approval of Fire Chief's timesheet for the week ending 12/6/20
- d. Approval of Meeting Minutes dated 12/3/2020

Mr. Bamsey made a motion to approve items A-B, to include Weekly payroll and Manifest; motion seconded by Mr. Buco;

Discussion:

Eversource - The bill has gone up \$1,000.00 this month's bill was \$6,548.34.

Harcros- \$4,270.25 chemicals for water and sewer.

White Mountain Oil-

\$797.59 generator fuel at Saco Pump Station.

\$107.85 generator fuel for Towle Rd.

\$244.51 generator fuel for Intermediate Pump Station

Motion Passed 3-0-0.

Mr. Bamsey made a motion to approve and sign the Fire Chiefs' timesheet for the week ending 12/6/2020, motion seconded by Mr. Digregorio; Motion passed 3-0-0.

Mr. Bamsey made the motion to approve the meeting minutes of 12/3/2020, motion seconded by Mr. Buco;

Correct typos in the lien for Bald Hill update Lot 2266 to 226 and change the amount from \$644.91 to \$649.91.

Motion passed 3-0-0.

The next commissioner's meeting will be on 12/17/2020

There being no other business to come before the board, the meeting adjourned without objection at 6:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Stacy Bolduc

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