

CONWAY VILLAGE FIRE DISTRICT  
JOINT BOARD MEETING  
CONWAY VILLAGE AND NORTH CONWAY WATER PRECINCT  
Wednesday, February 1, 2023, 4:30 P.M.  
NCWP meeting room

CVFD Commissioners present: Steve Bamsey, Mike DiGregorio; Staff present: Bookkeeper Amy Snow, Superintendent Bruno Vallieres

NCWP Commissioners present: John Santuccio, Suzanne Nelson, Robert Porter; Treasurer Tim Anderson, Staff present: Superintendent Jason Gagnon, Chief McCarthy

Town of Conway: Paul DegliAngeli Town Engineer, Andrew Smith DPW department head

Meeting was called to order at 4:30 P.M.

Jason started by thanking CVFD for coming and asked about the status of dissolution.

Mr. Bamsey explained that our budget hearing is February 14<sup>th</sup>, he could not speak on how voters are feeling at this point, this is a financial decision on the Boards part, it is getting too expensive for our small district to provide the quality of service our residents are accustomed to. Our vote is in March and if it is voted to dissolve it will happen January 1, 2024 and things will pretty much stay the same. Mr. Digregorio added that CVFD and the Town of Conway have a Memorandum of Understanding for how the transfer will take place.

Mr. Anderson asked how the taxes will be reduced if everything stays the same and was concerned that NCWP would lose money that it is now getting. Mr. Bamsey stated that the Non-precinct area will go away, and the tax will be equalized for all covered. Mr. Anderson was concerned that NCWP would lose money that they currently get for covering a portion of the Non-precinct area. Paul D. stated that this needs to be worked out, up to the Bartlett line, Hurricane Mt. Rd. etc. Discussion ensued about plowing and staffing the fire station. Paul expressed that this will be a new endeavor for the town, and it will be looked at, evaluated, and the voters will be asked what they want for (ambulance) services.

Mr. Anderson then asked who would pay if the town expanded water/sewer lines to Center Conway. Paul D. explained some options with best one being a TIF (Tax Increment Financing). Discussion ensued. Mr. Bamsey then explained that CVFD residents are now paying more in taxes than Non-precinct residents due to the formula for the contract. Discussion ensued.

Discussion ensued regarding the development on Eagles Way.

Discussion came back around to CVFD and Mr. Bamsey asked about the increase in Wastewater Facility Maintenance Contracts on the IMA budget. There was a break while Jason retrieved the most current budget.

During the break Mrs. Nelson asked who is voting to dissolve, the answer was only the CVFD voters at their Annual Meeting. Amy explained that the Town will have a couple warrant articles regarding the running of the fire department on this year's ballot.

Discussion resumed on the IMA budget. Jason reviewed changes to the IMA budget that are now different from the previous budget he sent earlier. Mr. Bamsey ask about the increase in Plant Maintenance contracts. Jason explained it is the sludge removal contract.

Mr. Bamsey, "this is a new cost?"

Jason, "You have always shared in the cost of sludge removal as evidenced by the shared expense of the sludge truck and the guys who drive the truck."

This is a direct result of the Town limiting the amount of sludge North Conway can bring to the dump. This is about 50% of what is produced. A lot of the extra is due to more septic haulers dumping at NCWP which results in more revenue for both NCWP and CVFD.

Discussion ensued about the price rising from \$0.09 to \$0.10. Mr. Bamsey insisted that the sludge removal contract is a new cost and the IMA states that CVFD is not responsible for any new costs. Mr. Bamsey believes this is a new cost and Jason believes this is not a new cost; it is an increase in a cost already in the budget. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Digregorio stated that the volume is too much to bring to the town and suggested adjusting the prices to a point that revenues stay but less haulers come.

Discussion ensued about how much sludge is coming in, the cost savings from installing the screw presses etc. and how to find the right price and right volume of sludge and costs.

There is a difference in opinion in the interpretation of the IMA, Jason insisted that sludge removal has always been in the IMA, it is just a new contract with a new vendor.

Paul D. observed that there is a communication breakdown between the two districts.

Discussion ensued about the processes at NCWP.

Both Bruno and Mr. Bamsey stated that CVFD is sticking to the terms of the IMA.

Mrs. Nelson insisted that they have always had to dispose of the sludge, like electricity and gas prices go up, so did our sludge disposal cost. Jason suggested that a third party may have to get involved to determine this issue.

Amy expressed her frustration with the process. It states that the only way the IMA can change is with approval from both Boards. You (Jason) come and tell us about new costs, and they just appear on the budget. The communication (or lack of) is the issue. Jason agreed.

Jason went on to say that NCWP need s to make decisions for NCWP, Amy replied that the question is if CVFD is responsible to pay for it, not if NCWP should do it.

Mr. Digregorio left the meeting at 5:45 p.m.

Discussion ensued, Jason agreed that new items cannot be added ,and he removed the new position from the budget that he added previously.

Mrs. Nelson wanted all to consider the cost of the lawyers that will be incurred if we do not agree.

Mr. Bamsey then brought up the carousel upgrade. Jason said it will go out to bid this fall, construction in 2024. 52% will be covered by grants.

Jason went on to explain that the carousel cannot handle the summer loads from the tourists, not so much the septage.

Discussion ensued around running two carousels versus upgrading number 1.

Mr. Bamsey asked if everything is working correctly and Jason explained that everything is working correctly, they just do not have the capacity for all the expansion happening in North Conway (new hotels, etc.).

Mr. Bamsey pointed out that Appendix A rated the carousel out to 2030 and the you (Jason) stated at one of our meetings that it wasn't designed well. Jason replied that it was the aeration that isn't adding enough oxygen. Discussion ensued around capacity.

Amy expressed more frustration with the lack of definitions, i.e. "upgrade" vs "repair and refurbishment", work needs to be done on the IMA. Bruno agrees and stated that we may need to revisit a flat rate. The NCWP Board agreed. The NCWP Board expressed frustration that talks stopped the last time we looked at flat rate. Bruno stated that it will take time. Mr. Porter stated that a flat rate would make it easier for their office. Mr. Bamsey said we are out of time now, it would have to go to a vote and if we dissolve the legislative body would be the Town of Conway voters.

Tim spoke about taking the town leachate, loads and sludge and the cost implications.

Amy asked at what point do upgrades stop and you open the second carousel. Jason's response was when the low flows bring the number 1 to capacity. He said it is quite a process to use number 2 just in the summer.

The CVFD board left at 6:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Amy Snow, Municipal Bookkeeper/Clerk