

CONWAY VILLAGE FIRE DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
Tuesday, March 9, 2023, 5:00 P.M.
ADMIN. BUILDING

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

Commissioners present: Mike DiGregorio and Steve Bamsey
Staff present: Bookkeeper Amy Snow, Superintendent Bruno Vallieres, and Chief Solomon

Administrative Business

Mr. Bamsey made a motion to ratify a., b., and c. Seconded by Mr. Digregorio.

- a. Ratify Weekly Payroll Manifest and sign checks for week ending 3/5/23.
- b. Ratify Monthly Payroll Manifest and sign checks for month ending 2/28/23.
- c. Ratify A/P Manifest dated 3/8/23 and sign checks dated 3/10/23.

Motion passed 2-0-0.

Approval of the meeting Minutes dated 3/2/2023 was tabled until 3/14/23.

Superintendent's Business

Bruno stated that there was a leak on J St. It wasn't horrible, no lost water or pressure.

The service truck is at the Town garage, sounds like a clutch issue and it's being dealt with. The Town guys came and got the truck and got a tour of the building.

Fire Chief's Business

The Chief stated that the most interesting thing is that we're probably, not definite will be getting more money from the Town on non-precinct fire than we budgeted for. We've been working to resolve a SNAFU with the non-precinct fire contract on the Town side. Assuming that it all plays out appropriately we will actually benefit from that. We gain \$30,000.

Mr. Bamsey stated that he had met with John and Paul before he had to leave, they told him that North Conway realized that they did not put something or do something that they should have done to get money for the new Fire Station.

Beyond that we're still doing lots of calls. We just today completed oral boards for promotional process for career personnel wishing to be officers. We will take-action on that next Wednesday based on the budget passing.

Bookkeeper's Business

Amy stated that she received an email from her contact at the EPA. She told him that she would start the application no later than March 20th for the \$1,000,000.00 Congressional Grant.

Back in session at 5:12 P.M.

Members of the Town: John Eastman, Andrew Smith, Paul D., Janine Bean, and Attorney Jason Dennis. Also present, Daymond Steer from the Conway Daily Sun.

Mr. Bamsey asked Jason if he was familiar with what we've been going through?
Jason said that he was.

Mr. Bamsey stated that we can dissolve, and the Town can take over running things, it's the expansion of the sewer system that we are questioning. That's the piece that we need to get some resolution on before the annual meeting.

Paul D. asked, if you were not dissolving, not knowing of any plans of you expanding your sewer, why is that a pivotal question with the dissolution.

Mr. Bamsey answered that he thinks it's for the clarity of the in-district residents. He thought the town wanted everything was so the Town could have a system and could expand beyond the boundaries of CVFD.

Paul D. explained that there is nothing to prevent the Town's expansion other than the vote of the people. So why are we hung up on this, why are we not focusing on the provisions of RSA-52? Lastly, it's entirely your and your voters' decision. The question to us is can we operate the water and sewer department; the answer is yes.

Discussion ensued referencing the current water system in Center Conway.

Amy stated that on the sewer side, in order for the selectman to make abatements, set the rates, and do all the stuff for sewer, all the Town has to do is adopt the provisions of RSA-149I and that would not be a two thirds vote.

Paul D. recommends leaving the language as is, and they maintain it. We've said in public that we're leaving everything the way it is.

Amy agreed with Paul regarding the language.

Jason stated that he agreed with that approach. Ultimately with RSA-52:21 would give the Town the control of the water and sewer to quote unquote to wind it up. But as DES has said and Stephen Buckley has said with HMA and as I have reviewed, that wind up essentially provides the Town indefinite control. I think the belt and suspenders approach would be to have the vote on RSA-149I that would just confirm that the Town can do whatever and anything it wants to do with regards to changes, expansion, etc. The reality is that there would be no other entity to do it, so I think that's what RSA-52:21 contemplates. If the Village District in control of the utility disbands, we're not going to let people go without the utility. If it's wholly within the Municipality then the Municipality takes over. That's RSA-52:21.

The RSA-38:12 that deals with water, arguably the Town wouldn't even have to do anything because if CVFD disbands, they then are owners of the plant. Because you don't exist somebody has to own it. And for the statute you don't even have to vote to expand it. And arguably to me that does apply. That's RSA-38:12.

RSA-38:12 states that if you have an existing Municipal plant, which would be Conway's because CVFD wouldn't exist, the language is, such action shall not require any further vote.

Amy stated that they could take RSA-38:1 through 31 and adopt those as well.

Jason said absolutely. If everybody wanted to feel like we're 100% covered then put both there and you have the vote on them. But I don't think the vote is needed to begin to do the work, and the maintenance, and the operation and to continue that indefinitely. But I think the votes would confirm for everybody that we can do whatever we want with regards to water or sewer or both.

Mr. Bamsey stated that there is financial gain for the residents of CVFD and the driving force for everything is cost savings. Mr. Digregorio stated that the major driving force for this discussion was the Fire Department, there is no question about that.

Discussion ensued.

Mr. Bamsey stated that we present the article as written, in the time frame as written.

Mr. Digregorio asked Janine what she thought. She said that she wasn't against the dissolution but would like to wait another year to make sure that it's done correctly and with all the questions answered before we go to take a vote.

Discussion ensued and it was agreed that we will all remain residents of Conway Village. Janine said that one of the problems we as residents of the District have is the word District. We've gotta throw it out the window. We give up the District, we give up the name and that's all. We are just giving up that little word.

Conversation ensued regarding budgets and the different departments.

Daymond questioned the mode of the article. Mr. Bamsey said, this is what's going to happen, we're going to put it on the floor as written and let the voters decide from there. Daymond said, but the voters can amend it. Mr. Bamsey answered, yes, they can.

Mr. Bamsey stated that the only reason that some might want to push it back is because of this Charter Commission, and I cannot for the life of me think about why a Charter Commission is going to change anything regarding their bills, and the services that we provide. It's not going to change a single thing. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Digregorio stated that to him, the next worse thing next to SB2 is a Town Council.

Mr. Digregorio made a motion to entering non-public RSA 91-A:3II(e) Seconded by Mr. Bamsey. Roll call vote Mr. Bamsey, Yes. Mr. Digregorio, Yes.
Entered non-public at 6:12 P.M.

Regular portion of the meeting resumed at 7:14 P.M.

The discussion involved a disagreement between CVFD and NCWP regarding the IMA.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, March 22, 2023. 5:00 P.M. in the Administrative Building Meeting Room.

The meeting was adjourned without objection at 7:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Chisholm, Office Assistant