



Albany Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

Albany, New Hampshire
February 3, 2021 at 4:00 P.M.

- 1. Call to Order:** Chairman Hiland called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

Note: This meeting may be streamed at www.TownHallStreams.com and to participate you may call 1-480-660-5317. Use conference code 540682

- 2. Pledge of Allegiance:** Chairman Hiland let the meeting in The Pledge

- 3. Attendance: In Person:** Chairman R. Hiland, Selectman G. Zeiders, Town Administrator (TA) K. Collins; **By Phone:** Selectman J. Ferris, Chapel Committee Chair D. Solomon, Road Agent C. Coleman, Tim Sorgi, Moderator E. Alkalay, Caitlyn Quint, John Eastman, Town Clerk/Tax Collector, Cathy Ryan

- 4. New Business:**

- A. Approval of January 27, 2021 Selectmen's Meeting minutes, including (1) set of sealed Non Public Session minutes**

Selectman Ferris made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 27, 2021 Selectmen's Meeting, including (1) set of sealed Non Public Session minutes, as presented. Selectman Zeiders seconded. Roll Call Vote:

Chairman R. Hiland – aye; Selectman J. Ferris – aye; Selectman G. Zeiders – aye. Motion passed: 3-0-0.

- B. Approval of February 3, 2021 consent file**

__Review & Sign manifest in the amount of \$ 2,626.54, this includes items from 2/3/2021

__Review & approve/deny application for Individual Septic System for M9. L158 Moat View Drive

Selectman Ferris made a motion to approve the consent file of February 3, 2021, as presented. Selectman Zeiders seconded. Roll Call Vote:

Chairman R. Hiland – aye; Selectman J. Ferris – aye; Selectman G. Zeiders – aye. Motion passed: 3-0-0.

- C. Review, discuss and approve Porter Office Machines annual maintenance agreement for the new C3320i copier/printer**

Per Town policy this agreement/contract has been sent to Primex for their review. This will be under Old Business at the next meeting.

D. Review, discuss and approve Conway Area Humane Society Annual Agreement for Services

TA notes that she assumes this contract has already been vetted by Primex as the Board signed it last year. Chairman Hiland asked the TA to send it to Primex for review.

5. Town Administrators Report:

A. Review 2021 budget & warrant for discussion at Budget Public Hearing
The Town Administrator assumes that the Board may want to run through the budget and warrant one more time before the public hearing this evening. The Board noted that they were all set with the budget and warrant as preseted,

6. APPOINTMENTS: Meet with Moderator, Edward Alkalay, to review and discuss time and place of Town Meeting

Mr. Alkalay has Covid 19 issues that need to be addressed. Mr. Alkalay feels the best thing for the town is to keep things the same. Due to Covid, 2 weeks ago Mr. Alkalay reached out to Kevin Richards about using the Kennett Middle School for Town Meeting. The Town of Conway is willing to make the Marshall Gymnasium available to us. Of course, there are safety concerns but even with 100 people we could safely distance in either of those venues. There are all kinds of practical problems with doing it outdoors. His opinion is that we should go forward on March 9, or March 10 at Kennett Middle School or the Marshall Gymnasium.

Chairman Hiland noted that the Selectmen have not discussed this at all, we have been working on the budget and the warrant.

Selectman Ferris is concerned with contracting the virus. If we can safely distance and keep the meeting to a reasonable time, he doesn't see any reason we couldn't have it at the Gymnasium.

Selectman Zeiders is concerned about being in a room with 100+ people breathing re-circulated air. He has not been to a restaurant since last January.

Town Clerk/Tax Collector, Cathy Ryan kind of waffles on this, she doesn't have a strong opinion on this, but is wondering how many people would not feel comfortable coming to the meeting and therefore would not be willing to participate. C. Ryan is getting the feeling that there are a couple of hot issues that will extend the duration of town meeting. She is a little bit on the fence.

Chairman Hiland originally was ok with it, but since then the Town has received a couple of petition articles that may increase the attendance. He is not comfortable sitting in a room with 80, 90, or 100 people for hours, breathing the same air. He is not a big fan of masks. He and his family have avoided a lot of things in the last 10 or 12 months so they don't get the virus. He is not sure he would be willing to attend a meeting. He has

considered the possibility of moving the meeting to April, May or June with all the windows open or outside. He does not intend to attend a meeting in a closed room. The Governor's Executive Order #83 and HB 1129 all layout how we may postpone the town meeting process. As far as the election is concerned, he doesn't feel there will be a big turnout and we conducted 4 elections, successfully, last year.

Ed Alkalay so just a couple of rejoinders. Ed spoke to Tim and the school chose to go ahead. So that would mean 2 meetings for the people in town. We need to do the best we can. He thinks we can make it safe. We can have temperatures taken and screening forms done. The schools have been operating like this for a long time.

Selectman Zeiders notes that the school is operating in small groups of 10 in a cohort. He thinks the use of the room will still be available in April or May and more people will have been vaccinated and hopefully the rate of infection will drop off a little.

Selectman Ferris says this sounds reasonable to him. He would be surprised if there were 100 people at the meeting but we have to assume that there will be a large turnout. He thinks for the sake of the people it would be safer to put it off.

John Eastman's question is what does this do with some of the services that we pay for. Either for the budget or the warrant article?

TA noted we would only be able to pay for fixed expenses.

John Eastman asked if we would consider extending funding for parks and recreation through the budget. Spring programs start around April so this could potentially shut Albany kids out of the spring programs.

Curtis Coleman – that cannot happen. This Board would totally neutralize sports for these kids until 7th grade. This Board needs to address this right now. A lot of people in this Town are concerned. The Board needs to address this right now.

Catelyn Quint is a parent of two kids that participate in the recreation programs. It is very important to these young children to have the ability to participate in these programs.

Kathy Golding's point of view is that Conway is still planning on having their deliberative session in a safe manner. She doesn't understand why the Town of Albany cannot do their meeting.

Rick Timsilicki, when does the Board intend to make their decision about town meeting. We have a meeting for the school board and we have to let them know. He is inclined to stick with the date and does not like the leaders in Albany reacting from a position of fear. What if nothing has changed between April and May will you put it off until September? He thinks the town and school meetings should be done together. It should be done on sound arguments and the reasons you have given are not it.

Selectman Ferris asked if there is a way to spend money on these services?

The TA said the only way to do this would be to have trust on both sides. The

BOS would have to trust the people who brought the petition to amend the amount down and the people would have to trust the BOS to put an amount in the operating budget to get them through the Spring sport season. This is what Selectman Ferris is interested in. Selectman Ferris notes that it definitely hurts the selectboard when people put in warrant articles like this. Selectman Ferris believes this will pass at town meeting

John Eastman has a couple of things to set the record straight. He does not believe the knees of the selectman were cut out from them. John Eastman agreed with some things that Chairman Hiland found. John Eastman doesn't personally have a stake in this as his kids are grown. There is a large degree of uncertainty. When the Board hasn't decided if it isn't in the budget or not. It doesn't fly with Albany voters. That is why there was a petition put together. It seems quite apparent that it wasn't going to make it into the budget. The Town of Conway may have negotiated as much as they can. The Town of Albany should not over play it's hand. Mr. Eastman noted he is fiscally conservative but we don't have a lot of service in Albany. You don't need to have faith. The people of Albany are good people and work hard. He won't speak for the town manager but it seems like Conway has negotiated as far as they can.

Chairman Hiland noted that Mr. Eastman's statement is not correct. The P & R amount provided by the Finance Director in Conway was in the operating budget. The petition warrant article was received on Wednesday, January 27, 2021 and that is the night the budget item was zeroed out. The Board felt it had no choice so that it would not be appropriated twice.

Curtis Coleman we have been adjusting warrant articles on the floor of town meeting forever. The Board could put it back in the operating budget. For \$43K we are getting a great service. For all intents and purposes we are part of Conway with better taxes and less government. We are spinning our wheels on this thing when we don't need too. Leaving the kids in peril or unknown isn't fair. Kids are the least affected by Covid but more affected by some of it.

Selectman Zeiders supports the recreation portion of this and there was never any intent to cut this off.

Ed Alkalay's understanding of why this was placed as a petition warrant article is because when he specifically asked Chairman Hiland about this, Chairman Hiland said he was only one selectman and he couldn't answer this. So that is why the warrant article was put in there.

Selectman Ferris made a motion to put the P & R money back into the budget. Selectman Zeiders seconded.

Discussion: Cathy Ryan as a citizen as an average lay person that you heard there were negotiations going on. When I put on my former selectmen's hat I want to commend the selectmen for all the work they did on this. (with the library since August) Now that we have 2 warrant articles she can see why you would zero out these line items. As a resident she views it as the

community of The Valley. We should support The Valley. She doesn't mind paying for the parks, it is part of living here, she gets to use them 24/7. As an Albany resident I don't mind paying that money. She thinks recreation is really important.

Roll Call Vote: Chairman Hiland – aye; Selectman Ferris – aye, Selectman Zeiders – aye. **Motion passed: 3-0-0.**

There will be a Selectmen's Meeting next Wednesday 2/10 to pick a date for town meeting.

7. Old Business:

- A. **Chapel Committee/Historical Society** – legal opinion has been sent to Chapel Committee Chair for review. We did receive a quote for the work to be done on the Chapel steeple, it has been emailed to Chairman Solomon.
- B. **Federal Land Access Program (FLAP)** – Results of drilling were completed and report is being generated
- C. **Cable TV contract (2021)** – Selectman Ferris has asked Chairman Hiland to review the legal opinion and make suggestions to the Board for a counter offer.
- D. **Library cards:** Awaiting answer from Library Trustees of latest negotiation on MOU. The Board asked the TA to communicate with Ms. Laracy with regard to ay decisions on the library trustees part.
- E. **Parks & Recreation Services:** (see discussion above)

8. Other Business (and Board reports):

- A. **Planning Board – Selectman Ferris** – meeting is next Monday
- B. **NHMA – Chairman Hiland** – nothing
- C. **Carroll County Broadband – Chairman Hiland** – waiting on WA from towns.
- D. **Other:**

9. Correspondence:

- A. **Review 2019 Financial Audit and Management Letter for Carroll County**
The Board will review
- B. **Review Notice of Decision from Town of Conway – ZBA to allow the installation of wireless communication facility and tower**
The Board will review
- C. **Review Notice of Upcoming Changes from Charter Communications**
The Board will review

10. Public Comment: none

11. Next Meeting: February 10, 2020 at 4:00 PM at Albany Town Hall
To decide on the time and place of town meeting.

12. Non-Public Sessions: none

Selectmen's Meeting was recessed at 5:15 p.m..

Chairman Hiland called the Selectmen's Meeting back to order at 6:51 p.m.

Article #1 will be the election of officers.

Article #2. *Chairman Hiland made the motion to recommend \$755,597 for the operating budget. Selectman J. Ferris seconded. Roll Call Vote:* Chairman R. Hiland – aye; Selectman J. Ferris – aye; Selectman G. Zeiders – aye. **Motion passed: 3-0-0.**

Article #3. *Chairman R. Hiland made the motion to recommend \$5000 for Drake Hill Road Bridge Capital Reserve Fund. Selectman Zeiders seconded. Roll Call Vote:* Chairman R. Hiland – aye; Selectman J. Ferris – aye; Selectman G. Zeiders – aye. **Motion passed: 3-0-0.**

Article 4. *Chairman R. Hiland made a motion to recommend \$3,500 for Revaluation ETF, Selectman J. Ferris seconded. Roll Call Vote:* Chairman R. Hiland – aye; Selectman J. Ferris – aye; Selectman G. Zeiders – aye. **Motion passed: 3-0-0.**

Article 5. *Chairman R. Hiland made the motion to recommend \$60,000 for Highway Expendable Trust Fund, Selectman G. Zeiders seconded. Roll Call Vote:* Chairman R. Hiland – aye; Selectman J. Ferris – aye; Selectman G. Zeiders – aye. **Motion passed: 3-0-0.**

Article 6. *Chairman R. Hiland made the motion to recommend \$100,000 for continuing maintenance and pavement of town roads with \$50,000 to come from 12/31/2020 unassigned fund balance, Selectman J. Ferris seconded. Roll Call Vote:* Chairman R. Hiland – aye; Selectman J. Ferris – aye; Selectman G. Zeiders – aye. **Motion passed: 3-0-0.**

Article 7. *Chairman R. Hiland made the motion to recommend \$1,000 for Chapel Capital Reserve Fund, Selectman G. Zeiders seconded. Roll Call Vote:* Chairman R. Hiland – aye; Selectman J. Ferris – aye; Selectman G. Zeiders – aye. **Motion passed: 3-0-0.**

Article 8, *Chairman R. Hiland made the motion to recommend \$6,000 TH property CRF, Selectman J. Ferris seconded. Roll Call Vote:* Chairman R. Hiland – aye; Selectman J. Ferris – aye; Selectman G. Zeiders – aye. **Motion passed: 3-0-0.**

Article 9. *Chairman R. Hiland made the motion to recommend \$1,000 for Emergency Management Capital Rerserve Fund, Selectman F. Zeiders seconded. Roll Call Vote:* Chairman R. Hiland – aye; Selectman J. Ferris – aye; Selectman G. Zeiders – aye. **Motion passed: 3-0-0.**

Article 10. *Chairman R. Hiland made the motion to recommend appointing (2) Representative to serve on Carroll County Broadbank communications Planning Committee, Selectman J. Ferris seconded. Roll Call Vote:* Chairman R. Hiland – aye; Selectman J. Ferris – aye; Selectman G. Zeiders – aye. **Motion passed: 3-0-0.**

Article 11. *Chairman R. Hiland made the motion to recommend \$2,000 for Family Resource Center at Children Unlimited, Selectman G. Zeiders seconded. Roll Call*

Vote: Chairman R. Hiland – nay; Selectman J. Ferris – aye; Selectman G. Zeiders – aye. **Motion passed: 2-1-0.**

Article 12. *Chairman Hiland made a motion to recommend \$1,650 for Tri County Community Action Program, Inc., Selectman J. Ferris seconded. Roll Call Vote:* Chairman R. Hiland – aye; Selectman J. Ferris – aye; Selectman G. Zeiders – aye. **Motion passed: 3-0-0.**

Article 13. *Chairman R. Hiland made a motion to recommend \$3000 for Meals on Wheels, GZ seconded. Roll Call Vote:* Chairman R. Hiland – aye; Selectman J. Ferris – aye; Selectman G. Zeiders – aye. **Motion passed: 3-0-0.**

Article 14. *Chairman R. Hiland made the motion to recommend \$2,700 for Valley Vision, Selectman J. Ferris seconded. Roll Call Vote:* Chairman R. Hiland – nay; Selectman J. Ferris – aye; Selectman G. Zeiders – nay. **Motion failed – this article is “not recommended by the selectmen”): 1-2-0.**

Article 15. *Selectman R. Hiland made the motion to recommend \$2,627 for Starting Point, Selectman G. Zeiders seconded. Roll Call Vote:* Chairman R. Hiland – nay; Selectman J. Ferris – aye; Selectman G. Zeiders – aye. **Motion passed: 2-1-0.**

Article 16. *Chairman R. Hiland made a motion to recommend \$2958 for White Mountain Community Health Center, Selectman J. Ferris seconded. Roll Call Vote:* Chairman R. Hiland – nay; Selectman J. Ferris – aye; Selectman G. Zeiders – aye. **Motion passed: 2-1-0.**

Article 17. *Chairman R. Hiland made the motion to recommend \$1,000 for Conway Area Human Society, Selectman F. Zeiders seconded. Roll Call Vote:* Chairman R. Hiland – nay; Selectman J. Ferris – aye; Selectman G. Zeiders – aye. **Motion passed: 2-1-0.**

Article 18. *Chairman R. Hiland made a motion to recommend \$8,700 for Library Services from Conway Public Library, Selectman J. Ferris seconded Roll Call Vote:* Chairman R. Hiland – nay; Selectman J. Ferris – nay; Selectman G. Zeiders – nay. **Motion failed, this article is not recommended by the Board of Selectmen: 0-3-0.**

Article 19. *Chairman R. Hiland made the motion to recommend \$43,985 for Parks & Recreation Services from the Town of Conway, Selectman G. Zeiders seconded. Roll Call Vote:* Chairman R. Hiland – nay; Selectman J. Ferris – nay; Selectman G. Zeiders – nay. **Motion failed: 0-3-0. This article is not recommended by the Board of Selectmen.**

Public Comment;

Cathy Ryan just wants to thank the selectman and Kelley for looking out for the residents of Albany for all the work they did to research and put this together.

13. Adjournment:

Chairman Hiland made a motion to adjourn at 7:06, Selectman J. Ferris seconded. Roll Call Vote: Chairman R. Hiland – aye; Selectman J. Ferris – aye; Selectman G. Zeiders – aye. **Motion passed: 3-0-0.**