

**MINUTES
FRANCONIA BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
Monday, April 18, 2016**

A meeting of the Franconia Board of Selectmen was held at 3:00 pm on Monday, April 18, 2016 at the Maintenance Garage then the Franconia Town Hall. Regular members in attendance were Bernie Costa, John Lachapelle, Sally Small and Herbie Bartlett.

Guests of the Board: Jeff Phillips, Lydia Cumbee, Russ Cumbee, Dawn Steele, Jim Alden, Jeff Woodward, Elizabeth "Bit" Andross.
Kim Cowles

Others in attendance: Mary Grote & Peter Grote.

SELECTMEN'S TIME:

BOS Minutes 4/18/2016: A formal reading of the April 11, 2016 minutes was waived and the minutes were approved.

Bernie made a motion to accept the minutes as written, John seconded with all voting in favor to accept the minutes as written.

FOR CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL:

Transaction Lists - 4/21/16 - Approved and signed by the Board
Pemi-Baker Solid Waste District Representative – Jane Higgins volunteered to be the rep.
Solar Permit – Nyborg (M14/L151)
Solar Permit – Brewer (M15/L3)
Abatement – Sauls (M14/L98)
Application for Tax Exemption – Neskaya, Inc.
Current Use Application – Palmer/Ting (M34/L4)
Churches – Exemptions

APPOINTMENTS:

3:00 – The Board met at Maintenance Garage where Jeff showed the shop to us. He explained what was happening with his budget. In the past three months he had to replace 2 circulator pumps in the town hall furnace room for \$654. There was a back up of sewerage in the downstairs furnace room of the town hall because the new efficient toilet in the Main Hall doesn't use enough water to flush the effluent through the pipes into the septic. In order to clear the effluent, Jeff had to run a lot of water and that resulted in a larger than normal water bill for the first quarter. In order to fix the backup he had to hire Schofield's and pay \$831.00 to clean out the pipes and \$447.00 to pump the tank. None of the expenses were anticipated when working on the 2016 budget. Jeff has replaced some of the town hall basement window panes and has painted all the basement windows. Jeff had to repair the snow blower on the John Deere for an unanticipated cost of \$365.00.

Last Fall Jeff received a bid to paint the trim on the town hall for \$5K. Jeff said he could do it with the bucket truck for less and will borrow the bucket truck from Bethlehem to do the job.

Jeff was asked to schedule with Sally the floor refinishing. The impact of the dust and smell was discussed. We may want to look at a new way to do the foyer flooring. We should probably have another meeting to go over alternatives.

There is a siding issue on the back of the Maintenance garage that needs addressing. A piece is coming down. (Dawn Steele & Mary Grote attended this viewing.)

Open Time – The stretch of road on Route 116 that Asplundh and Eversource have been trimming was discussed. Some of the trees were diseased. They obtained permission from the property owners before taking them down. Some of the trees in front of the Willow Cemetery were diseased. Supposedly they had to have a wider swath because of the type of wires along Route 116.

There are concerns of the white flags on the stakes along Route 116. They are marking the bore test sites to test the soils. Bernie said that we are checking into that. They need to alert the police and the town and DOT. We will wait to see what happens.

Salary/Benefits Committee – Bernie has provided the task in writing to all members. We certainly appreciate the task that the committee members are undertaking. They were asked to investigate the salary ranges of towns in similar size, tourism, public safety requirements as well as reviewing our existing job descriptions and possibly rewrite them. The Board is also interested in the committee reviewing the Health Care/Insurance options. Sally will provide any information that you need to do this task. These committees fall under the right to know law in New Hampshire. Email by committees must not include discussions of the issues but may include sharing of factual information. Meetings do not have to be posted but they have to be open to the public per our attorney Laura Spector Morgan. All materials must be maintained by the committee just in case anyone asks to see them. Recommendations will be taken by the Board of Selectmen for review and decisions.

Sally will get the 2014 Wage and Salary Survey from the NH Municipal Association for the committee to use as a reference.

Committees must plan a meeting and appoint a contact person and a chairman. You can start gathering information and at Jeff Woodward's request Sally will supply the committee with the current job descriptions and wage/salary information for the past several years. Lydia will send emails out to everyone on the committee to get this started.

We can have Health Trust or other companies come in and have the committee meet with them to investigate the health benefits.

Staffing Committee – The Board handed out the MRI report that studied the Town Hall Staffing. The MRI report states that they compared Franconia to the towns of Orford, Grafton & Rumney. Jim Alden will send an email out to the Staffing Group and decide when to meet. Staffing end data should be submitted to BOS by the end of June. The staffing committee is also subject to the Right to Know Law

TO DISCUSS/REVIEW:

PAYT – Bags – John relayed Steve Heath’s concern about paying up front for the PAYT bags and amount of time it takes to recoup the cost. Bernie asked Sally to check with Greg to see if he had talked to the retailers about offering Net 30 days as a solution to their concerns. The vendors pay upfront of \$388.00 for the bags. Most people pay with a credit card and they have to pay a credit card fee so they will actually be losing money on the bags.

Tri-Town – Agreement - Kim Cowles – John and Bernie had some questions concerning the proposed agreement. Kim would like to be able to service all ages. The program has adult basketball and would like suggestions for senior activities. Bernie had questioned the committee’s operational oversight in regards to the long and short term goals for the recreational facilities and the annual budgeting of the capital expenditures. Bernie also felt that there should be an accounting of where and how the money that is collected through donations is spent.

Kim asked that all recommendations for the wording of the agreement be sent to her so she can share them with the other two towns.

Proposed Lease Agreement with FAHC – Museum needs to come in, in regards to this. Years ago Sally believes there was a lease agreement and she will look for a copy. John questioned what the tax payers were paying to support and Sally explained that the taxpayers fund the maintenance since the town owns the building. The Town is responsible for the outside of the building. The day to day operating expenses are taken care of by Franconia Area Heritage Committee.

Audit Committee – Virginia Mike & Mark Hesler will be added.

Northern Pass Committee - Walter Palmer to help with Northern Pass Research.

VFW – Does anyone want to march in the Memorial Day Parade in Littleton on May 30th? Sally will pass letter on to the Police and Fire Department and try contacting Colonel Ed Bart.

Employee/Family Hiring Policy - No changes at this time. We would like to have Eric look at it next week.

Cell Phone Bill – The issue was resolved.

Northern Pass Committee – Sally informed Peter Grote that to date have we received bills for a total of \$5K from the attorney’s office. Sally pointed out that when we get bills from our Town Attorney regarding the Fairpoint matter they always include an informational total bill along with Franconia’ share but the doesn’t happen with the law firm that is handling the Northern Pass issue. She will see if we can obtain a full accounting as well as out portion of the monthly bills. Sally will make copies of the bills for Peter Grote. The Board will meet with Peter to discuss the bills from the Lawyer.

4:40 – Closed Session – Legal and Personnel – As per RSA 91-3:II (e) the Board voted to go into closed session. At 5:10 pm the Board voted to come out of closed session and seal the minutes.

The Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 5:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Herbie Bartlett
Executive Secretary