

**MINUTES  
FRANCONIA BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING**

**Monday, April 27, 2015**

A meeting of the Franconia Board of Selectmen was held at 3:00 pm on Monday April 27, 2015 at the Franconia Town Hall. Regular members in attendance were Bob Montagno, Bernie Costa, Eric Meth, Sally Small and Suzy MacDonald

Guests of the Board – Jeff Phillips, Scott Leslie, Chief John Monaghan, Kim Cowles, Greg Wells

Also attending –Donn Lathrop, Dawn Steele, Mary and Peter Grote, Ann Foss

**SELECTMEN'S TIME:**

**BOS Minutes 04/13/2015:** Formal readings of the April 13, 2015 BOS meeting minutes were waived. The minutes of April 13, 2015 were approved with the following corrections.

Page 2. . The Select Board asked Jeff *to get a copy of the section that talks about Cemetery Trustees. in a book called Knowing the Territory, which he can then reference*

Page 3 - Have *the* clock committee hold off doing any more work.

**Closed Minutes 04/06/2015** will be presented for approval at the meeting on May 4, 2015.

**FOR CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL:**

**Transaction List for 04/30/2015-** The Board reviewed and signed the transaction list for 04/30/2015.

**Public Safety Building Transaction List 4/30/ 2015 -** The Board reviewed and signed the transaction list for the Public Safety Building Transaction for 4/30/ 20115.

**Abatement - Martini - Map 8/Lot 1A3 -** The Board reviewed and signed an abatement for accrued interest only for Martini - Map 8/ Lot 1A3. Sally explained the customer didn't not get the tax bill because of property changed hands during the tax printing process.

**Tax Exemption - Neskaya Inc -** The Board reviewed and signed a Tax Exemption for Neskaya Inc.

**APPOINTMENTS:**

**3:00 pm - Department Head Meeting -** Bob Montagno wanted to hold a combination meeting of getting to know the Select Board with Department updates and talk about 1st quarter budgets. No need to spend a lot of time reviewing the budget. Bob thought we would review each department and look at the budget and if you want to discuss a problem then bring it forward now.

**Kim Cowles - Recreation -** Interviews for summer recreation positions are underway and they are working on schedules. Baseball is not off to a good start due to the weather. Opening Day for baseball is

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scheduled for May 2, for ages 12 and under. Working on summer schedules for the Dow and Community Events. Kim is working with Lions Club and Chamber for Ole Home Day. Kim met with Dow Academy to discuss taking care of the tennis courts. Possible long term lease on the tennis courts on Academy. In terms of budget most doesn't happen till third quarter. The van has been used and Kim has brought in money that helps to cover expenses of the van from the people who use it. Kim uses her personal vehicle to do some town business. She puts in for her mileage, she does not feel she is fully compensated for that. Bob asked the question if we came up with a dollar amount for compensation for your vehicle. Bob is concerned about insurance with personal vehicle use for town business. Bob questioned youth director being on the payroll and Kim answered she is salary and works all year long with the bulk of her hours being in the summer. Tennis Courts would happen thru fundraising if at all.

**Scott Leslie - Highway** - Winter is not over yet, still plowing. The gradual thaw has been a good thing. The Highway Department is behind on road grading and sweeping. Presby will sweep all in town streets and Mittersill. Trying to sweep when it's raining not dry. Has gotten bids on paving and reclaiming Lafayette Drive and Kerr Road. Scott is finding he is \$20,000.00 short in the budget to do this paving and needs to pull from the Highway Block Grant. GMI has the best price and Scott would like to sign a contract with them. He would like the Select Board to sign with GMI so he can get dates set up. He has \$9,693.00 in the CIP. Add in the 100,000.00. Select Board signed an agreement with GMI. New truck has been received but needs to still go to the body shop to get the body. Budget looks good so far. Bob, you mentioned that you didn't salt as many roads, still lots of money in the budget. Scott sanded most roads to save money. Mittersill was smoother cause it was snow packed, due to cold weather. How do we go about the Meadow Crest to take over that road? Ken Mosedale still has some work to do before the Town will take over the road. Have town engineers look at the road with Scott and figure what is needed to bring up to Town specs. Scott feels it is not a bad road, doesn't need a lot to bring up to specs. See if Red McCarthy can help out in the process. Sidewalks money is \$20,000 and they haven't picked where they would like to do. Safe Routes to School is not going to happen, therefore the sidewalks will not be torn up for that project. Do we need easements if we are going to do work on the sidewalks? Bernie would like to get together Safe Routes to School people and use the engineering study to see which are the most critical sidewalks in town to do. Drainage is a big problem in the town when dealing with the sidewalks. Let the landowners know what you have planned. Could work with the state at this point? Bernie is willing to pursue that. When is the best time to meet to have a meeting? Mornings seem to work better for Scott.

**Jeff Phillips - Building & Grounds** - Budget looks good. Equipment Maintenance concerns him. The Snow blower was the issue. Going to need mower blades for about \$200. Truck is here and getting a body now and will be ready the middle of May. Jeff will use his own truck and get mileage while he waits for delivery of the Town's truck. Cemetery budget is fine right now. Water is still froze at his building. The Select Board would like for him to take down the hours for the Town Clerk sign which is no longer accurate. Jeff will make a small sign down by the railing with the current open times for the Town Clerk/Tax Collector. Bob would like for Jeff to use the word Select Board when talking about meeting times on the sign.

**Greg Wells - Transfer Station** - Greg feels he is going to be over budget on heating line item. Everything else looks great. Greg would like to change plans under capital improvement, he would like to forgo the scale and get a new container instead. Scale is costing more than what he expected. Bob would remind Greg to not spend money we don't need to spend. This is the slow time of year out at the

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Transfer Station. This will allow the guys to start cleaning up the area as soon as it dries out. Blue bags full are coming in with trash that is being collected during roadside cleanup. Kim has a dozen or so left and will see if the State has any more blue bags. Greg is out of bags and Mojo's promotions. We don't recycle what is in the blue bags.

**John Monaghan - Police Chief** - Budget is ok. Why is the propane so high? Sally is dividing the bill three ways. Electricity is \$500 a month, propane is high, and water bill is extremely high. Lights inside the fire department may be on all night. Why is that? Telephone and Internet is way out of line also. The Police are currently down to one cruiser. The Expedition is broken and due to be traded in about a month. They are not going to put money into repairs at this point. New cruiser should be here beginning of May. John would like to recommend to people if you are out and about and see something that looks weird/suspicious to please call it in to the Police. There have been some break ins. Septic and water is working again in the Public Safety Building. Sally mentioned that Wednesday night of this week the DOT is coming in to discuss the Lafayette Brook Bridge which is red listed. It's a state bridge. Scott read the bridge reports, Delage Farm Road bridge did not show rotten bridge deck which was 8 months before the Highway Department put a new deck on. Some thefts have been solved recently in Town. Accidents have slowed down. Moose hit by the town garage today. John is going to fill a vacated part-time position.

Bob - anybody who has vehicles on the CIP list keep track of lost vehicle days for mechanical issues.

**Bob wanted to talk** about software for new computers. It looks like the most economic way to go is Google Apps. It will cost \$50 per year for that. We pay \$35. to host our internet per month. Still details to work out. Lowest costs solution in the long run. The reason for the Tech Committee is to provide us with guidance.

<b>TO DISCUSS/REVIEW:</b>
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**Presby Fuels** - Extension of replacement of building - The Select Board reviewed a letter from Thad Presby, Presby Fuels. Is it one or two years that they have to replace a new building? Can't find it in the zoning laws. Presby thought it was one year to replace the building footprint.

Mary Grote - a difference on whether there is the same footprint. Presby's don't know what they want to do. Steve Heath requested thru the PB that they come before the planning board with their plans. Would have to go to planning board with plans. They are looking for additional one year to make a plan for the area. The Select Board is asking the Planning Board if they could give us the page from the State planning laws to use a guidance. Any Commercial Building does have to go before the Planning Board.

**Old State Law Books** - Have been sitting in the safe for years and are never referenced. Barbara Holt has gotten a hold of Mike Dickerman and asked him to come and take a look at them. Sally does not need them for any reason. Library and Heritage Museum do not want them. The Select Board would like to put a notice in the newspaper, make an offer.

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**Computer software** - See the discussion under Department Heads.

**Mike Hern** - Sally has 2007 software discs. Could send the police with the Letter. Do you just want to let this drop? Leave as open item.

**Bretton Woods IV Convocation** - Have to have an advocate for it or ignore it.

**John M FED COPS Grant** - see closed session minutes

**Open Town Sec Position** - Good news is Sally has an application already. It will be in the paper on Wednesday.

**EOC Equipment Project** - PSB Grant - Grant money is in the process of being approved and the Town will hold a public hearing on May 11, 2015 to accept. Paul Hatch will be here from Department of Homeland Security. Grant is approximately \$70,000 coming back to the Town. Bob would like to have Jeff Woodward give financial input.

**40 Harvard Street home** - Received information from Allan Clark in a handout. The Board will review and discuss at a later date.

**Other Items Discussed but not on the Agenda:**

**No work is** being done on Kerr Road.

**At the last meeting financing of the Dow Clock** was discussed. We need to understand where we currently stand on the financing of the Dow Clock. Sally will look into this matter and get back to the Board.

**Eric - request of the Planning Board** to include a letter with the tax bill to each residence and business. The Town needs help updating the master plan. It's possible that you can't mail in the same envelope as the tax bill.

**For the new Select Board members, two things** we have run into since Bob has been involved. Trust Funds, the Select Board should be obligated to know and keep an eye on what is in there and what money is being made. Bob would like to meet with the trustees in 6 mo and 12 mo. Have Trustees give an update. Bob will speak with Carol Walker to set up an appointment for June of 2015.

**The past due tax issue really got away** from the Select Board. The Board would like to sit down with Carol Wills quarterly to discuss. Sally will set up something starting in June.

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**Holiday on May 25, 2015.** The Select Board will not meet that week. They will come in and sign checks on Friday the 22nd after 3pm.

**Sugar Hill has requested** a tri town meeting in June. Sally will set the date and invite Easton.

**Dick Hamilton would like** to have the old man of the mountain display case inside the Town Clerks office and place it at the Mountain.

**Email regarding the MOU for** Coley Jericho Forrest was distributed. The Board will read and discuss at the next meeting.

**Water Department - Update by the** Select Board, spend lots of money on frozen line and do not have any to spare either.

**Bernie - since we are getting the** audit done, there are two or three items suggested last time, have they been done? Transfer Station, Ambulance Revenue ( is being done now - we are working on it - write off up to 2012), General Ledger system, clean up old account balances - Sally is working on it. They are all being addressed.

**Evergreen Apartments - has** anything been done yet? Sally will follow up on.

**Bob, when leaving last time, Karen Foss** suggested the Board become more familiar with reading contracts. Bob is not interested, it's much too complex. This has been recognized as a problem. All contracts get reviewed by our Towns Attorney. It has been addressed.

<b>ITEMS TO REVISIT</b>
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Overtime Policy for HW/BG - 03/30/2015 **(To discuss in the Fall with the Road Agent)**

Mittersill Roads Winter Policy – 04/06/15 **(To discuss in the Fall with the Road Agent)**

Road Safety Report - 03/30/2015, 4/13/15

Safe Routes to School - 03/30/2015, 4/13/15

Dow Clock – 04/06/15, 4/13/15

Technology Committee – 04/06/15, 4/13/15

Zoning Ordinance Vote - 04/13/15

Mike Hern - 4/13/2015, 4/27/15

Harvard Street House - 4/13/15, 4/27/15

Honor Roll Sign at Town Hall - 4/13/15

Evergreen Apts - 4/13/15, 4/27/15

Follow up on Sidewalks/Business area - 4/27/2015

Telephone/Internet at PSB - 4/27/2015

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**FOR YOUR INFORMATION:**

**Notice of Dam Reconstruction Application**

Selectman Montagno adjourned the public meeting at 5:12 pm.  
Respectfully submitted, Sally Small, Administrative Assistant

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