

FRANCONIA BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES

Monday, August 29, 2016

A meeting of the Franconia Board of Selectmen was held at 3:00 pm on Monday, August 29, 2016 at the Franconia Town Hall. Regular members in attendance were Bernie Costa, Eric Meth, John Lachapelle, Sally Small (left at 4:17pm) and Herbie Bartlett.

Guests of the Board: Scott Leslie, Carol Wills, John Monaghan

Other Guests: Dawn Steele, Russ Cumbee, Rene Wills, Lynn Terrace, Genevieve & David Starkey, Peter & Mary Grote

MINUTES: 8/22/16

BOS Minutes 8/22/2016: A formal reading of the August 22, 2016 minutes was waived and the minutes were not approved and will be reviewed at the next meeting.

FOR CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL:

Minutes – 8/22/16 – Open & Closed – not approved.

Transaction Lists – 9/1/16 - Approved and signed by the Board

PA-16 Reimbursement to Towns for Federal & State Land – approved and signed by the Board

Veteran’s Credit – Daley M16/L1-2 – approved and signed by the Board

APPOINTMENTS:

3:00 – Scott Leslie – has someone who may want help out at the transfer station. His name is Ronnie Verrett. Jeremy Hall is willing to help out as well.

Scrag Mountain Road – The sign on Scrag Mountain stating that this is a “Class VI subject to gates and bars” should be changed to just a “Class VI Road.” There was a court case in the 90’s in regards to someone putting up a gate. The Board recommends asking the person that questioned the sign if the wording change would be acceptable before we spend the money to change it.

Green John Deere tractor that belongs to Building and Grounds has a rear end leaking oil. Scott will have Bruce Russell come and take a look at it. He thinks the housing is leaking. He has not been mowing with it. It’s going to be \$150 just to have the repairman come and look at it. It is starting to have issues we should trade while it is still able to be traded in. We will have to discuss with Kim Cowles. What is in that budget? Is it repairable? Scott said yes but a cracked housing won’t be cheap.

Sidewalks – Scott got a quote \$21,940 for paving of 742 feet sidewalk from just past the cemetery to Harvard Street. That is for ripping out the old and putting back new.

Road Improvement- Scott said he had under spent on paving and he would like to pave a section on Saw Mill Lane, a section on Dow Ave and on this side of the bridge. Scott would like to use GMI since they are the cheapest in the state. They knocked off 10% for the paving that they did. Most pavers are charging \$245 per ton and GMI charges \$75/ton.

Bernie mentioned that the CIP was questioning why we did not get quotes on the paving. Bernie will talk to the CIP more on how we arrived at that. We will have to look at our policy a little more carefully. The sheet Scott had, had 9 quotes from other companies used throughout the State and GMI had the best prices. Scott agreed to get two more quotes for the paving. Scott also mentioned that the portion of our sidewalks that have granite curbing will be expensive to do because of the granite curbing that is along the State road. How much would it cost to dig up the granite curbing? We will have to find that out. Scott will get more quotes for the sidewalks for the section from the Cemetery near Brubaker’s to Harvard Street.

Scott will get us the road pavement information, report on the mower and find out about what Arthur Chase wants on the sign.

3:30 – Carol Wills – Bernie asked Carol about the past due taxes and Carol said the Tax Deeds will be done on September 16th. She believes there are 12 taxpayers that are in arrears. She will run the paperwork on the 6th and give it to the Board.

Carol would like the town to become a one check town for motor vehicle payments. Registrants would only have to write one check to the town for the town and the state portions. Carol would make her town deposit and do an electronic transfer daily to the state. It will be easier for the customer and gives them an opportunity to renew on line. She would process and send decals and such to them. Same work just more convenient for the customer. Everything Carol collects goes into the town fund. She still has to do a report. The state takes a couple months to get this one check system started. We can advise the public when renewal letters are done, we can put it on the website and the sign board. John asked what the percentage of renewals vs. new monthly was and Carol said that the new ones were about 10% and the vast majority is renewals. She has had several requests to pay property taxes by credit and debit card. She is looking into that. Credit card fees will get passed on to the customer and they would be aware of it. It may be worth it for our property owners.

4:26 – Closed Session – Legal and Personnel – As per RSA 91-3:II (e) the Board voted to go into closed session. At 5:25 pm the Board voted to come out of closed session and seal the minutes.

Eric made a motion to seal the closed session and seal the minutes, Bernie made a motion to second with all voting in favor.

TO DISCUSS/REVIEW:

Fall Schedule (Vacations, Labor Day & Columbus Day) – We will be meeting on the Tuesday after Labor and Columbus Day. Since both Bernie and John will be away on the 19th there will be no meeting but the board will have to come in on Friday, September 16th and look at checks. We will have a Board of Selectmen’s meeting on September 26th at 630pm here at the Town Hall. We will have another Board of Selectmen’s meeting on October 17th at 630pm. Sally will be on vacation from October 12- 26th. Sally will be here on the 11th for the meeting and back in the office on the 27th. October 10th meeting will be held on the 11th because of Columbus Day.

NC Public Safety Foundation – Officer of the Year Nomination – Sally let the board know that the application had come into the office if the board was interested in nominating someone from the Police, Fire or EMS. It is due by September 9th. Sally will pass it on to our department heads to see if they want to nominate someone who has done something over and above. They have a dinner at the Mt Washington Hotel.

Town Administrator and Executive Secretary job descriptions - Sally will have Kim put the Town Administrator and Executive Secretary job descriptions posted on the website and have her put the MRI Report onto the front page as well. The meeting will be held on September 8th at the Town Hall at 6pm. The Staffing Committee will be doing a presentation for the staffing of the town hall once Sally retires in December. Bernie was hoping that they would. Bernie has some conflicting thoughts about the committee results. John Lachapelle stated that they were planning on distributing the MRI report as a hand out at the meeting. It is already on the web page. John wants paper copies at the meeting along with a job descriptions and salary ranges. John will get a list of what they plan to hand out. Bernie asked if these items were new items that the rest of the Board hadn’t seen yet and John said no.

Building Maintenance - Kim Cowles asked for a list of priority maintenance for the town building like repairing window frames, exterior issues, cupola, moisture from attic vent, and the rotting sill. They are

very important. We have nine buildings. She is consulting with the employees who work in the buildings. John would like to have Scott and Corey do a walk thru of the buildings with us. They might see things that we would not. Someone needs to power wash the new public safety building. John Monaghan can talk to the fire department and that could be on their work detail.

Motion - John made a motion to change the agenda to allow public input during a discussion and allowing the public to comment throughout the meeting. No one seconded the motion and it was dropped.

Bernie stated that we have an agenda to follow. In her opinion the public meeting should be at the end of the meeting. We tried doing the public input at the beginning of the meetings. That didn't seem to work. Comments from the public were happening all the time and it was becoming very disruptive to the meeting. Bernie felt that the regular members of the public become defacto selectmen. Bernie thinks that the public input should be at the end of the meeting or just before closed session.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Conservation Commission - The Commission will be walking the Lawrence Property. We were hoping to get the commission together but Kim and John are the only ones available right now. There is a huge beaver pond and dam upstream from the campground. They want the owners to go and someone from Fish and Game because the dam could pose a danger to the campground.

CIP – The committee feels that the board needs to be following town policy. There was a heated discussion about selling the town truck to Chucky. They felt that the truck should have been advertised. On their end they needed to make sure the value is not trade in but market value. The CIP felt it was worth more than what we got for it. John thinks the CIP Committee should come to the table each time we have a vehicle to trade or sell. The trade in was \$7,000 and we got \$7,500.00. We have to make sure that everyone is on the same page for buying and selling. Some people are very involved on that committee and have expertise worth listening to.

Energy Committee – Lamp posts have been flagged for shut off. There has been concern from some people especially whether it should be shut off on Main Street. The shut off would also occur on Dow, Academy & Church Street. There is a green fluorescent flagging tape on the poles that are to be shut off. David Strange will be riding with Chief Monaghan at night to see how the visuals will be.

Northern Pass – No report.

Planning Board –Eric brought in the new contract from North Country Council for the MTAG Grant work they will be doing that needed to be signed. The contract explained NC Council's obligations and responsibilities. It is in line with the grant and references. It is the same contract that was signed the only difference was that Tara Bamford is no longer the contact person. Kaela Gray is the new contact person.

Wages & Benefits – Dawn Steele – got information from Sally that was requested.

ZBA – No report.

Staffing Committee – Meeting on September 8th at Town Hall at 6pm.

Transfer Station – Nate Hartford worked hauling trash and agreed to haul the sort as needed. Although he is no longer working full time for the town he is still in the town system. John wanted to know how the Transfer Station got staffed with people not on the payroll and questioned why someone who was on the payroll was not asked. Bernie was concerned as to how much and what she could say in public session. Greg hired Seth full time and offered Seth the full time and he has agreed. He is not sure when he can start. He may get there earlier maybe in the next 8 -10 days. Erik will be part time work. Bernie said she would share more in the non public session. This was an emergency situation rather than shutting down the station on Sunday the department head solved the problem.

Miscellaneous - Minutes - John wanted to know why his written response in regard to minute taking was not entered on the record in regards to the minutes. Sally said that we didn't get copies of it. John gave us a copy to go with those minutes. It will go on the record. John asked Herbie last week what happens to the minutes of meetings before they are shared with the Select Board. Herbie's response was that Sally and Bernie review them and then they are shared with the Board and they are posted on the website. John talked to the attorney at the municipal association about doing this and he told us that we should have only Sally review them and then they can be sent to the Select Board prior to the Monday meetings. Herbie shares the minutes with all chairs that she does minutes for before processing them. This will be discontinued.

Tri –town agreement - Laura Spector raised questions about the tri-town agreement. That should be on our ongoing items per Bernie. Sally will ask Kim tomorrow in regards to her conversation with Laura.

Items to be revisited -

Winter Roads Policy - We have a town ordinance for winter policy including the roads at Mittersill. John Monaghan is revamping the town ordinance book. Habitual offenders will be ticketed. He will speak to the home owner's association at Mittersill where the winter road policy is more of an issue. John will keep us apprised.

Items to be removed from the Items to revisit list - Safe Routes to Schools, Harvard Street, and Business area sidewalks can be deleted from the list.

Cisterns and fire ponds – Chief Gaudette will put in any bills for maintaining those. We should meet with him soon to go over budgets. We will put on the next agenda.

Delinquent taxes – We will discuss with Carol when it is convenient with her.

ROW for water lines on Plantation Road – John Lachapelle ran into Mac. The Water Commission has changed their plans. They have an alternative to put a 4 inch sleeve on the existing pipe and will meet with the Board with details.

Delage Farm Road Plowing – Sally will reach out to the owners to see where they want to put the snow. The Highway crew will have issues with the big truck turning around. We could send the B&G truck out after all other roads are plowed. The Board will talk to Scott about the truck.

Evergreen Apartments – Court hearing for September 13th. The town attorney will be there. Bernie will send email to Sally.

Recreation Committee Member– Applicant will fill out an application and see what their interest is and tell us what their experience is. Sally will make something up and send to the Board for approval.

Town Building – Generator. We will see if we can put the spare Fire Department generator at the Town Hall in case of an emergency. We will have to get it wired. John Lachapelle will check with Scott or Corey and see if it is a need here at the town hall. This is the one that was supposed to have gone to the school but was not big enough.

Meeting for Town Employees - The Board will have a meeting with the staff and talk about all the changes that are forthcoming. We will hold the meeting during the day in the Main Hall after Corey gets into the new position. He will start on Labor Day. We also have to plan on getting together for the change in health insurance.

PUBLIC INPUT:

Rene Wills –He had questions and concerns about Northern Pass (NP) and whether or not we were talking to Eversource to get the best deal in the event that the project does go through Franconia. Peter Grote the Chairman of the Northern Pass Committee has been in this up to his neck. We have had several public meetings in regards to this in August. Rene is happy that we are working on this. We have taken the position in public that we are opposed to having NP coming down Main Street and Route 116. We would prefer they can go down I93. Our attorneys are working on that. We have a Northern Pass advisory committee which includes Eric Meth, the Grotes, Ginny Jeffreys & Walter Palmer. The

Committee is drawing on all the resources they can. John wanted to know if the committee could send out a monthly news letter. There is a lot of stuff on Facebook. We can put the news letter on the website by emailing it to either Kim or Sally.

Dawn Steele – Medicare issue – she submitted the wording for the minutes of 8/22/16 in regards to this. Employee definitions – we are fine with it. We need to talk about it. Jim Alden is on vacation but asked for the Staffing committee to be put on the agenda for September 12th.

She also wanted to know if the furnace at the new safety services building had been cleaned. Is there a schedule for things to be done? You do have sediment in your water that impacts the furnace. Russ thinks there should be a maintenance agreement. Sally will talk to Kim about this. It's a propane system. The radiant portion, the water can corrode the circulators. John Monaghan will talk to Kim about it.

Russ Cumbee – stated that to limit the public participation is totally unacceptable. You are not engaging the people in this town. You should welcome input from people in this town. He feels that they should not sit in an 85 degree room for this long period of time. This is not done in the participatory spirit. You stifle people. Russ Cumbee had an issue with the minutes of the meetings. You are sanitizing the minutes. You are like the keystone cops running this town.

Russ Cumbee, an Easton Road resident, then proceeded to make an inappropriate comment referring to the body parts of a Select Board member. He was subsequently reprimanded by the Chairman of the Board. Sally Small stated that, that was unacceptable and that he was one of the reasons that she was getting all done with the town and proceeded to walk out of the meeting.

Bernie then asked if anyone had anything else for public input.....

Mary Grote – suggests we put on the website under downloadable forms the solar exemption application. There is nothing on the website that addresses the issue of the exemption for \$20K. Our site has come a long way this year. Solar exemption was voted on in 2010. It will be put on the website.

Lynn Terrace said that the Profile Board allows public input in the beginning of the meetings. People comment during the meeting. It creates a repartee. Bernie stated that we did that but for Franconia it was disruptive. Lafayette has that in the beginning of the meeting. The public was disrupting our meeting while we were trying to get our job done.

Eric Made a motion to go into closed session at 4:26pm and John seconded it with all voting in favor.

The Board made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:26 pm with all voting in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Herbie Bartlett
Executive Secretary