

MINUTES
FRANCONIA BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
Monday, August 8, 2016

A meeting of the Franconia Board of Selectmen was held at 3:00 pm on Monday, August 8, 2016 at the Franconia Town Hall. Regular members in attendance were Bernie Costa, Eric Meth, John Lachapelle, Sally Small and Herbie Bartlett

Guests of the Board: John Monaghan, Russ Cumbee, Jim Alden, Bit Andross, Steve Whitney, Bob Tortorice, Kevin Johnson, Sandy Olny.

Other Guests: Peter Grote, Dawn Steele, Mary Grote, Mark Hesler

MINUTES: 7/25/16

BOS Minutes 7/25/2016: A formal reading of the August 1, 2016 minutes was waived and the minutes were approved as amended.

FOR CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL:

Transaction Lists – 8/11/16 - Approved and signed by the Board
Building Permit – Wilson – Map 14/Lot 21-14 (Deck)- signed by Board
Building Permit – Fitzpatrick – Map 14/Lot 25 (Renovations) – signed by Board
Waiver of Interest – Robinson- signed by Board
Letter of hire for Buildings and Grounds Position for Corey Rush - signed by Board
Letter to Christine Fillmore & George Sansoucy Re: appt. of Walter Palmer as spokesman for the Board when necessary and as directed by the Board – signed by Board

APPOINTMENTS:

3:15 – Steve Whitney – Candidate for County Commissioner – He reported to us county statistics and his perspective of issues regarding the County Prison and Nursing home.

3:30 – Chamber of Commerce – Kevin Johnson, Bob Tortorice, Sandy Olny – Presented the Board with a proposal in regards to the Chamber Booth. They are still in the data gathering stage. They presented three possible proposals with designs 1. Simply razing the present building and constructing a new one in its place, this would result in loss of at least one parking place 2. the Town would build an addition to the Warming Hut which would contain handicapped accessible bathrooms and the space for the Chamber of Commerce Welcome Center and Office would be rented to the Chamber of Commerce 3. plan 2 with a cover over the ice rink/basketball court/ tennis court. There was discussion about losing necessary parking and the fact that the cover over the ice rink would preserve the ice in the winter, allow for mid-summer play which doesn't happen much due to the hot temperature on the court, and provide an area for events which need cover from the weather. The Board was informed that the Chamber cannot raise funds or get grants because they are a taxed organization which has members. The Chamber was informed that the septic system for the Warming Hut was in the spot where they proposed the addition. The Town Hall drainage issue was briefly discussed. Kevin asked that at this time the Board simply acknowledge that they are **aware** of the Chamber exploring these options. The Board agreed to do this. Bernie asked if the Chamber has its own liability insurance. They do.

4:00 – Town Hall Staffing Committee – Jim Alden, Russ Cumbee, Bit Andross and John Lachapelle presented their recommendation to the Board for staffing the town hall. The Committee is recommending

that the Town move from an Administrative Assistant position to a Town Administrator Position. Bernie asked how this position, other than costing more was different from the job that Sally has been doing for the last 24 years. Bit Andross that this change would formalize the position regarding the supervisory aspect. Bernie asked who would do the evaluations of the department heads. Bit stated that the Town Administrator would evaluate the department heads. The Board will consider this recommendation.

TO DISCUSS/REVIEW:

NHMA Legislative Policy Forms – The Board has reviewed the documents and will fill out the forms and submit them by 8/12/16.

Cell Tower – John Monaghan informed the Board that the lines going up on Route 116 are being done by a subcontractor and are bringing fiber optics out to the tower located at Route 116 and Route 112. It has nothing to do with Northern Pass.

Town Ordinances – John Monaghan brought in his ordinances to have the Board review. We will discuss this at another meeting.

Recording of Minutes – John Lachapelle brought in a copy of the town of Northfield’s policy for audio recording of Select Board meetings for the Board to Review

Bernie requested that Karen Foss, who is both a Trustee of the Trust Fund and C.I.P. Chairman, be included at the front table at the Public Hearing on Aug. 17 regarding the request to make the Selectboard Agents to Expend the tanker fund . She explained that Karen would be able to answer questions regarding the funds the Board would like to spend on a ladder truck that the Town had agreed purchase at last Town Meeting. The Board agreed.

Public Input –

Russ Cumbee – Questioned Bernie’s comment from the previous meeting in regards to recording the meetings having to be announced or it would be a class B felony. Russ believes this is not true and that she is not being responsible by making this statement.

Dawn Steele asked information regarding the town employee retirement plan being with VALIC. Sally will send her the contact information.

Lydia Cumbee is still very concerned about the sign at Peabody & Smith blocking the line of sight for crossing thru the intersection. The Chief of police has also had this experience. Bernie will get the concerned parties together to look for a solution.

Mary Grote requested a copy of the new policy regarding employment of relatives. Bernie asked John if he had an electronic copy since he had created it. John was not sure, but Sally would at least send the paper copy to Mary.

Dawn requested a copy of the Properties and Recreation Director Job Description. Sally will send that.

The Board made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:15pm with all voting in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Herbie Bartlett
Executive Secretary