

**MINUTES
FRANCONIA BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING**

Monday, December 28, 2014

A meeting of the Franconia Board of Selectmen was held at 3:00 pm on Monday December 28, 2014 at the Franconia Town Hall. Regular members in attendance were Ted Hoyle, John Lachapelle, Bob Montagno, Sally Small and Suzy MacDonald

Guests of the Board: Harriet Taylor

John Lachapelle called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm.

SELECTMEN'S TIME:

BOS Minutes 12/22/2014: Formal readings of the December 22, 2014 BOS meeting minutes were waived. The minutes of December 22, 2014 were approved.

FOR CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL:

Transaction List for 12/31/14 & 01/01/2015- The Board reviewed and signed the transaction list for 12/31/14 & 01/01/2015.

Safety Services Building Project Transaction List- none

APPOINTMENTS:

3:00 – Harriet Taylor – Dow Clock – The current electric time actuator is oversized. A smaller one could be used to automatically keep the clock running with no winder. The people Harriet has been working with are in favor of having the machine keeping the clock running. They would like to return the bigger one and get a smaller actuator.

Harriet is concerned that we have not received any paperwork from Donn Lathrup who has been working on the clock. To date we have spent \$6500 with Donn of the \$10,000 allocated. One third of the contract has been paid which is \$3,333. The other charges have been for “extras” that deal with getting the clock running. He has been ill and it is much too cold for him to continue working on the clock until spring. He has told Harriet that it is ok to have someone else finish the work. He told her that on December 21, 2014. Today he has called Harriet and said he is trying to reach the Town regarding his final payments. To quote him, according to Harriet, “I need money now for hospital and car. I need the second third paid for work now and the last third when HE finishes the clock. “The Select Board would like to meet with Donn to discuss the final third of the contract. The Select Board reviewed Donn’s contract. Donn last worked on the clock on December 3, 2014. The Select Board feels he should get a check for the second third, \$3,333. Sally will prepare that check. Suzy will find the meeting minutes from the initial meeting with Donn and the Select Board.

Harriet questioned how the agreement to pay for the \$5000 for the Electric Time Actuator is. The Town could only spend the \$10,000 as voted on at Town Meeting. This was voted for repairs to the clock. If we change the hammer size from 50 to 30 Harriet feels we can save about \$2,000. The refund would go to the Dow Clock Fund as they are the ones who have purchased this machinery.

The clock is ticking and is back together.

The Select Board must see a firm estimate for finishing the clock from Phil Devanzia.

TO DISCUSS/REVIEW:

Forest Fire Warden Appointment – was not complete. Ted Hoyle will ask Chief Richard Gaudette for recommendations.

Open House Ad – The open house advertisement for the Safety Services Building will be placed by Suzy to appear in The Courier on January 21, 2015. Open house is on Sunday January 25, 2015.

Energy Commission Appointment – The Select Board reviewed and signed an Energy Commission Appointment which appoints Karen Foss.

There are two applicants for Town Clerk/Tax Collector so far. Applications are due no later than January 5, 2015.

Lynn Bart, a resident, asked about the abatement for Wiggins that she had seen in the previous week's minutes.

The Select Board would like to have a placeholder for appointments to the Cemetery Board of Trustees. The people who have shown interest should be invited to speak with the Select Board and Jeff Phillips prior to being appointed. Still in questions is how many board members we can have.

The Department Heads should submit 2015 budgets with the same bottom line as last year. All expenditures for 2014 should be shown on the budget.

The Select Board will discuss wage increases.

John Lachapelle questioned how health insurance money was given back by Health Trust to us. It either comes as a check or we get a credit on our bill. When it comes back to us as the benefit back to the employee should be 30%. Sally figures this out.

John Lachapelle has looked at tax rates for other New Hampshire towns and more closely at those within Grafton County.

The Select Board entered into non public session according to NH RSA 91- 3:2A at 3:55,

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

Bob Montagno will not be at the meeting on January 12, 2015.

Selectman Lachapelle adjourned the public meeting at 3:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Suzanne MacDonald, Executive Secretary