

**FRANCONIA BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MEETING MINUTES  
Wednesday, December 7, 2016**

A meeting of the Franconia Board of Selectmen was held at 4:00 pm on Monday, December 7, 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: Tamar Roberts, Rick Gaudette**

**Other Guests:** Trevor Presby, Karen Foss, Dawn Steele, Peter Grote, Ted Hoyle, Russ Cumbee.

**BOS Minutes for 12/5/2016:**

<b>FOR CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL:</b>
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<b>APPOINTMENTS:</b>
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**4:05 - Closed Session - Property Deeding**

**4:20- Tamar Roberts - Roberts & Greene - 2015 Financial Report** - reviewed and discussed. She is waiting on a letter from our attorney before she can present the bound report. She recommends an update to the accounting software when the new Town Administrator comes on board. No major problems and the suggestions from last year have been adjusted and corrected.

Tamar didn't have any suggestions for this year and told the board that Sally had made good progress and is doing a good job. If we continue to use Quick Books we should break out the major funds.

The Board has not made a decision yet in regards to choosing an auditor for fiscal year 2016. Bernie asked Tamar if her pricing was firm and she said no not necessarily. The town has been a good client. Tamar will review her pricing and get back to us. The Board will discuss on Monday.

**4:37- Rick Gaudette - Fire Dept Budget - Budget was discussed.** He is under budget but more expenses are still coming in. We have about 20 firemen on staff. Gear is beginning to wear and everything is at least 10 years old. He would like to replace two sets every year.

Bernie asked about the fire ponds and he said there are 17 water sources that have been mapped over the years but Wallace Hill is where there is an issue with the water supply. The pond on Aspen Road needs to be cleaned out and the owners contacted

for permission. Bernie and Rick acknowledge that the fire department can use both the Costa's and the Reinhold's ponds but they are hard to access. The town needs to contact the Abernathy's who now own the land the original fire pond on Aspen Road that needs to be cleaned out. There is a working hydrant there.

In regards to the Ladder Truck he isn't sure if it comes out of his budget and asked how the board wanted to handle it? Bernie stated that the Board has some hard decisions to make and will have to look at the overall line item budget before making a decision.

Rick informed the board that the Rescue Truck will be out of service for about the next six months because it was damaged in the ice storm. He is not sure how they are going to deal with that because the Rescue truck gets used the most. The expense to repair the Rescue truck is covered by insurance. He will have paperwork by the end of the week from the insurance company. Currently all the Rescue Truck's equipment is on the floor of the station but can be put on the ladder truck. We will discuss this on Monday after hearing from the insurance company. Sugar Hill will back us up with their rescue truck, if needed, for the immediate future.

Rick will need a couple sets of gear. Air bottles are being tested next week and he is hoping they pass. He can wait for the town meeting to vote to expend funds from the Fire Department Safety Equipment fund.

**The Select Board entered into non public session according to NH RSA 91- A3, II (e) & (c) at 4:05pm. The Select Board returned to public session at 4:15 pm.**

<b>FOR DISCUSSION:</b>
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**Compensation for Administrative Work after Dec 31<sup>st</sup>** - We need to be thinking about how to compensate Sally for filling in until the new Town Administrator arrives. Sally will give a list of items she usually does in January and a timeline for preparing for Town Meeting. After Sally retires she will plan to work in the mornings until the new Town Administrator arrives but will not attend meetings. Everything will have to be defined and in writing.

**Contract** - Eric will get the contract out tonight to board members for the Town Administrators position.

**Tri Town Agreement** - Kim has the email that Sugar Hill & Easton received from their attorney who suggests that any agreement should be voted on by each town at Town Meeting. Sally will email the other attorney's thoughts to our attorney, Laura Spector-Morgan, so we can try and have the agreement ready for the January meeting with the other two towns.

**Time Sheets** - Sally will put out a memo to all departments heads to make sure the employee's document half hour lunch breaks and morning and afternoon breaks. Also anyone whoever works 7 days in a week will have to sign an exemption letter. We need to design one time sheet for all departments.

<b>COMMITTEE REPORTS:</b>
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**Conservation Commission (FCC)** - No Report.

**CIP Committee (CIP)** - No report

**Energy Committee (FEC)** - No report.

**Northern Pass** - No report.

**Planning Board** - No report.

**Wages & Benefits** - No report.

**Audit Committee** - No report.

**Infrastructure Committee** - No report.

**Items to Revisit** - See List

<b>PUBLIC INPUT</b>
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**Peter Grote** - Discussed with the board the need to schedule a meeting with the second auditing firm before making a decision for this fiscal year's audit. Sally will schedule them for Monday the 12th.

The Board adjourned at 5:16 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Herbie Bartlett  
Executive Secretary