

**FRANCONIA BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, February 21, 2017**

A meeting of the Franconia Board of Selectmen was called to order at 4:00 pm on Tuesday, February 21, 2017 at the Franconia Town Hall. Regular members in attendance were Bernie Costa, John Lachapelle, Eric Meth, Holly Burbank and Herbie Bartlett.

Guests of the Board: Kim Cowles, Peter Grote, Carol Wills

Other Guests: Rene Wills

APPOINTMENTS:

4:00 - Kim Cowles - Sidewalk Snow blower - The current snow blower is 7 years old. It was bought in 2010. The snow blower is used for cleaning up the plow slop from the plow trucks. The snow blower is broken now. Kim has gotten two price quotes for a replacement. An alternate type of vehicle was discussed. Kim will look at what the surrounding towns are using. They may want to defer the funding for the salt spreader and put money towards the new snow blower.

Eric made a motion to defer the purchase of the salt spreader until next year and buy a new snow blower, John seconded the motion with all voting in favor.

FCC - Kim asked if John Lachapelle was the Select Board member on the Franconia Conservation Commission (FCC) and he said no. We will wait until after town meeting to see who will want to serve on the FCC. Mark Ober is interested in being on FCC. Kim would like to get him appointed. Holly will get the document from Carol Wills to get him appointed.

Bids for the Frost Place Roof - Kim handed over three sealed bids to the Select Board today. The Board will review them and make a decision. 1) C.S. Dunn for \$22,918 for sheathing repair and new OSB sheathing over existing roof. 2) G.D. Young \$26,770 no sheathing and it will be extra for any other rot or damage billed at time and materials used. 3) Presby Construction for \$26,200. They would begin the job April 15 and finish May 15th. They will remove and dispose old roofing and re-nail and replace existing water barrier and put on new roofing underlayment before roofing.

Money is being set aside in Capital Reserve each year. There is \$15,583 in the account right now. The roof leaks in the main house. The Board are the agents to expend these funds.

Eric thanked Kim for all that she does. She really stepped up to the plate in regards to Northern Pass and everything else she does for the town.

4:15 - Non-Public Session - Pursuant to RSA 91-A:3II (a,c)

Eric made a motion to go into a closed session at 4:30 pm, John seconded the motion with all voting in favor.

The Select Board entered into non public session according to NH RSA 91- A3, II (a)(c) at 4:30 pm. The Board came out of non public session at 5:00 pm.

5:00 - Peter Grote - Audit Committee - spoke to the board that he was looking for the revenues and expenditures for the 2017 budget. There was a brief discussion about the 2015 unassigned fund balance.

Taxes are raised for operating expenses. Peter has concerns based on the 2016 information.

Given Holly's position please give the new girl the chance to talk to the DRA. We will raise the surplus by watching our pennies and Holly doing her job. Peter wants to work with us but it is not happening over night.

Bernie asked Peter what information he was looking for? And Holly asked who is "We"? Peter said the committee. Holly is not sure if we need a committee. Can we use money out of the fund balance? We have nothing extra in the fund balance because we overspent the budget last year.

The overdue taxes would go under unexpected revenues. As of December 31, 2016 we had 5.45% in the fund balance.

Peter would like a copy of the tax fund balance worksheet that is filed in April. Holly will get a copy for Peter. We should create a policy to keep the fund balance at a certain percentage.

FOR CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL:

BOS Minutes 2/13/17 - Reviewed and approved by Board as amended.
Transaction List - 02/23/2017 - Approved and signed by the Board.

FOR DISCUSSION:

Tax Abatement - signed and approved by the Board.

Tax Deeds - need to be recorded at the registry. There is a tenant in a property that was taken and the eviction process needs to be started. We need to put insurance on the taken properties, post no trespassing signs, winterize, they should be inspected for hazards. The building inspector and/or fire chief should inspect. Pictures should be taken and all hazards removed. Only three properties have buildings on them.

The Board voted unanimously to have Holly Burbank move forward with the tax deed process.

Water Easement Deeds - have been registered.

Road Safety Audit - Kaela Gray from NCC - asked about implementing the 2014 audit . Holly will ask Sally where the electronic copy is of this. There is money available for this and grants. Kaela is very professional and smart. She has staff and funding for the implementation. She has offered to come in and meet with the Board after town meeting. She also has helped the Planning Board with the MTAG project for working on the master plan.

Town Meeting preparation - warrant and budget is ready for signature. The MS636 needs a signature and copies are to be posted and put onto the website.

The Board has questions in regards to the Solar Warrant Article. This article should prohibit a business from doing this and making a profit. We have no idea what the fiscal impact of this will be.

The budget and warrant articles should be sent to our town moderator Bill Mead for review.

In regards to the Chamber of Commerce - Lincoln does not donate to their chamber but Littleton does. Barb Ashley will be at the meeting.

Town Administrator Update - Holly is still waiting for the Treasurer's report. Holly is hoping to have the town report to the printer by Thursday or Friday. The Board decided who was going to explain which articles at town meeting. Holly will be gone from March 2nd thru the 8th.

Planning Board - wants to appoint Victoria Cole to their Board.

BOS Schedule - There will be no Selectmen Meetings on 2/27/17 and 3/6/17 the Selectmen will come into the office to sign the transaction lists only.

ITEMS TO REVISIT

Items were tabled -

PUBLIC INPUT

Meeting was adjourned at 6:59pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Herbie Bartlett, Executive Secretary