

**MINUTES  
FRANCONIA BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING  
Monday, February 29, 2016**

A meeting of the Franconia Board of Selectmen was held at 3:08 pm on Monday, February 29, 2016 at the Franconia Town Hall. Regular members in attendance were Bob Montagno, Bernie Costa, Eric Meth, Sally Small and Herbie Bartlett

Guests of the Board:

Others in attendance: Peter Grote, Russ Cumbee, Dawn Steele, Karen Foss, Mary Grote

<b>SELECTMEN'S TIME:</b>
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**BOS Minutes 2/22/2016:** Formal readings of the February 22, 2016 BOS meeting minutes were waived.

**Bernie makes a motion to accept the minutes as amended, Bob seconded the motion with all voting in favor.**

<b>FOR CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL:</b>
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**Transaction Lists – 3/3/2016 – Approved and Signed by the Board  
Solar Permit – Foss Map 23/Lot 10  
Driveway Permit – Mellaci Map 29/Lot 23**

<b>APPOINTMENTS:</b>
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**3:00 – Closed Session – The appointment for the closed session failed to appear.**

**3:30 – Scott Leslie - Plantation Road** – Bob Montagno gave credit to the Highway Crew...Great job done to help with the flood situation. Scott said it is hard to get gravel because it is frozen in the middle. We may get help from the state. We were lucky because the base of the road was not lost. Only the top gravel was taken. It could have been a lot worse. We only lost about a \$1000 worth of gravel. If the road had been paved it could of easily added up to \$100,000.00. During the evacuation and temporary repairs the road got tore up. It will have to be graded.

Bob Montagno was at the scene for Plantation Road helping out. Mark Taylor couldn't say enough about Bob's help and he was very appreciative of his work. Bob said that Mark Taylor is a dedicated to the town. Pam Oakman and Mark Taylor helped evacuate the people on Plantation Road. Kudo's to all involved.

From Forests Hills the land owner will leave that as an emergency evacuation route. The town crew had to cut trees and move some rocks. Dawn Steel said it is the McArthur Property. There is a trail there with a sliver of land which is part of the Forest Hills Association. The strip of land between the Mangolds and the Huggets and the Walker's Property is right next to it Dawn will ask Beth Horan because it is for sale.

**Warrant Article** - for the excavator, loader and trailer. Scott has come up with a purchase plan – he has reviewed many different pieces of equipment. Right now they are testing out an excavator which is at the town garage. It is a 2015 Volvo Excavator and has only 286 hours on it. It was a rental. It is very fuel efficient. List price for the Excavator is \$158,611.00 with a \$59,111 discount, a \$31,000 for a trade in of the Cat 420E for a net trade price of \$68,500.00.

The 2014 Loader with approximately 300 hours the list price is \$107,830.00 with discounts of \$29,830 and net sell price being \$78,000.00. The New 2016 Superliner 10 ton Trailer the list price is \$13,294.00 with a discount of \$2294.00 for a net sell price of \$11,000.00.

**Bernie makes a motion if the warrant articles passes we authorize Scott to purchase the equipment, Bob seconded the motion with all voting in favor.**

**Conservation Commission Report** – Conservation easements to be considered. The Brewer Property. Where Trina Luce’s property was – Ridge Road - the elevated area that drops to Rte 116. The current Owner wants an easement to protect it.

Crocker Property on Route 142 – The family would like to make a memorial forest. Franconia Conservation Commission (FCC) will be the primary easement holder. Property is in current use. Ammonoosuc Conservation Trust will hold liability as the land owner. FCC will be easement holder.

<b>TO DISCUSS/REVIEW:</b>
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**Town Meeting** – What do we need to prepare for town meeting? We will need copies of charities requesting funds, salary sheet, summary sheet, etc.

Summary changes to be stuffed into the town report. We should do a presentation right at the beginning of the meeting.

There is 30% fuel adjustment from the proposed budget before the hearing until this meeting. One body camera will be obtained by a grant. Bernie will come in and work on the numbers. Review the process.

**MEDICARE INCREASE** – Bernie would like to get increases. Bernie will work with Sally in regards to the increases and will do a summary sheet. Increases are performance based – we do not want to err in regards to posting peoples actual raises. A call to Laura Spector is in order before anything is published.

Transparency is an issue per Russ Cumbee – Bob sent information to him.

**Peter Grote** – Recommends getting an independent audit. Roberts & Greene have done our audit for the past two years. They just did the gathering for the 2015 audit.

Peter suggests we need to be a lot tighter in regards to our financial management. In regards to collecting delinquent tax payers we meet with the Tax Collector and get reports from her in regards to the standings of those accounts. We are actively attending to this matter. After discussion I was agreed that we do have final audits.

**Financial Advisory Committee** – We need to outline qualifications for what we want before people sign up for the commitment for advisory committee. We will formulate qualifications to compare independent audits, investigate salaries, health insurance. Items that need research like personnel policies, engineers,

etc. To give input on how the town is being run and look at what other towns are doing and see if there are things we could do differently and effectively. Bernie wants more specific direction. Dawn is doing the salary analysis.

**Bernie makes the motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:05 pm, Bob seconded the motion with all voting in favor.**

<b>FOR YOUR INFORMATION:</b>
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There may be a possibility of a closed session meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Herbie Bartlett  
Executive Secretary