

**FRANCONIA BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, January 3, 2017**

A meeting of the Franconia Board of Selectmen was held at 3:00 pm on Tuesday, January 3, 2017 at the Franconia Town Hall. Regular members in attendance were Bernie Costa, Eric Meth, John Lachapelle, and Herbie Bartlett.

Guests of the Board: John Monaghan, Rick Gaudette

Other Guests: Dawn Steele, Russ & Lydia Cumbee, Brian Williams, Peter Grote, Mary Grote, Claudia Lachappelle, Ted Hoyle.

BOS Minutes for 12/19/2016 & 12/23/2016: A formal reading of the December 19, 2016 & December 23, 2016 minutes was waived and the minutes were approved as amended.

FOR CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL:

BOS Minutes 12/19/16 & 12/23/16 - approved by the Board.

Transaction List - 1/5/2017

Solar Permit - Grant (M14/L100) - approved and signed by the Board.

Appointment - Hartford - Water Commissioner - Marcia Graham retired from the Water Department as one of the Water Commissioners. Joan Hartford has agreed to take her place until Town Meeting.

Avitar - Summary that Sally thought it should go in. Everyone thought it was straight forward and Holly only said good things about it. The Board chose 5 years with utilities.

APPOINTMENTS:

3:05 - John Monaghan - budget was discussed.

3:30 - Rick Gaudette - We cannot pay from the 2016 budget in regards to getting the ladder truck on the road. We will have to take it out of the 2017 Budget. Rick checked into renting and there is nothing that is available. A pickup truck has to have the lighting and it will be expensive. It will cost \$11K to do upgrades. We can put it in a line item budget and explain it. The chassis of the rescue truck is being taken to North Country Ford tomorrow. When the chassis is fixed it will go to Valley Engineering in the southern part of the state. The insurance will have to decide to fix the rear body or replace it. They can drive it once it comes back from North Country Ford. It will be a six week turn around to get it fixed.

Eric made a motion to have a line item for the 2017 budget from the fire department for outfitting the ladder truck and will be used to replace the rescue truck until it is repaired, John seconded the motion with all voting in favor.

The Rescue truck will be towed to North Country Ford and will be there for a week and a half.

There was a letter about stored Fireworks - Rick stated that we have none right now.

4:50 pm - Non-Public Session - Personnel Issue

The Select Board entered into non public session according to NH RSA 91- A3, II (e) & (c) at 4:50 pm. The Select Board returned to public session at 5:30 pm.

FOR DISCUSSION:

Vacations - It is unclear on some of our policies - holidays are 8 hours paid at time and a half if they work it. The accrued time only half is brought forward each year. There are five employees that have gone above and beyond during a time to fill in for others. Bernie thought the crew that stepped up to the plate during this time and picked up the slack that went above and beyond she wants the Board to consider allowing more of their vacation to accrue than normal. Possibly pay them for part or roll over some of their vacation time.

John recommended meeting with department heads and remind them that people are supposed to take their vacation. Have Holly do this. Some of the employees are losing a significant amount of time. We have to make sure we have accurate figures of time accrued. The Board also would like to know how long people have been employed because it changes after five years. Make sure everyone is aware of accrued time and see what the guidelines are. John would hate to see them lose their vacations. John wants last year's accruals as well.

Kim, Kevin, Scott, Corey and Greg stepped up after Jeff leaving and Chip dying and Greg being sick it is something to consider. We do not have to make a decision today.

2016 Appropriations Requests - Review...separate article for each one.

The Town has some long standing charitable outfits that have always been approved with good reason. The Board should develop criteria for this. Everyone turns in a financial statement that is evaluated. Everyone needs to fill out that form. Not sure if they should be petitioned for an individual articles.

The financial statements are to be reviewed and discussed and the benefits to the town should be presented. The charitable figure out to be about \$30K. Tri-Country CAP should be kept as a line item.

We will get the history between the organizations and the Town from Kay Whitcomb.

Capital Reserve Funds Possible changes: We should generalize the funds so we do not run into the same issues as we did with the fire truck. Have a fire apparatus fund. The Rationale for CIP could be tracked better and broken out separately. Make Selectmen be agents to expend. Lump the vehicles into one lump category.

Northern Pass - We are still getting bills from the attorney. We may have to send a registered letter. We have to go by what was voted on and appropriated. They do not have any approval. Eric will draft a letter. It takes on a life of its own. We were submitting pre-trial testimony that incurs a legal bill. We would be left out in that step. It is a dilemma. \$10K approved by the town is gone. We need to let them know we do not have the funds. We have already asked Christine Fillmore to do this. Eric will communicate with Christine. We have a copy of the engagement letter.

Administrative Assistant Pay out - The Board will have to approve it. It looks like a reasonable request for accrued sick and vacation. No sick time accrual after 2010.

Highway Equipment - get dimensions from Scott.

Cable - What do we get out of this? Profile Region consortium - What do we get out of it and why do we have to pay this? John will resurrect his email and send it out again. Sally may know more what we get out of this. John will investigate.

SONH of State Police - Background check for Holly has to be signed. The Board will sign.

Medicare Recipients for the town - The Board has to come up with a policy for the town. Salary and Benefits Committee will take a look at that and provide a draft next meeting. Bernie suggested that whatever we decide the Board should keep the person at the same benefits with a premium and a supplemental that does not exceed what we are paying them. The employee should not be penalized.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Conservation Commission (FCC) - Mary Grote - wrote a letter to Select Board last week. There is a question on the adoption of the easement that goes with the Lawrence Property. Does it require a warrant article? They could not find an RSA that would require it. The Commission needs guidance. The Commission is not in a position to hire a lawyer. The Board will discuss with Laura tomorrow. We have extra

meetings the chair person who is a volunteer on that commission does she get paid for her time in the meetings?

Energy Commission (FEC) - Informal discussion - resident questioned about the street light project. Follow up with Paul Lehman about changing out the bulbs at one of the schools. The light up at Mittersill is still on.

Northern Pass - See above.

Planning Board - No report

Wages & Benefits - No report.

Audit Committee - Clarification in regards to credentials. Recommendations of the NHMA - skills of the audit committee...all been approved. They are all over qualified for the job. The Committee members will cooperate and will submit the credentials to the Board. The Committee will have to set up the whole scope of setting it up. It was left hanging. When would the Board like to meet and set up the scope? The Board has to decide when. The existing committee was it terminated by the Board asked Brian Williams. No...it is in existence. Bernie would like to make a motion if we are going to restructure the audit committee. John did not know we were going to restructure.

You have to structure the committee. Eric thought we talked about putting together what the scope was and the bylaws and get the people on it. NHMA has it or keep the same kind of group that had a limited scope. Bernie thought we were going to go home and decide. John thinks we need to define the scope. Credentials would be required. An audit committee should have credentials accepted of the people that want to serve.

Consideration has to be given to the scope and credentials and whether to have the bylaws. John wants to revisit the publications. The board can structure however they want. It will be tabled for next week.

Eric Meth re: Northern Pass Fees. Recent information as released by Northern Pass DOT good practice guidelines in regards to the turning radius of emergency vehicles that need uninterrupted access for alternative routes. There are specs except in the center of Franconia. The National preservation act would include the Dow and Library as they are historic buildings. Information re: easement width...encroachment on town and private property. No disturbance within 25 feet of boundaries of the Willows Cemetery. We don't have a single person for looking out for the town's best interest. Eric & Scott will take the measurements to the cemeteries from the street.

When the trial happens Eric will be there. Our Northern Pass Committee in general looks out for the welfare of town.

PUBLIC INPUT

Public Input - Lydia Cumbee - She will email bill introduced a week or two ago. Bill is introduced re: Northern Pass. Three Selectmen can say no...you cannot come thru our town. NP has lobbyist that floods the legislature.

Dawn Steele - Audit Committee was established on December 5, 2016.

Peter Grote - Northern Pass - We have three people who are experts. Chris Pastorizia - chemical aspects, Sansoucy engineer, Christine Filmore legal, Dr. McLauren - encroachments for ROW, Susan Shibanoff and Walter Palmer who is part of an active group involved.

Sancoucy contract - it will have to be a warrant article. Eric thinks we need George Sansoucy.

Russ Cumbee - Where did the money come from for the purchase of the Ladder Truck? The Trustees refuse to release the money. The surplus money paid for the truck and the other \$7K for certifying it. We had a surplus because we had a Road Crew Employee that didn't come back to work. Not sure what we would have done if that hadn't happened.

Water Commissioner - Marcia Graham has resigned. We appointed someone. Did you make the vacancy known? Water Commissioners asked us to appoint them. You didn't give anyone else the opportunity for this position stated Russ Cumby.

Claudia Lachapelle - She would like the Board to clarify whether department heads or employees get paid for being on committees during work hours. If so do they log out on their time sheets? This is important for workman's compensation.

Eric made a motion to go into closed session for personal issues at 4:00 pm, John seconded it with all voting in favor.

The Board adjourned at 5:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Herbie Bartlett
Executive Secretary