

**MINUTES  
FRANCONIA BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING**

**Monday, July 20, 2015**

A meeting of the Franconia Board of Selectmen was held at 3:07 pm on Wednesday, July 20, 2015 at the Franconia Town Hall. Regular members in attendance were Bob Montagno, Bernie Costa, Sally Small, Eric Meth and Herbie Bartlett.

Guests of the Board – Jeff Phillips, Kim Cowles

Also attending – Peter & Mary Grote, Dawn Steele

<b>SELECTMEN'S TIME:</b>
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**BOS Minutes 07/13/15 & 07/15/15:** Formal readings of the July 13 & 15, 2015 BOS meeting minutes were waived. The minutes of July 13 & 15, 2015 were approved with the following corrections:

**July 13, 2105**

Page 3 – Under Parks – 5<sup>th</sup> line down what was Jeff's Jobs before?...She does not tend the flower boxes. WM Garden Club does.

Next paragraph six lines down...the stuff she does for the FD she does not do the PD.

**July 15, 2015**

Under Fees -New construction \$50 review \$100/\$100 for inspection.

3<sup>rd</sup> line \$50 and per SF ....Take out SF.

Title – change the days

Under Building inspection fees... The town thinks...remove this line

<b>FOR CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL:</b>
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**Transaction List for 7/20/15**

**Building Permit – Horan - Map 8/Lot 17 ( Enclosed Porch & Deck ) – Allan needs to review.**

**Building Permit – McLachlin – Map 14/Lot 22 ( Enclosed Porch) – Allan needs to review.**

**Building Permit – Tortolani – Map 19/lot 10-8 (New Bathroom) – BOS Reviewed & signed.**

**Building Permit – C. Luke Lore LLC – Map 13/lot 7 (Enclosed Porch & Deck) – Allan needs to review before BOS reviews.**

**Building Permit – Warren- Map 21/lot 7-2 (Wood Storage Shed) – BOS Reviewed and signed.**

**Waiver of Interest – Coyne - Land use change tax \$17,000. It did not get mailed on time to give them a full 30 days. Half of the land use tax will go to the conservation commission. A \$12.82 waiver was signed.**

<b>APPOINTMENTS:</b>
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**2:00 – Meeting at the Public Safety Building** – We toured the facility. The building is very impressive and the Staff was very friendly. Thank you for the tour it was very much appreciated. List of issues are as follows: 1) Issues with the computer software. 2) The Fire Dept has an issue with water pressure. They will have to put a booster pump on. 3) The Police Department has an issue with the length of time it takes to get their hot water.

**3:00 – Jeff Phillips – Government Buildings & Cemetery 2<sup>nd</sup> Q Budgets** – Jeff met with the board to go over his 2<sup>nd</sup> Q budgets and in Government Building the Equipment & Equipment maintenance line he is already over his budget. The tractor put him over. The rear end had to have B&R Diesel work on it. The salt is actually eating the white metal casing. He washes it every time he uses it. The salt gets into places you just cannot get to. April thru June normal things occur like blades and oil changes. Heating oil line has only \$1205.00 left, but the tanks were just filled. We won't get a delivery again until October. It depends on how cold it is for the last quarter of the year. The insurance is over but that is not Jeff's fault. It was an error in calculating the breakdown per department. You are still under budget and your 3Q should be fine. 4thQ could blow it out of the water. Wages are a little bit over. Jeff's helper works only in the cemetery. Payroll taxes are up because of the winter overtime in the 1<sup>st</sup> Q. Worker's comp and unemployment comp is paid in a lump sum in the first quarter. Bob has thoughts about how the budgets are structured. He wants to start that process early this year.

In discussing the cemetery budget Jeff said grass will start slowing down and his cemetery helper will help Jeff when needed. The budgeted wage for his helper was based on Jim's wage which is more than is being paid now.

Jeff finished fixing the access to the water in the cemetery so that the spigots can't be broken by the vandals. Jeff told the board that he keeps a path open for the walkers year round and that was when some of the spigots had been broken. Previously we had lost around 14,000 gallons of water and Jeff thinks he has remedied this. The board was wondering if there any way to monitor it? Jeff has talked to Pete and he showed him a way to check the town usage. Jeff will share that with Herbie.

**To Do List for each Department** – Wash out at **Tucker Brook**... We talked about work being done and it became out of sight and out of mind.

On the flat roof of the town building seams had been tarred and there was a spot that needs to put tar on. The roofer should have done it. Jeff will fix it. Will it void the warranty? Have Jeff call the roofer. We did not see any leaks this morning after the rains. The grout around the railings in the front of this building will need to be addressed. Jeff emailed the Stan from S.D.Szetela, the contractor, in May and he said he'd get in touch but Jeff never heard back for him. Jeff will try and reach Stan again.

**Honor Roll Sign – During Old Home Day - The town building is a focal point and people were asking questions about the sign. Talk to Barbara Holt about getting it restored and figure out which wars are represented along with what the stars by the names mean. The whole area needs some attention.**

The platform and painting the building. The Town Building needs attention and could certainly look better, it is a focal point. Jeff will see if the Grafton County prisoners can paint the foyer. The prisoners have done work for us before. Bob was also interested in having the concrete platform removed from the side of the building.

Bernie was concerned about the two areas in the town hall that appear to suffer from heat loss. The stripping on the main door needs to be fixed. When the stripping was installed it prevented the doors from closing correctly. The old door in the rear has a gap around the latch and there will be heat loss here.

The gate at the Willow Cemetery needs to be redone. Jeff is meeting with the Cemetery Trustees on Wednesday and will discuss it with them.. Walking Elmwood and Willow with them on this Wednesday.

Jeff & Greg are supposed to take care of the shredding tomorrow. Jeff will call them first thing in the morning to coordinate.

KIM COWLES - Conservation Commission – Kim met with the board concerning the formal offer they will be making on the land they have been looking at to buy for more trails. The commission would like to use Bill Oliver to draw up the purchase and sales since he works with Rebecca Brown and is familiar with conservation land purchases. The board agreed.

Kim let the board know that the concert on Saturday was great. Everyone enjoyed it and they lucked out with the weather. Around 150 – 200 people attended. The summer recreation Program is going well. Where are you hiking and camping this week? The adventure program was going to swimming holes and camping in Thornton but because of the rains swelling the rivers they will swim somewhere else, maybe a lake because of the

<b>TO DISCUSS/REVIEW:</b>
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**Tax Lien Process** – Eric met with Carol to discuss the process. She is going forward with a with the tax lien process. She explained she sends a delinquent notice at the 30 day mark for taxes not paid. She then waits to see if she gets a response and then begins the tax lien process. Carol likes to work with a delinquent tax payer first rather than immediately reporting to Grafton County.

She has the process under control. Do we have a year to put the lien on? It is approximately a year. Eric had talked about having a conference call with Margaret Burns from the NH Municipal Association. Margaret suggested to draft up a memorandum and then Eric and Carol will sit down with it. Carol may

need to brush up on the tax deed process just in case. Are we barred from proceeding on some of the things that we missed? Margaret was hesitant. We can only go back two years to do the deed process. In the past Boards were reluctant to take people's property. She thinks we may be barred from proceeding. Now we can file an insurance claim. We can only get a portion of it which is like 50% of what was due.

We went back to 2011 having to deal with all those. 2012 Carol is catching up with those. We seem to be up to date. She hired someone to do deed searches. There isn't enough money budgeted for it but it is something we have to do. She is dealing with back taxes, interest and penalties in the last two years. Bob would like to know how much have we collected and to get a report from Carol. Also how much do we have to collect? What are we going to do with an insurance claim? Is there a statute of limitations on that? Does this fall under E&O insurance?

Mary Grote – Is there any way going back further back than 2011 even if we have no legal recourse. John Lachapelle wanted to ask people to cough up with a certain amount of success. Are we barred from asking voluntarily? No, you can put a lien on and when they sell their property. You can lien it but you cannot deed it. Liens were put on just not deeded. One year they may not have been liened because we don't have the return receipt cards...they were misplaced. We cannot prove it. That particular year you cannot deed. Carol needs to know for 2011 year. Did John give Eric a copy of the properties? The outcomes listed on these? Which are liened and which are not? Sally will scheduled a meeting can get Carol to come in August.

Mary Grote – PB could be notified of the properties that are tax liened. Put on the application if there is a lien. Grafton County has a list...and you can be registered. Liens put on properties. Dawn had a problem with her own property and she was able to check out her information online with Grafton County.

Can we give tax amnesty to get people to step up? Can we do that without state approval?

**Northern Pass** – Cannot have meeting here because of safety and parking. Sally sent an email to the media person at Eversource. The response from the media center was that the woman would get it to the people who need to know.

**Holden Engineering** – Bernie asked if we receive a confirmation from Holden that our electronic filing and Sally said no but that she would try and check on it.

**Meadowcrest** – Red McCarthy sent his report to Ken Mosedale and is all set to do the work as well adding a twenty foot wide hot top where the road meets Easton Road. Red asked that Ken York rake the road before they add more gravel. Once the work is done and the road is inspected the town will take it over

**Dow Clock – Donn Lathrop** – court date in VT Superior Court in Saint Johnsbury, August 25, 2015 at 930am. No mediation required so far. We will get together with Harriet here to lay out a strategy.

**Cannon Mountain View** – Wednesday at 930am Allan is meeting with Cornelia. He was supposed to meet with her on Sunday at 130 pm and Bob was there because Allan asked him but that did not work out. Bernie may be able to get there. Bob would like someone there to show Cornelia our support. Allan thinks he has ways to help her with direction. The project has to be done according to the law.

She can move in but has 'x' number of weeks to do this. The porch needs to be repaired and blocked off so people cannot walk on it. Bernie would go and be an observer. She did submit the building permit. Allan has to review it. So we are moving ahead on it.

Paramedic Issue –While Rebecca Brown was attending the Planning Board meeting she discussed the issue with Bob and she wants to get involved. She knows the CEO of the hospital. She wants to meet with the Life Squad and also talk to Jack Anderson of Bethlehem. He also wants to get involved. They will try to arrange a meeting for next week with representative from Bethlehem and Brad Bailey. Bethlehem is discussing this subject tonight at their meeting.

**Evergreen** – Closed Session

<b>ITEMS TO REVISIT</b>
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Overtime Policy for HW/BG - 03/30/2015 **(To discuss in the Fall with the Road Agent)**  
Mittersill Roads Winter Policy – 04/06/15 **(To discuss in the Fall with the Road Agent)**  
Road Safety Report - 03/30/2015, 4/13/15  
Safe Routes to School - 03/30/2015, 4/13/15, 5/4/15, 05/11/15, 6/1/15, 6/8/15, 6/15/15, 6/22/15,6/29/15  
Dow Clock – 04/06/15, 4/13/15, 5/4/15, 6/1/15, 6/8/15, 6/15/15, 6/22/15, 6/29/15  
Technology Committee – 04/06/15, 4/13/15, 5/4/15, 6/1/15, 6/8/15, 6/29/15  
Zoning Ordinance Vote - 04/13/15, 5/4/15, 6/1/15  
Harvard Street House - 4/13/15, 4/27/15, 5/4/15, 5/11/15, 5/18/15, 6/1/15, 6/8/15, 6/22/15, 6/29/15  
Honor Roll Sign at Town Hall - 4/13/15, 5/4/15, 6/1/15, 6/8/15  
Evergreen Apts - 4/13/15, 4/27/15, 5/4/15, 5/11/15, 6/1/15, 6/8/15, 6/22/15, 6/29/15, 7/6/15  
Follow up on Sidewalks/Business area - 4/27/2015, 5/11/15, 6/1/15, 6/8/15, 6/22/15  
Telephone/Internet at PSB - 4/27/2015  
Fire Ponds & Cisterns - 5/4/2015, 6/1/15, 7/6/15  
Hiring of Relatives 5/11/15, 6/1/15  
Fire Dept Generator to School 5/11/15, 6/1/15/ 6/8/15, 6/22/15, 6/29/15, 7/6/15  
Delinquent Taxes 5/18/15, 6/1/15, 6/8/15  
Performance Reviews 5/18/15, 6/1/15  
Vehicle Issue 6/8/15  
Kim's insurance 6/8/15, 6/15/15, 6/22/15  
Members of Trustees of the Trust Fund 7/6/15  
Cemetery Trustees 7/6/15, 7/13/15

We came out of Closed Session at 4:48 pm. Bernie made a motion to seal the minutes of the closed session, Bob seconded and all voted in favor.

Bob made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Bernie seconded the motion and all voted in favor. Meeting adjourned at 4:59 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Herbie Bartlett  
Executive Secretary