

MINUTES
FRANCONIA BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
Monday, July 25, 2016

A meeting of the Franconia Board of Selectmen was held at 3:00 pm on Monday, July 25, 2016 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, Scott Leslie

Other Guests: Peter Grote, Russ Cumbee, Dawn Steele, Jim Adlen, Kim Cowles, Mary Grote, Gene Young

MINUTES: 7/18/16

BOS Minutes 7/18/2016: A formal reading of the July 18, 2016 minutes was waived and the minutes were approved as amended.

Eric made a motion to accept the minutes as amended, Bernie seconded the motion with all voting in favor.

FOR CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL:

Transaction Lists – 7/28/16 - Approved and signed by the Board

Building Permit – Gene Young (M31/L16) – Renovation of an existing structure. Contingent on PUC Inspection – application has been submitted but has not received it back. The Closing on the property is this Friday. Gene said he will have the PUC response by Friday. The Board called Allen Clark, the Building Inspector who advised them to sign and hold the building permit for PUC response. The Selectmen signed it and the office will hold the documents until Gene gets the PUC response.

APPOINTMENTS:

3:00 pm – Scott Leslie - Highway – Bernie asked Scott about crosswalks and sidewalks especially one that could cross between the Church and Dow Academy. Scott said that we cannot add cross walks to a state road. Scott said that he wanted to put one in at Mojo's and the State guy said that, the State will never do it. Bernie asked about the Stop Ahead Letters – Maybe we should put one on either side of the intersection. The crown of the bridge seems to be the problem. Peabody and Smith said that there were people blowing thru the intersection from the highway side of the intersection. Eric asked about trimming of the bushes along the river. The rose bushes were supposed to be trimmed or transplanted.

Sale of the Town Truck – John said the town has an offer of \$7500 for the town truck. It is the appraised value of the truck. The fuel tank is leaking and will require about \$1,000 to fix it. Eric and John thought it was okay to make an exception to the Sale of Town Property Policy which requires an advertisement of the item for sale. Bernie suggest that the policy should be followed because in the past there was controversy at Town meeting when it was disclosed that a former road agent had purchased an item of town property from the town at trade-in value without the town having advertised the item. She thought that the policy must have stemmed from this event. John corrected her and stated that he had written this policy because the Town had had no policy in place. After more discussion, it was decided that John would amend the existing policy for these types of situations. The issue will be revisited at the next meeting.

Budget – Scott said it is about where it should be. He reported the following: Equipment Maintenance is under budget. New Equipment is over because the paint sprayer was over by \$400 because we had gotten the wrong price on it. Equipment Repair was high due to a breakdown with the backhoe before we got rid of it. Gas and diesel was low because of the current low prices. Salt & sand were under budget because he had not bought them yet for the year. Street sweeping had been completed. Vehicle Repairs is under budget because we have new vehicles.

Jim Cyr – Scott asked Jr. for a date for when he was to return. Jim explained that he has a doctor's appointment in early August and wondered if he could possibly come back for light duty. Scott wanted to know if that would be allowed. It was decided that the town will need a medical note stating what he can do and not do and we will discuss it further when we have that information. Scott will give Jim another copy of the job description so that the doctor can refer to it. The chairman asked if having Chucky on board was still working out. Scott stated that Chucky does fine and was very dependable in the winter. Bernie thanked Scott and the crew for all the extra work that they have done.

Tree complaints - Peter Nehring and another of his neighbors is worried about the trees. Scott is working with Asplundh and spent a long time discussing the issue. He asked a local tree contractor but that person said that these trees need a crane to take them down and he does not do that. Scott's previous quote stated that it would cost \$4,000 to take them down.

3:30 pm – Police Budget – John Monaghan - The Department is doing well. He stated they don't need more ammunition. Maintenance is up a bit but everything else is on target. He is not sure why the maintenance is so much and will ask Sally about it when she returns from vacation. Dues and subscriptions had gone up. New firearms is over budget because of the need for new optics due to operator error. Software/support is a one-time payment for the year. Radio/pager is over budget and will be getting reimbursed. Training is over budget because SGT Cashin needed to take a 2-day class due to current climate conditions. John is still trying to figure out a better deal on the internet. Training is up a little bit because of classes that had to be taken. Overtime is up for the guys covering him while he was out recovering from surgery. It took longer than he anticipated. He noted that the police department does not charge for coverage of town events. The department did have an income of \$945 for covering the White Mountain Triathlon.

Bernie asked John what he thought of the crosswalks and the stop ahead letters on the road. He is not hearing any complaints. He suggested maybe rumble strips or something else of that nature. He said there were more accidents in the intersection coming from Easton than from the highway. The State has a list of recommendations for this issue.

4:00 pm - Open Time - Mary Grote – What is the cable being installed out Route 116 for? The Select Board did not know. The Chief thought that it may be for fiber optics. He stated that they are following DOT rules. Fairpoint has been promising fiber optics for a number of years. Our Chief will ask what this is. There was conjecture that it is going down 8 more miles to feed a tower. There is a tower by Route 116/112.

Russ Cumbee – Has requested that the town correct what he thought was misrepresented in the minutes. He requested that his “being very upset about Kim Cowles being promoted” be taken out of the minutes. He stated that he thought it was over-interpreted and that someone should not judge what he is feeling. Mr. Cumbee also asked that the statement that he was “being very rude to Bernie” is subjective and inappropriate. He stated that you are accountable to the people of the town and he would like it removed.

Mr. Cumbee also said there is a problem with the minutes. He thought they are not professional and not well done and they do not reflect what should be in the meeting minutes.

Dawn Steele – There is a typo on page one in her section. She also stated that “this” is not how people should behave. “She almost fell over” should be taken out. Dawn also said she did get in touch with Peter Chappell and he will be able to do a presentation for the new insurance programs to the employees.

Jim Alden – stated that the minutes of Russ Cumbee being very rude has no place in the minutes. He stated that editorializing should not be going on.

3:55 pm – Closed Session – Legal

TO DISCUSS/REVIEW:

Sign Ordinance – There was a complaint in regards to signs being posted on the bridge. The Board discussed the issue but could not determine the actual issue being addressed.

Chamber of Commerce - wants the Town to consider allowing a new, larger building to be built. They would like to tear down old and put up a new one because of allergens inside. The Town would lose one parking spot. They may want to attach it to our building. There was discussion including: we need space to work on our town building, maybe a change of location would work, maybe they could put it back by the bathrooms. Someone would build it for free and include plumbing and septic. We could have a public restroom attached to it. The Board would like to see something in writing. Check with Barbara Ashley, or the chairman for a written proposal and then come in for an informal discussion.

Herbie will contact the Chamber and get a written proposal from them.

Town Hall Septic - Bernie asked about the septic lines at the town building. We have a low flow toilet and not enough water was being flushed down. Now that we have been holding down the flush lever we have not had to run copious amounts of water down the line to get rid of the building up in the line.

Donald “Chippa” Dimick – Town employee at the Transfer Station - passed away suddenly. There will be a Casual Committal Service to celebrate his life for friends and family to be held on Saturday, August 6th at 11am at the Smith, Gardner, Shoff Cemetery on Maidstone Lake Road in Brunswick, VT. The parents welcome everyone at their camp located at 4172 Maidstone Lake Road. (This is per the obituary). There will also be a Friends of Chip Gathering at the Dutch Treat at 2pm on the same day. What would the town like to do as a Select Board? The family is not local. You can make a donation in Chip’s memory to Neighbor to Neighbor, c/o Pam Yarosh, 298 Route 18, Sugar Hill, NH 03586. Herbie will forward funeral information to the departments via email. The town will decide what we need to do possibly send a note to his family. The Board decided that the Town should make a donation to Neighbor to Neighbor and will decide the amount at the next meeting.

The Board also stated that we will need to fill Chippa’s position as soon as possible. The Board decided that since this was a part-time decision it did not need to be advertised. Bernie will talk to Greg about this issue.

Properties & Recreation Director – Bernie stated for the record that the Selectmen offered the Properties & Recreation Director position to Kim Cowles and she accepted it at the salary of \$20/hr for

the 15 hours that she works for the Properties Director position. John stated that he had chosen not to be part of the decision.

4:55 pm – **Closed Session** – Legal and Personnel – As per RSA 91-3:II (e) the Board voted to go into closed session. At 5:55 pm the Board voted to come out of closed session and seal the minutes.

The Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 5:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Herbie Bartlett, Executive Secretary

DRAFT