

A regular meeting of the Franconia Board of Selectmen was held at 3:00 p.m. on Monday, June 5, 2017, at the Franconia Town Hall.

Members Present: Eric Meth, Bernie Costa, Jill Brewer, Holly Burbank

Guests: Greg Wells, Andrea Price, Kim Cowles, Tina Peabody, Sam Stephenson

Others: Bob Montagno, Chris Gautreau, Justin Roshak, Karen Foss, Peter Grote, Mary Grote, Fitz Fitzpatrick, Frank Pinter, Bob Tortorice

Eric Meth called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

➤ **TO SIGN AND APPROVE BY THE BOARD**

- **Minutes - May 22, 2017** Eric made a motion to accept the minutes as amended, Jill seconded it with all voting in favor.
- **Transaction List - June 8, 2017**
- **Driveway Permit - Habitat for Humanity - Map 12, Lot 39-3 Building Permit - On hold til other departments have signed off.**
- **Timber Tax Warrant - Otorowski Map 1, Lot 1/Map 9, 1 Lot, Best Map M29, Lot 20 & 21, Sandroff Map 15, Lot 6-11. Two others from 2015 that were never collected. Holly is working on that.**
- **Board & Committee Appointments - ZBA-Frank Clulow, Peter Grote, Elizabeth Andrews. Planning Board - Mary Grote & Brian Williams.**
- **Rec Committee -**
- **Septic design - Boone - Toad Hill Road - Map 31, Lot 16-2.**

➤ **APPOINTMENTS**

3:00 PM - Greg Wells - Transfer Station - Casella is going to charge \$80 per drop off. Greg wants to buy another container so he doesn't get hit for that \$80 drop off fee each time. The new 30 yard container will cost between \$4100K and \$4900K for a new one. Greg thinks it includes shipping. He has gotten 10 years out of a standard duty steel container.

3:15 - Sam Stephenson - There is an issue of unpaid property taxes and several cars on his property. Sam had 34 unregistered vehicles on his property. The price of metal is down so he has been sitting on them. He has a 30 yard dumpster full and ready to go. State Law states that if you have two or more junk vehicles on your property it would be considered a junk yard. You could get a town permit and then apply yearly with the state for a junk yard. You need a Town Permit for a Junk Yard. You would have to go to DES for a permit and you will have to meet all requirements. There is a yearly \$250 application

fee. Bernie doesn't believe this would be allowed in Business District A. Sam will get rid of all the junk. The Board will revisit in a month. Sam stated that the Board is welcome to come and inspect.

Sam talked to Carol Wills about the back taxes and he will get settled with Carol. Holly will follow up with him.

3:30 PM - Energy Commission - Fitz Fitzpatrick & Karen Foss - Street Lights - LED proposal. The Energy Commission needs a letter from the Board. If the Board accepts the proposal in regards to the LED light project. Eric had spoken to several people who had questions about the lumens and wattage. The Commission will discuss the choice of the aesthetics with the contractor. There are lights in Whitefield that you can view. They also have a couple in Littleton which are a different brand. Crosswalks will have the same wattage.

Bernie asked about the area over by Academy Street. She is trying to get a crosswalk there. She has been speaking with the state highway engineers about that. Maybe we could upgrade there with anticipation. The Town gets a rebate on the replacement. The town gets nothing if we just shut it off.

In the letter of contract it should specifically state that this is contingent upon funding. Karen Foss stated that the cost would be \$43,374. There was \$100 rebate so that totals \$14,300. The loan would be \$19,434. The operating cost per year would be \$10K. The Town would save \$11K a year by making the switch. The cost of servicing the loan is \$4,119 per year. The town could pay off the loan early if we want so it could be 2.5 years. The Town would be taking the loan out for 5 years. The Energy Commission will draft the letter and share with Holly.

Karen asked permission of the Board to put the loan application in and the Board granted their permission.

Fitz stated that this electric installation company tells them that the Eversource inventory sometimes does not match the existing inventory. We may have extras or we may not have enough lights. The fixtures are \$235 a piece. The project will take one to two weeks to install. The Town will oversee this project.

Eric made a motion to move forward with the street light conversion as presented by the Franconia Energy Commission, Jill seconded and all voted in favor.

3:45 PM - Lafayette Recreation Committee - Dow Field Pavilion - Kim Cowles and Andrea Price are requesting a pavilion. The Town had used a 30 x 60 tent donated by Jeff Taylor for special events. It broke and we have been made aware that we need some sort of shelter there. Kim reported that the tent came with many risks and liability, especially after the issue in Lancaster. Kim would like to find out the cost. She would like to see this project put it out to bid and see what the cost is. She would like to see if she could get some materials and time donated. She has \$43K saved up from fundraising. Kim wants to find out what it will cost and come up with a plan to close the gap. Town will take ownership and it will be low maintenance. She is thinking it will be on a slab with hemlock post and a metal roof. She also has thought about the long range replacement costs to be put aside for the next 30 years or it could be replaced with donated money. She believes it will be a great addition to the Dow. Location would be along the riverside about 50 feet from shoreline where the old tent had been.

With this in place more outside people can book events. Kim will put it in the paper and on the web site. She would like to see this completed by August 15th.

Bernie makes a motion to go forward with the pavilion project, seconded by Jill and approved by all Board Members.

Touch a Truck was a huge success. It was a good showcase for the ladder truck as it got toned out while at the event.

Beaver issue Lawrence Property - breaching the damn. They may want to put in a culvert or storm drain in. The Conservation Committee would look at the cost of that.

ADA Discussion -

Eric makes a motion to continue our support of adaptive access in our state parks, Jill seconds that motion with all voting in favor.

Bernie is not sure why it is necessary to make this motion. Eric feels we should reinforce because of the Profile Lake project. The Board does not support the Profile Lake Project as it was proposed. We do support ADA.

4:45 PM - Tina Peabody, Treasurer - Switch ICS - She wants to get us more money on our extra money. Woodsville Guaranty Savings Bank offered secured securities which are safer and they offer daily overnight CDs with multiple banks. Keeps funds local and brings asset levels up. Same type of the thing we use. Lower thresholds...\$20,000 - \$25,000 will be swept out and get this extra. It offers 2% making a little bit more than what we were. The Auditor will prefer it being FDIC insured. This is a new plan offered to municipalities. They will not charge us.

Eric makes a motion to transfer our funds per Tina Peabody's recommendation, Jill seconded and all voted in favor.

- **FOR DISCUSSION**

- **Town Administrator Update** - Holly went to a class on Saturday. She can make some changes to how we do things here in the office. Tomorrow Holly has a class from 9-12pm for a DRA tax credit workshop. She will be back in the office in the afternoon.
- **Heritage Museum Lease/Articles of Agreement** - Holly found an old expired agreement between the Town and the Museum. It expired in 2007 and it was never continued. Holly spoke with Barbara Holt. They had brought a proposal in 2007 and it was never signed. In the past 10 years it had been sitting dormant. It was brought to the Board last year. A lease agreement with the changes and there had been some questions and was dropped and never been brought back up. There needs to be some clarification on who took care of the inside and outside. Should we continue to look into it? It is an important building in town. Eric thinks it should be in place. The old fire truck could be an issue it could end up at the Heritage Museum. Barb or someone could come and sit and talk with us. Bernie has a list of the repairs. We want to discuss this with them. Holly will put them on next week's agenda.
- **Planning Board Membership** - Eric and Mary has asked other people to become Planning Board Members. It will be placed on the website.
- **Letter to Governor Sununu re: United States Climate Alliance** - Jill wrote a draft in the wake of the President pulling out of the climate alliance. She wants the Board to sign onto the climate alliance. The state will try to adhere to the Paris Climate - MA, VT & CT Maybe if he gets enough letter he would consider it. Bernie is a geologist - global warming - hiatus in global warming...in past 10 years except for a tinge just recently. Study in Jefferson - 12,000 years ago...climate

change over 5-20 year period. 14 degree drop in temperature when there was no industry at all affecting it. Part of their presentation and funds to study are drying up. Go where the science leads you. Jupiter was warming up...climate...sunspots were changing our climate, volcanoes with methyl hydrates. Huge landslides into the ocean release methane. We have tried to stop run off with construction regulations. She disagrees with Trump. Bernie will not sign that letter.

Jill has done a lot of reading in regards to this subject. Bernie stated that NOAA our EPA refused to read the report from them. With Politics you have to follow the money. In Bernie's opinion is all about the money. China is increasingly releasing pollution.

Jill wants to take it to the Franklin Conservation Commission to have them consider this.

Jill makes a motion to bring the letter to The Franconia Conservation Commission in hopes they will sign it and send it to the governor. Eric seconds it Eric and Jill approve and Bernie opposes.

➤ COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Conservation Commission** - They met on the 23rd and discussed Profile Lake Trail... The Commission is opposed to the proposed trail. They discussed Beaver dams on the Lawrence property. A manmade culvert that could be costly. Mr. Wieskerger from the Campground is very concerned for the safety. The water level is not an issue right now. It is quite a dam and there are several dams. Kim Cowles had invited Jim Alden and the foundation to come and join them. After a brief update on the Profile Lake Project, it was decided that Jim Alden and the foundation would be invited to the next meeting of the Conservation Commission.
- **CIP** - Review of the Police and Transfer Station CIP Forms. Capital purchases policy. Holly hasn't heard anything yet. She will follow up.
- **Energy Commission** - as discussed earlier.
- **Planning Board** - special meeting on June 6 at 7pm. We had no quorum at the last meeting.
- **Northern Pass** - Business community and neighboring plans. Brenda Adam in Easton is sponsoring a business get together informational session on Thursday, June 22nd from 5-7pm at Polly's Pancake Parlor in Sugar Hill. All owners Franconia area businesses are invited. Eric would like this put on the town sign at Peabody & Smith and on our website.
- **Miscellaneous** - Bernie contacted Lancaster DOT before Scott put the paint down on the existing crosswalks. She stated that this is not as easy as she

thought it would be when she started on it. She will need to talk to Concord. They are the ones that deal with crosswalks. Bernie will contact Concord. The Lancaster DOT suggested we deal with The North Country Council. The State looks favorably on things put thru them. She was also asking about sidewalks. The DOT man said get with NCC for that project as well. Things take time. DOT may do engineering for the opposite side of the street for sidewalks. Start discussions with NCC.

➤ **PUBLIC INPUT -**

Karen Foss - Anything to do with the transfer station or recreation department should be voted on between the tri-towns. She wanted to know if the Dow is in the Flood Plane? Would it be insurable? They are using tri-town funds. That issue has come up before. Holly will talk to Kim about this.

Mary Grote - She thinks it would be helpful that before the Board of Selectmen issue building permits they should notify the planning board. The Planning Board would like to see more notification. Holly is meeting with Allan Clark on Friday to discuss the process.

Justin Roshak - Mr. Roshak asked a question from the floor and Holly stated that Eric didn't have to answer questions from the floor. Mr. Roshak asked why Mr. Alden had been not been invited to oppose the project. That was not a planned discussion Holly stated. Holly brought it up. She needed clarification.

Karen Foss - has the CIP been restructured or reorganized? The New Hampshire Municipal Association recommends that the Board of Selectmen will recommend what we need. CIP will figure out how to pay for it. Is this going to be explained to the CIP? We will get a Planning Board member and then we can have our meetings.

Eric makes a motion to go into closed non-public meeting at 5:27 pm for Legal and Personnel as per RSA 91-A:3, II, Bernie seconded with all voting in favor.

Respectfully submitted, Herbie Bartlett, Executive Secretary