

**MINUTES  
FRANCONIA BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING**

**Monday, March 23, 2015**

A meeting of the Franconia Board of Selectmen was held at 2:45 pm on Monday March 23, 2015 at the Franconia Town Hall. Regular members in attendance were Bob Montagno, Bernie Costa, Sally Small and Suzy MacDonald

Guests of the Board - Scott Leslie, Chief John Monaghan, Greg Wells, Chief Paul Schmucker, Jeff Phillips, Kim Cowles, Carol Wills , Mark Taylor

Also attending -Mary Grote , Peter Grote

**SELECTMEN'S TIME:**

**BOS Minutes 03/16/2015:** Formal readings of the March 16, 2015 BOS meeting minutes were waived. The minutes of March 16, 2015 were approved.

Vote to keep the closed sessions minutes closed.

**FOR CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL:**

**Transaction List for 03/26/2015-** The Board reviewed and signed the transaction list for 03/26/2015.

**Safety Services Building Transaction List for 3/26/2015 -** The Board reviewed and signed the transaction list for the Safety Services Building list for 3/26/2015.

**Application for Current Use - Map 32 Lot 0001 - 79 Acres -** Sally needs to contact the resident for further clarification.

**Municipal Agent Letter -** The Board reviewed and signed the Municipal Agent Letter.

**APPOINTMENTS:**

**2:45 Carol Wills - Town Clerk/Tax Collector - The Select Board met with Carol Wills to discuss salary and hours.**

The Select Board entered into non public session according to NH RSA 91- 3:2A at 2:48. The Select Board returned to public sessions at 3:11 pm.

**3:00 - Department Heads - Budgets -** Copies of the 2012, 2013, and 2014 actual expenditures by department was handed to each Department Head. Today's meeting is to continue with the process from last week on reducing the budget. Discuss the reductions from last week. Reductions needs to be another 3.15% to reach \$54,000. Sally has gone thru various information and has come up with some additional deductions. Sally is also including Health Trust refund as a way to reduce the budget. The reimbursement goes to the town paid health insurance. Discussed other ways to cut the budget. Bob Montagno was logging all the suggestions on a spreadsheet. Again discussed how to trim from each departments budget. After cuts \$54, 037.00. This was the final budget cut by \$54,037.00. Bob will send the spreadsheet to Sally and she will file the appropriate paperwork with the DRA.

03/23/2015

Scott Leslie needs to have paperwork signed for the new truck. The Select Board signed the paperwork. Total truck cost \$79,747.00 Total savings \$16,251.00.

Jeff has order for the truck. Bob Montagno signed and Jeff will send back in. Total truck savings is \$8126.00 Total cost is \$43,774.00

Next year there will be more work with the Community with regards to budget preparations. Peter Grote, will remain an active committee member. He was surprised the Town made attempts at wanting to see a balance budget.

Sally would like to see the Annual Meeting back here at the Town Hall if there are no controversial issues.

Jeff, could you fix the clock in the main hall to reflect the correct time.

Mark Taylor - Our grants for the Public Safety Building are being reviewed by the Department of Homeland Security now.

#### **TO DISCUSS/REVIEW:**

**Letter of Resignation** was read by Bob Montagno. John Lachapelle resigns effective immediately from the Select Board and Conservation Commission. Bernie and Bob will discuss and go thru a process to appoint another. Should the Select Board talk with the other person who was a write in candidate? Bernie will write a letter thanking John for his years of service.

**Select Board will need** to appoint a representative to the Planning Board. Bob would like to spend another year on the CIP. Bernie feels it is very awkward for any Select Board member to be the chairman of any committees.

**Discussed the committees**, Planning Board and CIP ( CIP operates under the Planning Board). Conservation Commission, . ZBA , and Energy Commission do not have to have Select Board members. Bob wants to stay on CIP as he still has unfinished business. He is anxious to also see how the interest effect the accounts.

**The budget money that** is not spent does come back to the town. What would the town be comfortable with for a cushion or what does the state recommend? When we go thru the budget process do we know how much we will be using from surplus? or how much is leftover? Sally gave a brief explanation of this.

**Water Commission** - Bob is very concerned with the amount of time the Public Safety Building was without water due to a frozen line. Have the Water Commission in for a meeting to see how we can handle this in the future. Like to discuss priorities.

**Sally Reviewed with Bernie the** paperwork due to the State and how the numbers are arrived at.. Expenses versus estimated revenue. Change the expenses to show \$54,000 less. In the Fall a chance to raise or lower the revenue. Tax rate is set in the fall. Explained how we arrive at surplus and how it can be used.

**Tax rates are set how?** Years ago we would meet in closed session. Now it's all done online and should be discussed during a Select Board meeting. Should all the Select men be involved in the setting of the tax rate. Sally is the key person in setting the rate and working closely with the DRA.

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**The Select Board entered into non public** session according to NH RSA 91- 3:2A at 4:25PM. The Select Board returned to public sessions at 4:29 pm.

**FOR YOUR INFORMATION:**

Thank You from Franconia Children's Center

Selectman Montagno adjourned the public meeting at 4:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Suzanne MacDonald, Executive Secretary