

**MINUTES
FRANCONIA BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING**

Monday, March 30, 2015

A meeting of the Franconia Board of Selectmen was held at 3:00 pm on Monday March 30, 2015 at the Franconia Town Hall. Regular members in attendance were Bob Montagno, Bernie Costa, Sally Small and Suzy MacDonald

Guests of the Board - Water Commissioners and Peter Hilton

Also attending - Chuck & Betsey Phillips, Karen Foss, Dawn Steele, Russ Cumbee, Peter & Mary Grote and Carolyn Kirby

SELECTMEN'S TIME:

BOS Minutes 03/23/2015: Formal readings of the March 23, 2015 BOS meeting minutes were waived. The minutes of March 23, 2015 were approved.

The closed session minutes of March 23, 2015 were also approved and will remain sealed.

FOR CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL:

Transaction List for 04/02/2015- The Board reviewed and signed the transaction list for 04/02/2015.

MS-232 (Appropriations As Voted) - The Board reviewed and signed the MS 232 (Appropriations as Voted). Dawn Steele would like to know if it is possible to upload the MS 232 on the website? Sally will ask Kim Cowles to have it put on the website.

Town Meeting Minutes - Bernie Costa acted as clerk for Town Meeting and signed the minutes today to be submitted to the DRA with the rest of the paperwork.

Appointment - Emergency Management Deputy - John Monaghan - The Board reviewed and signed the appointment of John Monaghan as Emergency Management Deputy. Bernie would like to work on a job description for the Emergency Management Director and the Emergency Management Deputy. Maybe the State of NH can supply something.

Intent to Cut - Otorowski - The Board reviewed and signed an Intent to Cut for Otorowski. Where does the money go into the budget? Into the Timber Tax, general fund.

Tax Exemption - Catholic Church. - The Board reviewed and signed the Tax exemption for the Catholic Church.

APPOINTMENTS:

4:00 pm - Water Commissioners - Marcia Graham, Mac, Ray, Peter Hilton - Bob wanted to chat about the terrible cold spell and the impact on the town. Most serious was at the public safety building being inoperable due to frozen water. The Building was down for at least 11 days, over a week and a half. Sewer was working but it had to be pumped also during this time.

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The building is critical. Bob Montagno got involved when he was told by a Water Commissioner that there was 15 people ahead of us who also had frozen lines. What is the criteria for who gets water first? A building like this should get top priority. Mac asked Bob if he saw what they went thru up there to get water. Mac would like to know why was it not a number one propriety to come to the water department to talk water prior to the building? Now we have a new building and they wanted to use the old line. Should have started with whole new water lines when the building was started according to Mac.

Last summer the town graded Plantation Road with not much material on the road. This leads to the pipes not being buried down far enough. During the freeze very large rocks were being taken out of this area. This line also feeds everything that comes downtown.

Bob reiterated that we are not here to criticize, we are here to find a solution to a problem. Many Friday nights and Saturdays during late February and March were taken up with working on freeze ups. It was a big project to unfreeze lines. Mac stated this meeting is senseless. Bob does not accept this. When someone says 15 people are ahead of the Public Safety Building Bob has a problem. Mac would like to know if you have a septic to put the water into. There are plenty of places in town to get water to fill the trucks. Mac is not backing down on how we tried to get water, only so many hours in a day, says Mac. Hours and hours went into that place in digging. We were trying to get water to that place. Mac started the adversarial conversation according to Bob.

Bob just wants to know how are we going to handle a situation like this in the future? Mac says a new water line will have to be put in to the Public Safety Building. You have to make sure what is in the ground is right. Talked specifically to what needed to be done. All the pipe agreed to be replaced was done back when it was first suggested. If there is a problem in the street it goes back to the water project. Who's responsibility is the new line? It would be a 50/50 deal, 50% Water Department and 50% Town of Franconia. Who is in charge of talking? Select Board and the Water Commissioners. Water line issues goes back into the 50's. It's a six inch line that comes from across the street. Next year may not be a problem. Would this need to get onto the CIP for the future? Water Dept would do the work and send a bill to the town. The Select Board would like to see an estimate to do the project.

When we did get water, there was a leak, and we lost several thousand gallons of water. It all comes back to the issue how do we address in the future. Who gets to decide priorities? In the future can we agree to all sit down and figure out what the priorities are? What is the priority to get the water going, not a water commissioners decision? The Water Commissioners should sit down with the Select Board to make priorities. Bernie would like to shoot for better communication next year. The Water Department was trying to do all 15 thaws at the same time. Bob does not believe that the Water Commissioners should be the ones to make the priority lists. Today we will walk out agreeing that the Select Board and the Water Commissioners will sit down together and make decisions. Bob will ask Sally to look into the legal's of this. Who has the authority?

Karen Foss - Do the department heads have a contingency plan to deal with this if it should happen again?

TO DISCUSS/REVIEW:

Third Selectmen - Currently the Franconia Select Board has an open position. Bernie, if tables had been turned at the election she would have like to been asked .Both Bernie and Bob feel we should ask Eric Meth if he is still interested. Eric only lost the election at Town Meeting by 2 votes. Eric did take the

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time to come to the meet the candidates and was quite impressive. Very close vote at town meeting. The Select Board would like to select Eric to be the temporary Select Board member to fill a the position for one year. His term will be up in March of 2016. The Select Board agrees to ask and appoint Eric to the position if he is still interested.

Conservation Commission Vacancy- Bernie knows someone who is interested in being appointed. Have the interested person come in and talk with the Select Board.

Hwy/B & G on call pay (11/1/2014-3/1/2015) - A written policy was discussed and shown to the Select Board. Policy says Nov 1, - March 1. Should at least be till the first day of Spring. The Select Board will revisit this policy in the Fall. Bernie would like to see over time records for the last three winters for these departments. Scott Leslie should be involved in further conversations. November 1st seems early to start on call.

Primex Conference - Every year Suzy and Sally go the PRIMEX conference. For three years Suzy's other job has paid for the room and this year maybe Franconia could pay for the room. Networking is a big part of the two day conference. The Select Board will OK this as long as Sally reports back on the conference.

Begin recording items to be revisited - Bob would like to add items to this list so that action can be taken on them. No action was taken in the past and so many items go unresolved.. Items not resolved at the meetings should go into this spot and reference the date on the item. Could have a separate sheet for these items.

Delinquent tax mediation - Evergreen Apartments is in arrears on taxes. In most cases we have worked with our lawyer and residents. Mediation will be tomorrow at 11:30. Bob has contacted Laura, the Towns Attorney, and it is too late to change the date. Laura and Bob will work on the negotiations with the stipulation that it needs to be approved at a later date by our Select Board. Courts like to see mediation as a start. Tax Collector has all of the paperwork. Have Laura talk to the three of us about the mediation after it has happened.

Road Safety Audit Final Report - Has to do with the intersection of Route 18 and Route 116. Road Safety Audit had been complete and a 92 page report sent to Sally by email. Both Select Board members have read. Report is very detailed. Bob explained to the people present about the Audit. Came with common sense recommendations. The DOT spearheaded the project. Bob asked Bernie to take the lead on the project. The Chief of Police was looking for a grant. Bob explained the three standout items in the report. About thirty pages are collected on speed. Bob will learn more about North Country Council. They are looking for someone to serve on the North Country Council Transportation Advisory Committee. This covers State roads as well as local roads.

Paving Route 141 this summer. Route 18 to Route 3 will be paved this summer.

Bretton Woods IV - Stuart Weekes is coordinating a Bretton Woods IV - He is working on a project he is calling Northern Kingdom Conclave. He claims this region is one of the poorest areas in the country. The Select Board will invite him in to talk with us at a later date as things progress. Stuart is looking to bring more people to the North Country. This is all scheduled to take place in the fall of 2015 at the Mount Washington Hotel. Betsey Phillips asked Bob to explain what this is. Sally can forward some of the emails to Betsey.

Bernie would like to look at the Warrant and be sure we have done everything as voted at Town Meeting. Decision to make cuts by \$54,000 were decided on last meeting. The Select Board should be more involved in the process of creating the warrant. Have a tutorial by Sally with the three Select Board members in the future.

Bernie - Wetlands Permit Application (was reviewed at a previous meeting) on Route 141, UGO wants to put a pond on one of his lots. Select Board got a copy of it. Yes, the abutters are notified. This all comes under the Conservation Commission and the NH DES. All paperwork goes thru the Town Clerk. Mary Grote is on the Conservation Commission and she is not familiar with it.

Sally told Bernie we will officially be audited the last week in April 2015 for the 2014 year. Bernie would like to see a copy of the Audit when it is available. Bernie wants to see a copy of 2013 Audit and a paper copy of what was done for the Tax Collector when she left.

Bernie - What is a Municipal Agent Letter? In order for Carol Wills to be a Municipal Agent - to give out the stickers - a letter must come from the Select Board.

The Select Board would like to have Eric Meth here next Monday for the meeting. At that time he can be sworn in. Sally will do an appointment and the Town Clerk will swear in.

Maybe we could utilize the Town Crew for some work on the sidewalks. It appears that Safe Routes to School is not going to happen.

ITEMS TO REVISIT

Conservation Commission Appointment - 03/30/2015
Overtime Policy for HW/BG - 03/30/2015
Tax Mediation - 03/30/015
Road Safety Report - 03/30/2015
NCC Transportation Advisory Committee - 03/30/2015
Wetland Permit - UGO - 03/30/2015
Safe Routes to School - 03/30/2015

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FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

Adaptive Sports Thank You

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

Respectfully submitted, Suzanne MacDonald, Executive Secretary

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