

**MINUTES  
FRANCONIA BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING**

**Monday, March 4, 2013**

A meeting of the Franconia Board of Selectmen was held at 3:00 pm on Monday, March 4, 2013 at the Franconia Town Hall. Regular members in attendance were John Lachapelle, Ted Hoyle, Rollie Barnaby, Sally Small and Suzy MacDonald.

Guests of the Board- Michael Wright, Jon Bouffard, Rebecca Brown and Bill Mead (John Monaghan, Paul Schmucker, Rick Gaudette, Mark Taylor)

Also – Bob Montagno

John Lachapelle called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm.

<b>SELECTMEN'S TIME:</b>
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**BOS Minutes 2/25/2013:** Formal readings of the February 25, 2013 BOS meeting minutes were waived. The minutes of February 25, 2013 were approved with corrections.

<b>FOR CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL:</b>
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**Transaction List for 3/7/13** - The Board reviewed and signed the checks and transaction list for 3/7/13.

<b>APPOINTMENTS:</b>
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**3:00 – Michael Wright & Jon Bouffard – CALEX** – Franconia wanted the opportunity to meet with CALEX. CALEX submitted a proposal for Littleton to include 24 hour, 7 day week coverage for a paramedic level ambulance and has received a contract with them. As of March 1, 2013 CALEX is now the ambulance provider for Littleton. CALEX hopes to have another truck ready by July 1, 2013. (It would appear that this truck will be ready by the end of March.) CALEX has secured a primary contract with Sugar Hill and Easton. CALEX would like to make it clear they can't be a primary for outlying towns but will provide mutual aid. All run cards are arranged and in place with Grafton Dispatch. Franconia is also on the run card for Sugar Hill and Easton. CALEX is also looking into hiring additional staff and doing non emergency work such as transfers. In the next couple of months CALEX hopes to offer regional training as well.

If difficulties result from staffing the Franconia Life Squad then we will need to sit down and discuss it further with CALEX. They are not for our primary response and will only cover for mutual aid situations.

CALEX would encourage towns to start thinking of regionalization. CALEX will be answering the needs of Littleton first as this is where their contract lies. Jon Bouffard will be the point of contact for this area.

CALEX has yet to reach out to Lafayette Center.

**4:00 – Rebecca Brown** – was here as State Representative to discuss the possible increase in gas tax and also to discuss gambling. There will be a vote on Wednesday as to raising the gas tax 4 cents a gallon for each of three years then 3 cents for a year. This increase could make it possible for Franconia to receive approximately \$5500 more in Highway Block Grants. The Select Board realizes that every year the

Highway Block Grant is decreased and is much needed money by the Town. All Select Board members do feel that we need to have this revenue at the Town level. They do not want to see a raise in taxes but don't see another way to raise revenue to help us take care of our roads.

Rebecca has spoken to many people opposed to gambling in NH. The Select Board voiced their opinion as being against gambling in this area.

The wording for the Cooley/Jericho Community Forest was reviewed and discussed. The three articles in the Warrant were discussed as it pertains to the Conservation Commission and the Forest. The long term obligation of the town in terms of expenses was discussed and it would be likely the Town would be asked for another financial contribution later in the project.

**4:20 – Joel Peabody** is concerned that fire hydrants are not being kept clear. He does the one on his property. John will talk with the Highway Department about keeping them clear and accessible.

**4:30 – Bill Mead** and the Select Board discussed the 2013 Warrant. The Warrant was reviewed article by article. They also discussed some housekeeping issues.

<b>TO DISCUSS/REVIEW:</b>
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**NH DOT Street Lights** have been reviewed by Chief Monaghan and will be reviewed by the Fire Chief and the Life Squad Chief. The Select Board sees no problem with some of the street lights being shut down, most on Interstate 93.

**Septic Design – Knee & Dowd – M3/L 3.2** – was reviewed and will be sent to the State of NH for approval.

**Budgets** – Individual department budget worksheets were reviewed as well as the articles on the Warrant.

<b>FOR YOUR INFORMATION:</b>
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**Town Meeting is on Tuesday, March 12, 2012 at Lafayette School. Voting from 1-7pm, meeting will start at 7pm.**

Selectman Lachapelle adjourned the meeting at 5:13pm

Respectfully submitted, Suzanne MacDonald, Executive Secretary