

**MINUTES
FRANCONIA BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING**

Monday, May 18, 2015

A meeting of the Franconia Board of Selectmen was held at 3:00 pm on Monday, May 18, 2015 at the Franconia Town Hall. Regular members in attendance were Bob Montagno, Bernie Costa, Eric Meth, Sally Small and Herbie Bartlett.

Guests of the Board – Trevor Presby

Also attending –Peter Grote, Mary Grote, Karen Foss

SELECTMEN’S TIME:

BOS Minutes 05/11/2015: Formal readings of the May 11, 2015 BOS meeting minutes were waived. The minutes of May 11, 2015 were approved with the following corrections:

Page 2 - The Select board should be changed to Bob does not want to see this money go back into the general budget.

Page 2, second paragraph should read - The equipment should be “becomes” the Town of Franconia’s property.

Bernie made a motion to accept the minutes with the above corrections and Eric seconded it with a unanimous vote with all in favor.

FOR CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL:

Transaction List for 05/21/2015- The Board reviewed and signed the transaction list for 05/21/2015.

APPOINTMENTS:

3:00 pm – Meeting with Trevor Presby:

Presby hauls sewage for the people of Franconia (and other towns) but we do not have a town treatment facility so he uses Schofield’s treatment facility in Lisbon as well as Littleton’s facility. The last couple of years the State has had issues with Schofield’s facility and the state is cracking down on him so they have shut down the facility. They handle 300,000 gal of fluid and sewage. Town of Littleton is being tough on haulers only allowing 7,000 gal per day. Trevor can pump up to 12,000 gallons per day. If we do not solve the problem it will put his business at risk and we will have to pay more money to get rid of our sewage. Bethlehem & Lincoln will not allow us to dump as they are open lagoons that have to be dug out the lagoons. Because Schofield is also using Littleton’s facility there is a limit to what they will accept on a daily basis so the town needs to look for another treatment facility. Trevor has talked to Plymouth and they said the town could sign a contract with the Plymouth Village Water & Sewer District that would allow effluent from Franconia to be hauled to their facility. The town has two contract option’s \$100 if signed up for 5 year contract or \$150 for one year contract. We have a contract with

Littleton that was signed back in 2000 and has not been renewed since then. Sally will look for old contract. Littleton will only take 10% of the volume per day so the option of Plymouth would be a perfect option. Saint Johnsbury costs more money and hauling out of state is costly. Presby trucks would have to be permitted to go into Vermont. Saint Johnsbury charges 10 cents, Littleton 12 cents and Plymouth 7 cents. Trevor is in a crunch so he is starting with us and going to Sugar Hill next to see if they would also sign a contract with Plymouth.

We don't have many other options. Trevor offered to pay the fee to sign up for the contract. It costs him \$45 to run a truck down there. Schofield may come back on line but not for awhile. A company could build something up here but not sure yet. We have to have on record that we have a place to take our effluent. All contractors are going to be dealing with the same thing. We think the town should pay for our contract. There would be a list of contractors that can pull from Franconia. Bernie can send a letter to Littleton to see about the agreement.

Bernie made a motion to pay \$100 for the 5 year contract to have Plymouth Village Water & Sewer district take our sewage, Eric seconded and was approved unanimously. Contract will be signed here at the meeting.

TO DISCUSS/REVIEW:

Community Forest - MOU Eric Meth wondered if it would morph into a contractual. It will not be a contract. Bernie wondered if it was going to be a political issue. There were three articles. We have our own forest that we maintain at Fox Hill. We are involved but we do not have to act on it. Alterations could be made to the memorandum. ACT could petition a warrant article to the town for next year. We can be proactive in regards to this. Help raise non tax payer funds. Does the board want to do this or wait and see what happens at town meeting? We do not want to be obliged to use taxpayer funds. Mary Grote said any requests to the town for funding must be submitted for a warrant article. Per the MOU the Stewardship team is responsible for fund raising which might or might not involve taxpayer dollars. We do not want to make the changes today even though Rebecca Brown wanted an answer sooner rather than later. Karen Foss had asked a question: By not signing or saying anything does it preclude our students from accessing the forest?

Bernie made a motion to table and have Sally write a note to Rebecca and Bob seconded it and all approved unanimously.

Wood Pellet/Silo/Energy Box Building Permit- Allan Clark questioned whether or not the Lafayette School needed a site plan review prior to the board signing the permit for the pellet silo and energy box that was voted on by the town at the 2014 town meeting. The abutters would be notified if the Planning Board required a formal site plan review. They are putting it at the edge of the parking lot by the school near the bridge to the Lafayette Center. The Lafayette Center, Dave & Bev Hunt, the Harwood's and State of New Hampshire are the abutters. The board felt that the school should approach the Planning board for an informal meeting to see if they needed to go thru site plan review or could it be waived.

Neeson-Septic Permit - Garage on their property is to be used for a pottery shop/private art studio. They need a septic for the studio. It is located at the end of Ski Pines Club Road. A

Building permit was issued in November with the condition that they add the septic but nothing could be done until Spring. Upon review the board agreed to send it to the state for approval.

Delinquent Taxes - Eric had a conversation with John Lachapelle concerning the delinquent taxes, the payment agreements, and the missed liens. He will turn over the information to Eric and sit down with him to go over the paperwork. One attorney at the conference for new selectmen volunteered to have a conversation and a run down on how to deal with liens. Tax deeds, chapter 80-80 RSA...she will run thru and make sure we are in compliance. The quick question was whatever notice has to be given in 18 months. Discussion as to being outside the scope of notice and having a proper lien can we pursue as a debt? We cannot pursue. Tax amnesty can we enter into agreements? We don't think it is an issue. We may need permission from the state. Bob will make sure we don't let anything slip by us again. Bernie asked do we think it would be beneficial to have Carol with Eric. Carol is working on the liens now. Eric & Carol on conference call when Carol is available.

Karen Foss - based on the town report of delinquent taxes how much is unrecoverable? It could possibly be recoverable thru insurance. We carry insurance for errors and omissions. Let's leave it for an item to be revisited. Bernie asked if we can call insurance company in regards to this issue in regards to a statute of limitations in regards to a claim.

Department Visits - Select board should know more about the other departments. Board should visit other departments at least twice a year. Bob thinks they need to see our faces. We are interested in what they are doing. Meeting with Sugar Hill & Easton with Kim 3pm & Greg 330pm. Visit to the transfer station should be incorporated on June 15th. Bob will speak to department heads, Town Garage/Jeff's Maintenance garage.

Miscellaneous – ACT is hosting a meeting here at the Town Hall tomorrow 5/19/15 on Bobcats.

Amy Bahr would like the town to give the Old Man display case in the Tax Collectors office to the Old Man museum. If for any reason they do not want it, it should come back to the town. Sally will talk to Dick Hamilton and will draft a letter understanding that we get it back if we want it.

Greg will oversee and watch old town documents being shredded in Littleton at the Transfer Station.

Eric mentioned that the Planning Board wanted to know why there was no town sign on the new Safety Services building. Bob informed the board that a sign is being made that reads: Franconia Public Safety.

Summer Schedule – The board felt we have too much going on to have a summer schedule of meeting every other week so we will be meeting every week this summer. If anyone is going to be gone please give dates to Sally or Herbie so we can make sure we have a quorum.

Evergreen – The board voted to go into closed session Per RSA 91-A:3, ll(d).

Safe Routes to School - Bernie met with Kim, Jeff & Scott to discuss the sidewalks that were supposed to be done by SRTS before we lost the funding. They wanted to double check the maps and the area near little yellow house/office building (Garnet Hill) to see what could be done from there. Scott has \$20K to work with. Scott will look into it and put a call into DOT to see what

their stand is on the type of curbing that can be used on the sidewalks. The driveways of resident's homes along the sidewalks would not be done by the town but they might be able to get a break by having work done at the same time. Once we know what we will be doing with the sidewalks we could draft a letter from Selectboard to let the resident's know what the plans are. Scott would like to come to the next full board meeting on the 8th. Sally will not be here on the 8th. 3pm to see Scott. Bernie had talked to Kim about the possibility of talking to the Engineer and reviewing the emails with William Rose (NHDOT) who cancelled the project because of Holding Engineering. There were three easements that had technical questions that Sally & Kim could not answer that Holden never addressed.

Harvard Street Property – Sally drafted a letter in regards to this property that was visited by our building inspector, Allan Clark. The Building is in disrepair and owner needs to let the town know how he plans to rectify the situation within a period of time. We do not want to threaten with court action. Sally will send the letter that also included the pictures that Allan Clark took showing the property owner the disrepair and ask that he get back to the town within 30 days.

Sally & Suzy's Conference - What did you get from it that you can share with the board? When dealing with personnel and other issues that involve risks do not make snap decisions. The real benefit of the conference is the networking with the PRIMEX staff and other town employees and the inspirational guest speakers.

ITEMS TO REVISIT

Overtime Policy for HW/BG - 03/30/2015 (**To discuss in the Fall with the Road Agent**)
Mittersill Roads Winter Policy – 04/06/15 (**To discuss in the Fall with the Road Agent**)
Road Safety Report - 03/30/2015, 4/13/15
Safe Routes to School - 03/30/2015, 4/13/15, 5/4/15, 05/11/15
Dow Clock – 04/06/15, 4/13/15, 5/4/15
Technology Committee – 04/06/15, 4/13/15, 5/4/15
Zoning Ordinance Vote - 04/13/15, 5/4/15
Harvard Street House - 4/13/15, 4/27/15, 5/4/15, 5/11/15, 5/18/15
Honor Roll Sign at Town Hall - 4/13/15, 5/4/15
Evergreen Apts - 4/13/15, 4/27/15, 5/4/15, 5/11/15
Follow up on Sidewalks/Business area - 4/27/2015, 5/11/15
Telephone/Internet at PSB - 4/27/2015
Fire Ponds & Cisterns - 5/4/2015
Hiring of Relatives 5/11/15
Fire Dept Generator to School 5/11/15
Delinquent Taxes 5/18/15
Performance Reviews 5/18/15

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

NCC Newsletter

Selectman Montagno adjourned the public meeting at 5:00 pm.
Respectfully submitted, Herbie Bartlett, Executive Secretary