

**MINUTES
FRANCONIA BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING**

Monday, May 11, 2015

A meeting of the Franconia Board of Selectmen was held at 3:00 pm on Monday May 11, 2015 at the Franconia Town Hall. Regular members in attendance were Bob Montagno, Bernie Costa, Eric Meth, Sally Small and Suzy MacDonald

Guests of the Board – Paul Hatch, Allen Clark, Rick Gaudette

Also attending –Peter Grote, Lydia Cumbee, Mary Grote, Dawn Steele,

SELECTMEN'S TIME:

BOS Minutes 05/4/2015: Formal readings of the May 4, 2015 BOS meeting minutes were waived. The minutes of May 4, 2015 were approved with the following corrections.

Page 2 - *Would* he report to Scott Leslie on a day to day basis?

Page 2 - Harriet *stated* we should never accepted the contracts as written

Page 2 - *We* have spend the \$10,000 that the town has allotted.

Page 2 - Eric *said* Phil D'Avanza took over some of Donn's work.

Page 2 - *Does the electric time clock eliminate* anything that Donn was going to do *from any contractual obligation?*

Page 2- Because *you* are not completing the job we feel we don't owe you the money.

Page 2 - The board has agreed to send a letter that he has been paid in full for the work, *is* not owed any more money, and *you are under no contractual obligation to complete the job.*

Page 4 - Bruce Perlo *Jr* has been asked to join the Committee.

Page 4 - This additional *work* may not have been included as the initial site visit was a few years ago.

FOR CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL:

Transaction List for 05/14/2015- The Board reviewed and signed the transaction list for 05/14/2015.

Interest Abatement - Menninger - Map 15/Lot 42 - The Board reviewed and signed the interest abatement for Menninger - Map 15/Lot 42.

Building Permit - Lafayette Regional - Pellet boiler -Allan Clark will review and the Permit will be presented at a later date.

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APPOINTMENTS:

3:00 pm - Public Hearing - NHDOS Grants - Paul Hatch introduced himself to the group. Paul is from the New Hampshire Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. Paul has worked with Mark Taylor to obtain two grants to purchase equipment for the Emergency Operations Center at the Public Safety Building. Generator and equipment to open emergency operations center was with funds from the two grants. Both grants are over \$10,000 and must have a public hearing and be specific for how the funds are being used. Grants are from FEMA, the signed instruments allow the State to turn the money over to the Town. Grant agreement will be signed by governs council during the process. Just another step to the approval. (Mark Taylor is on a life squad call and did not attend this meeting). Allan Clark addressed the group saying this grant was approved last year for \$75,000 and all funds have been expended. Town has come close to spending \$1.9M which was allocated for the building. Town will need to determine how to spend the money now that these items have been paid for and this will be considered a reimbursement for the items. Bob does not want to see this money go back into the general budget. The funds can be utilized to buy something or to pay down the debt. It's a reimbursement to the Town, and all the key people know about this. Paul Hatch and Mark Taylor had to document and fill out the application to get approval. Lydia Cumbee wanted to verify that we already purchased all the equipment? Allan says "yes", this will be a reimbursement to the town. Now its a formality to get this money back. Next issue will be what we will do with the money. First step is to determine the best way to use the money. Bob Montagno would like to ask Jeff Woodward to come in to discuss this matter. Jeff Woodward was instrumental in organizing the financing of the Public Safety Building. Allan, the reason this application was delayed is we were using a new system thru the State and had to wait for it to get on line.

Bob Montagno mentioned we have designated a portion of the Public Safety Building as an Emergency Operation Center. Does the town have any obligation to the state? The equipment becomes the town of Franconia's property. Record keeping is on the town. Is it appropriate to put signage on the building to designate EOC? Have other towns signed the building? This is a local decision. What is the timeline to get the money back? Paul Hatch stated it can takes 2-3 months to get the money.

Allan has reviewed all of the documents presented today. The Select Board reviewed a copy of the documents. The meeting was duly noticed in the paper.

Bernie asked a question in regard to page 5 and the dollar amounts. We have already done the town's match of funds.

First grant for EOC is for a generator and the Town is being asked to accept the grant in the amount of \$32,235.00 from the State of NH for installation at the Public Safety Building. The towns 50% share has been met thru the construction costs of the building. Total project cost is \$64,470.00 A motion was made by Bob Montagno, Bernie Costa seconded, A vote was taken and all were in favor. All documents were signed and notarized.

Peter Grote said if debt service has gone up it would be appropriate to use the grant to reduce debt. Mary Grote was not aware this was particularly a public meeting. This meeting was noticed in the local paper and a notice is hanging outside the Town Building.

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Second grant moves to accept funds of \$41,719 for the purpose of equipping the Emergency Operations Center in the new Public Safety Building. The town has met it's 50% match thru construction cost of the building. Total project is \$83,438. Any public comment? Bob made a motion to accept the grant, Eric Meth seconded. A vote was taken and all were in favor. All documents were signed and notarized.

Suzy will send by email a copy of the minutes to Paul Hatch.

3:30 pm - Rebecca Brown - Community Forest - MOU - Rebecca sent a copy of the MOU which deals with the Community Forest. Each of four towns has made a financial investment. ACT is trying to spell out the all details of the forest. One funder would like to see how this has all been figured out. This document is for Act's own use and to share with other community forest if asked. Rebecca would like to get input from the Select Board and others. This may allow you to share with your attorney. The Select Board reviewed the MOU. Eric asked if you are looking for both stewardship input as well as funding? The answer is yes. Any funding requested would have to go thru a warrant article at Town Meeting. Our formal representative to the group is it's Chris Nicodemus from Franconia. Bernie read parts of the MOU and brought up concerns with some of the wording. Discussed the stewardship team and their responsibilities. This MOU is not committing the town to funds. In kind contributions are allowed. Does a MOU give weight to the project? Either it should be reworded or we should bring to the town and see if it's something the town wants to commit to. Bernie feels this is a wide open project. The idea is to show what is envisioned with a little more clarity. This can be revised and be made very specific to Franconia. Rebecca envisions that each town will sign a MOU and ACT will sign and this will be our MOU. There is no contractual obligation by signing this document. Does not give a legal obligation, it gives weight because the three Select Board members have signed not because the town wants it. Bernie gave examples of other entities that were never going to ask for funds from the town. What's the rush? Why can't we wait for town meeting and have a warrant article. If we delay , what does it do to ACT? Rebecca mentioned if you need to wait that is fine but the town has already supported the forest thru a vote. This MOU is not changing anything. Again, no expenditure of funds is being asked for. If you would rather not wait till town meeting you could have a public hearing. Rebecca would like the town to revise and then a final version for signature would be presented. Any liability issues the town need to be concerned with? No ACT is the owner.

If any modifications are done to the MOA they will review at the next Select Board meeting. Send revisions to Rebecca thru Sally and Rebecca can come back to sign.

Next Tuesday May 13, ACT will host a discussion on Bobcats here at the Town Hall of Franconia at 6:30pm.

Mary Grote would like to add that there is a difference between Franconia and other Towns when considering the Forest. When you think of funding the town forest why as we don't abut any part of it.

4:00 pm- Fitz - Energy Team - Here at the request of the energy commission to ask for a representative to the Energy Commission. Eric Meth will be the representative for the next meeting and a full time one will be added next time. Meeting is the third Wednesday of the month.

4:20 - Rick Gaudette - Entered into non-public session per RSA 91-A3,II(c) at 4:20pm.

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Returned to Public Session at 4:35pm. The minutes will be sealed.

TO DISCUSS/REVIEW:

Provan & Lorber Correction Period - Front Steps - Coming up on a year if anything needs to be fixed on the steps . Jeff Phillips should be working with Provan & Lorber to correct some issues with the steps.

Cemetery Assistant - Position has not been advertised yet. Wanted to have a policy regarding hiring relatives. Possible to put on the web site at Profile. Is there an age barrier for working with the equipment? How will the interview process go? Scott would probably have to be involved as well as Scott Leslie. Put hiring of relatives on the agenda for next week.

Harvard Street House - Letter from the Attorney, offered three options. First option is to do nothing. Second is to fine \$275 per day to the property owner, and third is to contact the owner and send a copy of Allen's report showing they are in violation of a town ordinance. Sally will work on a letter with Allen and review this again on Monday.

Letters from Don Lathrop - The Select Board asked Sally to send the Towns Attorney a copy of the meeting minutes and his correspondence.

Bernie - Plan for the sidewalk is to get together with Kim at 2:30 on Wed to go over where the best place is to put our funds. Regarding the money to be paid back to the State, Bernie is looking to get the sequence of events and needs to get facts in order. We may be able to go to small claims court to at least recover \$7,500.

Bernie would like to see the graffiti taken care of on the Route 142 underpass. The town has no obligation to take care of the bridge as it's a State Bridge. Suzy will ask the State to remove.

Foreclosure is coming at the Cannon Mt View this week.

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

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Zoning Ordinance Vote - 04/13/15, 5/4/15
Harvard Street House - 4/13/15, 4/27/15, 5/4/15, 5/11/15
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

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

NCC Newsletter

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

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