

**MINUTES  
FRANCONIA BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING**

**Monday, May 4, 2015**

A meeting of the Franconia Board of Selectmen was held at 3:00 pm on Monday May 4, 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 – Scott Leslie, Jeff Phillips, Harriet Taylor, Rick Gaudette, Kim Cowles

Also attending –Dawn Steele, Mary Grote, Karen Foss, Peter Dauten

<b>SELECTMEN'S TIME:</b>
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**BOS Minutes 04/27/2015:** Formal readings of the April 27, 2015 BOS meeting minutes were waived. The minutes of April 27, 2015 were approved with the following corrections.

Page 1 - reviewed and signed an abatement *for accrued interest only* for Martini.

Page 2 - The van has been used and Kim has brought *in money that helps to cover expenses of the van from the people who use it.*

Page 2 - Bob questioned youth director being on the payroll and Kim answered she is salary and works *all year long with the bulk of her hours being in the summer.*

Page 3 - John is going to fill a *vacated* part-time position.

Page 4 - the Select Board should be obligated *to know and keep an eye on* what is in there and what money is being made.

Page 5 - to have the old man of the mountain *display* case inside the Town Clerks

**Closed Minutes 04/06/2015** - Formal readings of the Closed Minutes of April 6, 2015 BOS meeting minutes were waived. The closed session minutes of April 6, 2015 were approved with no corrections.

**Closed Minutes 4/27/2015** - Formal readings of the Closed Minutes of April 27, 2015 were waived. The closed session minutes of April 27, 2015 were approved with one correction.

<b>FOR CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL:</b>
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**Transaction List for 05/7/2015-** The Board reviewed and signed the transaction list for 05/07/2015.

**Letter to DES** - Appointed Rep to sign Annual Facility Report - Reviewed and signed a letter to DES to appoint Greg Wells as the appointed representative for the Town of Franconia to sign the Annual Facility Report.

05/04/2015

**Federal Surplus Property Agreement** - The Select Board reviewed and signed the Federal Surplus Property Agreement.

**APPOINTMENTS:**

**3:00 pm - Scott Leslie** - Road Paving - Paving needs another \$3200 put into it as the road was measured wrong. Scott will need to take probably \$25,000 from the HW Block Grant to cover this costs. The Highway Department will be going to the summer work schedule this week which will be four, nine hour days and a four hour day on Friday. The Board understands this move and approves the change of work schedule.

**3:10 pm - Jeff Phillips** - Wants to talk about hiring another employee to replace the cemetery helper who has worked prior years but is not going to return this year. Jeff's son is looking for a job. He could work during the week after his college classes and all day on Friday. This position would be for Cemetery Assistant. Bob's prior experience is to hire a relatives but a relative could not be supervised by the supervisor. Jeff is looking to hire someone now. Sally handed out a job description and Bernie read it out loud. Jeff's son is familiar with the equipment. The Select Board Feels strongly about reporting to Dad. Would he reports to Scott Leslie on a day to day basis? Rate of pay was discussed. This is only a summer position that will pay \$12 per hour if his son chooses to take the job. . If his son says he does not want the position then put an ad in the newspaper.

**3:15 pm - Harriet Taylor** - Dow Clock - Sally handed out an accounting saying how the \$10,000 of Town money was spent on the clock. Sally discussed the invoices included in this report. Bottom line is the town voted to spend \$10,000 and it is all spent. Two thirds has been paid to Donn Lathrup Harriet stated we should never accepted the contract as written. We have spent the \$10,000 that the town has allotted. Concerned with the interpretation of the contract. Donn has taken the clock apart and cleaned it. Eric said Phil D'Avanza took over some of Donn's work. D'Avanza's work was the tower and the faces of the clock. Phil D'Avanza is telling Harriet that he is concerned with the grease being put on the workings of the clock. Eric's, second question is he, Donn, said at a meeting here he doesn't want any more money he just wants to finish the clock. Phil got a call from the electric striker company regarding the Dow clock. Donn came in to see Sally on Friday at the Town Hall and is looking for the last money we owe minus five bucks. Does the electric time clock eliminate anything that Donn was going to do from any contractual obligations? The clock has not been put back together. Because you are not completing the job we feel we don't owe you the money. Harriet has seen how this man has changed over time. Harriet asked Donn in the fall of 2014 if it was ok for someone else to finish and he said it was fine. We feel that all the work is not finished and we have had to hire someone else to finish the clock. Donn has not fulfilled the contract. Phil says one of the drive shafts is bent. Phil will give a cost estimated of what should have been done with Donn as Harriet has requested it. Sally will make a stab at a letter to Donn. We have in meeting minutes that we do not owe Donn any more money. We will not be sending a check. He was contractually obligated to complete and wanted to finish the job. The clock itself was ready to be put back in operation last August. 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. Now the Town is releasing you from the contract.

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**3:45 pm - Rick Gaudette - Rural Water Supply** - Rick says we have been putting away money for rural water supply. Sally says there is at least \$5000 in there. Mt View Road, has a good size pond and could not get water from the pond during a winter fire. Would like to put a dry hydrant in there. How do we move to get this in motion? Initial estimate is between \$2500 and \$3000. Rick is still working on the details. Rick explained how a dry hydrant works. Most of our water supplies are set up with a dry hydrant. This is the only water supply in that area. Hydrants are flushed each year to back flush. Get a written estimate and head in that direction. Have Sally look for the information, reports that were done a couple of years ago on Cisterns and Fire Ponds.

**4:15 pm - Kim Cowles - Dow Tennis Courts** - They had a meeting and discussed the Town taking over the tennis courts with a lease. Recreation Dept would like to resurface and put a rubber mat over. Tennis Court is idle right now and is not being maintained. Do fundraising to get the courts usable and then it would become public court. Work out the legalities. NO tax payer dollar. Memorial for Ronnie Berlack? Dow has to vote they would like to have this happen. Select Board accepts this idea and is willing to work towards making it happen. Sometimes a lease is prepared for maybe 20 years. Still many unanswered questions such as fundraising, upkeep, buffer, maintenance for mowing, landscaping and such. Kim feels this needs to happen quickly. She would like to see the fundraising, and possible Eagle Scout Project done by the end of August. Legal end will take the longest. Ice rink is town property. Recreation Dept maintains and it comes out of their budget. Recreation budget/or park budget - is this a town area or a tri town area?

**Peter Dauten is a Dow resident** who is trying to stay very neutral. He has questions. As a resident he feels he is being railroaded into the project. When he purchased this piece of property he has concerns. People from Dow do feel strong against it. In the meeting after Kim left questions, discussion and some votes. What would it cost to repair the courts their self? Raised the question, what is the actual plan here? Don't want to make decision today, delay until June 1, 2015 and address something in writing to base a decision on. Is there a release clause in this plan, and what would kick that off? What is development plan? Memorial plan on private property? The management of this? Hours? Nature of supervision? What months of the year used? Condo reserved time? Inviting noise onto our property? Contingency plans if this does not work out with the condos? The Town has its own tennis courts. What might you do if we don't approve? Tax issue, Dow would not be paying taxes on property they have no control over? Any situations locally where they are leasing someone's property to conduct some type of town program? Liability issues were to complex. Where does the liability fall? Questions the funding of the project and the memorial. Peter feels Eric is wearing two hats at this table. Bob, this appears to be a matter of your conveyances and your bylaws which may answer many of these questions. Town will certainly have their Attorney look into it. Needs to know the Town is willing to lease. Bernie, parking has always been an issue. Would there be an abatement on their taxes? Used for tennis, would be much more palatable to the condo association. Peter is afraid of the speed of the project. Bernie, did you discuss selling the piece of property outright? Karen Foss, the zoning requirements were so many acres for so many units. Did anybody go to the ZBA for this issue? Lack of land for the septic. Eric, tennis court has been a bugaboo for awhile. Has not just reared its head. There are members who will see how much it would be to repair based on what you want to spend. If all things were ideal would the association want to be a public tennis court?

05/04/2015

<b>TO DISCUSS/REVIEW:</b>
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**Executive Secretary** - Sally has received four applications for this position. Sally gave the Select Board a copy of job description for their review. Bob wonders if we should consider the qualifications of the person who is going to be hired to possibly be a person who would apply for the Administrative Assistant position when it is available. Water department needs to be added to that job description. Bernie would be happy to help with the interview process. The interviews will take place on Thursday May 7, 2015 in the afternoon with the Select Board and Sally.

**Tech Committee** - Bruce Perlo Jr has been asked to join the Committee. The plan is to start up the Committee in June.

**The Select Board** agrees not to pursue matters further with Mike Hern.

**Go back and look into what** needs to be done with cisterns and all the fire ponds. Have Scott Leslie come in and review with Rick Guadette. Once the paperwork is found it would be a nice item to have in the Library. John Lachapelle may have this paperwork. Rick Gaudette will call John Lachapelle.

**Mary, we had to go up to the site** Rick is talking about putting a fire pond on as Conservation Commission and they had to ok. This additional work may not have been included as the initial site visit was a few years ago. Check with Kim Cowles about this item. Kim will look into this and see if they have to get re permitted to do this work. Have Sally ask Rick to put a bug in Trudoff's ear.

**Zoning Issue** vote is still a work in process.

**Harvard Street - Bob** is still working on. He will contact the Town's Attorney.

**Follow up with** Jeff Phillips about the Honor Roll Sign.

**Sally Small will ask Mark Taylor** if he and the Health Officer have been to Evergreen yet.

**Safe Routes to School** - Kim Colwes and Sally Small gave Bernie folders of information going back to 2010 regarding Safe Route to School that she is reviewing. Bernie would like to have a meeting with Kim, Scott, and John. Bernie did not see the actual designs of the project. Sally will give to Bernie. Has the Town's Attorney written to Holden Engineering? Are we moving forward on this or not? We had questions on three easement and the engineers did not answer. Plan a meeting with Kim and discuss the possibilities. Include the Police Chief in this meeting with Scott also.

05/04/2015

<b>ITEMS TO REVISIT</b>
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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  
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  
Mike Hern - 4/13/2015, 4/27/15, 5/4/15  
Harvard Street House - 4/13/15, 4/27/15, 5/4/15  
Honor Roll Sign at Town Hall - 4/13/15, 5/4/15  
Evergreen Apts - 4/13/15, 4/27/15, 5/4/15  
Follow up on Sidewalks/Business area - 4/27/2015  
Telephone/Internet at PSB - 4/27/2015  
Fire Ponds & Cisterns - 5/4/2015

<b>FOR YOUR INFORMATION:</b>
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Selectman Montagno adjourned the public meeting at 5:05 pm.  
Respectfully submitted, Suzanne MacDonald, Executive Secretary

05/04/2015