

**MINUTES  
FRANCONIA BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING**

**Monday, May 7, 2012**

A meeting of the Franconia Board of Selectmen was held at 3:00 pm on Monday, May 7, 2012 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 – Scott Leslie, Mark Prell, Harvey Flanders and 12 other Residents

Also:

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

<b>SELECTMEN'S TIME:</b>
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**BOS Minutes 04/30/2012:** Formal readings of the April 30, 2012 BOS meeting minutes were waived. The minutes of April 30, 2012 were approved as written.

<b>FOR CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL:</b>
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**Checks and Transaction List for 05/10/12** - The Board reviewed and signed the checks and transaction list for 05/10/12.

**Woodsville Bank TAN** – The Board reviewed and signed a TAN for Woodsville Bank.

**Wood Heating Exemptions (PA-29) - Jack Cook** – The Board reviewed and signed a wood heating exemption (PA-29) for Jack Cook.

<b>APPOINTMENTS:</b>
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**3:00 – Scott Leslie – Bid for Steps & Wallace Hill/Sunset Roads** –Scott has priced stop signs. The Town is missing 8 signs at various roads. The costs to purchase signs are between \$550 and \$600. This cost includes the signs and posts. It is a public safety concern so the Select Board would like to have Scott order. In 2014 all of the street signs must be retro reflective. The Select Board is asking Scott to get them the information on changing of the signs. It can be a warrant article to fund the cost. The Select Board would also like Scott to discuss the signs with the Police Department.

The steps out front have only had one estimate. That estimate was for a slate veneer put over the current concrete steps. The veneer would also be on the top deck. The contractor is thinking of shrinking the stair area to 16 feet. His costs for the project are between \$3000 and \$4000. Scott is not sure if this price includes the railings. Scott will follow up with the contractor for more information. The Select Board feels that slate veneer and shrinking the stairs is a good idea. The Select Board would also like to see work of the same done by the contractor.

Three bids were received for the paving of Wallace Hill and Sunset Road. Pike Industries with a bid of \$132,000, Bigelow paving \$127,725 and Black Top \$113,588. Black Top's bid is for reclaiming both roads, paving both roads, and paving the bottom of Wallace Hill. Scott will have to get drop in grates and culverts coincide with the project. The Select Board would like for Scott to free up some of time when

this project is being done to keep a watch on it. John Lachapelle, Chairman, signed a contract for Black Top to complete the project.

**3:30 – Mark Prell – Energy Grant Application** – Mark has spoken with a contractor about the windows at the Town Hall. The contractor is not looking at replacement windows but is looking at replacing the storm windows and weather stripping. The windows are still in good shape but they don't fit in the casing very well. Mark will be getting an estimate of costs.

Mark passed to the Select Board an application that will be submitted for a grant. It was reviewed and discussed. The cost being proposed for energy savings improvements is \$60,000. This would involve items at the Town Building, Highway Garage and the Safety Services Building.

**3:45 – Harvey Flanders and 12 other Residents** – Harvey Flanders and 12 residents were here to discuss and show support for the Police Department and the hiring of a Chief, preferably Mark Taylor, acting Chief.

In December the decision was made to create a Police Review Panel. The work of the Panel has been concluded and the Select Board has accepted the recommendations made. The position of Chief will be posted as recommended by the Panel. Another Panel will now be created as the "hiring" Panel.

Tina Peabody thinks it is important to put applicants out there. This is not an unusual procedure. If you hire the right Chief he will find his place in the Town.

Gary Young, former Chief of Police in Franconia and in Sugar Hill is very supportive of Mark Taylor becoming Chief. Gary is concerned with moving the Police Department to the Town Building. Gary also has opened his eyes and ears to the "coffee shop" talk and openly apologized to Sally Small for listening and believing things that were being said that were not true.

Ramesh Dave has been a Franconia Resident for several years and former Selectman. He has always seen the department raised or upgraded from within. He thinks Mark should be contacted by the Select Board to see what his views are. He feels strongly that Mark should be appointed Chief as Mark is both an officer and a gentleman. During Ramesh's time as a Select Board member articles for housing the Police Department at the Town Hall were raised and failed. He thinks it is essential for all of the Safety Services to remain in the same building. Togetherness, safety, and privacy are all very important things to be considered when making suggestions of moving the Police Department. Ramesh also brought forward the fact that for 235 years the second in line has worked out well for our country.

Joel Peabody would urge the Committee that if they are going to select a Chief that the Chief be able to hire his personnel. Joel also has pictures of the water being down 2 steps on the Dow Academy Building. It is not a good idea to move the Police Department into the Town Building.

Ruth Vail would like to know who will train the Chief is the position is not given to Mark Taylor. Ruth feels that this would need to be considered during the hiring process. Ruth appreciates the fact that so many people have appeared and these people could be called the silent majority. Ruth speaks for a lot of women who do not feel intimidated by the Police Department. She does support the PD and does support Mark as Chief.

Cray Ball states that Mark knows the Town very well.

Darrell Dietlein discussed how the Federal Government and the State Government usually post in house first then if they don't find a quality applicant then they would post out of house. Mark is part of our

family and the position should be offered to him first. Darrell would also like the Select Board to agree to keep all of the departments together. We don't need another division in town.

Harvey discussed the continuity and the service provided by Mark. He coordinated the part time officers and they have done a good job. Mark should be promoted to Chief of the Town. He has contacted several area law enforcement agencies and they all feel Mark is a good choice for Chief. The part timer's stand behind Mark 100% and it will be a shame if he is not promoted. Harvey would like to serve on the hiring committee for a Chief.

Bob Ball would like the Select Board to realize that outsiders are not liked and they are not helped by the locals. They are strangers and three times now that did not work out for this Town.

John Lachapelle has come to know Mark just as all of these residents have been describing him. With the retiring of Chief Montminy it was an opportunity to look at the big picture and that is what the Select Board is doing. The challenge for the Town is to resolve all of these issues. The Town is divided on a lot of aspects and it will again be a vote of the Town that will decide the location of the Police Department.

<b>TO DISCUSS/REVIEW:</b>
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**258 Old Country Road** was again discussed. Ted will call the Real Estate Agent and see if the Select Board can get into the "Carriage House" to view the workshop.

The Department of Labor paid a visit to Sally Small because of a violation in filing a report for 2011 for the Safety Committee. Building and Grounds should no longer be responsible for filing this report. We need to get this committee back up and running and the Select Board would like to meet with Scott Leslie on Monday, May 14, 2012 at 3:00pm. The Select Board would invite Jim Cyrs, Nate Hartford, Suzy MacDonald, Kim Cowles and Scott Leslie to be on the Safety Committee. Once the Police Department is fully running again a member from there will be invited to attend.

John discussed Fire Inspections and why the Town pays for them, not the homeowner or the business. The policy will be reviewed in the future. What are other Towns doing?

When the Select Board gets a letter they would like to be advised of it at once.

<b>FOR YOUR INFORMATION:</b>
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**Local Government will be here 6/12/12 to discuss Employee Health Insurance at 2:00pm.**

**Grafton County FY 2013 Proposed Budget**

Selectman Lachapelle adjourned the meeting at 5:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Suzanne MacDonald, Executive Secretary