

## FRANCONIA BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

Monday, November 23, 2015

A meeting of the Franconia Board of Selectmen was held at 3:00 pm on Monday, November 23, 2015 at the Franconia Town Hall. Regular members in attendance were Bob Montagno, Eric Meth, Bernie Costa, Sally Small and Herbie Bartlett.

Also attending – Dinny Richmond, Mary Grote, Kim Cowles, Chris Nicodemus, Dawn Steele, Bill Mellekas, John Monaghan.

<b>SELECTMEN'S TIME:</b>
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**BOS Minutes 11/9/15:** Formal readings of the November 9 & November 16, 2015 BOS meeting minutes were waived. The minutes for November 9 & November 16, 2015 were approved with the following corrections:

**November 9, 2015 corrections –**

Page 1 – Consideration of Approval – general fund needs to be changed to just **fund** balance.

Page 2 - Greg Wells – **He had two applicants but only hired one person.**

Recycling **revenue** is not doing very well.

Bathroom – **the Selectmen authorized using expendable funds for the break room repairs.**

John Monaghan – **unsown should be changed to unknown.**

Library Trustees – **submit a plan review according to RSA.**

Bernie made a motion to accept the minutes of November 9, 2015, Bob seconded the motion and all voted to accept as amended.

**November 16, 2015 corrections -**

Under Rick Gaudette add **Opened the public hearing regarding the fire ordinance was opened at 4pm.**

Page 2 – **Delete the sentence this is a public hearing.**

**Sally will rewrite the ordinance. Delete paper**

**Typo on fire department. WE are not paying anyone to clean.**

Inspections – **Certain businesses are mandated to be inspected. The wages are for inspections performed.**

5th paragraph. **Rick will give us his thoughts at another time in regards to his recommendations. Not his decision.**

Gas Meters should be **gas detection** meters.

Paul Schmucker – **typo end of the first paragraph....residents not residence.**

Next sentence - **What** they have is 14 year old gear. Then capitalize.

Eversource Meeting Plan - **Town Meeting should be Public Hearing.**

2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph ... change principals to **principles.**

We want to record the meeting on Wednesday at the town hall.

Bernie made a motion to accept the minutes of November 16, 2015 and Bob seconded the motion and all voted to accept as amended.

**FOR CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL:**

**Transaction List for 11/25/15** – Approved and signed by the Board.

**Health Trust Authorization & Membership Agreements** – It allows Sally to be able to sign for the town.

**Building Permit - MBFF, LLC (m14/L74) – Storage Shed** - Approved and signed by the board

**Fire Burning Ordinance** – Approved and signed by the board.

**APPOINTMENTS:**

**3:00 – Library Trustees** – Dinny Richmond reported that the town of Easton had closed their library. The Abbie Greenleaf Library has 30 Easton patrons who pay a \$25 non-resident fee. The Franconia Library Board will offer \$10 per family towards this \$25 fee to belong to the library with the town of Easton making up the difference. This has not been formalized yet. If Easton will pick up the difference this is what we would like to offer to the residents of Easton. We could try this on a trial period if Easton would like to participate.

**Architectural Contract for Library Repairs** - We do not have the new contract from Norman E. Larson yet. Bill Mellekas came in at the end of the meeting and said that if he has not heard from Norm by Monday he will contact him again.

**3:30 – John Monaghan – Full Time Police Training** – John Monaghan would like to sponsor Zach Chicoine (one of our part time officers) to go thru the Police Academy. John has to notify the Academy by December 7, 2015 to reserve a spot for him. This will have to be added to the budget for next year. It would cost \$5,000 to train and outfit a new part-timer which is about the same cost for Zach to go to the full time academy. The training will take 16 weeks to complete. The program begins in January and will end in March. We don't want to lose Zach as he is an asset to our community. He is also an EMT on our Life Squad. The Board would like to get a time commitment from Zach if we decide to do this. Zach has been very loyal to us and John believes he will be a better officer upon completion of the Academy. Zach already has health insurance as he is a Corpsman in the Navy.

John believes that it would be a 5% increase in his budget to do this. The only other thing that John would have to add to his budget is for bullet proof vests. The vests only have a life expectancy of 5 years. The old ones can be donated to making vests for canines in the line of duty.

**Coffee with a Cop** – Saturday, December 12, 2015 from 9am – 11am. We have invited Sugar Hill Police Department to also attend.

**TO DISCUSS/REVIEW:**

**Northern Pass Meeting** – According to the survey results the residents of the Town of Franconia do not want the high voltage lines above or below ground coming thru the town.

It is up to the Conservation Commission to intervene in regards to wetlands, dredging and filling. Ginny Jeffryes has offered to spearhead. The prospective path for Northern Pass will cross three different rivers here in our town.

The Select Board would like to form a committee including someone from the Conservation Commission, Select Board, Planning Board and have someone who is versed in this subject. This Committee is to review the issues at the environmental level and planning board level and to decide whether or not to become interveners to the Site Evaluation Committee (SEC) process. This will be a good way to keep everyone apprised of what is going on and to keep track of the deadlines. We should encourage all abutters to intervene. Citizens should contact their representatives Jeff Woodward, Rebecca Brown and Brad Bailey.

If you are an Intervener you can ask direct questions to Eversource according to Chris Jensen of NHPR. We should wait until the deadline comes near to apply to be an Intervener. The deadline is December 18, 2015.

The application in regards to Northern Pass is incomplete. We shouldn't delay putting the letter to the SEC together and have it ready to submit. We should focus on the SEC and not the DOE. Our voices will not be heard at the DOE level. We should get together with the other towns and see where everyone stands. At our public meeting we did ask for people to come forward and let us know what to do.

Chris Jensen mentioned that the SEC would require signatures of the land owners. When the State takes over a road it follows the Right of Way as it is recorded in the County Commissioner's office. If there are no layouts the state relies on local surveys. It can be taken by prescriptive easement 10-15 feet from end of the pavement. There is history regarding routes 18 & 116. History begins in 1890 for Route 18 but there is not much for route 116 except by the Dow area. These were town roads were turned over to the State.

The manhole covers are an issue addressed on page 41 of the state regulations. A private utility cannot put manholes in a state highway. It is buried on page 26 of the state regulations on the State website. This manhole issue and the results of the town meeting are to be included in the letter to be the SEC. No Private utility can bury anything under a state highway.

There are safety concerns in regards to digging on our roads which will cause a hazard. It would shut our town down. Businesses will go out of business. Four feet underground is not going to cut it. If we don't get it stopped we need a back up. Peter said the most important thing on the intervener letters is to talk about where we can win on the money issues. They are not paying enough taxes if they do get approved for going thru Franconia.

Let's have Sally Small notify the other towns where it is being buried about the ROW and the manholes to see if they are aware of this. There are twelve towns that are impacted along the 58 mile tract.

The SEC has only rejected one application and that is being reconfigured. We have clearly defined a state regulation on our side unless they amend that regulation.

Now that the town will be affected by Northern Pass we have to play catch up. As long as we figure out what the deadlines are we can follow what other agencies are doing. The Conservation Commission can deal with the specific wetlands that we have. There are five miles that need to be looked at which is in the flood plains. Herbie will give the USB key from Eversource in regards to the wetlands to Ginny Jeffryes. Nicholas Coates will have some information. Northern Pass cannot be buried in the Right of Way.

The Board agreed to create a committee to handle the Intervener process. We think that Ginny Jeffryes, Lydia Cumbee, Peter Grote and Eric Meth would be great candidates if they so choose to. Sally will email them ask to join this committee.

**Kim Cowles** – She wants to have a public hearing in regards to purchasing the Lawrence property. They have put a counter offer which is 10% higher than the original offer which brings it to \$169K. The parcel abuts a town owned property. The money is set aside in the Land Use Fund, from land use change tax money, in order to purchase this land that would protect water and habitat. It would be part of the Healthy Trout Route. They will pick out a date and advertise and put on website. They want to get public input in regards to this.

Conservation Commission is also concerned about changes to the zoning ordinance. They will be making a formal statement to make changes to zoning changes. It will go to the Planning Board tomorrow.

**Public Restroom at Town Hall** – Planning Board is concerned about the Public Restroom sign and the lighting for the sign on the building. Also a sign should be on the post out front. The Select Board agrees that there should be a universal sign for a public restroom. Options should be developed by the Planning Board and presented to the Board of Selectmen for approval and once approved Jeff will be notified for installation.

Other people have mentioned having a welcome center with a public restroom near the Presby Gas Station. Trevor Presby has had thoughts in regards to this. Kim has recommended a composting bathroom over at the Dow before.

**Town Office Organization Study** – Tabled until next week.

**Franconia Marketing Committee** – will meet on Monday at 7pm, Lydia Cumbee, Andy Smith, Mark Butterfield, Jeff Woodward, Bob Montagno, & Keith Batchelder

**Retirement (non-police) – Budget Issue** – More information is needed. Tabled until the next meeting.

**Employee Portion of Health Insurance** – Tabled until next meeting to be able to provide more information.

**53 Pay Weeks** - We have 53 pay weeks this year because of an extra week. It is an anomaly

**Building Permit Application** – Allan will be at next week’s meeting. We will discuss then.

**Public Restroom Signs and lighting for the Restrooms. (Put on List of things to do)**

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:
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**There may be a possibility of a closed session meeting.**

Bernie made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Eric seconded the motion and all voted in favor. Meeting adjourned at 5:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Herbie Bartlett, Executive Secretary