

**MINUTES
FRANCONIA BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING**

Monday, November 25, 2013

A meeting of the Franconia Board of Selectmen was held at 3:00 pm on Monday, November 25, 2013 at the Franconia Town Hall. Regular members in attendance were Ted Hoyle, John Lachapelle, Bob Montagno, Sally Small and Suzy MacDonald

Guests of the Board – Harriet Taylor & Mary Nehring

Also: Dinny Richmond, Earle Collins, Darin Wipperman, & Joel Peabody

Ted Hoyle called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm.

SELECTMEN'S TIME:

BOS Minutes 11/18/2013: Formal readings of the November 18, 2013 BOS meeting minutes were waived. The minutes of November 18, 2013 were approved after a correction.

FOR CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL:

Transaction List for 11/27/13 - The Board reviewed and signed the transaction list for 11/27/13.

Abatements for Mary Nehring

APPOINTMENTS:

3:00 – Harriet Taylor – Dow Clock – Harriet Taylor discussed with the Board the fundraising that has been done for the Dow Clock thru written letters. So far approximately \$7,000 has been raised in donation to help defray the cost of fixing the columns, clock face and the clock tower. The innards of the clock also need a going over. Harriet is looking into matching grants as the amount gets closer to \$10,000. At this point the actual cost of the project is unknown. One bid was obtained several months ago in the area of \$40,000. The Select Board would like to be sure to post a request for bid in order to proceed. Sally is currently waiting for photos of the area from Steven Carter so she can start the process of applying for a grant. Harriet would like to have an exact amount of funds needed so she may proceed with fundraising.

Some gentleman has offered to look at the clock innards and fix pro-bono. Another man has offered to fix for a fee. Ed Rolf (clock winder) should be in contact with these gentlemen.

The Select Board is interested in knowing if any money will be coming from the Dow Condo Association. Sally and Harriet would like to remind the Select Board that the clock is owned by the Town. The clock and the bell were given as a gift to the children of Franconia many years ago.

The roof has been repaired using funds appropriated at Town Meeting, of which the town raised half of the expense and Dow Condo Association the other half.

Harriet is asking for the Select Board to consider supporting an article at the March Town Meeting to raise and appropriate funds to complete this project. Maybe Kim Cowles, Recreation Director could hold a fundraiser? Maybe Dow Condo Association could participate? The Dow Condo Association has discovered more rot around the tower of the clock.

Bob Montagno would like to keep in mind that the Town may be looking at a Safety Services Building at a substantial cost. That would also be a warrant article.

The Select Board would like for Harriet to consider educating the public with a couple of Public Hearings. Also the ownership will have to be clearly identified.

Dinny Richmond mentioned that there is a \$9,000 grant in the pipeline for the clock.

3:30 – Mary Nehring – Property Tax Abatement – Sally Small referred to a letter she sent to Mary Nehring on November 6, 2013. Dave Woodward, Appraiser from Avitar, has been invited but did not attend. Sally has prepared two abatements for the Select Board to sign to reduce Mary’s tax burden for year 2012. Mary brought an exhibit for the Select Board to follow.

Abatement was filed by Mary Nehring due to a fire for 2011. Abatement was not filed for 2012 and there is still time to file abatement for 2013. The Fire occurred after April 1, 2011. The fire actually occurred in June of 2011. The Town re assessed the value of the building and is making abatement adjustments for 2012.

Part of Mary’s argument is that she came in February of 2012 to pay the taxes in full for 2011 and Sally did not mention to her that she would have to file abatement for 2012. Mary also said the house was condemned by the Town of Franconia. John Lachapelle clarified the house was only partially condemned according to a letter by Allen Clark, Building Inspector, written on February 20, 2013. Mary did not receive a right on occupy until June 16, 2013. Mary mentioned her research with the NHBTLA but did not provide any documentation. Mary will be looking for 6 months of relief from 2013. Sally told her she must file abatement prior to March 1, 2014. The Select Board must follow the guidelines provided by the State of NH. Marilyn Knowlton was able to tell Mary the exact amount of taxes currently due after the 2012 abatement was taken into consideration. The house has been reassessed by appraiser Dave Woodward, Avitar.

Mary is now willing to pay the tax amount in full today and the proposed lien will not be instituted. Marilyn reminded all that the current year taxes must be paid in full prior to being considered for an abatement.

Joel Peabody is concerned with the Highway Department using salt in the area of McGown Hill. That is where our main water supply is located. This practice needs to stop. The Select Board will speak with Road Agent Scott Leslie about creating a “No Salt Area”.

TO DISCUSS/REVIEW:

Trustee of the Trust Funds function was discussed. It is understood that one of the Trustees will not be running for election in March. It is very important that one of the two incoming Trustees be well versed

in investing of funds. Sally mentioned to the Select Board if they had someone in find now they could appoint them until March at which time they run for election as there is currently one vacancy.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

Road Safety Audit Application – Bernie Costa

Invitation to Franconia Fire Dept Christmas Dinner

Special Meeting on January 25, 2014 for Councilor One Position

Selectman Hoyle adjourned the meeting at 4:05 pm

Respectfully submitted, Suzanne MacDonald, Executive Secretary