

**MINUTES
FRANCONIA BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING**

Monday, October 26, 2015

A meeting of the Franconia Board of Selectmen was held at 3:05 pm on Monday, October 26, 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

SELECTMEN’S TIME:

BOS Minutes 10/19/15: Formal readings of the October 19, 2015 BOS meeting minutes were waived. The minutes for October 19, 2015 were approved with the following corrections made:

Page 1 – September 28, 2015 corrections - **Delete complimenting on Page 2 – Cornelia.**

Page 1 – October 5, 2015 corrections – Make sure we are legally responsible - **needs the whole sentence in the correction.**

Page 1 – October 5, 2015 corrections – **Dick Reinhold – Scrag Mountain Road – The town does not have to maintain the road.**

Page 2 – Kathleen Lewis – **change (They) to The Panel want to listen to the Selectmen’s questions.**

Page 2 – John Keyser – There will be two 8 inch conduits **with** a 4.5 inch diameter **cross linked polyethylene shielded cable in each.** There will be three two inch conduits **for** fiber optic monitoring cables. **The cable trench will be 2’9” wide, and approximately 3 feet 9 inches deep. The cables will be approximately 30” below grade. Delete – It will be trenched construction.**

Page 3 – We have a water commission and the water lines that run under your. **What happens if we have to do a repair to the water lines?**

Page 3 – Culverts will have to call dig safe before construction. **They will do a survey and get information.**

Page 4 – What is the safety factor? You don’t know the exact safety factor for after 40 years. **When will it be evaluated and by whom?**

Page 4 – The geological fault line between Scragg Mountain and Garnett Hill, how will the **project be affected by it. Underline He will get back to us.**

Page 5 – The contractor would have to **hire** and independent contractor to be on sight.

Page 5 – The reason they would do that **is for** quality control on **site** so they can deal with the public issues that will arise.

Page 5 – Where are the others? **He doesn’t know but he will get information.**

Page 5 – Delete – **This is a wholesale in Deerfield.**

Page 5 – New England will save **\$900 million.** New Hampshire will **save \$80 million per year.**

Page 5 – If you purchase **a** power agreement with Eversource you will get an additional savings.

Page 6 – We are figuring a 5% rate **decrease** that is not a lot of money per month for a small business a little bit more per month.

Page 6 – Forward NH Plan – Tax Payments – We are on schedule right now and are approved by the **SEC** for 2019 completion. **DRA** says you are 90 or 110 percent.

Page 6 – We sit and talk again with **the** next bunch of Selectmen.

Page 7 – Would you include something in reserve should they **have to be** removed if they were **no** longer used. Our town says **towers** have to **be taken down** at their own expense if they were no longer being used. Delete – **We want to completely re-use the road base and the disposal of things. If they were decommissioned we don't know if John can address that but they can get back to us.**

Page 7 – John, where all of the route is under DOT roads if this project is ever impacted or if it needs to be moved. Delete **Northern Pass says the state law has to fix.**

Page 7 – **DOT has design standards and Northern Pass would have to remove them.**

Page 7 – if the state wants to widen **the road, the utility has** to move the poles. They have to go by the ~~legal~~-premise of legal else's rights.

Page 7 – They are welcoming comments thru email, letters and the NH **SEC** process.

Page 7 – **If the board has questions re: Eversource they can contact Scott Mason.**

Page 7 – Under To Discuss/Review – 2012 Outstanding Taxes – **We voted that** taxes were less than \$1000 not worth pursuing unless they were repeat offenders for the back taxes for about three times.

Bernie made a motion to accept the minutes, Eric seconded and all voted to accept as amended.

FOR CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL:

Transaction List for 10/29/15 – Approved and signed by the Board.

MS-535 – Total Fund Equity Balance is \$681,452. Sally will email numbers to the Board.

Intent to Cut – Palmer M34/L4-1

Building Permit – Trav & Tuck LLC – M 13/L49 (roof over an entry, over existing deck)

Building Permit – Lang – M31/L19 – Hot Tub & Fire Permit

APPOINTMENTS:

3:00 – Dinny Richmond – Regarding Library Foundation Repair Project

First - It is a town building that is why we are paying for the actual physical work. We will pay out of the town building expendable trust. The Town is putting in \$5K for construction and the Library Board will pay the balance and the architect fee.

Second – proposal remains the same. The library trustees will confirm.

Third – Section 4.5 – Have Laura Spector write the language for this.

Fourth – Risk – We have flood insurance. Is the town willing to take the risk? Yes we are.

Fifth – Kellogg Surveying & Mapping – If there is additional work needed by them then we have to pay them. Dinny will clarify this. 1.7 raises this question. We do not have to do a site plan review. See if 4.3 is work beyond contract.

Sixth - N/A

Seventh – Clarify

Eighth – They need to explain the last sentence of section 4.10 or delete it with the exception of unacceptable performance.

Library Trustees are The Building Committee.

Trustees will check on items 2 , 5 & 7. We will email Laura Spector once Sally hears from Dinny regarding these items.

3:30 Chris Harris – Came in to give us an overview and discussed our computers. He touched on the Google apps. The town has Google Apps. It is tough dealing with older programs. We don't have to deal with the older and newer versions. No rush needed for EMT to pay \$50 a year account.

Tri-Tech Software - IMC. We have a PC dedicated to this system. It can be rolled over under Grafton Country Sheriff and keep ours as a reference. There are wish lists with quotes coming soon. It's sometimes a wash or a little less for fees. You have to pay no matter what. You may save a little or pay a little more but get a lot more. If there are issues or glitches Grafton can tend to. Criminal justice information is quite a plate full. There is a company offering federal level security backup where you pay so much a year. The allotment is so big and could back up all and still have the area left over in the cloud. We could back up everything we do. Police stuff is backed up over here on an encrypted system in the vault. We could store something a few hundred miles away by putting into two facilities several hundred miles apart. We are getting close to having to do the budgets.

Do you have a list of computers that we have Chris? There are a couple of pc's that are much older. Chris can check what our inventory is. We get billed broken down by departments. We are paying you a flat rate. Where do we stand with Google apps? We have four computers here and two for FD and one for the PD. They want another for their budget for next year. Town Garage not using Time Warner. They are using Fairpoint.

3:45 – Mark Taylor – Gave us an update on the paramedic issues. The paramedics have been eliminated at the hospital. There is lots of chaos at the hospital now. Chief Mercieri of Littleton Fire Department is trying to fill spaces at the Fire Department. He is trying for a Paramedic/fireman. He wants to take over the ambulance service. He has no interest in becoming a regional carrier. If a paramedic is needed under mutual we could get it. An EMT would step up to help him. We work together. Would a contract be required? Yes...eventually. He wants to get his own people up running and trained. They are looking

for younger people fire/EMS– working for fire EMT or fire/paramedics. He will run his ambulance service within 4-5 years. CALEX will continue. Mark met with all department heads of the surrounding area. This is why our long term goal is this. They have an understanding on how it works. Status quo right now is load and go. Pam Oakman is finishing up her time with clinical work. She will be on staff along with Bill Mead. They have to go where they are busy to maintain skills. What pay level does a paramedic get? \$16/hour. EMT \$14/hour and paramedics get \$16/hour.

Susan Simpson will be out for about 10 weeks. We have a core of 4-5 people. We are down to Mark and Chief Anderson will come over and help and Mark helps with his calls. Mark stated that there is nothing that the Select Board needs to do. Mark & Paul both appreciate the support from the Select Board in regards to this matter. The Board of Selectmen will help wherever they can.

Mark has an inventory of broken radios and pagers. They have about a dozen in all with some damaged or obsolete. They need to purge them from inventory. We are required to advise the Selectmen to be able to purge.

Bernie makes a motion that the Life Squad purge their radio and pagers that are no longer functional, Eric seconded and all voted in favor.

TO DISCUSS/REVIEW:

Peabody & Smith Sign – The flag and cornstalks are blocking the view. Eric spoke to Kim. The owner will not be happy. There is an ordinance about the lights in the sign which is a violation. The State recommended something has to be done with the sign. The board signed the sign permit. It is a good neighbor issue. Maybe put flag on the other side or put the flag higher or put it on the porch on a post. We approved the sign. They may have to put four lights on the ground to shine on the sign. It has been there awhile not more than two years. We need to improve the safety. Send a copy to them. Include a copy of that page with that paragraph on it from the road RSA. Do we leave it up to them or do we suggest the flag and the cornstalks be removed? What did we decide? Move cornstalks and flag. Sally will write a letter.

Trees that need to be trimmed - As you are coming into town over the bridge take a right onto Route 18, there are some trees which are a sight issue. The trees need to be thinned out. Jeff has a new chainsaw that he can utilize. Eric chose to spearhead this issue.

3rd Q Budget Meetings – Sally wants to start scheduling department heads to come in. Sally has done them all thru the 3rd Q. A department head & staff meeting need to be held so we will do all at one time on November 9. Budgets will be reviewed. Need a department head & meeting and do all at one time. November 9th. Review budgets.

Organizational Chart - tabled until next meeting.

Bid for Painting Trim on Town Hall – We will wait until spring. It is too cold right now to do the job. We need to clarify type of paint and primer. Bob thinks that the advertisement was not

written properly. Ad will go out in the spring again. Sally will send a letter to the bidder.

Transfer Station Personnel – Nate has handed in a two week notice. He will be working for Wills Electric. Greg would like to bump Corey up to full time with benefits and pay him a little more. It is not as much as Nate but a dollar more than he is getting now. Sally will put an advertisement in the paper for a part timer. Sally will let Greg know. Nov 6th is Nate’s last day.

Building Inspector - Sally asked for a bill from Allan Clark. He will work on it this weekend.

Northern Pass – public hearing needs to be done. November 18th @7pm at the Town Hall for Residents & Tax Payers.

Sally’s retirement – Bob went to North Country Council – They use Municipal Resources Incorporated. That was used when we got Marie as tax collector. Bob and talked to them about our scenario. We need job descriptions. We have job descriptions but no evaluations. It is an opportunity to look at how we are running the office. It would cost \$2000 to do this. We could have them come and talk to us for free. The Board decided to invite them in.

ITEMS TO REVISIT

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

Thank you Letter from Lafayette School Re: Fire Prevention Week

There May Be a Closed Session at the next meeting.

Bernie made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Eric seconded the motion and all voted in favor. Meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Herbie Bartlett
Executive Secretary