

**FRANCONIA BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, September 12, 2016**

A meeting of the Franconia Board of Selectmen was held at 3:00 pm on Monday, September 12, 2016 at the Franconia Town Hall. Regular members in attendance were Bernie Costa, Eric Meth, John Lachapelle, Sally Small and Herbie Bartlett.

Guests of the Board: Jim Alden, Russ Cumbee, Bit Andross

Other Guests: Peter Grote, Mary Grote, Tina Lynne Caisse-Knox, Brian Williams, Karen Foss, Lydia Cumbee, Anne Foss, Jeff Woodward, Trevor Presby, Claudia Lachapelle, Karen & Larry Plate, Greg Wieskerger.

MINUTES: 8/22/16 & 9/6/16

BOS Minutes 8/22/2016: A formal reading of the August 22, 2016 minutes was waived and the minutes were approved as amended.

BOS Minutes 9/6/2016 - A formal reading of the September 6 minutes was waived and the minutes were approved as amended.

BOS Closed Session Minutes 9/1/2016 - A formal reading of the September 1, 2016 Closed Session minutes were approved as amended.

FOR CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL:

Transaction Lists - 9/15/16 - Approved and signed by the Board.

Building Permit - Presby (M14/L79) Storage Building - approved and signed by the Board.

Building Permit - C Luke Lore, LLC (M13/L7) - Plain Kate's Restaurant Renovations. The building Inspector was not ready to sign off on the plans and asked that the board send a letter with the items still needed. The board asked Sally to send the letter with the list of items needed before the permit could be signed.

Building Permit - Smita Reality (M14/L129) - Elevator for Best Western - approved and signed by the Board without Building Inspector's signature so as not to hold up the permit. Allan sent the email requesting that the board sign the permit with conditions that were to be included with the signed permit.

Franconia Mtns Road - Septic Design - The design was reviewed and approved to be forwarded to the NHDES for design approval.

APPOINTMENTS:

3:00 - Town Staffing Committee - The Committee presented their recommendations on September 8th at the public hearing and wanted a follow up meeting with the

Selectmen. The Committee wanted to be aggressive on the timeline to hire so the new person would have time to overlap with Sally. Bernie said that the Board had not had time to discuss and make a formal decision but Bernie stated that the Committee was very thorough and was very comprehensive.

John made a motion to accept the recommendations for the town hall staffing, Eric seconded and all voted in favor of accepting the recommendations.

The Board will discuss the recommendations later on. Bit Andross suggested that we form a hiring committee with Community participation for Sally's position and Bernie said that she agreed and had some people already in mind.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Conservation Commission (FCC) - Greg Wieskerger came in to discuss the problem with the beavers that could affect their campground. John Lachapelle had given Mrs. Wieskerger copies of the Humane Society's information concerning what to do about beavers. Chris Hodge, a certified trapper, looked at the dams but he was not sure if they were active. He recommends releasing some water from one of the dams. The beaver may come back to make repairs. Greg gave the board a copy of Chris Hodge's Certificate of Insurance. We have a potential disaster just waiting to happen. Mary Grote had spoken with the Humane Society and stated that they have various methods if someone is interested in regards to the removal of the beaver. She recommends that the State of NH come and look at the dams and determine if they are being used or not. It appears that the beaver had moved about 75 yards up stream. Mr. Wieskerger stated that the last time the dam breached it cost the campground \$20K in repairs. Mary said she would try and get someone from the Humane Society to go and look at the dams. Mr. Wieskerger felt that time was of the essence. The board agreed that if we could not arrange for the Humane Society to come by Wednesday we would go ahead and have Chris Hodge start releasing the water. Mary was to let Sally know by Wednesday if she had been able to reach an arrangement with the Humane Society.

CIP Committee (CIP) - Next meeting is on 9/27/2106.

Energy Committee (FEC) - Street Lamp project - Meeting on Thursday. Church Street is flagged. John Lachapelle stated that the street light on Route 18 by the entrance of Mittersill is on 24/7. Sally will contact Eversource once she has the pole number and let them know about the light.

Northern Pass - No report.

Planning Board - There is a meeting tonight for a Lot Line Adjustment & a Site Plan Review for TTW, LLC.

Safety Committee - John has concerns about the Safety Committee and the lack of minutes on the website. He has concerns that we are not following what the state recommends. Previously the town had been cited by the NH - Dept of Labor for

someone not tethered on a hydraulic lift with a penalty fine of \$5K. We appealed the penalty and got it waived. After that we held safety workshops conducted by Dave Witham from PRIMEX and we conducted a total top to bottom inspections of the buildings. John stated that it is required by regulation to have no less than quarterly meetings and he believes a member of the Select Board should be part of the group and volunteered to join the committee. Sally said that the Committee does meet quarterly and we just did a CPR course at the Copper Cannon in June. This quarter we are getting ready with Chief Monaghan about these portable meth labs they toss out on the roadways.

Wages & Benefits - There is a meeting on the 14th.

Staffing Committee - Sally will use the draft ad prepared by the Staffing Committee to advertise the new Town Administrator position. The Board recommended advertising in the NH Municipal Association, NH Employment Security, NHJobs.com, The Caledonian, and The Littleton Courier. The ad will request that the resumes be received by October 14th. It will be advertised for two weeks in the papers and posted until October 14th on the websites.

Tri-Town Recreation Agreement - No response yet from Laura.

Audit Committee - Peter Grote read a letter to the town in regards to having an independent auditor review the books. Peter and the committee feel this should be done before a new person is hired. There may be a concerned citizens group who will underwrite the audit since a second audit of the town is not in budget for the current year. The current audits have excluded financial controls. Peter felt the second audit would cost \$3-4K and take a couple of days. Sally can speak with the auditors from Roberts and Greene and see when they will be finished with the 2015 audit and if the board and committee want she can set up a meeting with the auditors to discuss the financial controls.

Bernie questioned why the committee wanted to do a second audit now as opposed to after a new hire and what were the merits? Peter replied that as we transition into the new staffing, the new financial controls should be in place and above board.

Bernie wanted a contract to understand what was being proposed and have it include the source of funding. Peter will get the letter of engagement to us before the the next meeting. Our next meeting is on the September 26th in the evening. Bernie would like the auditors to communicate in laymen's terms back to us.

TO DISCUSS & REVIEW:

Carl Belz - Services will be October 2nd @ 2pm at The Cambridge Art Association, 25 R Gold Street in Cambridge, MA.

Meeting for the Staff - hold off until October. We would like ALL employees there. We could have the meeting at 2pm on Oct 11th. There is a Select Board Meeting on the 11th at 3:00. Hopefully we could have the representative from HealthTrust come in on the same day to discuss the changes in the healthcare for 2017.

State Primary - John will cover 8-12, Bernie 12-3:30, and Eric 3:30-7pm.

ALICE - stands for Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter and Evacuate. This was in regards to the training at the school.

Mittersill Easements - Sally will go through the file and locate the information the town has on the easement for the septic.

PUBLIC INPUT:

Claudia Lachapelle wanted to thank Russ Cumbee for having the Board of Selectmen meetings video recorded. She wanted it stated in the minutes that recording the meetings was not a Class B felony. Bernie stated that she was advised by the police that this was true in regards to audio recording without anyone knowing. Claudia suggested that we check out the right to know laws. Bernie stated that she will look up in the Right to Know law. Claudia stated that she will call Sally to get on the agenda.

Larry Plate wanted to know what the Select Board was doing in regards to cleaning up the Gale River on Plantation Road. It was recommended that he follow up with Mark Taylor, the Emergency Management Director. Mr. Plate would like him to look at the river ahead of time to see if any trees can be removed. Mark Taylor is the right person to work with the state. The Board will schedule Mark Taylor to come in to the meeting on October 3rd. We can have Mark walk the river. Mr. Plate wanted the town to prod the state to make things happen in regards to the river so they do not have a repeat of last year.

Russ Cumbee - at last week's meeting he submitted a page with corrections of the meeting of August 29th since he had the entire meeting on tape but that nothing changed in the minutes. He asked if he should not bother to take issue with the meeting minutes. How does this work. When people give changes they get attached to the minutes. It doesn't happen unless the Board makes a motion to attach.

Russ re submitted the changes to the minutes. Bernie told Russ that the minutes are not transcripts they are minutes. It is not word by word. Decisions are not interpretations. Bernie asked Russ how he would like to amend the minutes.

He would like the minutes to reflect what he actually said so that the reader can make their own assessment regarding the appropriateness of the comments. The actual wording was that he stated, "With all due respect Eric, you need to grow a pair or consider resigning." To which Sally stated that "that was disrespectful and that people like you are one of the reason that I'm getting all done with the town" and

proceeded to leave the room slamming the door in the process. Sally apologized again for leaving the meeting.

Russ stated that he has apologized for this to Eric in a public and private meeting.

Claudia Lachapelle - She thanked Eric for talking about Lincoln. Lincoln has a Town Management style of government. Their minutes are legal and brief and it might clarify the meeting discussion. The minutes are signed off on by Board. Claudia also said that Public Safety Building looked great in honor of 9/11. There were 3 vehicles parked out front with a helmet with the flag. Sally stated that Corey Rush came in yesterday morning to drop the town flag for 9/11.

Mary Grote - stated that Plymouth puts video minutes on their website so anyone can go in and listen and watch them. Bernie stated that she has a hard time with making Franconia being that kind of town. Bernie would not make that motion. Eric would not be prepared to make a shift mid stream right now.

Cornelia Lorentzen - She came in at the last minute to see if her building permit had been approved. The Board did not accept it. The reason was that our building inspector needed more complete plans to move forward. Cornelia felt that Allan Clark had told her specifically what she needed and that he had the stamped engineering plans. It has been over a week she has been waiting for a response. Cornelia stated that she did what she was told and that it would be signed. Bernie stated that she would be getting a letter very shortly with what was still needed before the building permit for the renovations to the restaurant could be approved. Cornelia stated that she was unhappy with our building inspector and she can make sure that we are as unhappy with him as she was. Cornelia left the meeting.

Other Discussion - After the September 8th hearing Jeff Woodward spoke to Bernie and said that we should let the person who is hired as Town Administrator build their team. Leave everything the way it is now and sit back and see what happens. They will either do a good job or they will flounder.

The Board adjourned at 5:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Herbie Bartlett
Executive Secretary