

**FRANCONIA BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, September 26, 2016**

A meeting of the Franconia Board of Selectmen was held at 6:30 pm on Monday, September 26, 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: Rick Gaudette, Dave Woodward, Kim Cowles, Cornelia Lorentzen, Peter Grote, Ginny Mike, Brian Williams, Claudia Lachapelle.

Other Guests: Lydia Cumbee, Larry Plate, Russ Cumbee, Dawn Steele, Mary Grote, Peter Grote, Amy Bahr, Luke Lore , Russell Buckingham, Phil Albanese.

BOS Minutes 9/12/2016: A formal reading of the September 12, 2016 minutes was waived and the minutes were approved as amended.

FOR CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL:

Transaction Lists - 9/29/16 - Approved and signed by the Board.

Abbie Greenleaf Reaffirmation - Approved and signed by the Board.

Building Permit - Elliot (Map16/Lot 37-6) New House - Approved and signed by the Board.

Sign Permit - C. Luke Lore - (Map 13/Lot 7) - two signs to be installed on the existing sign posts were approved and signed by the Board. The third permit was not approved.

Septic Design - Sanders (Map 29/Lot 40-5) - was reviewed by the Board.

APPOINTMENTS:

Rick Gaudette - 3Q Budget - The Fire Department Budget was reviewed and Rick reported that he was on track.

Dave Woodward - Avitar - The Revaluation was reviewed, discussed and accepted.

Kim Cowles - Town Properties - Kim reported that Corey Rush was working out well. He is doing an excellent job and they work well as a team. Kim has a list of items that need attention. John asked that Sally give the Energy Audit recommendations to Kim to review. Kim discussed quotes for replacing the town hall windows; for the small windows it will be \$670/window and the large ones will be \$1475/window. Kim also discussed the rotten sill on the side of the building and the board felt that should be the first item to be taken care of before the windows. She will get three quotes on getting this done.

Eric Meth, who is on the Energy Commission, stated that the commissions discussed the possibility of putting solar panels on the town hall at their last meeting.

Kim told the board that the town employees had stepped up to the plate to assist with the duties of the buildings & grounds. Nobody got paid overtime for the jobs being done in the absence of a buildings & ground employee. It says a lot for the staff for stepping it up a notch during this time of transition.

Cornelia Lorentzen - Sign Permits - Cornelia was not happy with last week's Board meeting results. Her building permit was not approved and signed by the Board. She read a three minute letter about her experience with Allen Clark and the town. This letter will be attached to the minutes. Cornelia presented her drawings and maps to the Board for review and retrieved them before she left the meeting.

The sign permits were reviewed. Cornelia believes that her signage should be grandfathered. There were several signs on the existing property when she bought the property. However, there were only two signs that the town previously permitted. The Board signed the permits for the restaurant sign and the motel sign to be located on the existing sign posts. She will have to go to the Zoning Board of Adjustments and apply for a variance to see if she can be approved for the third sign.

The Board and Allan Clark will meet on Friday at 3pm at Plain Kate's to review her plans for the restaurant renovations. Cornelia wanted to know if she will be approved or denied then for her building permit. The Board said a decision will be made.

Audit Committee - Peter Grote reported that Brian Williams and Claudia Lachapelle are now on the committee. The committee wants to have an independent audit for financial controls done prior to the hiring of the Town Administrator. The Committee gave the Board an agreement between the town and Batchelder Associates, PC for this audit. The Board will review and then advise the committee in regards to this agreement.

Peter wanted the minutes of September 12th changed that "a concerned citizens group" instead of a "taxpayer", who will underwrite the audit....

The Committee said any new recommendations that come out of the review should be considered before the new hire comes on board.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Conservation Commission (FCC) - Mary Grote never got back to Sally in regards to the Humane Society so Chris Hodge has begun letting water out of the beaver pond.

CIP Committee (CIP) - No report.

Energy Committee (FEC) - There was a meeting last week. The street light project has an RFP to submit to Eversource Energy. There are 77 shut offs in the Village and 65 retro fits for LED's. They have ordered 70 of them. Some people will object to having the lights shut off. The committee will be applying for a grant and will investigate financing.

Northern Pass - No report.

Planning Board - No report.

Safety Committee - No report.

Wages & Benefits - Dawn told Sally that Health Trust will not have new rates by the 11th so we will have to reschedule once they have the rates. A 2pm meeting with the employees will be scheduled at a later date to review the 2017 Health Insurance.

Tri-Town Recreation Agreement - Kim and Sally are working on it with Laura.

Audit Committee - Reported at this meeting. See above.

Rec Committee - Sally sent an email to Frank Pinter, Cindy Berlack & Tinalyn Caisse Knox with a questionnaire but has not had any responses.

TO DISCUSS & REVIEW:

Profile Cable Consortium - The annual cost is around \$56/year and it is time to renew the contracts. David Starr is the town's representative who will go to the meetings.

Attorney's Response to Trustees - an email was emailed to the Board on 9/16/16. She is comfortable for us to utilize funds for either the ladder or the tanker truck. A copy was given to Karen Foss.

Mittersill Light - Sally needs a pole number to report the light that is on 24 hours to Eversource. Kim will get the pole number.

Delage Farm Road - Sally said that the Coles have agreed to meet with Scott Leslie in regards to where they want the snow put.

Claudia Lachapelle - requested that a microphone be set up for people to speak into as there are people who cannot hear.

PUBLIC INPUT:

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The Board adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Herbie Bartlett
Executive Secretary