

**MINUTES
FRANCONIA BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING**

Monday, March 3, 2014

A meeting of the Franconia Board of Selectmen was held at 2:00 pm on Monday March 3, 2014 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 – Department Heads & Richard Morris

Ted Hoyle called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm.

SELECTMEN'S TIME:

BOS Minutes 2/24/2014: Formal readings of the February 24, 2014 BOS meeting minutes were waived. The minutes of February 24, 2014 were approved.

FOR CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL:

Transaction List for 3/06/14 - The Board reviewed and signed the transaction list for 3/06/14.

APPOINTMENTS:

2:00 – Department Head Meeting – The Department Head Budgets were discussed. With Buildings and Grounds Jeff Phillips is being asked to look into a janitorial service. He will gather information and get back to Bob Montagno.

The Cemetery budget has no big changes. The Select Board has adopted changes to sale of lots and charges for burials. Kim Cowles will change the information that is posted on the Towns' Web Site.

There are no big increases in the Highway. Vehicle Repairs seem to be on the rise. Last year some money came from the Highway Block Grant to cover vehicle repair expense. That could also be this year's scenario.

If the Select Board becomes agents to expend on the Heavy Equipment Fund then this may free up some line item money. The Heavy Equipment Fund is used for the backhoe and the grader.

The surplus funds were discussed and explained by Sally Small.

More than half of the allotted amount for salt has been used so far this year. Scott Leslie is not concerned with supply and demand.

The Police Budget is seeing an increase of 5% for 2014. Half of that is for fixed cost out of Chief Monaghan's control. The other half is to train two part time officers to have available during illness, vacations, and special events.

The Recreation Department only sees a 1% increase. This is mainly due to the fact that all counselors must now undergo background checks. Summer employment ads will be going out soon. Kim can never tell from one year to the next how many kids will be participating in the program.

The van is new but there was a line item for it as it was purchased in 2013.

The Parks Budget is up and \$3000 of that is for “summer” help. This will help with mowing and weeding of the gardens.

Greg Wells sees the cost of tipping and hauling at the Transfer Station increased. Usually this fee is increased annually in midsummer. The Transfer Station is actually asking for less this year than last year.

The baler being purchased in 2014 will come from the Transfer Station Special Revenue Fund.

The Administrative Budget is up 3% which is mostly fixed costs.

The Select Board would like to have each department budget broken down by quarter. It will help with the whole budgeting process. Each Department Head should be anticipating their budget each quarter.

Sally Small will email a current budget to each of the Department Heads. Sally can give each Department Head the history of budgets by year.

Bob Montagno will be glad to help each Department Head with this process.

The OT policy was discussed. The way the policy reads is you must actually work 40 hours (not including sick and vacation) to receive overtime. There was discussion on having “on call” pay. The Police are not affected by this “on call” pay. There is no requirement according to Chief Monaghan to pay an officer to be on call. Should the officer be called into work they would be paid a minimum of three hours.

John Lachapelle has asked that Scott Leslie contact other Towns and see what their overtime policy is. Greg mentioned salary employees – you are salaried for a reason.

3:30 – Richard Morris – Richard Morris is looking to sell the airport which he has owned since 1981. He feels the airport has a very high tax. In 1992 Richard came to the Select Board and was trying to get some tax relief from the property tax. He is currently looking at three different possibilities of ways to sell this property. Richard feels the Town should make it more affordable tax wise to own this property. Richard passed out a NH RSA regarding Airports and the taxation of them.

The airport is a 2200 grass runway. Only small planes land because of size and the mountains are all around and due to several other factors.

It is too late for this to be considered for a warrant article this year.

TO DISCUSS/REVIEW:

Septic Design – Paradis (Map 29/Lot 40-10) Park View Drive – A Septic Design for Paradis (Map 29/Lot 40-10) Park View Drive was reviewed and will be sent to the State of NH for approval.

Town Meeting Preparation –John Lachapelle has a couple of items in the Annual Report that he wanted clarification on; Page 21, Liens and Page 39, Money spend in 2013.

There is an error in last year meeting minutes on page 13, article 14. The dollar amounts and the written amounts do not match.

Article 19 in this year's Warrant is the way it was written and presented to when the petition was given to Sally Small.

Article 11 will need to be amended at the Town Meeting. The street names are listed incorrectly.

The Select Board addressed who would be speaking to each article.

The projector will be needed at the school for the Town Meeting.

The letter written to the Presby's by the Select Board that asks the Planning Board to reconsider their decision of waiving a site plan review was discussed.

The Select Board would like to see Allen Clark signing off on Building Permits before they, the building permit, is presented to the Select Board.

Bob discussed the financing of the proposed Safety Services Building. Other financing options will be explored including the local banks in town. John Lachapelle warned of questions in the community concerning the current proposed plan of the Safety Services Building and the design of the building as a whole. Of special concern is the building not being "squared up".

Kim is working on a Moose Plate Grant for the Dow Clock. She is asking the Select Board to write a letter of support that she can include in the grant. She clarified that this year Dow Clock Article is to get the clock working and running. Long term maintenance funding should be considered in the future.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

Selectman Hoyle adjourned the meeting at 4:13 pm

Respectfully submitted, Suzanne MacDonald, Executive Secretary