

**MINUTES
FRANCONIA BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING**

Monday, October 27, 2014

A meeting of the Franconia Board of Selectmen was held at 4:00 pm on Monday October 27, 2014 at the Franconia Town Hall. Regular members in attendance were John Lachapelle, Ted Hoyle, Bob Montagno, Suzy MacDonald and Sally Small

Guests of the Board: Dawn Steele, Meg McPhaul, Passumpsic Bank Representatives, and the Town of Franconia Trustees

John Lachapelle called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

SELECTMEN'S TIME:

BOS Minutes 10/20/2014: Formal readings of the October 20, 2014 BOS meeting minutes were waived. The minutes of October 20, 2014 were approved.

FOR CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL:

Transaction List for 10/30/14 - The Board reviewed and signed the transaction list for 10/30/14.

Safety Services Building Project Transaction List for 10/30/14 – The Board reviewed and signed the transaction list for 10/30/14.

Winter Season on Call Pay – Amended – The Winter Season on Call Pay as amended was reviewed and signed by the Select Board.

2015 Forest Fire Warden/Deputy Reappointments – The 2015 Forest Fire Warden/Deputy Reappointment was reviewed and signed by the Select Board.

Auditor's Representation Letter – The Auditor's Representation Letter was reviewed and signed by the Select Board.

Marilyn Knowlton, Tax Collector, had Sally present an abatement request for M Nearing. The amount due is for water. There seems to be some confusion with M Nearing thinking all had been settled awhile ago. The Select Board would like for M Nearing to pay the actual amount due minus any interest and penalties. It's the Select Board recollection that prior talks included just tax money due.

Sally Small is in the process of clarifying how the money in the Bridge Maintenance Fund can be used.

It appears that the wording in 2005 changed the way funds could be used in the Heavy Equipment Fund. The Select Board is agents to expend from that account. These funds could be used for repairs to the Tractor.

The Heritage Museum has presented a letter requesting to use \$350 from the Town Buildings Maintenance Fund for a leak between the roof lines of two buildings. Recently a request from the Heritage Museum was not placed on the CIP because financial information was never received from the Museum. For any future items that need funding from the Town the Museum will need to provide financials.

APPOINTMENTS:

4:00 – Dawn Steele – Safety Services Open House Date – Dawn reviewed and discussed a couple of dates for the Safety Services Open House to be held in 2015. There will be several sections that will be off limits to the general public. Guided tours will be offered. The front of the building, outside is heated.

The Committee would suggest having the open house on January 25, 2015, the original date picked. John likes the March date as this may maximize the participation by the towns people. Ted feels the March date is better. Bob would like to see the open house prior to town meeting.

4:30 – Recreation Committee – Meg McPhaul – Meg was introduced and gave a brief background of herself. She is interested in being appointed as a Franconia representative on the Lafayette Recreation Committee. She feels she would bring a perspective from the parents view and the coaching view.

5:00 – Passumpsic Bank – Trustees & Treasurer - Carmen Menard, Dan Kimble, Lyn Tober and Mary Cote, (Representatives from Passumpsic Bank) Town of Franconia Treasurer Tina Peabody, and Trustees of the Trust Funds; Grace Montagno and Carol Walker. Also sitting in was resident Ann Foss.

Mary Cote started by reviewing the proposal having to do with the General Fund. Remote capture, electronic capabilities using ACH and fees were all discussed. Each account would have full FDIC coverage. Direct Deposit thru QuickBooks was discussed and it was determined we should continue to do Direct Deposits using QuickBooks. The Town usually moves money between the General Account and the Trustees twice a year. Passumpsic Bank rates are set within their own organization.

Dan Kimble reviewed “true” trust funds. These funds are not derived by tax payer dollars. The Town must have an investment policy. Fees were discussed.

Carmen would ask that their proposal be kept in house. Carmen will follow up with Sally next week.

Tina Peabody would like to have other bank proposals considered as well.

TO DISCUSS/REVIEW:

Tax Rate – The tax rate was reviewed and discussed. Several options were looked at which included adding \$100,000 or \$150,000 in fund balance to decrease the proposed tax rate. There was discussion on why our tax rate is up from last year. The Select Board agrees to take \$100,000 from fund balance to decrease the tax rate. The paperwork was signed which Sally will now forward to the DRA.

Driveway Permit – Cole – Map 31/Lot 1 – Timber Lane – A Driveway Permit for Cole, Map 31/Lot 1 – Timber Lane was reviewed and discussed. The Cole’s have appeared in front of the Planning Board recently. The Select Board would refer this matter back to the Planning Board.

The Trustees have scheduled a meeting for tomorrow at 2pm and they invited the Select Board to attend.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

Solar forum – White Mt School – 11/12/2014 8am-12:30pm

Selectman Lachapelle adjourned the meeting at 4:13 pm
Respectfully submitted, Suzanne MacDonald, Executive Secretary