

# **TOWN OF FRANCESTOWN**

OFFICE OF SELECTMEN

27 MAIN STREET • P.O. BOX 5

FRANCESTOWN, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03043-0005

## **BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES**

**December 10, 2012**

Selectmen Present: Betsy Hardwick, Abigail Arnold, and Scott Carbee

Also present: Charlie Pyle, Abby Dawson, Henry Kunhardt, Judi Miller, Henry and Kerry Camirand, Herb and Rosa Bromberg, Kris and Lisa Stewart, Nick Wilder, Bill McAuley, Carol and Stewart Brock, Cathy Gombas, Steve Griffin, Polly Freese, Effie MacStubbs, and others unknown to the minute taker.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Betsy called the meeting to order at 5:33

### **New Business**

Bridge Closure Update – Betsy stated that after an inspection last week the Board of Selectmen and the Road agent closed the bridge on Second New Hampshire Turnpike South and Woodward Hill Road. Currently the Town is still working without a lot of definite information. Betsy stated that repairing the bridge on Woodward Hill would likely be less expensive because it is a smaller bridge. Abigail stated that the 2<sup>nd</sup> NH Turnpike Bridge is scheduled to be replaced in state fiscal year 2015; the state will not move up the project year but they will let us bid the project a little sooner. Abigail also stated that in response to questions she had received, the bridge on Russell Station Road was replaced before the 2<sup>nd</sup> NH Turnpike bridge because the Town received federal hazard mitigation funds. Charlie Pyle asked if Gary was still going forward with the repair on Woodward Hill; Betsy said it is still being explored and we are also exploring a cost effective repair on the 2<sup>nd</sup> NH Turnpike. Abby Dawson asked for a clarification on the slip line repair and Betsy said it was essentially using a plastic lining along the inside of the culvert which could last up to 50 years. John Arnold asked if the Board was open to suggestions about ways to deal with the traffic issues created by the situation; Betsy said the Town is going to work on improving signage. John suggested that Cross Road be made one way if it was going to continue to be used as a detour. Herb Bromberg said there needed to be an increased police presence on Red House Road. Rosa Bromberg asked if the repair work was not going to be done until a decision was made why the bridges needed to be closed – the Board stated that the Town had to close them or the Town would be exposed to an unacceptable liability. Kris Stewart stated he knows that the Town did not create the situation and asked if since the Town owns the bridges can they be opened and monitored daily. Marcia Graham said she liked John's idea to have Cross Road be one way. Ted Graham asked if the Town had knowledge of other bridge issues and Abigail stated the Town currently has eight red listed bridges. There was discussion about if the Town could move up on the state bridge aid list and the Board stated that it is not possible. Charlie asked if the state is aware of the dangerous

intersection from Red House Road onto Route 136 – Abigail stated she believes the Road Agent has been working with the state. Abigail asked if the Woodward Hill detour would be sufficient for Frankestown Sand and Gravel and Kris Stewart stated it would if some brush was cut. Kris stated he thought the Town needed to develop less expensive plans outside of the state aid program. There was a discussion about the ski traffic and Mike stated he spoke to the mountain and they are trying to divert traffic away from the whole area. There was a discussion about if the Board of Selectmen could lower the speed limit on Red House Road and Betsy stated it would require an engineering study. Henry Kunhardt gave a brief description of what that would entail. Bobby Abbott asked if the signs the Town was going to buy were going to be reflective and Betsy stated they would be; he also stated that the end of Red House Road needed a new stop sign because the old one was faded. Rosa stated she was especially concerned about people traveling home from night skiing. There was a discussion about how additional information would be released and Mike stated residents signing up to receive the Town's email announcements was the best way to receive up-to-date information.

### **Items to Sign**

1. Cemetery deed for Pelletier
2. Payroll Manifest for 12/10/12
3. Payables Manifest for 12/10/12
4. Equalization Ratio Data Assessment
5. Intent to Cut for Map 2 Lot 25
6. Timber Tax Grading Chart for Map 6 Lot 44
7. Timber Tax Grading Chart for Map 3 Lot 4
8. Timber Tax Grading Chart for Map 3 Lot 11-41
9. Intent to cut for Map 3 Lot 48

### **New Business (continued)**

Betsy read a memo from Wendy regarding Map 8 Lots 4 and 5-1 stating that there has been confusion about whether the two parcels should be one lot or not. The Board discussed the situation and agreed to have Mike talk to Wendy and Town Counsel.

**MOTION:** Abigail made a motion to close Woodward Hill Bridge over Brennan Brook until 2015 when state aid is available or sooner if an acceptable plan is devised and to erect reasonable signage. Scott seconded. All in favor

**MOTION:** Abigail made a motion to close Second New Hampshire Turnpike South over South Branch Piscataquog River until 2014 when state aid is available or sooner if an acceptable plan is devised and to erect reasonable signage. Scott seconded. All in favor.

**MOTION:** Scott made a motion to approve the proposal from Bryant Landscapes for General Town and Recreation properties for a one year contract of \$5,300. Seconded by Betsy. All in favor.

## Budget Appointments

1. Solid Waste Committee – There was a discussion about revenue projections; Becky said currently they are tough to predict. Abigail asked if the Committee felt that the fees we are charging are adequate and Becky stated she thought they were considering we do not have a scale. There was a discussion about revenues at the transfer station. There was a discussion about the Container Rental line – Becky stated she thought they had agreed not to use it but since it was on the budget sheet she thought she was being directed to use it. The Board and Committee agreed to remove that line and add \$600 to the Haul/Disposal Compactor, Haul/Disposal Bulky, and Haul/Glass lines. There was a discussion about how much total would be spent in the Solid Waste Budget and how that impacts the bottom line of the budget. There was a discussion about purchasing the weed whacker – the Board agreed to authorize the purchase of the weed whacker. The Board discussed purchasing the paint for the transfer station this year – the Board agreed to purchase it next year and that it will come out of General Government Buildings so it will not impact the Solid Waste budget.
2. Librarian Carol Brock & Cathy Gombas – Abby asked about the increase in salary hours and Carol stated it was for additional staffing for the summer reading program. Mike clarified that his payroll number is different from Carol's request because he figured the COLA increase based on level hours. Carol described the automation system that the library needs to operate an online card catalog which is covered in the "Collection" line. Abby asked when the library hoped the system would be up and running and Carol said it is a long process but they hope to complete it as soon as possible. Abigail asked what the library's approximate collection is currently and Carol said approximately 20,000. There was a discussion about changing the title of the line to something else and Carol will look into it. Charlie asked about the increase in electricity – there was a discussion about how electricity was budgeted for in 2012 based on the Town's agreement with Constellation. There was a discussion about the situation with the geothermal well at the library and Carol stated Capitol Well is coming to look at it on Tuesday.
3. Cemetery Commission – There was a discussion about the new account for Landscaping Maintenance to deal with landscaping outside of the maintenance contract. There was a discussion about the revenues for cemetery plots and Effie stated the Commission agreed that 50% should go into the capital reserve and 50% should go into the maintenance trust fund.

## Correspondence

1. Letter from D'Avanza for the clock faces on the Old Meeting House – Scott stated that with the current economy there are fewer lifts to rent so they are more expensive to rent.
2. Notice that a charge of discrimination has been made against the Town.
3. Press release from LGC regarding past surplus
4. Proposal for floor mats – the Board agreed to purchase one for the front step of the Town Offices and one for the Highway Garage.

5. Letter from Peterborough regarding ambulance costs – the costs will be down for Francestown in 2013.
6. Chief Bell's weekly activity reports received on 12/4 for the past six weeks.

The Board discussed their upcoming meeting schedule – the Board agreed to not meet at their regularly scheduled Monday meetings the weeks of Christmas and New Years and will meet December 27<sup>th</sup> at 9 AM.

The Board agreed to have Mike ask Chief Bell to increase patrols, especially around commuting hours near the detours. There was a discussion about the value of using timber bridges.

The Board agreed to have Town and Country bulk mail out the Board's letter to all residents regarding the bridges – Abigail stated she could pick it up on Wednesday if needed.

Scott stated that on Dennison Pond Road the construction of the cellular tower has begun – Mike will let Gary know.

Scott said someone from G.W. Shaw is coming to Town to look at the buildings on East Road. There was discussion about the lack of an email account at the Highway Department.

Betsy announced that the Town will be hiring Ed Hunter as the Town's building inspector / code enforcement officer. Ed is also currently the building inspector in New Boston.

**NEXT BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING:** Tuesday December 11 at 5 PM

**ADJOURNMENT:** Betsy adjourned the meeting at 8 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by Michael Branley

Approved on January 2, 2013

---

Board of Selectmen Chair Betsy Hardwick

---

Selectman Scott S. Carbee

---

Selectperson Abigail Arnold