

**TOWN OF FRANCESTOWN**  
OFFICE OF SELECTMEN  
27 MAIN STREET • P.O. BOX 5  
FRANCESTOWN, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03043-0005  
  
**BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES**

**December 11, 2012**

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

Also present: Charlie Pyle, Abby Dawson, Henry Kunhardt, Nick Wilder, Judi Miller, Elaine McClary, Lisa Bourbeau, BJ Carbee, Donna Noonan, Bub Rokes, Linda Kunhardt, Larry Ames, & Mike Tartalis

**CALL TO ORDER:** Betsy called the meeting to order at 5:10

**Budget Appointments**

1. Town Clerk & Tax Collector Elaine McClary – there was a discussion about the payroll, salary, and fees lines in the Elections and Financial Administration budgets. Elaine is asking for an increase in her salary and the deputy's wages. There was a discussion of if elected officials were given cost of living increases and the Board and BAC agreed that it was up to Town Meeting. Elaine is requesting that the ballot clerks' hourly rate go from minimum wage to \$10 per hour and that the Supervisors of the Checklist, Moderator, and the Town Clerk go from \$120 to \$140 per election. There was a discussion regarding the ballot clerks' hourly rates. BJ Carbee said she felt the Town Clerk and the Deputy deserved a pay increase but wasn't sure if the ballot clerks should go up to \$10 per hour.
2. Recreation Commission members Donna Noonan and Bub Rokes – Donna stated they are not doing a bulk mailing for the summer programs next year because they will be notifying people online. There was a discussion about the past issues with field maintenance. There was also a discussion about interest in attracting additional members on the Recreation Commission to help out with supervision of the facilities. There was a discussion about the need to increase Little League / Baseball back up due to increased projected participation. There was a discussion about the payroll figures and Donna stated she thought they could operate with Mike's recommended figure. Henry asked about the duties Donna performs and she described some of them. There was a discussion about the need to resurface the tennis courts soon.

3. Police Chief Steve Bell – Chief Bell discussed that because fewer officers are able to do the on-call shifts that line was reduced. He said the dispatch cost through Hillsborough County is increasing slightly and there was a discussion about dispatching. There was a discussion about the decrease in the part-time officers' wages and Chief Bell responded the 2013 figure is based on 40 hours per week of PT hours which is what we are running now and seems to be sufficient. There was a discussion about increased patrols around the detours for the bridge closures; Chief Bell said at this time he feels like the budgeted hours for 2013 will be sufficient however he will monitor the situation and if an issue develops he will talk to the Board about trying to increase the wage lines.
4. Planning Board members Linda Kunhardt, Larry Ames, and Mike Tartalis – there was a discussion about the increase in the Master Plan budget; Linda said it was a figure that is difficult to estimate. Linda said she spoke to the subcommittee of the Planning Board for the Master Plan and they agreed that they could use professional support. Linda stated \$5,000 is the high end of what would be spent; she will have a better figure when the consultant has spoken to the Master Plan subcommittee. There was a discussion about the increase to the advertising line. Abigail stated the chair of the Zoning Board of Adjustment and the Planning Board are entitled to a \$250 stipend and asked if Linda wanted it to be put in. Linda stated she did not want the stipend at this time. There was a discussion about the office supply line and that a lot of supplies needed to be purchased in 2012. Linda stated she did not budget for anything in the Professional Plan line and there was a discussion about if they should budget for it. There was a discussion about the planning payroll line and Linda thought they could get by with \$1,500. There was a discussion about fees collected by the planning board, how they offset expenses, and if the revenues are budgeted for. Linda stated she budgeted for the RSA books for land use laws. Linda stated she has not requested to rejoin the regional planning commission this year however she thinks it might make sense soon.

There was a discussion about what other groups the Board and BAC needed to meet with. They agreed that they wanted to give an open invitation to the Fire Chief and Firewards to meet with them if they wanted however they did not have any questions about their budget at this time. The Board will discuss the budget at their December 17<sup>th</sup> meeting and then they will schedule an additional meeting with the BAC.

The Board of Selectmen recessed the meeting at 7:03

The Board of Selectmen reconvened the meeting upstairs at 7:05

**MOTION:** Betsy made a motion that the Board write a letter to the editor of the Monadnock Ledger Transcript clarifying some of the inaccuracies in the Monadnock Ledger Transcript. Seconded by Abigail. All in favor. The Board discussed and agreed to a draft presented by Abigail.

**NEXT BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING:** Monday December 17 at 6 PM.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Betsy adjourned the meeting at 7:10 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by Michael Branley

Approved on January 2, 2013

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Board of Selectmen Chair Betsy Hardwick

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Selectman Scott S. Carbee

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Selectperson Abigail Arnold