

TOWN OF FRANCESTOWN

OFFICE OF SELECTMEN

27 MAIN STREET • P.O. BOX 5

FRANCESTOWN, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03043-0005

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES

September 17, 2012

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

Also present: Mauren vonRosenvinge, Becky Moul, BJ Carbee, Tom Anderson, Lisa Bourbeau, Charlie Pyle, Nick Wilder, Abby Dawson, Henry Kunhardt, and Bill McAuley

CALL TO ORDER: Betsy called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

Appointments

1. Maureen vonRosenvinge from the Heritage Commission – Maureen updated the Board regarding the LCHIP grant. Glenn Dodge will be beginning work on the Town Hall trusses late in October. Glenn and Ian Sims will provide proof of liability and workman's comp insurance. The Heritage Commission received two concepts for the Town Hall regarding ADA compliance within the proposed budget. Maureen would like to hold a public meeting on November 15th to discuss the conceptual plans. The Board agreed on that date. Maureen stated the Heritage Commission had been offered a donation of \$25,000. Maureen also stated she was working on coordinating a meeting to discuss health insurance.
2. Budget Advisory Committee – Mike outlined for the Board and the Budget Advisory Committee a few factors regarding next year including: an estimate that the Highway Block Grant will be down at least \$20,000; an increase in the Town's contribution to the New Hampshire Retirement System for full-time employees; the possibility for a cost of living adjustment for all employees' wage/compensation, the potential for an increased cost in assessing services depending on the type of revaluation the Town uses; the need to increase funding to the capital improvement program; and the Town assuming the operational expenses of the vehicle museum. The Board and BAC discussed the need for a full measure and list revaluation versus a statistical update. Abigail stated that the Board should try to put together a proposed tax rate increase or decrease as a goal. Abigail asked if everyone was in favor of the wage increase – There was discussion regarding how a wage increase might interact with increased costs in health insurance and the retirement system. Abigail discussed how a GASB accounting change unfunded employee liabilities may impact the Town's ability to use undesignated fund balance to lower the tax rate. The Board and BAC agreed they are looking for a current operations budget and departments request for significant changes and will seek to recommend an overall budget with a 3% overall tax rate impact including all of the factors discussed.

New Business

Request for abatement on interest for Map 19 Lots 11 and 12 - The Board rejected the abatement request.

The Board agreed to go for a statistical property revaluation rather than a full measure and list. The Board revised some aspects of the assessing RFP and came to an agreement on an RFP to go out to bid. If her time allows, Wendy will do a preliminary review of the proposals received and recommend the top few bids to the Board of Selectmen.

Mike will send notice to the full time employees in the retirement system regarding the new rates based.

The Board discussed the issue regarding the Butler's property on Poor Farm Road. Abigail stated that the matter was academic because they do in fact have a curb cut permit.

Correspondence

Letter from Robert Risk – he stated he felt intimidated regarding the police presence at primary voting. Betsy stated she felt it was an issue for the moderator. Mike will send a letter to Mr. Risk referring the matter to the moderator.

Notice from LGC regarding public hearing for Health Trust rate setting.

Letter from EMD Kevin Holdredge regarding updating the hazard mitigation plan. Mike will forward to the mandated members of the proposed committee.

Notice from the Board of Tax and Land Appeals regarding PSNH appealing the Board denial of their abatement request on the utility poles. Mike will forward to Town Counsel. The Board agreed to explore a joint defense with other towns.

Survey from the School District sent to all property owners.

Letter from NH DOT regarding a driveway permit.

Notice from the Community Church of Francestown regarding their Annual Fall Festival on the Town Common and the horse sheds for their event. Abigail stated she had been asked about putting up a sign. The Board approved them putting up a sign on the horse sheds or the annex and on the common.

Letter from NH Association of Assessing Officials regarding election of their officers – the Board agreed not to fill this out

Email from Linda Kunhardt regarding a public forum on broadband in the Monadnock Region.

Abigail stated that Janet Hicks had requested to put up a sign for Monadnock Quilting at the Town Common – Abigail will follow up.

Judi Miller asked if the sand was going to be cleaned off the Turnpike – the Board stated they thought it was going to be cleaned up. Mike will check with Gary.

Becky Moul stated she was told that the burn pile sign is missing. Betsy will check with Gary if the Highway Department is using it. Mike will order a new sign if Becky is unable to find out where the old one is. Becky also asked what the Board is going to do with the gate and that eight people have hit it. The Board agreed to have the transfer station attendants paint the post a bright color.

Items to Sign

Payroll Manifest for September 17, 2012.
 Payables Manifest for September 17, 2012.
 Demolition permit for Map 13 Lot 13.
 Intent to cut for Map 9 Lot 6.

The Board discussed the need to update the building permits, Mike will look into this.

Update on foundation project – Scott stated we are waiting for a quote. Mark Couturier will be doing the work on the chimney cap hopefully this week.

Betsy stated that the Driscoll Hill Bridge is in the process of being completed.

NEXT BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING: September 24 at 7 PM.

ADJOURNMENT: Betsy adjourned the meeting at 9:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by Michael Branley

Approved on September 24, 2012

Board of Selectmen Chair Betsy Hardwick

Selectman Scott S. Carbee

Selectperson Abigail Arnold