

TOWN OF FRANCESTOWN

OFFICE OF SELECTMEN

27 MAIN STREET • P.O. BOX 5

FRANCESTOWN, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03043-0005

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES

January 22, 2013

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

Also present: Maureen von Rosenvinge, Becky Moul, Elaine McClary, Henry Kunhardt, Lisa Bourbeau, Polly Freese, Betty Berhsing, Linda Kunhardt, Kris and Lisa Stewart, and Budget & Advisory Committee members Abby Dawson, Charlie Pyle, Henry Kunhardt, and Nick Wilder

CALL TO ORDER: Betsy called the meeting to order at 5:35

Appointments

1. Budget Advisory Committee –
 - a. Town Clerk and Tax Collector Elaine McClary – she said the 18 hours budgeted for the Deputy was not realistic for the workload. She also stated the Board did not recommend her raises. Betsy asked if 18 hours was enough for the Deputy in the past why was it not enough now? Elaine stated she could not explain why. There was a discussion about the need for additional hours in her office. The Board agreed to increase the Deputy's hours to 19 hours per week, ½ hour increase to each deputy position.
 - b. Solid Waste Committee Chair Becky Moul – she thanked the Board for supporting the professional development but disagreed with some of the changes to the building repair and maintenance lines. The Board agreed to strike the word "Building" from account 4324-25. There was a discussion about the need to increase some of the hauling lines. There was a discussion about the need to have a second container for newsprint and the Board and BAC agreed to increase the Hauling/Newsprint line \$1,000 to use more hauls rather than add an additional container. The Board agreed not to increase the Repairs & Maintenance account from \$1,000. There was a discussion about the new line for propane tanks.
 - c. Heritage Commission Chair Maureen von Rosenvinge – she stated that the Heritage Commission had been approached by several people to remove the rods. She wanted to ask the Board of Selectmen to support spending \$45,000 on the Town Hall with approximately half from taxation and half from the acceptance of grants and donations. The Board agreed that a majority of them did not support it but they would put it on the warrant as a special non-lapsing warrant article contingent on non-taxation money materializing.

- d. Planning Board Chair Linda Kunhardt – she stated that she is worried that if they have several cases in 2013 they will not have enough money in the budget. The Board agreed that they would cover the expenses for the additional cases if they arose.
 - e. The Board and BAC discussed the Cost of Living Increases for part-time employees and agreed to support a 2.5% increase effective April 1. There was a discussion about the Books line in the Library budget. The Board and BAC briefly reviewed the draft warrant for 2013.
2. Kris and Lisa Stewart – Kris said he had come up with a couple of options he would like the Town to consider for a temporary bridge on 2nd NH Turnpike. He presented some options he had developed to the Board and the BAC, he estimated each of his options would cost \$70,000 to \$90,000 depending on all of the specification. The Board and BAC discussed the impacts on Cross and Red House roads due to the bridges being closed. There was a discussion about where funding for the repair could come from and what the most the Board could justify spending on a temporary fix was. There was also a discussion about how long it would take to get the bridge passable to traffic if they did authorize a temporary repair. Abigail stated she thought the Board needed to think more about the impacts to the surrounding areas and that the Town should meet with CLD to discuss the situation. Betsy will set up a meeting with CLD.

Items to Sign

- 1. Michael Branley's two year employment agreement.

MOTION: Scott made a motion to approve the agreement, seconded by Betsy. All in favor.

- 2. General Assessing Contract for 2013 and 2014 with Marazoff Assessing Services.

MOTION: Scott made a motion to approve the contract, seconded by Betsy. All in favor.

- 3. Intent to Cut for map 2 Lot 42
- 4. 2013 Holiday Schedule – the Board approved this with Christmas Eve Day as a holiday instead of Presidents' Day
- 5. Reconciliation Summary for December
- 6. Treasurer's Reconciliation Summaries for October, November, and December. The Board agreed that when they sign the Treasurer's reconciliation summary it indicates that they have received it, not approved it
- 7. Timber yield for Map 3 Lot 3
- 8. Timber yield for Map 8 Lot 48
- 9. Payables Manifest for January 22
- 10. Payroll Manifest for January 22

Correspondence

1. Emails from Jill Delorey and Charlie Pyle about the condition of the soapstone mill – the Board agreed there was nothing the Town could do.
2. Email from Bennington Town Administrator Dee French regarding tri-town landfill projected expense for 2013 – the Board agreed to keep the number they had in the budget.
3. Right-to-know Request from Lisa Bourbeau for documents related to the Bible Hill Reconstruction in 2009 and the highway department's log for the year of 2012. Mike said he had spoken to Gary and it would take about two weeks to collect the documents, depending on weather events.
4. MRI Maintenance Review.
5. Weekly Administrative Report
6. Letter notifying the Board that George Morgan Jr. has earned the distinction of Master Roads Scholar – Mike will write a letter to George congratulating him
7. Letter notifying the Board that Jason St. Cyr has earned the distinction of Master Roads Scholar – Mike will write a letter to Jason congratulating him
8. Memo from Maureen von Rosenvinge clarifying the Health Insurance Benefit Committee's recommendation

New Business

Betsy stated Perambulation Agent Ben Haubrich has decided not to bill the Town for his time and expenses for perambulating the Town lines with Lyndeborough, Bennington, and New Boston. The Board agreed to send him a letter thanking him.

The Board reviewed the estimate from Francestown Sand and Gravel for the demolition of the Pump House on East Road. Abigail stated that they wanted to do the work as soon as possible since the ground was frozen which it made it easier to access.

MOTION: Scott made a motion, seconded by Betsy, to accept the price of \$3,100 to remove the pump house and bury the concrete. All in favor.

The Board agreed to have Mike call them and tell them they can start as soon as possible; they should tell Scott when they want the dumpster and he will coordinate it.

The Board reviewed the new building permits put together by building inspector Ed Hunter and approved them.

Betsy stated Bill McNeil had asked her if he could have permission to take some downed trees on Town-owned land along the logging road and the Board agreed to allow him to do so.

The Board discussed the winter maintenance on the state roads and agreed that it was unacceptable. The Board discussed their desire to meet with their legislative representatives to express some issues the Town has had recently with state departments.

The Board discussed if there were any grants available to help pay for household hazard waste day. Mike will investigate.

The Board discussed some of the regionalized services they might be interested in discussing at their meeting with Greenfield.

The Board reviewed an estimate from Small Town Welding to put up a safety gate in front of the container at the transfer station. The Board agreed this is probably a project for warmer weather and will hold onto it at this time.

NEXT BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING: January 28th at 5:30

ADJOURNMENT: Betsy adjourned the meeting at 8:50.

Respectfully Submitted by Michael Branley

Approved on January 28, 2013

Board of Selectmen Chair Betsy Hardwick

Selectman Scott S. Carbee

Selectperson Abigail Arnold