

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

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES

October 7, 2013

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

Staff Present: Town Administrator Michael Branley

Also present: School Board member Stewart Brock, Robyn Haubrich, Polly Freese, Tom Anderson, and John Arnold

CALL TO ORDER: Betsy called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Appointments

1. School Board Representative Stewart Brock – Stewart stated he is not planning to run for reelection to the School Board so is looking to try to recruit someone to run. Stewart discussed some of the topics the School District has on the agenda in the near future. Stewart stated he also wanted to discuss with the Board of Selectmen what their thoughts were in terms of the LGC refund. His thought was that with the pending lawsuit it might put towns on the hook if they give back all of the money and the district lost the lawsuit with the additional towns arguing they should receive the refund. Stewart stated the sense of the School Board is not to use the money on the parking lot or a similar project however they were still trying to decide between giving it back to the taxpayers directly or using it on school expenses. The Board and Stewart discussed their thoughts and how much of an impact returning the funds would have. Scott stated he thought the entire balance should be returned to the taxpayers, Abigail and Betsy stated they thought applying 50% to the tax rate at this time made sense pending the outcome of the lawsuit. Stewart stated there was going to be a public meeting coming up where the Board is invited to share their views. The Board discussed the possibility of sending a letter to the School Board. Scott stated there is a rumor that there will not be a Halloween Parade at Francestown Elementary; Stewart stated he wasn't sure and thought it might be a building decision but asked interested residents to call him. Stewart stated the School Board is not sure where the SAU budget is headed at this time and they are trying to take a fresh look with the new superintendent. Abigail stated she understood that Francestown's tax rate would be lower this year so the LGC funds might be useful to smooth the increase next year.

Items to Sign

1. Payroll Manifest for 10/7/13
2. Payables Manifest for 10/7/13
3. Building Permit for Map 13 Lot 36

New Business

1. Mike stated he had spoken to Alan Thulander about an appraisal letter for the contents of the Heritage Museum and Alan also mentioned that he had put together language for a plaque for the interior of the museum. The Board agreed to the language that Alan had proposed and that Alan could order the plaque however the Town will pay for it.
2. The Board agreed to authorize Betsy to sign the parade permit to close Main Street on Halloween from 6 to 8 p.m.

Correspondence

1. Request for funding to Monadnock Family Services for 2014.
2. Letter from NH DRA regarding the 2013 equalization ration.
3. St. Joseph's Community Services request for funding in 2014.
4. Pleasant Pond Road Wetlands Permit.
5. Notice from the town of Warner ZBA regarding a cell tower balloon test notice.
6. Letter from the Community Development Finance Authority about possible block grant opportunities – Betsy stated she did not think this was something the Town was interested in at this time.
7. Notice regarding NH Municipal Association Annual Conference.
8. Notice from Property-Liability Trust about their annual meeting. Mike stated Francetown is not a member of Property-Liability Trust.
9. Notice from Primex about an insurance claim – Mike stated he thought it might be related to the police cruiser accident several months ago.
10. Mike's weekly administrative report.
11. Technical Information Release for the Department of Revenue Administration regarding the tax rate setting schedule. Mike stated it now appeared that the rate would be set around the same time as last year.
12. Notice from the Board of Tax and Land Appeals regarding the Town's appeal hearing with the Francetown Village Water Company on January 30th at 9 a.m.
13. Letter from SWRPC about ordering the 2014 Planning and Land Use Regulation Manual – the Board agreed to order four copies.
14. Notice from DOT about two driveway permit applications.

Old Business

Scott stated the alarm at the Town Hall and Museum are still going off. Mike stated he has called Capitol Alarm twice to put the systems on test; he will call them again to try to put the system on test so the alarm stops going off until it has been fixed.

Betsy asked what we have on the agenda next week; Mike stated Dave is coming in at 6:30 p.m. to discuss the Crotched Mountain Rehab wastewater treatment facility and then the Water Company is coming in at 7:00 p.m. The following week Gary and CLD are coming in and Maureen and Mike Petrovick to talk about the Town Hall. On the 28th Elaine is having Avitar come in for a demonstration. The Board agreed to hold the public hearing for the acceptance of the FEMA funds at 6:30 on October 28th.

Abigail stated she understood that the Planning Board is having a long range CIP discussion on October 15th and it might make sense for the Selectmen to be there.

NEXT BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING: October 14, 2013

ADJOURNMENT: Betsy adjourned the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Michael Branley

Approved on November 25, 2013

Board of Selectmen Chair Betsy Hardwick

Selectman Scott S. Carbee

Selectperson Abigail Arnold