

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

March 28, 2013

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

Staff Present: Town Administrator Michael Branley, Road Agent Gary Paige, Jason St. Cyr, and George Morgan Jr.

Also present: Brandon Lawrence from the Monadnock Ledger Transcript, Henry Kunhardt, Linda Kunhardt, Polly Freese, Mike Tartalis, BJ Carbee, John Arnold, Lisa Bourbeau, Silas Little, Betty Behrsing, Lawrie Barr, Kay Anderson, Tom Anderson, Public Assistance Administrator Phyllis Naegeli, and others unknown to the minute taker

CALL TO ORDER: Betsy called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Betsy stated that this is a work session for the Board of Selectmen and public comment will be limited to the time at the end of each topic.

Appointments

1. Road Agent Gary Paige and Henry Kunhardt – Henry stated the Board tasked he and Gary to determine the best course of action to construct a temporary bridge on the 2nd NH Turnpike and to see if it could be done for \$70,000. Henry stated the two options he identified were to do a request for proposal for engineering and constructing a bridge or to have the Town act as the general contractor and to solicit prices for equipment rental that the Town does not have. Henry stated he felt option one was going backwards at this point and was not the best course of action. Gary stated he has been in contact with CLD, the Department of Transportation, and others to see what materials were available. Gary stated DOT will lend the Town 62 foot steel beams at no cost, as opposed to the 40 foot beams from Cohen's. He also stated he has located jersey barriers in Hooksett at a reasonable price. Henry described some of the positives and negatives of using the longer beams from DOT. One of the benefits is that they would put the abutments 12 feet from the can as opposed to 2 ½ feet using the 40 foot beams. Henry stated he felt going with the longer beams was the best course of action. There was a discussion about the wood decking and Henry stated the final cost was still somewhat unknown. Their estimate based on their course of action is about \$25,000 for materials, \$25,000 for hired labor, and a lot of work done by Highway Department employees. Henry outlined how the 40 foot beams would have required \$4,000 - \$5,000 worth of welding which may not

have been included in the previous \$70,000 proposal. Gary stated he had spoken to Nancy Mayville at the DOT bridge bureau and she is amenable to the current plan. After CLD finalizes the plans for construction they would go to DOT for comment and approval and then back to CLD for stamping. The Board agreed that the plan with the 62 foot beams made the most sense. There was a discussion about timeline and Gary stated he felt if all went well the bridge could be constructed by the middle of May. The Board agreed to have Francestown be the general contractor and use the 60 foot beams.

MOTION: Scott moved to have the engineering go forward to CLD with the plan using the 60 foot beams, seconded by Betsy. All in favor.

The Board will consider purchasing the materials as the engineering plans are finalized.

Kitty Houghton asked if the bridge would be salvageable; Gary responded that some of the materials would be reusable however the beams would need to go back to DOT since they were being rented. Henry gave some additional information about the steel beams.

Polly Freese stated one of the positives of the temporary bridge was so it could be moved to Woodward Hill Road when the 2nd NH Turnpike would be closed.

The Board thanked Henry and Gary for their efforts to put together a well thought out plan.

The meeting recessed at 6:30

The meeting resumed at 6:35

2. Public Assistance Administrator Phyllis Naegeli – Mike stated he and Phyllis began looking at reviewing the public assistance guidelines late last year. Phyllis stated she predicts her caseload will stay steady at this point, other than the end of the heating season. Mike stated the first suggested change to the guidelines was for the Board to vote to not include welfare work participants from workers compensation coverage at their meeting Monday. Participants will still be covered under the Town's volunteer policy however the Town would not be liable for lost wages. The second suggested change is the addition of an inspection program for properties where the town pays rent for consecutive months. Mike stated he had spoken to the Fire Chief and the Health Officer and they both think it is a great idea. The Board and Phyllis discussed the merits of this decision and agreed it was worthwhile. Mike stated the purpose is not to have people living in luxury, just to make sure that the housing units meet basic life safety standards. The Board reviewed the new levels of allowance for various payments and Mike and Phyllis discussed some of the proposed changes. Mike outlined the proposed municipal work program policy he had put together and stated it had been reviewed by Town Counsel. Phyllis stated she often has clients who would like to do work in exchange for the assistance they received. There was a discussion about how the work program would allow clients to build skills, lower the amount of assistance they need to repay, and give the Town labor to assist with reasonable projects. Phyllis asked if the Board agreed she could ask financially able relatives for reimbursements and they agreed that she could

ask. BJ asked about the amount allotted for cooking fuel and Phyllis responded. BJ asked about the inspection component for insulation and Mike stated it would only be an issue if the inspectors noticed that the property was clearly not insulated. Mike Tartalis asked how many people currently receive assistance, what their age range is, and what the Grapevine does to support her. Phyllis stated she has five cases with about 20 people supported, ages range from two to mid-40s, and the Grapevine provides a lot of support for needy residents without having to go to the Manchester area. BJ asked about the current processes and Phyllis described the voucher system the Town uses. The Board thanked Phyllis for her efforts working on the guidelines and for her great work as the public assistance administrator.

NEXT BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING: Monday April 1 at 5:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: Betsy adjourned the meeting at 7:15.

Respectfully Submitted by Michael Branley

Approved on April 1, 2013

Board of Selectmen Chair Betsy Hardwick

Selectman Scott S. Carbee

Selectperson Abigail Arnold