

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

June 24, 2013

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

Staff Present: Town Administrator Michael Branley, Road Agent Gary Paige

Also present: Judi Miller, Mike Tartalis, Janet Quilty, Betty Behrsing, Sarah Pyle, Carol Ireland, Kay Anderson, Pat Terry, Jan Hicks, John Arnold, Ethel MacStubbs, Polly Freese, and BJ Carbee

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

Appointments

Road Agent Gary Paige – Gary stated he spoke to Chris Danforth and Chris is planning to have the permit ready to submit by the end of the week for the road reconstruction on Pleasant Pond. Betsy stated Chris is on the agenda for the Conservation Commission's meeting on Monday. Gary stated he had spoken to a resident who wanted the Town to wait to reconstruct Pleasant Pond until after peak summer season and then had another resident say let's go and do it as soon as possible. Gary said his thought had always been to start construction as soon as possible so the taxpayers get the longest value out of the road and the Board agreed.

Gary notified the Board that he was planning to share labor with Antrim again as he felt it was a good program. Scott stated to make sure to track time exchanged to make sure it is fair and Gary stated that he does.

Gary told the Board he would like to move forward on purchasing the new poly spreader. Betsy said at a prior meeting there were some questions that arose about whether we need two spreaders. Gary stated that the Town does not need two spreaders at this time.

MOTION: Betsy made a motion to authorize the Road Agent to trade in the two stainless steel spreaders and purchase the poly Fisher spreader. Seconded by Abigail. All in favor.

There was a discussion about the stop signs and the lights at the temporary bridge on the Turnpike. Gary discussed how the signs and lights were put together by CLD and approved by NH DOT. There was a discussion about how the bridge is safer by having all traffic stop. Scott stated he had received a lot of positive feedback on the bridge and the Board thanked Gary for his efforts.

Items to Sign

1. Payables Manifest for 6/24/13
2. Payroll Manifest for 6/24/13

Abigail stated she felt the Board of Selectmen is currently dysfunctional and giving the wrong impression to the public about the Board's responsibilities. Abigail stated that a recent example from the last meeting is how the tax deeding was handled. She pointed out Scott said that the deeding was being handled differently than in the past. In going back through the history she could not find any evidence of this. When Scott was in office and a property was taken and held by the town in 2011 and 2012, he voted to deed 2 condos to the Town and voted against giving any relief for penalties in another case. Lastly she was bothered by the comment Scott made that the taking of the condos was criminal and the accusation of the Selectmen stealing property. She stated that RSA 80-76 provides that the Selectmen have to accept or not accept the deed when it is offered with the only reasons they cannot accept it is for environmental reasons or other factors that would expose the town to liability and any decision shall not be made for the sole benefit of a single taxpayer. Abigail listed many positive reasons for deeding the condos last year. She urged the Board to do their homework before making statements at meetings, not to delay decisions unnecessarily, and would like to see civil behavior from here forward.

Scott stated he wanted to try to take the time to give people every possible chance to pay and has seen other Towns offer payments plans. Betsy said that she was also upset regarding Scott's comments about being criminal and the Town being the Sheriff of Nottingham. Another discussion ensued regarding a past deeding where the owner asked the Board to waive the penalties and the Board as a whole voted against it.

3. Notice of Intent to cut for Map 8 Lot 49-3
4. Application for Current Use for Map 5 Lot 43
5. Letter from the Board of Selectmen to the Trustees of Trust Funds to accompany the check to the Highway Equipment and Fire Equipment capital reserve funds
6. Request to the Trustees of Trust Funds for reimbursement of \$274,500 for the motor grader from the Highway Equipment Fund
7. Request to the Trustees of Trust Funds for reimbursement of \$4,783.16 for the Turnpike bridge from the Bridge Replacement Fund
8. Request to the Trustees of Trust Funds for reimbursement of \$1,371.44 for the Town Hall Trusses from the Building Fund
9. Request to the Trustees of Trust Funds for reimbursement of \$12,121.36 for the defibrillator from the Fire Equipment Fund
10. Application for current use for Map 9 Lot 30
11. Abatement Application for FairPoint. Recommendation is to deny the abatement. The Board agreed to deny the abatement.
12. Corrected Abatement Application for Map 3 Lot 75-2. Recommendation is to deny the abatement but update values. The Board agreed to deny the abatement.
13. Abatement Application for Map 7 Lot 4-13. Recommendation is to deny the abatement. The Board agreed to deny the abatement.
14. Abatement Application for Map 7 Lot 4-14. Recommendation is to deny the abatement. The Board agreed to deny the abatement.

15. Abatement Application for Map 7 Lot 4-B. Recommendation is to grant the abatement.
The Board agreed to grant the abatement.
16. Abatement Application for Map 3 Lot 4. Recommendation is to grant the abatement.
The Board agreed to grant the abatement.

New Business

1. Tax deeded update - Mike stated the property on Scoby Point Lane was redeemed this morning. The other two properties are the two that Town Counsel recommended we mail the notice of deeding first class and wait 30 days. Mike has spoken with both owners and feels setting an August 5th deadline will be fair for the required payoff of the third year amount. The Board agreed.
2. Planning Board memo regarding the ski mountain – Betsy read the memo. Mike stated his recommendation was to ask Linda and the Code Enforcement Officer to attend the Board's next meeting. The Board agreed to invite them to come in at 6:30 on 7/1.
3. Fuel pricing update – Mike stated he is still waiting on pricing from Rymes because without them he has not been able to identify a second gasoline supplier. Scott suggested Mike check and see if the vendor who provides gasoline to the Francestown Village Store might be able to provide a quote.
4. Betsy asked Scott about where the ConVal Selectmen's Advisory Committee stands and he gave a brief update. They are still in the information gathering phase of trying to determine if there are any significant ways to save money.
5. April Reconciliation Summary
6. Budget-to-actuals report for May
7. Polly Freese asked what is wrong with the Town Clock and the Board agreed they didn't know anything was wrong with it. Scott stated he would check with Warren.
8. Scott asked if the Highway Department can take care of some low hanging trees on Town property and the Board agreed to have Mike talk to Gary.
9. Scott stated there was a brush fire up by Shattuck Pond and the Fire Department went out and reposted all of the fire safety signs around Town.
10. Abigail stated at the Pleasant Pond Association meeting this weekend it was announced that there was a milfoil save at Pleasant Pond in a kayak.
11. Abigail stated she thought it made sense to try to have a meeting with the major department heads to discuss purchasing and bidding. Mike stated he thought at that time the Board could discuss with the department heads how they thought the Town's purchasing warrant article might be amended. The Board agreed to have Mike try to schedule this meeting for mid-July.

Correspondence

1. Right-to-know request from Janet Quilty related to the motor grader
2. Mike's weekly report
3. Memo from LGC regarding surplus to be returned to the Town – Mike stated for 2010 and 2011 it looks like Francestown will receive about \$8,200
4. Email from Gregory Cope regarding LCHIP funding
5. Right-to-know request from Lisa Bourbeau related to the defibrillator
6. Right-to-know request from Kitty Houghton – Mike stated it was a continuation from a previous request.
7. Letter from Roberts & Greene, PLLC regarding next three years of auditing services – Mike suggested doing a Request for Proposal for auditing services because it is over \$5,000, even though the Town is happy with Roberts & Greene.
8. Library Board of Trustees letter requesting the appointment of Michael Petrovick as an alternate

MOTION: Betsy made a motion to appoint Michael Petrovick as an alternate to the George Holmes Bixby Library Board of Trustees. Seconded by Scott. All in favor.

9. Letter from Granite State Children's Alliance requesting \$500 in the 2014 budget.
10. Notices from LGC regarding public hearings to discuss by-law changes.
11. Notice from Hillsborough County for their budget hearing – Abigail mentioned that they're looking at a 6.3% tax levy increase.
12. Memo from ConVal regarding 2013-2014 payment schedule
13. Email from Brenda Marschok regarding ConVal Superintendent Meeting Request – The Board agreed to have Mike invite the new Superintendent to an upcoming meeting.
14. Executive Council News Release

Administrative Update

Mike stated he told George he could go ahead and purchase the paint for the Transfer Station and is still waiting to hear about the prisoner labor program. First quotes for the windows have been approximately \$450 per window, not installed.

Approval of Minutes

The Board approved the minutes from May 31 and June 10 as written.

The Board approved the minutes from June 3 as amended.

Mike stated that Mike Tartalis had spoken to him about addressing the Board this morning but was too late to be put on the agenda. Mike asked the Board why the money for Pleasant Pond Road had been voted on in March and if contractors were chosen in April why it hasn't been started yet? He is concerned with the safety of the road. Betsy stated we are waiting for the permits and Chris Danforth is hopefully coming before the Conservation Commission with the permits on Monday, but it will still be about 30 days even if it is expedited. Scott suggested using hard pack on the pot holes in the road until the construction can begin. Mike stated he wanted the road reconstructed as soon as possible and did not want to wait until after the summer.

Kay Anderson asked if properties where the Selectmen had made tax deeding arrangements followed through on the agreements and the Board responded that they had.

NEXT BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING: July 1 at 6:30

ADJOURNMENT: Betsy adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Wendy Brien-Baker

Approved on July 8, 2013

Board of Selectmen Chair Betsy Hardwick

Selectman Scott S. Carbee

Selectperson Abigail Arnold