

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

August 26, 2013

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

Staff Present: Town Administrator Michael Branley

Also present: Henry Kunhardt, Isabella Britain Hill, Polly Freese, Tom Anderson, Jan Hicks, Ben Haubrich, Robyn Haubrich, Harry Woodbury, Mike Tartalis, Charlie Pyle, Sarah Pyle, Lisa Bourbeau, BJ Carbee, Betty Behrsing, and others unknown to the minute taker

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

Appointments

1. Pleasant Pond Dam Draw Down Informational Meeting – Betsy introduced Henry Kunhardt who is here representing the owners of the dam. Henry stated this meeting is in accordance with state statute to inform the general public that the owners of Pleasant Pond Dam are planning to draw down the water in the pond on September 7th approximately two feet below the current level. The water draw down will take place over approximately 10 or more days and the boards will be put back in next spring. Isabella stated she would like the dam and the draw down to eventually be a few groups that work it out whether it means one person or a non-profit to own the dam for everyone's benefit. Polly asked when the loons will come back and Henry stated that was a main concern of Fish and Game's; there was a brief discussion about the loons at the pond.

Items to Sign

1. Payroll Manifest for August 26, 2013
2. Payables Manifest for August 26, 2013
3. MS 1 summary of valuation – Mike stated starting this year this data will be supplied electronically
4. Timber tax rating for Map 2 Lot 25

Appointments (continued)

2. Tax Collector Elaine McClary – Elaine explained the tax deeding process to the Board. She stated she sends out courtesy delinquent letters in January, an impending tax lien certified letter in March, and the property goes to lien in April. Elaine stated from that time until the deed date in June she can give the Board periodic updates on properties that will potentially go to deed. Elaine supplied to the Board the legal justifications the Board can use to refuse a deed. The Board discussed with Elaine how to improve the process for next year.

New Business

1. MS 4 Discussion – Mike talked to the Board about the upcoming tax rate setting and how they had gone into town meeting recommending a town tax rate at \$7.05 per thousand but with the amendments that increased the budget, we are looking at a rate of \$7.45 per thousand. Mike recommended increasing the surplus use up \$15,000 for the amount the temporary bridge came in under budget and increase the Highway Block Grant up \$20,000 because we were conservative with that figure and now have actuals from the State. Using these added revenues would bring the rate down to \$7.29 per thousand not accounting for assessment changes. Mike added that this was just a preliminary discussion as the rate will not be set until October. The Board agreed that this sounded reasonable.
2. Thulander Building Advisory Committee Charge – Mike stated he had put together a draft charge for the committee based on the lease with FIHS and the Board's discussions. Abigail suggested changing the word recruit to make a recommendation for a curator. Scott stated at the last meeting it was decided to have a committee and they should have the power to design their own goals and procedures. He does not believe that the committee should be for one year but should have recommendations prepared by town meeting. Betsy said it is helpful to have a guide as a committee member. Mike stated there was a charge created for the Health Insurance Committee as well and it makes it easier for the committee to have a guide of where to start.

MOTION: Abigail made a motion to approve the charge as amended, Seconded by Betsy. Betsy and Abigail in favor. Scott abstained.

3. Scott stated we still have not resolved the issue with the Library well and there will be a meeting with Adrian Pinney and Capital Well over at the library to review the physical plant after Labor Day.
4. Scott stated the emergency lights in the Town Hall are not operable and Bruce is going to repair them so they are ready for the Labor Day dances.
5. Scott stated the three-phase converter at the Transfer Station is currently not functioning properly. Abigail stated it might make sense to look at a single phase convertor at this time and the Board agreed.
6. Scott stated we have new electrical service at the Town Offices to be used for Labor Day so the building can remain secure.

7. Scott stated Jen Noonan gave him a quote of \$1,200 to paint the front of the Town Hall Annex.
8. Betsy stated the Frankestown Land Trust is applying for a LCHIP Grant for the Herman Miller Lot on Old County Road N. Betsy stated in reviewing the application she saw that it would benefit the application if the Town supported it. Betsy and Scott agreed that they supported the project and authorized Betsy to sign the paperwork; Abigail abstained because she's an abutter. Betsy stated the PLC is also doing an application for the Schott property on Bullard Hill and the Conservation Commission has pledged funds and it would benefit the application if the Town supported it. The Board agreed they supported the Schott application and authorized Betsy to sign. Polly Freese asked when the Conservation Commission pledged funds and Betsy stated she thought it was about a year ago. BJ asked and Betsy responded she did not recall the exact amount. There was a discussion about this action.

Correspondence

1. An invitation from Primex about some professional development opportunities.
2. Perambulation report from Lyndeborough – Betsy stated she has an issue with some of the wording in the report. Betsy stated they did not physically walk the bounds, they checked some of the boundaries. Perambulation Agent Ben Haubrich agreed that he would not sign it with the current language. The Board agreed to send it back with some suggestions.
3. Letter from NH Municipal Association regarding their restructuring
4. Mike's weekly report 8/23/13
5. Email from Peter Milton complaining about the back-up alarm on the loader – the Board agreed it was a safety requirement and Mike stated he would send him a letter
6. Letter from Lawrie Barr stating he was disappointed that the road crew had not handled the crab grass on Main Street and complaining about the bamboo and poison ivy near Bixby Dam. The Board agreed Main Street is a state maintained highway and that the area by the dam is being maintained by our contractor. Mike asked and the Board agreed they did not want Lawrie doing work on Town property. There was a discussion about treatment of knotweed and bamboo and Betsy stated on Town land state law requires someone to be licensed to use herbicide.
7. Letter from George E. Sansoucy regarding interrogatory answers.
8. Copy of a letter from FIHS to Chief Bell regarding Labor Day Celebration.

Administrative Update

Mike stated the prisoners are schedule to be here the week of September 16th. Ed Hunter is going be on vacation the week of September 9th and is going to talk to the inspector in Peterborough to see if he could cover during that time. Mike stated the solid waste proposals were due today and we received four from Shaw, NRRA, Waste Management and Monadnock Disposal. He will have a spreadsheet with all of the information for the next meeting.

The Board agreed to not meet next week unless something came up and to authorize payroll for September 2nd and any contract payables that need to be paid.

Scott suggested if we are not going to do the reconstruction on Pleasant Pond Road this year then we should at least finish the overlay on the part that was down last year. Betsy said she emailed someone at DES asking about the permit process and is hoping to hear back soon with a sense of how much longer before the permits are approved.

BJ asked if there was a total cost of town labor used in the temporary bridge construction and is there a total projected cost for the removal. Mike stated we do not have the town labor hours broken out and he said we would need to ask CLD to see if the removal would be any more expensive than the removal of the old bridge. Abigail said calculating town labor costs has not been done for any project for a long time and has always stayed in the operating budget.

BJ inquired why the town office has not been open every Friday recently and if we were on summer hours. She said it was her understanding there was someone that would physically be in the office even though it was not open to the public. There was a discussion regarding town office hours and how the schedule of the Town Administrator is currently working.

Maureen asked if we had a key for the Heritage Museum and if areas needed to be roped off. They Board agreed roping off displays would be a good idea. There was a discussion who would lock up and hold on to the key on Labor Day.

NEXT BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING: September 9, 2013

ADJOURNMENT: Betsy adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Wendy Brien-Baker

Approved on September 16, 2013

Board of Selectmen Chair Betsy Hardwick

Selectman Scott S. Carbee

Selectperson Abigail Arnold