

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

September 16, 2013

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

Staff Present: Town Administrator Michael Branley

Also present: Budget Advisory Committee members Nick Wilder, Abby Dawson, Charlie Pyle, and John Arnold, Tom Anderson, Betty Behrsing, Lisa Bourbeau, Polly Freese, Jan Hicks, Dennis Orsi, Ron Cheney, Blair Hardwick, Mark Schaal, James Hamilton, Becky Moul, and others unknown to the minute taker.

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

Appointments

1. Budget Advisory Committee – Mike said he sent out a memo summarizing the big picture factors that are currently known and has recently been told the revenues from the State are looking positive. He also said full-time employees received varying amounts of merit increases last year and part-time employees received a 2.5% COLA. Mike went on to point out that the health insurance plan was changed to a lower plan with higher out of pocket cost and because of the 2% increase to social security as the payroll tax holiday ended most employees didn't end up seeing an increase in their pay for the year. With that in mind, Mike suggested COLA's, merit increases or a combination of the two for next year. Mike stated he feels the CIP is underfunded at the current time and would like to take a more hands on approach in the upcoming year. Mike advised that there are several additional administrative tasks for 2014 (inventory forms, statistical revaluation and assessment review) will occupy staff time. Based on the recycling and waste hauling proposals, Mike feels we will be able to see some modest reductions without impacting services. Mike said some fuel prices are locked in (excluding gasoline and diesel) and our prices are competitive and so budget lines can probably be level. He said Welfare costs have returned to more traditional levels. Mike said the disassembling of the bridge on the Turnpike will need to be budgeted separately. Abby stated she felt no adjustment was needed for the employees in regards to the 2% tax holiday and felt the health insurance should be looked at every year. She also said she would support a merit increase for those going above and beyond. The Board and BAC agreed to request from all departments a level funded budget. There was a discussion about the budget calendar.

2. James Hamilton – Mike stated Mr. Hamilton had a building permit that the Board did not approve at its last meeting because it was an auxiliary building before the primary residence. A discussion ensued and Mr. Hamilton assured the Board he would not live in the auxiliary building and would construct the house as soon as possible. The Board signed the building permit Abigail opposed.
3. Dennis Orsi from the Francestown Village Water Company – Dennis stated he is the new president of the Francestown Village Water Company and he is submitting a letter to the Board requesting a hearing on the denial of their exemption status so they may present additional information not included in the initial application and the Board should be aware of. Betsy questioned whether the legal process will allow the Board to change the decision at this point. Dennis stated they have filed an appeal with the Board of Tax and Land Appeals. The Board decided to have Dennis get in touch with Mike to get on a meeting agenda at a later date.

Items to Sign

1. Payroll Manifest for 9/16/13
2. Payables Manifest for 9/16/13
3. Payroll Manifest for 9/3/13
4. Payables Manifest for 9/3/13
5. Yield Tax Assessment for Map 8 Lot 49-3

New Business

1. Solid Waste hauling proposal review. Mike stated he had given NRRA an opportunity to revise their recycling proposal and they stated they had put together their best proposal at the beginning and could not reduce their costs. Scott recommended the town stay with NRRA for recycling with the plastics and paper etc. and stay with Glen Shaw for hauling. Betsy asked what the potential savings were. Mike said it's approximately a \$7,000 savings. The Board asked Mike to check references, get an opinion from the Solid Waste Committee and check the cost figures again.
2. Household Hazardous Waste Day is going to be October 12, 2013.
3. Scott asked if we had an update on the permit for Pleasant Pond. Betsy said there was a snag so Chris Danforth is removing the boat ramp and sending in a new supplication. DES said they would review it right away and should have it by the end of this week.
4. Abigail asked where we are at with the geothermal well? Scott explained the process we have gone through so far. Scott said as of September 13th Adrienne Pinney has been hired to plumb the filter to the sump at the bottom of the elevator to then go to daylight. Abigail said it was her understanding the findings were to be brought to the Board to have a meeting with the Library Trustees before making a decision. Scott said he understood he was to get rid of the water. The discussion continued. Abigail said she would like to discuss and re-define who does what within the Library building. The Board agreed to delay the work to plumb the filter and have Adrienne Pinney come in to discuss the plan with the Board and the Library Trustees. The Board discussed the other problems the Library is having with the building and agreed some of the costs may need

to be paid by the Town and want to talk about this at the meeting with the Trustees as well. Mike and Scott will coordinate a meeting with everyone.

Correspondence

1. Letter from Ronald Cheney regarding Frankestown Village Water Company.
2. Letter from Dennis Orsi regarding Frankestown Village Water Company – letter referenced earlier.
3. Right to Know Request asking for all documents related to the development of Crotched Mountain Ski Area.
4. Mike's 2014 Budget Preliminary Meeting Memo.
5. Mike's Weekly Updates 8/30/13, 9/6/13 & 6/13/13
6. Request from NHDES for more information.
7. Wetland Routine Roadway & Railway Maintenance Activities Notification.
8. Note from the Library about putting the Sirrkka Holm fundraiser on the website.
9. An email from Healthtrust about an article published in the Union Leader that had inaccurate information in it.
10. Email from Peter Milton regarding loader noise problem.
11. SWRPC Commission Highlights.
12. Driveway Permit for Map 6 Lot 22 for paving.
13. Letter from NH Association of Assessing Officials regarding voting.
14. Notice of Public Hearing from Warner regarding a new cell tower.
15. Letter from NHDOT regarding transportation projects planned between 2015-2024
16. Letter from SWRPC regarding local emergency operations planning.
17. Letter from Property Liability Trust regarding the restructuring of the entity.
18. Letter from Healthtrust regarding the restructuring of the entity.
19. Letter from NHDOT regarding driveway permit that needs additional work.
20. Letter from Healthtrust regarding 2010 surplus refund check.
21. Five Letters regarding the Crotched Mountain Ski lights.

Liason Reports

1. Betsy reminded everyone of the Activity Fair at the Town Hall Saturday, September 21, 2013.
2. Mike stated the ZBA continuance hearing for Crotched Mountain Ski Area is September 25, 2013.

Old Business

1. Scott said he thinks the Board needs to go back and reconsider the ethics and morals committee that was proposed previously. Scott also stated he feels the attire of the Board members should be better. Betsy does not know what authority they have as Selectmen to enact a dress code.

2. Mike said the carpet in the downstairs meeting room is still a bit wet on the back wall from the drainage issue. Mike said he has met with Gary and a representative from Advanced Paving. They discussed digging a dry well and having Advanced pave since they will be in the area doing paving around town. The Board agreed to move forward with this.
3. Becky Moul entered the meeting and Betsy asked if the Solid Waste Committee had any recommendations regarding the waste proposals and she answered they agreed with Mike's synopsis going with Monadnock for the recyclables and NRRA for the hauling, however they were confused on the revenues for Monadnock and questioned will they lose their revenues. Abigail asked if the committee had any concerns about not going with Shaw and Becky answered no.

MOTION: Betsy made a motion to enter nonpublic session seconded by Abigail pursuant to RSA 91-A:3,II (c) reputation.

Roll Call vote to enter nonpublic session:	Betsy Hardwick	Aye
	Scott Carbee	Aye
	Abigail Arnold	Aye

The meeting room was cleared and the Board entered nonpublic session at 8:35 p.m.

Betsy made a motion to return to public session, seconded by Abigail. All in favor.

At 8:50 the Board returned to public session having decided to seal the minutes having voted by a vote of 2/3's or greater of the members present to not disclose the minutes and decisions reached therein to the public, as divulgence of the information discussed likely reputation action ineffective, until – in the opinion of a majority of the members – the aforesaid circumstances no longer apply.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve minutes for July 15th, July 22nd, August 1st, August 5th, August 12th, August 19th, and August 26th

Betsy stated she had a Conservation Commission meeting conflict on November 4th and the Board agreed to not meet that week unless something comes up. Mike informed the Board that a new law was passed this session allowing the Board to sign a manifest outside of a public meeting.

Mike stated Maureen wanted the Board to know that they were invited to the LCHIP appreciation luncheon on September 21st at 12 p.m.

Scott stated he wanted to recognize and thank George Morgan Jr. for his efforts on the "Welcome to Francestown" signs. He did an excellent job repairing them and getting them all installed before Labor Day. The Board agreed to have Mike write him a letter thanking him. The Board recognized the crushed stone donated by Francestown Sand & Gravel for the Horse

Sheds for Labor Day and agreed to have Mike write them a letter thanking them for their generosity.

NEXT BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING: September 23rd at 6:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: Betsy adjourned the meeting at 9:03

Respectfully Submitted by Wendy Brien-Baker

Approved on November 25, 2013

Board of Selectmen Chair Betsy Hardwick

Selectman Scott S. Carbee

Selectperson Abigail Arnold