

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

January 13, 2014

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

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

CALL TO ORDER: Betsy called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

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

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 4:30 p.m.

At 6:20 p.m. 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 would affect adversely the reputation of any person other than a member of the public body itself, until – in the opinion of a majority of the members – the aforesaid circumstances no longer apply.

Also present: Polly Freese, Betty Behrsing, Jan Hicks, Michael Tartalis, Tom Anderson, BJ Carbee, Lisa Bourbeau, Maureen von Rosenvinge, Diane Curan, Sarah Pyle, and Charlie Pyle

Items to Sign

1. Payables Manifest for 1/13/14
2. Payroll Manifest for 1/13/14
3. Memorandum of understanding with the Department of Revenue Administration to share data in the Mosaic Pool
4. Building Permit for Map 7 Lot 1
5. Appointment paper of Charles Blattman to the Waste Disposal Committee
6. Yield Tax Levy for Map 5 Lots 32, 33 & 34

Mike stated he heard from DES regarding Scoby Milfoil for 2014 and have received a grant for the herbicide treatment for up to 40% match from the State and we are waiting to hear back regarding the diver treatment.

Mike stated BJ contacted him regarding the Supervisors of the Checklist meeting Tuesday, January 21st and that there is a conflict because the Planning Board is also meeting. He said he offered the use of the Selectmen's office along with one of the computers.

The Board reviewed the 2014 budget by department. The Board agreed to keep the \$1,500 increase in the Executive budget for payroll. The Board agreed the Avitar software for the Town Clerk's office could wait until 2015 and the server would be purchased in 2014. Mike let the Board know that he and Elaine had discussed and decided to pay the Tax Collector Fees weekly versus quarterly and this would not impact a budget amount, but would help to track it more accurately. The Board agreed to keep funding in the budget for the Maintenance position. The Board discussed the requested increase in Police Department payroll hours. The Board agreed to talk more with Chief Bell on Thursday. The Board agreed to stay with the fuel numbers Mike proposed.

New Business

1. Treasurer's Reports for October and November 2013

Correspondence

1. Mike's Weekly Update January 12, 2014
2. Email from NHDES regarding salting of the boat ramp
3. Photos of Crotched Mountain Lights sent by a Hancock resident
4. Notice of Flag Contract Award for the State of NH
5. Letter from Capital Alarm regarding expanded services

Mike stated he received 3 quotes in his search for a new alarm company and has met with the Fire Chief to review them and narrowed it down to two. He did reference checks and has his recommendation. He asked the Board to review the quotes and plan on discussing at a future meeting so a decision can be made by March when the current alarm company's contract is up.

6. List of bridges presented to the Planning Board
7. Letter from NH Highway Safety Agency regarding 2015 Financial Assistance

Liaison Report

1. Scott stated he attended a SAC meeting last week where they voted not to recommend the School Board's budget for several reasons. Scott stated SAC did recommend a lease purchase for a maintenance tractor. Scott stated if our budget committee or any residents wants to be effective they should attend their budget hearing tomorrow night.

Appointments

Mike said he has researched how to structure the warrant article for the Town Hall Bond request. Bond Counsel has given 3 options of how to structure it:

- To authorize a bond for the total estimated project cost giving the Board the most flexibility after Town Meeting.
- To authorize a bond for the portion that the Heritage Commission or the Board recommends from taxation and not mention any other funds, which could be accepted and expended by the Board or Heritage Commission.
- To authorize a bond for the tax portioned amount again, but contingent upon the receipt of other funds received. Mike said this would give the least flexibility.

Maureen said she felt the second option was the best with an amount of \$350,000. The discussion continued regarding the bond.

The Board discussed and agreed to have the Public Hearing for the Town Hall Bond on February 11th at 7:00 p.m. and the Budget Hearing on February 6th at 7:00 p.m.

The Board agreed to \$350,000 as the amount for the bond warrant article at Town Meeting. The Board discussed the rest of the warrant. The Board agreed it was ok to send the warrant to Town Counsel and the DRA for a preliminary review.

Administrative Update

1. Mike said he spoke to both George Cilley and NRRA. NRRA acknowledged it was their fault in their failure to haul our recyclables they have agreed to provide a second container this time of year for paper in the future.
2. Mike said he and Dave met with Francestown Village Water Company and feels if the Board gives Mike approval to negotiate on the value to result in a tax payment in the area of \$1,500 then it is possible to reach a settlement and avoid going to the BTLA. Scott said his vote would be no because he believes they owe no taxes. Betsy and Abigail agreed it would be ok to negotiate.
3. Mike said he and Dave met with the representative from the DRA, Greg Heyn, regarding the town revaluation and a schedule will be coming soon so that it can be publicized. Mike said Greg will need to come to an upcoming Selectmen's meeting to review the assessment review packet.
4. Mike said he spoke to Allan and he will attend the next meeting with the BAC to answer their questions regarding the server.
5. Mike said Stewart Brock and other ConVal officials have asked to attend the meeting with the BAC on 1/27 since it is budget related and they will talk about the school budget and answer questions that anyone has.

The Board agreed to authorize payable and payroll for next week since Monday is a holiday and there will be no meeting.

Abigail stated she feels that it would be fine to go to the BTLA with the Francestown Village Water Company if they feel they should still be exempt and then could deal with an abatement if necessary. Scott said it was previously said that we could not negotiate because the date for the hearing had been set. Abigail stated that what she meant was we could not negotiate whether or not they were exempt and couldn't negotiate an abatement at that time because the tax bills had not gone out.

Lisa said she thought that Gary wanted to wait until next year for a truck. Abigail said she never understood Gary wanted the truck removed from this year. Mike said it's up to the Planning Board to recommend the Capital Improvement Plan and then the Selectmen to make a final decision about what goes on the warrant.

Charlie confirmed the next meeting between the Board and the BAC are meeting is January 27th and the answer was yes.

NEXT BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING: Thursday, January 16th 4:30 p.m.

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

Respectfully Submitted by Wendy Brien-Baker