

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

January 27, 2014

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

Staff Present: Town Administrator Michael Branley

Also present: Allan Treadwell, Polly Freese, Betty Behrsing, Marian Alese, Dr. Brendan Minnihan, Stewart Brock, Carol Brock, Heather Whipple-Simmard, Maureen von Rosenvinge, and Budget Advisory Committee Members Abby Dawson, Charlie Pyle, Henry Kunhardt, Nick Wilder, and Bill McAuley, and others unknown to the minute taker

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

Appointments

1. Allan Treadwell discussed the Town's current IT situation. He stated for approximately five years, in the Town Offices we have used a computer in a way similar to a server. It is time to plan on trying to replace the current situation and he described why a low-to-mid-end file server would be a preferable option in terms of where the Town is going. There was a discussion regarding the list of Town owned computers and off site back-ups. Allan suggested setting up a different separate area for the new server.
2. ConVal School Board member Stewart Brock, Superintendent Dr. Brendan Minnihan, and Marian Alese gave a presentation on the steps of how the school budget was derived. Stewart explained the process, including making goals. He then listed all of the contractual expenses and said that health insurance had a decrease. Stewart touched on different programs offered. He then stated the operating budget of \$43,771,975.00 is made up 75% of salaries and benefits and the total increase is only .79% from last year. Stewart said since 2010 there has been a 16% reduction in enrollment and a 13% reduction in staff. Stewart discussed staffing changes. Stewart said the total gross budget has an increase of .21% and the District Assessment is \$34,124,535.00 with an increase of 3.08% and the biggest reason for the increase is a loss of revenues. There was a discussion regarding warrant articles. Stewart concluded with the dollar impact for accepting the whole proposed budget and warrant articles for a home assessed at \$200,000 would be \$82.00 increase for the year.
3. Budget Advisory Committee – Mike stated the Fire Department received their dispatch invoice and it came in roughly \$1,000 over what had been put into the budget. Mike said he took another look at the heating fuel budget and he is comfortable reducing the Town

Hall heating budget line by \$500. The Board agreed to make these changes. Mike said he looked at propane for the highway department and he does not feel comfortable reducing the budget line this year. Abby said she still feels the budget is still too high. She suggested cutting in the following areas: the increase for executive hours, elections, highway wages to offset the new maintenance person's wages, general government buildings, alarm service, diesel fuel and police non-used line items. Charlie asked if the police cruiser maintenance could be reduced because of purchasing the new cruiser. Mike stated Chief Bell did not feel comfortable with that because for approximately half the year we would still be using the old cruiser and the previous budget was not adequate and was overspent last year. Abigail said she was not in favor of increasing the patrol hours. There was a discussion regarding repairs to the Town Hall and the desired term of the proposed bond. Maureen stated she preferred a 15 year term, Abigail stated she would prefer 10 years. There was a discussion about alternate work at the Town Hall if the bond doesn't pass. Abby said she would not support the alarm system upgrades, the dump truck and the traffic counter. There was a discussion regarding the Capital Improvement Plan. The Board agreed to move forward with the budget and warrant with the two changes made earlier.

The Board agreed to start their meeting on February 3rd at 6:00 p.m. with the Budget Advisory Committee.

Items to Sign

1. Requests for carry over of vacation time for Gary Paige, Leonard Smith, Jason St. Cyr and Michael Branley
2. Payroll Manifest 1/21/14
3. Payables Manifest 1/21/14
4. Payroll Manifest 1/27/14
5. Payables Manifest 1/27/14
6. Timber Tax Grading Map 6 Lot 2
7. Building Permit Map 10 Lot 8-7

New Business

1. Scott said the volleyball area has been flooded and should be ready for skating soon.
2. Mike said the Auditors are in the office this week.

NEXT BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING: February 3, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: Betsy adjourned the meeting at 9:23 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Wendy Brien-Baker

