

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

January 6, 2014

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

Staff Present: Town Administrator Michael Branley

Also present: Ellen Avery, Tom Anderson, Polly Freese, Thomas Clark, and others unknown to the minute taker.

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

Appointments

1. Ellen Avery from Contoocook Valley Transportation Company – Ellen stated she has been the executive director of Contoocook Valley Transportation Company for about a year. She said three of the thirteen towns in her service area do not contribute to the organization annually, including Francestown, so she wanted to go around and visit Boards of Selectmen. Ellen stated she was here to answer questions regarding the organization to see if the Town would contribute. Ellen said that some Towns fund the organization through individual warrant articles and others do it through their budget. Abigail asked and Ellen responded that most other Town's contribute \$500 per year. Ellen said there are several Francestown residents who utilize her organization's services, including some different people each year. There was a discussion about the volunteer driver programs and how insurance is handled. Polly asked and Ellen responded that the program is using volunteers' vehicles. The Board agreed to discuss including funding this year with the Budget Advisory Committee. Abigail stated that the Town was considering changing regions for the purposes of regional planning commissions and Ellen confirmed that this would not be an issue. Ellen confirmed that some riders do contribute funds towards the expenses of the program.
2. Thomas Clark – Thomas questioned why the town has not responded to his complaints from his meeting with the Board over two months; Mike stated that this was his responsibility and he apologized for not responding sooner. Tom asked if the Board condoned the Road Agent's public lying in the Newspaper and made a comment about slander. Abigail suggested that what is printed in the news is sometimes taken out of context. Thomas questioned the depth of the excavation on Pleasant Pond Road, he said that the Road Agent claimed it was to be excavated 3 feet but when he was working on a project on Pleasant Pond Road the Road Agent said they would hit pavement at 18 inches. Thomas said it has come to his attention that Betsy stated at a past meeting that

they received a letter from DES stating that Gary had done no wrong; Thomas stated it was an email not a letter and she neglected to read one paragraph. Betsy replied that she does not typically read the details of every bit of correspondence. Thomas questioned why Betsy as Chairman of the Board calls Cressy Hill Road a Class V Road and claims that the bridge is the Town's responsibility. Thomas stated based on the agreement Betsy signed with the Town the bridge is her responsibility. Betsy replied that the agreement only applies to the section of the road that is Class VI and not maintained by the Town, and that the road is Class V through the bridge. She explained that the bridge has been maintained by the Town for a long time and that records indicate that it has been so since the 70's. She also clarified that the entire road is not maintained by the town, that she maintains from the bridge to her driveway. Scott stated the road is Class VI. There was some further discussion about maintenance and history of the road and the bridge. Thomas stated in his opinion all of the road and the bridge should not be maintained by the Town. Thomas next said that he has observed the Highway Department salting and sanding the boat ramp right up to the water; Betsy responded she contacted Jen Drociak at DES who replied that there are no state regulations regarding road salting near water bodies and that if it is used as a turnaround it is probably advisable to salt it. The Board agreed they would like to reduce salt usage and discussed some alternatives. Thomas stated he spoke to Mike who said that Highway Department employees should not be plowing out their own driveways, however he had witnessed Gary plowing out his own driveway. Thomas asked why on Main Street a driveway across the street from the sidewalk was being snow-blown; Scott discussed some of the reasons for snow-blowing in that area and around Main Street, stating that there were factors other than the sidewalk such as providing access to fire hydrants. Thomas stated he wanted to remind the Board that the state has not made their decision regarding the timber issues and town counsel has not responded to the Forest Fire Ranger; Thomas asked why he has not responded and Mike stated it was not based on direction from the Town. Mike said he would follow up with Town Counsel. Thomas stated the rocks illegally placed along the road way have still not been removed; there was a discussion about if this was illegal or not. Thomas stated he has heard that Gary has told people that a scenic road hearing was held this year for cutting on Pleasant Pond Road; Mike asked Thomas who Gary had said that to and Thomas did not respond. Mike said he asked Gary about him plowing out his driveway; Gary's response was he was going home for a break and plowed a path into his driveway so he could get in and out. When Mike stated plowing out driveways was not appropriate he meant full plowing of the entire driveway, not just a path. There was a continued discussion about Cressy Hill Road and the bridge on it. The Board and Thomas discussed the excavation process related to road reconstruction especially as it relates to depth of excavation and specifically across from the Bilodeau residence.

Abigail noted that Francetown has received two LCHIP Grants for conservation programs. These were applied for by the Francetown Land Trust and the Piscataquog Land Conservancy and supported by the Conservation Commission. Polly asked how many acres that made in conservation and Abigail stated she wasn't sure; Polly stated she felt it was enough.

Items to Sign

1. Annual Service Agreement with Twin Bridge Services for IT Services for 2014. The Board authorized Betsy to sign for the Town. Mike clarified that this agreement would be the same whether we purchase a file server or not because the first year support on the file server would be included in that purchase cost.
2. Payables Manifest for January 6, 2014
3. Payroll Manifest for January 6, 2014

New Business

1. Letter Mike drafted to Thomas Clark in response to his comments raised regarding Pleasant Pond and the Highway Department. Scott asked about one property that he thought there was a new driveway on. Betsy stated that since no driveway permits have been approved the matter is probably an enforcement issue.
2. Scott stated the Transfer Station had to turn away mixed paper the last couple weekends. There was a discussion about this situation and the possible solutions. Scott stated he had previously proposed having an additional container located at the transfer station for mixed paper. Mike stated he had contacted NRRA and they stated because the overflows only happen a few times throughout the year they could not add an additional full size container but they did offer the possibility of purchasing a smaller container for roughly \$3,000. There was a discussion and the Board agreed to have Mike see what George Cilley's proposed solutions might be.

Abigail asked and Mike responded that Charles Blattman was the only applicant for the opening to the Solid Waste Committee. The Board unanimously agreed to appoint him for the remainder of the current term, March 2014.

Correspondence

1. Right-to-know request from Thomas Anderson
2. Letter from Code Enforcement Officer Ed Hunter to Crotched Mountain regarding light enforcement matter
3. Charlie Pyle's fuel Analysis – there was a brief discussion about this and everyone agreed they still need to review it
4. Reconciliation summary for the general checking account for November
5. Mike's weekly administrative report for 1/3/14

Liaison Report

Abigail stated there is a Planning Board Meeting for continued CIP/Bridge discussion and proposed zoning changes tomorrow night at 7:00 p.m.

Administrative Update

Mike announced that Thomas Clark filed a Right-to-know request for all documents related to maintenance performed on Cressy Hill Road dating back seven years.

Mike stated he had put together evaluation forms for the Board to consider using during this year's performance evaluations. The Board reviewed the forms and agreed to try them this year.

MOTION: Betsy made a motion to enter nonpublic session seconded by Scott 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 7:47 p.m.

At 8:25 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.

Mike stated he had realized that we have scheduled to next meet with the Budget Advisory Committee on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, a Town holiday. The Board agreed to postpone the meeting to January 27th as Mike said he had run it by Charlie and he was okay with it.

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

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 8:30 p.m.

At 8:45 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.

NEXT BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING: January 13th at 4:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: Betsy adjourned the meeting at 8:46 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Michael Branley