

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

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES**

**November 24, 2014**

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

Staff Present: Town Administrator Michael Branley

Also present: Daniel Lewis, David Blumenthal from the Monadnock Ledger Transcript, Polly Freese, Betty Berhsing, Judi Miller, Sarah Pyle, Tom Anderson, Budget Advisory Committee members Bill McAuley, Nick Wilder, Stewart Brock, Henry Kunhardt, and Charlie Pyle

**CALL TO ORDER:** Abigail called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

Abigail started the meeting with some background information regarding OHRV usage. For the past four to five years the Board of Selectmen has been granting permission to people who requested it to use certain roads, limited seasonally, for OHRV use. The most recent request was from Daniel Lewis to whom the Board gave permission to use certain roads. Mr. Lewis referenced RSA Section 215-A:6 pertaining to operation of OHRVs, a statute the Board was unaware of.

It was determined that the Town should have an ordinance that would govern which roads could be used by OHRVs. Abigail asked Mike to contact Town Counsel to confirm and he agreed that we should adopt an ordinance if we were going to allow OHRVs on Town roads. Abigail suggested the Board should rescind all prior permission and think about creating an ordinance. Abigail read a memo from Chief Bell regarding the OHRV issue. The Chief is opposed to opening the roads for use by OHRVs. Further discussion ensued.

**MOTION:** Betsy made a motion to rescind all prior approvals immediately for OHRV use until the Board has an opportunity to make some decisions regarding an ordinance, seconded by Scott. All in favor.

**Appointments**

Daniel Lewis indicated that he felt that notice that the Board was going to review and discuss approval of OHRV usage should have been made public so that all interested parties would have an opportunity to attend and speak. He indicated he did not think it was right the people were losing permission without any notice. Mike suggested that, since the prior permission was about to expire on December 15<sup>th</sup>, it may be better to let the permission expire than to rescind prior permission given to individuals. The Board agreed to revise the above Motion to rescind permission effective on December 15, 2014. Mike will send letters to the individuals who have received prior approval to notify them.

## **Items to Sign**

1. Payables Manifest for 11/24/2014
2. Payroll Manifest for 11/24/2014
3. Intent-to-cut for Map 8 Lot 57
4. 2014 Audit contract with Roberts & Greene – the Board authorized Abigail to sign

## **Correspondence**

1. Revised Contract for Ambulance Service with Town of Peterborough – the Board agreed they intended to sign it but wanted a chance to review it
2. Right to know request from Lincoln St. Property relative to the recent assessment, including all communications, emails, memos, etc. regarding Crotched Mountain Golf Club
3. Revised payment schedule from ConVal
4. Chief Bell's Weekly Report, he notes that there was an OHRV complaint on Scoby Road and problems with wires down due to wind
5. October bank reconciliation for General Fund
6. Budget Report through October 31, 2014
7. Interim Inspection Report for Turnpike Bridge – Bridge is in compliance

## **Budget Advisory Committee**

Mike gave an overview of warrant articles including building projects, bridges, Fire Department rescue truck, capital reserves and master plan expenses. The operating budget recommendation, put together after meetings with department heads is \$1,628,400. This represents an increase from last year of about \$35,000 or 2.24%. He went on to indicate where the major increases and decreases are. Based on current figures the 2015 tax rate increase would be \$8.42 per thousand, a roughly 3.5% increase. It was agreed that the Board of Selectmen and Budget Advisory Committee would meet with department heads on December 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. and the Budget Advisory Committee would meet with Mike at 5:00 on December 16<sup>th</sup>.

## **Liaison Reports**

Scott indicated there was a SAC meeting on Thursday and they are still looking at the Articles of Agreement. A presentation of the preliminary budget by Myron Steere and the process has been very transparent

## **Approval of Minutes**

The Board approved the Minutes of November 10, 2014 as amended.

**NEXT BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING:** Monday December 1, 2014 at 6:30 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Abigail adjourned the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Michael Branley