

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

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES

August 25, 2014

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

Staff Present: Town Administrator Michael Branley, Road Agent Gary Paige and Police Chief Stephen Bell, Town Clerk Pam Finnell and Fire Chief Larry Kullgren

Also present: Jim Tovey, Ben & Robyn Haubrich, Polly Freese, Betty Berhsing, Tom Anderson, Judi Miller, Lisa Stewart, Charlie Pyle, Jan Hicks, Henry Kunhardt, Lawrie Barr, Deborah Rogers, BJ Carbee, and Lisa Bourbeau.

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

Appointments

1. Police Chief Stephen Bell – The Chief informed the Board his department is working on a few fraud investigations and preparing for Labor Day. Tom asked when the new cruiser will be on patrol by an officer other than the Chief and he responded that the other officers do not want to drive it yet. Ben asked if there have been any burglaries this summer and the Chief answered no.
2. Road Agent Gary Paige – Gary stated we received two proposals to our RFP for the replacement of Scoby Road bridge, one from Hansen Bridge for \$97,720 for a timber bridge and one from M.A. Bean Associates for \$92,000 for a concrete bridge. Gary stated both are within our budget and his preference based on the area would be the Hansen timber framed option. Gary stated the proposal from Bean included some labor and materials from the Highway Department and the Hansen option is turn-key with minimal work done by the Highway Department. Gary and the Board discussed some of the differences between the two options proposed. Betsy said she prefers the timber bridge. BJ asked what the lifespan of the timber bridge is and Gary stated it is expected to last 75-150 years. Jim Tovey stated he feels the footprint of the concrete bridge will be bigger and getting a crane in with the power lines and trees will be difficult. Jim also said he is opposed to the concrete bridge and would rescind his decision to allow access of his property if the concrete option is chosen. Mike asked if Gary had received an update from the Department of Environmental Services regarding the status of the permit application and Gary stated he had not heard back.

MOTION: Scott made a motion to award the contract to Hansen Bridge. Seconded by Betsy. All in favor.

Gary stated he would like to get permission from the Board to create a turnaround at the end of Farrington Road within the Town's right of way where the Highway Department currently turns around in a private driveway for an estimated cost of \$3,500-\$4,000, plus Town-owned materials and labor. The Board agreed that the current situation is a problem. The Board asked Gary to make sure to contact the landowner and authorized him to do the project. Gary stated the crusher moved in and started today and we will be hauling the sand out of the pit to the highway barn. Abigail stated she received a request from Carol Barr to move the detour sign by FIHS Park. Mike stated he spoke to CLD and they felt it would be okay to take down the sign for a few days and the Board asked Gary to take the sign down for Labor Day. Polly asked for an update on the Turnpike Bridge and Gary answered the target is to have the road open the middle of September.

3. Lawrie Barr stated he thinks George does an excellent job maintaining the sidewalks in the winter. He asked if it was possible to haul the snow out of Main Street instead of putting it on lawns and Gary said it would be a significant undertaking. Lawrie stated a year ago he was concerned with the crab grass along Main Street and he had spoken to the State who said that they would give Gary permission remove the crab grass. He wanted to bring up this issue now to see if the Highway Department could deal with the crab grass prior to Labor Day. Lawrie read part of a letter he received from Mike Branley last year mostly with response to clearing bamboo near Bixby Dam and was bothered by the statement that residents are not authorized to perform work on town property without permission. Lawrie stated the fire lane is only a right of way for the town and is not town owned. Polly stated she understood that it was voted at town meeting to have the snow hauled away from Main Street. The Board looked at the warrant article from 2006 and discussed looking at hauling the snow away in the future.

Items to Sign

1. Payroll Manifest for 8/25/14
2. Payables Manifest for 8/25/14
3. Request for an extension to file the MS 1 – Mike stated we are waiting on utility values from Sansoucy
4. Series of new tax warrants to issue the warrants to new tax collector Pamela Finnell

There was a discussion with Gary regarding the cost of Juniper Hill bridge approaching \$900,000, significantly higher than earlier estimates. Abigail requested that she and Gary meet with CLD to talk about alternative options. The Board agreed.

New Business

1. Letter from Deborah Rogers and the Library Board of Trustees stating that they are having bat and flying squirrel issues in the attic of the Library. They contacted an exterminator and before they engage the exterminator the Trustees are requesting that the Selectmen have the trim board replaced in the rear of the Library where pests are getting in while the scaffolding is in place for the chimneys. The Board discussed the two

proposals for the work on the Library chimney, one from Tony Ludwig and another from Given Masonry.

MOTION: Scott made a motion to accept Tony Ludwig's proposal for the chimney work at the Library as outlined in his proposal. Seconded by Betsy. All in favor.

The Board also agreed to have Mike coordinate the replacement of the trim board.

2. Proposal from Target New England regarding repairs needed at the Town Hall cupola for a total of \$12,675. The Board discussed the work and the proposal and agreed to have Target New England make the repairs, assuming it includes the worst case scenario.
3. Budget Report through July 31.
4. Letter from New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources regarding the award of the \$10,000 Mooseplate grant.
5. Dog license civil forfeiture – Mike explained these are the ones left outstanding after the Police Department served them and phone calls were made. The Board had a discussion with Pam. Pam said Chief Bell is going to make one more attempt to make contact with them. The Board agreed to discuss it again once the last attempt has been made.

Correspondence

1. Memo from Matt Serge regarding Fairpoint litigation. The Board agreed Upton & Hatfield could accept service on the Town's behalf.
2. Letter from Comcast regarding low cost internet.
3. Memo from Mike regarding the MS 4. The Board agreed to have him keep revenues as previously projected.
4. Police reports for weeks ending July 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 & August 7, 14, 21
5. Email from Chief Bell regarding questions from Judi Miller.
6. Letter from the Department of Resources and Economic Development regarding the grant award for \$850 to the Fire Department for forest fire gear.
7. Mike's Weekly Reports August 16 & 21
8. Email from Guy Tolman regarding a right to know request for information pertaining to Cressy Hill Road.
9. Letter from American Red Cross asking for a donation next year of \$706.
10. Report on the water testing for Scoby Pond.
11. Email from George Sansoucy's office stating that our utility values will be sent to us by the end of the week.
12. Letter from NHMA regarding the 2015-2016 Legislative Policy Conference.
13. Southern NH Regional Planning Commission - Abigail said they needed to clarify the members appointed to be Guy Tolman and Scot Heath as full members and Rebecca Harris and Jennifer Vadney as alternate members and the Board agreed.

Old Business

1. The Board discussed that there were extra metal pieces in the scales that have been removed, and agreed to have Warren temporarily store them in the basement of the Town Hall and then eventually be moved to the basement of the Thulander Building.

Chief Kullgren entered the meeting and let everyone know that David Kullgren had been in Washington state for 18 days at the Duncan forest fire. The Board agreed to have Mike draft a letter thanking him for his service.

Liaison Reports

1. Scott said SAC had their organizational meeting last Wednesday.

Administrative Update

1. Mike asked the Board if they would like to meet next week with the Labor Day holiday. The Board agreed to not hold a meeting and authorized payroll for the week ending August 30.
2. Mike said there is a resident that would like to plant some lily bulbs within the triangles at King Hill and Red House Road. The Board agreed to allow the lilies to be planted.

Approval of Minutes

The Board approved the following minutes as written:

July 28

August 4 & 11

Deborah Rogers stated The Library is still having a problem with water coming into the bottom floor of the Library below the two windows. She feels the windows need to be tightened up, window well covers installed to deflect the drainage and some grading away from the building and the Board agreed Paul Knight could try to tighten things up a bit.

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

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 8:10 p.m.

At 8:17 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: September 8th and 6:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: Abigail adjourned the meeting at 8:18 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Wendy Brien-Baker

Approved on September 15, 2014

Board of Selectmen Chair Abigail Arnold

Selectman Scott S. Carbee

Selectperson Betsy Hardwick