

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

August 4, 2014

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

Staff Present: Town Administrator Michael Branley

Also present: Bissy Tolman, Robyn Haubrich, Judi Miller, Assessors Dave Marazoff and Tim Northcott, Elly Miles, Jan Hicks, Tom Anderson, Betty Behrsing, Lisa Bourbeau, Warren Kiblin, BJ Carbee, Polly Freese and Carol Brock.

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

Appointments

1. Elly Miles – Elly stated the Heritage Commission has been tasked with fundraising for the Town Hall project and the commission would like to put a sign on the Town Common regarding the status of fundraising of the Town Hall. Elly asked the Board's permission to offer the naming of the two large meeting rooms in the town hall for donations of \$25,000 each, and there was a discussion about how they tied into the overall plan. The Board and Elly discussed the Heritage Commission's proposed fundraising strategy and the Board agreed they liked the idea but wanted to make sure they asked for enough money. Elly agreed to discuss this with the Heritage Commission. Elly showed the Board a proposed sign 2 feet off the ground and approximately 6 feet high and said someone has volunteered to make it. The Board approved the sign to be placed at the front of the common. Elly stated she was asked at the last commission meeting if an inspection was planned regarding the stability of the eagle and the Board agreed that while the painter had the lift he was going to confirm the stability of the eagle. Abigail stated we had received an email regarding the name of the Heritage Museum and the O. Alan Thulander Building and said approximately a year ago the naming of the building was approved by the Selectmen and dedicated in a public ceremony. This included a plaque Alan Thulander designed, to be installed in the foyer when it is completed. There was a discussion regarding the name and placement of the plaque. The Selectmen agreed that their prior decision of naming the building The Francestown Heritage Museum in the Honorable O. Alan Thulander Building will stand.
2. Assessors Dave Marazoff and Tim Northcott – Tim stated overall the Town value decreased approximately 11% with the Town being at a ratio 116.7% for 2013. Tim stated the current use values were updated this year and a slight increase was seen, residential buildings went down slightly, land had the biggest decrease and waterfront

remained static (no change). Dave stated what they have completed is a statistical update which involves looking at sales and using those to develop new benchmarks. Dave said the market since the last update in 2009 though 2013 was a consistent decline and we are just now seeing a slight incline into 2014. Dave explained the different areas the State looks at to make sure the assessments are in acceptable ranges. Dave encouraged all taxpayers to schedule an appointment to review their assessment. It was asked what drives the current use prices to increase and Dave answered the State has its own Current Use Board that looks at timber prices and they determine the values. Dave explained how for mass appraisal they use sales to build a model for the developing of the new benchmarks and the sales analysis will be available for taxpayers to view.

3. Carol Brock – Carol stated she wanted to give the Selectmen an update on the automation that is in process at the library, in addition to coming into new compliances with state statutes. Carol said there is now an online automated catalog and they are in the process of giving out new applications with a policy and guidelines.

Items to Sign

1. Payables Manifest for 8/4/14
2. Payroll Manifest for 8/4/14
3. Timber grading chart for Map 6 Lot 59
4. Intent to cut for Map 6 Lot 59
5. Appointment form for Stewart Brock for Budget Advisory Committee and Lee Davis for Waste Disposal Committee
6. Letter to Nancy Mayville requesting permission to advertise early in 2015 for the Woodward Hill and Juniper Hill bridge projects
7. Intent to cut for Map 8 Lot 88-1
8. Letters to the applicants for property tax exemption approved last meeting
9. Minutes approved last meeting

New Business

1. The Board agreed to not meet on August 18
2. Abigail stated a resident spoke to her about cutting the knotweed down near Bixby Dam. Scott stated our landscapers have cut down some of the knotweed however a lot of the knotweed is on the neighbors' property. The Board agreed to look at it and discuss it next week.
3. Mike let the Board know there is a change with recycling of the aluminum cans and they cannot be bagged anymore. George Cilley proposed cutting the door of the container in half to allow the attendant to still dump the cans into it without bagging them. The Board agreed this was a good idea.

Correspondence

1. Juniper Hill Engineering Study.
2. Memo from Amy Smagula regarding the milfoil in Scoby Pond and the revised treatment plan.

3. Memo from Bob Bowes regarding a milfoil save at Pleasant Pond.
4. Letter from the NH Office of Energy & Planning stating that the Town's request to change to the Southern region for regional planning purposes has been approved. The Board appointed Guy Tolman, Rebecca Harris, Scot Heath and Linda Kunhardt as representatives for the Town.
5. Notice from DRA regarding the retirement of our auditor.
6. Mike's Weekly Update July 31
7. Letter from NHDOT notifying us that Rt. 47 in Frankestown from the Bennington line to the intersection of Rt. 136 is scheduled to be paved this paving season.
8. Copy of the Hillsborough County Budget as adopted.
9. Email from Mary Lindstrom previously referenced.

Liaison Reports

1. Scott stated last Wednesday we had a Safety Committee meeting and the Town Hall, Town Beach, and Town Hall Annex were inspected and he listed some of the deficiencies that need to be corrected. The Board agreed to make the corrections.

Old Business

1. Proposed notice regarding decisions of the Board of Selectmen being made by the Board and not individual Selectmen. The Board signed the notice.
2. Mike said Gary looked at the scales and felt if the Board wanted, we could use lumber previously looked at or could try to reuse the southern yellow pine from the temporary turnpike bridge and the work could be done by him, Warren or both together. There was a discussion regarding restoring the scales and what wood is best to use for the decking. The Board agreed to purchase the new materials for the deck and to have Warren work with the Highway Department to do the work.
3. Mike reminded the Board they need to make a decision by August 22nd and let the State know if we are going to use Inventory Forms next year.

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

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 8:20 p.m.

The Board discussed with Warren Kiblin hiring him on a temporary basis to work on the scales at \$15.00 per hour.

The Board discussed and agreed to authorize Pamela Finnell to hire Daryl Hazel as Deputy Town Clerk and Tax Collector upon her assuming the roles of Town Clerk and Tax Collector upon August 18 at \$13.50 per hour.

At 8:30 p.m. the Board returned to public session

MOTION: Abigail made a motion to enter nonpublic session seconded by Betsy 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 8:30 p.m.

At 8:40 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: August 11 at 6:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: Abigail adjourned the meeting at 8:41 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Wendy Brien-Baker

Approved on August 25, 2014

Board of Selectmen Chair Abigail Arnold

Selectman Scott S. Carbee

Selectperson Betsy Hardwick