

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

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES**

**January 12, 2015**

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

Staff Present: Town Administrator Michael Branley

Also present: Ben & Robyn Haubrich, Tom Anderson, Polly Freese, Betty Behrsing, Judi Miller, and Budget Advisory Committee members Nick Wilder, Stewart Brock, Henry Kunhardt, and Charlie Pyle

**CALL TO ORDER:** Abigail called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Abigail opened the meeting by saying that tonight's meeting was an all budget meeting with the Budget Advisory Committee.

**Items to Sign**

1. Payables Manifest for 1/12/2015
2. Payroll Manifest for 1/12/2015
3. Request for Payroll Vacation Time to Carry Over for Smith - approved
4. Request for Payroll Vacation Time to Carry Over for Paige - approved
5. Request for Payroll Vacation Time to Carry Over for St. Cyr - approved

**Budget Discussion**

Police Department - Charlie began by saying that they have a recommendation for a reduction to the Police Department budget to hold at the 2014 budget amount by offsetting the increase by a comparable decrease. There was discussion with the Selectmen about Police personnel wages, training and recurring items that may not be needed every year. It was agreed to discuss the issue further with Chief Bell.

General Government Buildings – Landscaping, tree work and repairs at Bixby Dam were discussed. Again, it was suggested that recurring items may be reduced or removed to offset and balance out. Miscellaneous items were questioned and it was recommended that some of these items be removed. Abigail reminded everyone that they have moved a number of items from other departments out of their budgets and into the General Government Buildings budget which has contributed to the growth of this budget over time.

The miscellaneous line items in each department budget were discussed. Mike talked about the miscellaneous IT line item and explained what it would cover, if necessary. The consensus several years ago had been to budget this amount each year.

Fuel – The Committee is recommending a \$10,000 reduction in the combined fuel budget. The types of fuel, the cost, fuel contracts, and the reduction for each type of fuel were discussed. Mike mentioned that the fuel contracts require a certain number of gallons be purchased for the year. After some discussion a \$4,000 reduction in gasoline and a \$4,000 in diesel were agreed to.

Bridge Projects - Mike says he looked into a Tax Anticipation Note (TAN), as opposed to a Grant Anticipation Note, for financing the bridge projects. If the Town isn't reimbursed by the State by November, a TAN would be an option. That would reduce that line item from \$7,000 to \$3,500. Discussion regarding a Grant Anticipation Note versus a Tax Anticipation Note followed. The Board agreed to go forward planning on a TAN if necessary.

The geothermal heating system problems at the library, the reasons for the problems and possible remedies were discussed and debated. There was a discussion regarding whether options should be considered.

Henry asked about the Fairpoint and PSNH lawsuit and if the suit is worth the legal bills the Town has incurred. Abigail read an email summary of that status of the case received from George Sansoucy.

Preliminary Warrant Articles – Mike handed out a list of proposed warrant articles for this year. Funding road work, waiting a few years and doing more work at once, was discussed. Abigail raised the issue of upcoming bridge work, suggesting it could have an effect on holding off on road improvements. There was a discussion on the proposed warrant. The Board agreed to ask the Fire Chief and Fire Wards to come in and discuss the Rescue Truck.

The Budget Advisors Committee and Board of Selectmen scheduled a meeting to vote on the warrant articles at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 4, 2015. There is no Board of Selectmen meeting on Monday, January 19<sup>th</sup> as it is a holiday.

The Board reviewed, discussed and revised line items in the budget. There was a discussion regarding increasing stipends and the Board agreed to review them.

### **New Business**

The quotes for printing and binding of the 2014 Annual Report were reviewed. Mike mentioned that the service aspect is also an important component. It was decided to stay with current supplier.

### **Correspondence**

- Memo from Deb Rogers regarding a recent issue with the geothermal heating system leak at the Library
- Email from Sansoucy regarding Coop and PSNH trial
- Denise French would like to know if the Board or the Road Agents could meet with the Bennington Board on Wednesday 1/21 at 6:30 p.m. – Abigail suggested that the meeting be rescheduled after the budget, unless it's urgent
- Notification of a Public Hearing in Antrim on 1/27 @ 7:00 p.m. on a proposal for construction of a 150' wireless telecommunications monopole tower
- Letter from SNHPC asking the Town to review our projects to see if there is anything we'd like to add
- Email from Dan Donovan complaining that the Highway Department is turning in his driveway and piling up snow without permission – Mike said Gary will take care of it
- Notice of Conval Budget Hearing on January 13, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.
- Draft Minutes of January 7, 2015 Budget Advisory Committee Meeting
- Letter from George Sansoucy regarding the 2014 revaluation report that incorrectly labeled Frankestown as "Town of Gilmanton" in the footer

### **Administrative Update**

Mike asked if the budget hearing will be scheduled for the 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. and the Board agreed.

Mike said that Kim will not be able to come in to the office and sign checks until Tuesday night, given that Monday is a holiday, so employees will have to wait until Wednesday to be paid. Since Monday is a holiday and there is no Board of Selectmen Meeting, the Board approved payroll for week-ending 1/17.

Mike said that Charlie Pyle emailed him to ask if he would update the payroll sheets for the budget through the end of the year. The Board didn't think it was a good use of his time.

**NEXT BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING:** Monday January 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Abigail adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Martha Callahan