

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

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2015

Selectmen Present: Chairperson Abigail Arnold, Brad Howell, and Scott Carbee

Staff Present: Town Administrator Jamie A Pike

Also present: Becky Moul, Bonnie Bethune, Vic Hyman, Susan Cripps James Gann, Henry Kunhardt, Polly Freese, Charlie Pyle and Tom and Kay Anderson and others

CALL TO ORDER: Chairperson Arnold called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Transfer Station

Becky Moul, Michael Tartalis, Bonnie Bethune of NRRA and Vic Hyman were present to discuss changes in the recycling procedures and how it will effect Francestown. Ms. Bethune gave an overview of the service that NRRA provides and explained the new contract that NRRA has with Francestown. Right now Francestown is paying \$15 per ton for paper and \$17.50 for co-mingles. She indicated that some customers without a contract are paying up to \$50 to \$60 per ton for co-mingles. Paper prices vary widely throughout the industry. She explained the limited options they have for disposing of the materials without traveling too far. NRRA felt that Keene was the best option. The big issue right now is keeping the materials dry, especially paper. She talked about temporary solutions, for example using a tarp or a piece of plywood to cover the containers, but winter wind and snow will create problems with such temporary fixes. When asked what the immediate alternatives are Ms. Bethune suggested a self contained compactor but she said that would only increase the haul by an extra ton. She said the compactor would net about 4 tons and it would keep the materials dry. The price is \$275/month to rent a self contained compactor. Tandem hauls cannot be made with the self contained compactor as it is too large. Another option for keeping materials dry is a dog-house style container with doors on the front, but she admitted they are hard to find. She added that New Hampshire the Beautiful has a 20% grant program to help towns pay for recycling efforts. Discussion about what may happen if loads arrive frozen in the winter ensued. She said that if containers get wet in the winter and freeze, containers may come back ½ full because the contents are frozen to the container. There was mention that Francestown will be issuing an RFP soon.

Mr. Pike suggested putting the paper inside the barn and the glass outside. Customers will have to be trained to completely break down cardboard because they won't have the ability to compact it. Ms. Moul asked where the dog house style container would go. Mr. Pike said that it would go where the construction debris is now, paper goes inside the barn, glass goes where co-mingles are now. But it is not known if Naughton will be able to pick up from that configuration.

There was discussion about how to get people to obey the signs telling them to break down cardboard. Putting additional attendants on to monitor the customers and enforce the rules was discussed. It was acknowledged that currently the attendants have expressed that they do not want to be enforcers of the rules thus there is presently no strong enforcement mechanism in place.

Ms. Arnold asked about the timeliness of the pickups. Ms. Bethune responded that we are scheduled to be swapped out before noontime on Wednesday every other week. When asked how extra pickups would be handled she responded that they would have to divert to White River Junction, VT. She stated that under the contract the price would remain the same.

Henry Kunhardt asked if the Keene facility was owned by the City of Keene or owned by Naughton. Ms. Bethune replied that it is owned by the City of Keene. Mr. Kunhardt asked about the tolerance for wet co-mingles as opposed to paper and Ms. Bethune said that cans and bottles can hold a lot of water. He asked if the self contained compacter could be used for co-mingles and how many tons that would hold. She indicated it would probably double the capacity, probably 2 tons.

It was decided to swap the paper and glass on Wednesday morning (11/19) before the pick-up and put plywood over the co-mingles to keep items dry temporarily. It was suggested that volunteers could help “train” customers in breaking down boxes and how to properly sort their recyclables. Ms. Arnold asked the selectmen to volunteer for a few hours on Wednesday and on the weekend. Signs were suggested and discussed. She further discussed putting an extra person on for the next week or so to get people used to the new routine.

Becky indicated she was surprised and dismayed to learn that the construction/demolition is going to a landfill. Ms. Bethune said that the construction debris is sorted and clean materials are taken out. She does not know what Naughton does with clean materials but will find out and let Becky know. Ms. Arnold asked if the town would need additional pick-ups now that they are unable to compact the paper. Becky thought the worst case scenario would be weekly pick ups. Ms. Bethune asked for clarification to make sure she gives Naughton the correct information. The Board said they will swap paper and glass. Co-mingles will stay where it is but will be covered with plywood. There was discussion about changing the routine for construction/demolition using cones or sawhorses. Jamie will speak to Gary about cones and sawhorses to see about getting more help at the Transfer Station and coordinating the effort.

Ms. Bethune offered a quick explanation of Single Stream Recycling - all recyclables go together in one bin. When single stream was new and popular they were getting paid \$50/ton for their material all mixed together. As time went on the processing costs went up and market value went down and single stream recycling costs went up to \$80/ton paid to get rid of it. Towns that incorporated single stream recycling are now trying to back track because it's too expensive and they don't want to do it anymore.

Ms. Arnold indicated that they should move forward with sending out RFPs. Ms. Bethune offered to send copies of RFPs that they have received from other towns. Ms. Arnold asked Mr. Pike to send copies of draft RFPs to Vic for his review and suggestions.

Public Hearing for Unanticipated Funds

The Town has received funds from FEMA for storm damage in the amount of \$12,475.12. Ms. Arnold indicated that if voted appropriately the town can raise the amount of their allowable appropriation by this amount. She stated that it should not go into the general fund; it has to be earmarked to be applied toward the budget.

Ms. Arnold made a motion to appropriate and expend unanticipated funds received from Homeland Security and Emergency Management in the amount of \$12,475.12 relative to the severe winter storm that occurred January 27 through 29, 2015, seconded by Mr. Howell. **Motion passes.**

Consent Agenda

- A. 11/16/2015 Check Manifest
- B. Deputy Forest Fire Warden Appointment form for Benjamin Harrington

Ms. Arnold moved to appoint Benjamin Harrington as Forest Fire Warden, seconded by Mr. Carbee. **Motion passes.**

A motion was made by Ms. Arnold to approve the Consent Agenda A and B, seconded by Mr. Carbee. **Motion passes.**

Items to Sign

- Letter from the Board of Selectmen to Primex requesting a rebate for the Premium Holiday distribution for the Unemployment Compensation Program in the amount of \$3,531.02
- Letter from the Board of Selectmen to Primex requesting a rebate for the 2013 and 2014 Premium Holiday distribution for the Workers' Compensation Program in the amount of \$13,910.27
- Report to the Division of Forest and Land Appeals to reimburse the town for the pay to fire personnel involved in fighting a forest fire in September 2015

Correspondence

1. Police Department Press Release for 11/2/2015 through 11/8/2015
2. Weekly Report from Chief Douglas 11/9 – 11/13
3. Copy of RSA 265:104 regarding vehicle driving on the road where there are horses.

Administrative Update

Jamie Pike indicated that the storm windows for the Town Office are scheduled to be installed on Monday (11/23) and the parking areas along the building will be closed off to cars. He reminded the Board that he will be attending an NRRA meeting on Wednesday afternoon in Concord and he will be out of the office on Thursday and Friday to attend the LGC Conference in Manchester. Finally, Mr. Pike asked that he be provided with a list of priorities for building repairs planned for 2016 so that he can get prices for the cost of the projects and complete the budget. Ms. Arnold indicated that discussion would be necessary about replacement of the furnace at the Police Department and the suggested repairs of the geo-thermal system at the library.

Public Questions/Comments

Polly asked if the owner of the soapstone mill could be contacted and ask that the Town be allowed to salvage the partially completed soapstone and store it under the Heritage Museum before the building falls into the river. Ms. Arnold responded that it is her understanding that many attempts have been made over the years to contact the owner (Susan Swift) and the owner has not responded.

NEXT BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING: Monday, November 30, 2015 at 6:30 pm.

ADJOURNMENT: Chairperson Arnold adjourned the meeting at 8:16 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jamie A Pike

Not approved until signed.

Abigail Arnold

Scott Carbee

Brad Howell