

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

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES

February 23, 2015

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

Staff Present: Town Administrator Michael Branley & Police Chief Stephen Bell

Also present: Thomas Clark, Ben & Robin Haubrich, Sarah & Charlie Pyle, Polly Freese, Betty Berhsing, Judi Miller, Jan Hicks, Tom Anderson, and John Arnold

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

Appointments

1. Chief Stephen Bell – Chief Bell stated a few vehicles have gotten stuck off the shoulder of the road; he advised the State which grants the Town if interested in. Chief Bell stated he is taking a course later this week on officer involved shootings. Abigail stated we have received notification from the State that they would be removing the cross-walk in front of the Old Meetinghouse and asked how Chief Bell felt about it. He stated the State wants to remove it due to the lack of safe site distances and the related liability. The Board felt that there should be a cross-walk there due to the amount of pedestrian traffic, especially during Town functions and events. Mike will draft a letter to the State to make a case for keeping the cross-walk and requesting that the road work does not coincide with the Labor Day weekend.
2. Thomas Clark – Mr. Clark started by asking what the policy is when the Town or a Town employee “wrongs” a taxpayer. He went on to say he expected an apology by now regarding the situation with the cutting of her trees on Pleasant Pond Road and is still waiting. Abigail said that the Town worked with him before and throughout the project to keep him informed about the work being done and the Town worked hard to accommodate his wishes. Abigail stated the Town does not typically provide apologies to people threatening to sue the Town. Scott stated he thought an apology should have been sent. The Town is currently reviewing brush cutting based on interpretations of the Statute. Abigail said the courtesy is a two-way street and reminded him that the Town honored his request to save the rock and his tree, because that was his wish, and there was no thank you to the Town.

Items to Sign

1. Payroll Manifest 2/23/15
2. Payables Manifest 2/23/15

Correspondence

1. Memo from DOT about the resurfacing project for summer 2015; Route 136 from the intersection of 47 to the New Boston Town line and all of Route 47
2. DOT letter for bridge inspection on Russell Station Bridge over Rand Brook
3. Letter from Crotchet Mountain Golf Club complaining about drainage swales along the front of the property to the corner and that it blocks the former access to the swimming pool. The Board will follow up on this next week.
4. The draft of the 2014 audit for the Town
5. Chief Bell's weekly report
6. Town Administrator's weekly report
7. Copy of a Motion for an extension of the settlement meetings between the Town and the Golf Course; Granted
8. Email confirming Tri-Town Landfill meeting on Thursday, February 26th at 6:00 p.m. in Bennington
9. Memo from Northeast Resource Recovery Association outlining the services that come with membership

New Business

Abigail indicated she was unaware of a costly project taking place at the rec fields involving the skating rink. She said it is her understanding that the cost will come out of their operating budget but isn't sure they have adequate funds for the project. She indicated they need to stay within their budget and could use the Recreation Trust Fund if necessary.

Correspondence (continued)

10. Memo from DES regarding the Milfoil Grant Agreement for the Herbicide treatment of Scoby Pond

Motion: Abigail made a motion to accept the DES Milfoil Grant, contingent upon Town Meeting approval, and authorized Mike to execute necessary contract documents, seconded by Scott. All in favor.

Administrative Update

Mike said that he is expecting the delivery of the printed Annual Reports on Monday and hopes to send them Monday or Tuesday.

Mike said Gary has requested an additional \$10,000 for salt. He said this is the 3rd consecutive year we're on tract to overspend on this line item. Abigail mentioned the cost of overtime has also been high. The Board asked that Gary attend the meeting next week to discuss the budget and the issue by the Golf Course.

Mike said the Fire Department furnaces for the truck bay is complete. Chief is coordinating to do the office furnace. Once complete the system will be fully operational.

Mike said that LCHIP Jenna Lapachinski from LCHIP called today. She was planning to meet was Elly, Mike B. and Michael P. at the Town Hall but someone got the dates mixed up because

we were not expecting her today. Mike gave her a tour of the building. Michael P. has sent more info on the owner's rep job description. Mike B. will work on tailoring the job description to our needs.

Approval of Minutes

Motion: Abigail made a motion to approve the Minutes of January 12, 2015 as written, seconded by Betsy. Approved by all.

NEXT BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING: March 2nd at 6:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: Abigail adjourned the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Marti Callahan

Approved on March 9, 2015

Board of Selectmen Chair, Abigail Arnold

Selectmen Scott S. Carbee

Selectperson Betsy Hardwick