

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

February 4, 2015

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

Staff Present: Town Administrator Michael Branley

Also present: Brad Howell, Budget Advisory Committee Members, Charlie Pyle, Bill McAuley, Nick Wilder and Henry Kunhardt - Stewart Brock participated telephonically

CALL TO ORDER: Abigail called the meeting to order at 5:00. She opened the meeting by indicating that they would vote on the articles and discuss the change in the milfoil article.

Appointments

The Milfoil Grant for Scoby Pond is less than expected. The total cost has increased from \$17,000 to \$24,000 and the Grant is decreased from 40% to 25%. Therefore, the total will be \$24,000, the taxation is \$18,000 and the grant is \$6,000. At the last meeting the Selectmen decided to go forward with the full amount.

Although the rescue truck is still on the warrant, the Fire Chief and Fire Wards will be meeting soon to determine whether or not to recommend going forward with the rescue truck this year or hold off until next year. Abigail recommended the vote on the article be postponed until tomorrow night. It was agreed to wait.

It was asked what the milfoil plan entailed and why the cost was higher. Abigail said that the plan is a two prong treatment with DASH and herbicide as needed, but they will wait until spring/summer to decide what needs to be done. Brad said the lesser grant amount is because the State doesn't have money left in their reserve fund. However, there should be more money next year after the \$2 fee increase in fishing licenses.

Article 4: Operating Budget \$1,619,200

Vote: Board of Selectmen – all in favor Budget Advisory Committee – all in favor

Article 5: Capital Reserve Funds \$489,100

Vote: Board of Selectmen – all in favor Budget Advisory Committee – all in favor

Expendable Trust Funds – General Cemetery Maintenance Trust \$1,600
Master Plan Update Fund \$2,000. It was decided to split this article into 2 separate articles.

Article 6: General Cemetery Maintenance Trust

Vote: Board of Selectmen – all in favor Budget Advisory Committee – all in favor

Article 7: Master Plan Update Fund

Vote: Board of Selectmen – all in favor Budget Advisory Committee – all in favor

Article 8: \$100,000 for Town Building Projects

Vote: Board of Selectmen – all in favor Budget Advisory Committee – all in favor

Article 9: Town Clerk annual salary of \$34,000 in 2016

Vote: Board of Selectmen – all in favor Budget Advisory Committee – all in favor

Article 10: Town Bridge Replacement \$200,000 and \$40,000 from Capital Reserve Fund
Mike stated based on the amount leftover from the 2012 bridge article, this additional appropriation is not needed. The Board agreed to remove the article.

Article 11: Rescue Truck \$150,000 (\$130,000 Capital Reserve Fund and \$20,000 from Crotched Mt. Firefighters)

The vote was delayed because the fire department is still considering if they want to withdraw the article.

Article 12: Milfoil at Scoby Pond \$24,000

Vote: Board of Selectmen – all in favor Budget Advisory Committee – all in favor

Article 13: Milfoil Prevention at Pleasant Pond \$2,500 from taxation

Vote: Board of Selectmen – all in favor Budget Advisory Committee – all in favor

Michael asked if the Selectmen wanted to vote on Article 2 to combine the Town Clerk and Tax Collector position. Abigail said the Board supports combining the positions.

Abigail wanted to clarify that when, at the Town Hall meeting, she suggested taking money out of the operating budget to move forward with the Town Hall project, she intended that the operating budget would be reimbursed.

Abigail reminded that there is a Budget and Warrant Public Hearing tomorrow night at 7:00 p.m.

Administrative Update

Mike indicated he is still working on the annual report. He asked about the “recognition” and “dedication” pages. He noted a number of people have passed away or have retired and asked for direction on who should be recognized. Abigail suggested honoring Alan Thulander. A resolution honoring all retirees and those who have passed will be done at Town Meeting and the

Selectmen's Report will acknowledge many. Scott suggested making sure to remember everyone in the Historians Report and include available photographs.

Items to Sign

1. Chart for Timber Tax – Map 5, Lot 43

Old Business

Abigail indicated the Selectmen's Report is being drafted. She has been waiting for information from Nancy Mayville at the State, which has not been forthcoming. She promised to have it tomorrow.

Abigail indicated that the Board had been trying to delegate non-selectmen tasks away from the selectmen. She mentioned an angry outburst a few weeks prior at a Selectmen's Meeting regarding flag raising and lowering. A resident complained via email that the flag had not been lowered to honor the recent death of a service member. Abigail felt that designating the task to someone other than a selectman would eliminate any flag complaints from this resident. Abigail suggested Warren Kiblin be assigned flag duty. Scott was opposed and a heated discussion ensued with Scott using objectionable language. The other Selectmen suggested he leave if he could not be civil.

Motion: Abigail made a motion to assign the flag raising and lowering to Warren Kiblin, Betsy seconded. Scott Carbee did not vote.

Scott left the meeting in anger and after again using objectionable language.

NEXT BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING: February 9, 2015

ADJOURNMENT: the meeting adjourned at 5:32.

Respectfully Submitted by Martha Callahan

Approved on March 9, 2015

Board of Selectmen Chair, Abigail Arnold

Selectmen Scott S. Carbee

Selectperson Betsy Hardwick