

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

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES

April 13, 2015

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

Staff Present: Town Administrator Michael Branley

Also present: Betty Berhsing, Ben & Robyn Haubrich, James Gann, Jan Hicks, Lisa Bourbeau, Polly Freese, and David Blumenthal from the Monadnock Ledger-Transcript

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

Items to Sign

1. Payables Manifest for 4/13/2015
2. Payroll Manifest for 4/13/15
3. Audit Representation Letter for the 2014
4. Contract with AB Aquatics for DASH treatment at Scoby Pond

MOTION: Scott moved to authorize Brad to sign the contract with AB Aquatics, seconded by Abigail. So moved.

5. Tax deferral for Map 2 Lot 34
6. Memo to Tax Collector to defer the taxes relative to the deferral just signed for Map 2 Lot 34
7. Building Permit Application for Map 8 Lot 100-2
8. Timber rating for Map 6 Lot 32 and Map 8 Lot 88-1 – Scott explained he visited the two properties. He said the property on Pleasant Pond Road is a small lot with good location and the size of the sale was very poor, only 2 acres. On Palmer Road only brush was cut, there were no saw logs, there was no yield.

New Business

1. Committee Openings – the Board reviewed the list of openings. There was a discussion regarding the Highway Safety Committee. Abigail stated Betsy had already done some work on revising the charge and will make a recommendation. Scott stated he wanted to post the list including the Highway Safety Committee however Abigail and Brad agreed to not yet include the Highway Safety Committee on the posting.
2. Scott said that he went to the Village Water Co. meeting and the rates are staying the same. He explained some of the changes to billing and filtration they will implement this year.
3. Solar Up – Scott said he has talked to a number of people who would be interested in getting involved in this project. The level of commitment of volunteers was discussed.

Abigail and Brad agreed they thought it was a good concept but did not think it was a priority for Town staff at this time.

Correspondence

1. Abigail talked about the opening of the bids for the Town Hall owner's rep last Wednesday. Mike stated we received another proposal in the mail today. The four proposals ranged from \$22,800 - \$43,700. Mike said that he and Mike Petrovick are going through the vetting process now. Abigail also indicated that tomorrow is the pre-bid meeting for contractors for Woodward Hill and Juniper Hill bridge projects.
2. Memo from the Heritage Commission recommending replacements for the open positions on their commission
3. A Job Tasks report from Fred Douglas for the period of 4/6 through 4/10
4. A Weekly Activity Report from Steve Campbell for April 6 through April 13
5. A Press Release from Fred Douglas for 3/29 through 4/4 and for 4/5 through 4/13
6. Letter from DRA regarding equalization of assessed valuation – they determined Francestown has a median ratio of 100.1% and an overall equalization assessment of 99.3% for 2014. Mike stated his understanding is that these are good results of the revaluation.
7. Email from John Magee from Fish & Game who would like to come in to discuss replacing a culvert to enhance passage for wild brook trout. This would be a minimal expense to the Town. The Board agreed to meet with him next week.
8. Notice from Stoddard Planning Board that they will hold a public meeting on Industrial Communications on 5/5/15
9. January general fund reconciliation

Liaison Reports

Brad stated he attended a Heritage Commission meeting and the Commission discussed rules and procedures. There was discussion that they wouldn't make a recommendation on who to hire.

Old Business

Abigail stated last week Scott had reported a sinkhole/road collapse at the confluence of Poor Farm Road and Bible Hill Road. Abigail suggested that if anyone sees a problem with the roads they should contact the Road Agent right away to notify him rather than wait for a meeting.

Administrative Update

Mike said the Mooseplate Grant is due next Friday for the library windows. He has sent out requests asking our legislators, FIHS and the Heritage Commission to write letters of support for the project. He will have Warren take more pictures of the windows.

Mike said that the Board was scheduled to meet with Bennington tomorrow but there was a conflict so Bennington called to reschedule. It will be rescheduled to next week sometime.

Mike said that they had planned to meet with the Heritage Commission and Mike Petrovick on the 27th but Brad is unavailable. Mike said based on the owner's rep timeline he would like to push that off a week or so and the Board agreed to have him coordinate with Mike P. and the Heritage Commission.

Mike would like to post a notice of a public hearing to discuss the fee changes at the Transfer Station. It was decided to tentatively schedule this for May 4th.

The Board agreed to not plan to meet on April 27th.

Based on the meeting with Town Counsel Mike recommended having a public forum in mid-May to get input from the residents about their ideas and expectations for hiring a police chief. He said he would like to advertise the hearing a few weeks in advance. The Board agreed.

Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Abigail made a motion to approve the minutes of March 9th and March 12th, as amended, seconded by Scott. Brad recused himself from the vote because he was not on the Board at that time. Vote 2-0-1. So Moved.

Polly Freese asked if letters will be sent to board members whose terms have expired. Mike said they will be going out soon.

Dennis said Paul Lawrence is a wealth of information regarding solar and suggested if anyone is thinking about installing solar they should contact him.

Jan asked if there would be another opportunity in September for installing solar power. The Board indicated they thought that may be the case if there was not enough time to meet this deadline.

NEXT BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING: April 20, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: Abigail adjourned the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Michael Branley

Approved on _____, 2015

Board of Selectmen Chair, Abigail Arnold

Selectman Scott S. Carbee

Selectman Brad Howell

