

# **TOWN OF FRANCESTOWN**

OFFICE OF SELECTMEN

27 MAIN STREET • P.O. BOX 5

FRANCESTOWN, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03043-0005

## **BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES**

**May 11, 2015**

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

Staff Present: Town Administrator Michael Branley

Also present: David Jonas, James Gann, Susan Cripps, Betty Berhsing, Tom Anderson, Judi Miller, Jan Hicks, Ben Haubrich, Becky Moul, Polly Freese, John Arnold, BJ Carbee, Betsy Hardwick

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

### **Public Hearing**

Abigail stated the first item is the continuation of the public hearing regarding the transfer station fees. She stated that other than charging for rugs/carpeting and to cease charging for appliances, she thinks the other items should be put on hold. She feels that there are operational improvements that can be made at the transfer station that might address some of the revenue issues. She outlined some of her ideas to increase user fee revenue and take the pressure off the attendants. She suggested using a 40-gallon drum on a trial basis; she also suggested a tip scale to weigh construction material rather than charging by truck bed size. She feels these measures may eliminate patrons trying to negotiate price and size with the attendants.

Scott stated he has decades of experience related to transfer stations and he feels the goal should be to collect approximately 50% of costs back in user fees and he does not support recovering 100% of fees. Scott talked about a punch card system that residents could purchase at the town office so that the attendants would not have to handle money. Brad stated he appreciates the work that was done and agrees that the jump in fees on construction material may be a disincentive to people going to the transfer station and that it would probably upset some people.

David Jonas asked what the cost for shingles was based on and Scott responded it was calculated by the Waste Disposal Committee. He agreed with the suggestion to study the costs more before an increase in the fees is made. David asked if flat screen TVs have the same environmental issues as old tube TVs and the Board stated they were not sure. Seeing no one further the Board concluded the public hearing.

**MOTION:** Abigail made a motion to no longer charge for white goods and appliances and to charge for carpets and rugs \$10 for 9' x 12' and under and \$20 for 9' x 12' and over effective June 1, 2015, seconded by Scott. All in favor.

Becky agreed to look into scales and the state requirements for having a scale.

### **Items to Sign**

1. Payables Manifest for 5/11/2015
2. Payroll Manifest for 5/11/2015
3. Timber Grading Chart – Scott’s recommendation is 2 and the Board agreed
4. Request for reimbursement to the Trustees of Trust Funds from the Master Plan Update Fund for \$3,695
5. Request for reimbursement to the Trustees of Trust Funds from the Bridge Replacement Fund for \$74,646.45
6. Timber tax warrant for Map 9 Lot 38
7. Notice of intent to cut for Map 6 Lot 27
8. Notice of intent to cut for Map 5 Lot 75-1 and 76
9. Application for current use for Map 5 Lot 4 and Map 5 Lot 4-3 – the Board agreed to deny the application because they are not under the same combination of ownership.
10. Application for veteran’s tax credit for Map 3 Lot 11-5 – it was reviewed by Tim Northcott and he recommends granting the credit and the Board agreed.
11. Application for elderly tax exemption for Map 6 Lot 68 – it was reviewed by Tim Northcott and he recommends denying it because they do not meet the income requirements and the Board agreed.
12. Application for an elderly tax deferral for Map 5 Lot 38 – it was reviewed by Tim Northcott and he recommends denying it because it was not timely filed and due to the lack of information provided and the Board agreed.

### **Correspondence**

1. Letter from Southwest Regional Planning Commission regarding identifying Fluvial Erosion Hazard Areas and culvert assessments in Francestown and asking to attend Board of Selectmen meeting to present a map and offer some suggestions to reduce flood risk. The Board agreed to have her come and speak and asked Michael to arrange.

### **New Business**

1. Two estimates for tree cutting work were reviewed and discussed - Andrew Grant’s Tree Service for \$1800 and Robblee Tree for \$2500. Scott suggested splitting up the work because some services are not offered by both. Polly said that Robblee offered a \$300 discount to the Cemetery if he did Town work at the same time. The Board agreed to have Robblee do the Maple Tree and the stump grinding and Andrew Grant will do behind the library and behind the Horse sheds.

**NEXT BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING:** May 18 at 6:30 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Abigail adjourned the meeting at 7:21 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Michael Branley