

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

May 4, 2015

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

Staff Present: Town Administrator Michael Branley, Road Agent Gary Paige

Also present: Susan Cripps, Ben & Robin Haubrich, Jim Gann, BJ Carbee, Mike Tartalis, Becky Moul, John Arnold, Betty Behrsing, Lisa Bourbeau, Barbara Caskie, Judi Miller, Tom Anderson, Charlie Pyle, Michael Petrovick, Carol Brock, Betsy Hardwick, Dennis Orsi, Dennis Calcutt, Carol & Stewart Brock, Dennis Calcutt, and David Blumenthal from the Monadnock Ledger-Transcript

CALL TO ORDER: Abigail called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Public Hearing for Proposed Transfer Station Fee Changes

Abigail opened the meeting by indicating that notice for this hearing was posted on the bulletin boards and in the paper as is required by law however, it was not posted at the transfer station.

The proposed changes would be effective 6/1/15 and are as follows:

1. To no longer charge for appliances and white goods;
2. To begin charging for disposal of carpeting and rugs – \$10 for 9’x12’ and under and \$20 for over 9’x12’;
3. To begin charging \$15 for the equivalent of a 40 gallon trash barrel of Household Construction / Demolition material; and
4. To begin charging for Heavy Construction Materials (Asphalt, Shingles, Sheetrock, etc.) separately from Household Construction / Demolition material. Charges for Heavy Construction Materials – \$25.00 for the equivalent of a 40 gallon trash barrel, \$150.00 for the equivalent of a Short Bed Pickup/Trailer up to 6’, and \$200.00 for the equivalent of a Long Bed Pickup/Trailer up to 8.’

Becky Moul Chair of the Waste Disposal Committee discussed the rationale behind the recommended changes.

Scott stated he understands the price increases but called the \$200 price for a long bed pick-up abusive. He was afraid that people would dispose of waste illegally due to the high cost of disposal. Mike asked what Scott thought was a fair price. Scott suggested a surcharge on license registration or some other way of raising revenue. Brad felt that if charge was shared by everyone, some would take advantage. Becky said that they considered a permit-fee but felt

since it is a user-fee, it should be borne by the user. Abigail agreed it should be paid for by the user. Discussion ensued regarding commercial versus homeowner and dumpster rentals.

The Board agreed to postpone the hearing until next week May 11 at 6:30 p.m. without further posting.

Items to Sign

1. Payroll Manifest for May 4, 2015
2. Payables Manifest for May 4, 2015
3. Appointment form for Mark Pittman for a three year term as an alternate on the Board of Library Trustees
4. Revised charge for the Highway Safety Committee
5. Supplemental Intent to Cut for Map 8 Lot 61
6. Corrected Gravel Tax Levy for Map 3 Lot 51 Gravel
7. Report of Cut for Map 9 Lot 38
8. Recommended grading of the timber cut on Map 9 Lot 38 – the Board approved the grading
9. Notice of award for Juniper Hill and Woodward Hill bridge projects to Hansen Construction compiled by CLD. Abigail stated NHDOT has authorized the Town to sign the notices of awards.

MOTION: Scott made a motion to authorize Abigail to sign the notice of award to Hansen Construction for Woodward Hill and Juniper Hill Bridge projects, seconded by Brad. All in favor.

Appointments

1. Town Hall Update – Architect Michael Petrovick introduced Michael Bruss, the Town's newly hired owner's representative. Mike P. provided a general overview of the status of the project. He stated he had met with Glenn Dodge last week to discuss the status of the project and Glenn will work on a proposal for his design services and put together a complete set of documents to go out to bid. He said that now they will move into design development and provide a schematic design construction estimate. There was a discussion about the suppression system and the Village Water Company's capacity. Mike P. asked that all questions to himself or Michael Bruss be directed through Mike Branley or Elly.
2. Michele Ferencsik said that she had property damage to a fence and that sand/gravel had been deposited on her lawn. Gary indicated that he met with Michele on April 15th and stated they did not hit her fence. Michele claims the Highway Dept. dumped snow on her property by her fence causing damage to her fence. Gary agreed with her claim about the sand on the corners by the road and has removed a large amount of sand from both areas. Michele stated that there is still too much sand on her lawn. Abigail said that everyone experiences sand on their property after the winter and went on to say that maybe more sand could be removed from her lawn by a hand rake. Gary added that they have had phone calls from Michele in the past about piling snow on her property so they are cautious when working in the area. He was adamant that no snow was dumped near her fence. Brad asked what Michelle wanted the Town to do. Michele said she wants the

fence put back together like it used to be. She wants the fence post straightened out or replaced, put back up and the fence reattached to the post. Brad felt the evidence is ambiguous but feels that it would not be a great cost to the Town. Abigail expressed concern about acknowledging damage that the Highway Department says they did not do. Brad felt it best to settle the dispute with minimal work and without assessing blame. The Board agreed to straighten the post, stabilize the post and reattach the fence to the post. Abigail suggested that the lawn be hand raked again and more sand removed. Mike will work out the logistics with Gary.

The Francestown Village Store owner pointed out to Gary that there is an area of the sidewalk in front of the store that is caving in. The water coming off of the bulkhead roof is eroding the wall of the bulkhead which supports the sidewalk and leads into the basement of the store. Gary engaged Tony Ludwig to repair it this week. Scott asked about the crumbling sidewalk behind the gas pumps. Mike stated that he thinks the Town owns the sidewalk. Gary indicated the Town may be liable if anyone is injured on the sidewalk or by the bulkhead so he wants to fix it now and then try to negotiate. Polly noted that there is sand on the sidewalk and in the cemetery near the Old Meeting House. A discussion of sand left on properties from snow plowing and whose responsibility it is to remove the sand ensued.

New Business

1. Abe Philbrick's son has applied to renew an existing junkyard license. However, since the owner has changed it is considered a new license. Statute requires that the Board determine the suitability of the applicant to operate a junkyard and Mike and Town Counsel recommend requiring the applicant to file and pay for a State background check. The Board agreed Mike should go forward with the process.
2. Mike stated he received one estimate from Andrew Grant for 3 jobs involving tree work. The job includes a couple of trees and limbs on trees behind the library, some trees behind the horse sheds and the removal of a sugar maple by Hoopers and some limbs on the another sugar maple. It was decided to wait for a second estimate to come in before making a decision.
3. Draft memo on a public forum on May 20th at 7:00 p.m. at the school regarding the future of the police department and the Town's next police chief. It was decided that it was approved but that a deadline date for written comments should be noted.

Correspondence

1. Town Administrator's report dated 4/ 24
2. Fred Douglas weekly reports for week 4/23 and 5/4
3. Steve Campbell's weekly report
4. Email from Michael P. regarding Glen Dodge meeting
5. Cover letter for Audit reports - Mike wants to schedule a meeting on 5/18 with Roberts & Green and has invited the Budget Advisory Committee
6. Two letters from Nancy Mayville authorizing the Selectmen to sign off on the notice of awards for Woodward Hill and Juniper Hill bridges
7. Memo from Board of Land and Tax Appeals regarding utility case
8. Notice from DRA on finalized equalized value of \$190,264, 174

9. Letter from Upton & Hatfield enclosing a \$60 refund check
10. Letter from Hillsborough County regarding a Public Hearing on the proposed budget
11. Memo from NH Municipal Bond Bank – rescheduled outstanding debt, which will save the Town \$28,000 over the life of the Conservation Bond
12. List of Red List Bridges – Frankestown has 7
13. Email from Lisa Bourbeau offering a \$200 donation to improve audio for meetings. Mike will look into audio system to determine cost and who pays for it
14. Memo from the Chases indicating that the tree is still unsafe and in danger of falling – Mike has asked Gary to remove it. The Board agreed to this.
15. Memo from David Preese of SNHPC regarding 4/22 mutual sharing meeting about purchasing renewable energy. Mike will call David or Jack Munn to determine whether or not the Town should participate considering we are already in a consortium with Peterborough.

Administrative Update

Mike mentioned that he met with FEMA last week regarding the January declared disaster. He said that the amount paid to JCL for roof shoveling may be a reimbursable expense. Also, some administrative expenses may be recoverable.

Mike asked Fred and Steve to attend the Board of Selectmen meeting on the 18th to give the Board an update on the status of the PD and to prepare for the forum on the 20th. He will be meeting with them this week regarding budget status and what they think expenses may be going forward. Primex recommendations will also be reviewed and prioritized.

Abigail outlined the following applicants interested in being appointed to vacant committee positions:

Zoning Board: Sue Jonas, Silas Little

Patriotic Purposes Committee: Richard Roberts

Heritage Commission: Lisa Stewart, Alternate BJ Carbee

Conservation Commission: Don Crooker, Karen Fitzgerald and Alternate Polly Freese

MOTION: Abigail made a motion to appoint the above applicants to the Boards and Committees, seconded by Scott. All in favor.

Dennis Calcutt announced that he is looking for help with the Town Picnic and to build a positive community atmosphere. There will be meeting on June 1st at 7:00 p.m. at the Library if anyone is interested.

NEXT BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING: May 11th at 6:30 p.m.

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

Respectfully Submitted by Michael Branley

Approved on _____, 2015

Board of Selectmen Chair, Abigail Arnold

Selectman Scott S. Carbee

Selectman Brad Howell