

**TOWN OF FRANCESTOWN**  
OFFICE OF SELECTMEN  
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FRANCESTOWN, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03043-0005

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**June 20, 2016**

Selectmen Present: Chairman Brad Howell, Abigail Arnold and Henry Kunhardt

Also Present: Town Administrator Jamie A Pike

Also Present: Michele Ferencsik, BJ Carbee, Elly Miles, Susan Downs-Cripps, Ruth Behrsing, Betty Behrsing, Lisa Bourbeau, Polly Freese, Lisa Stewart, Ben & Robin Haubrich, Guy Tolman and others

Chairman Howell called the meeting to order at 4:00pm.

A motion was made by Mr. Howell and seconded by Ms. Arnold to enter a non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II(b) at 4:01pm. Roll Call Vote Howell – Aye; Arnold – Aye; Kunhardt-Aye.

Others Present: Chief Fred Douglas and Town Administrator Jamie A Pike.

Chief Douglas provided the Board an overview of the process of the Oral Review Board in its review of officer candidates. Based on the results of the review board, 3 candidates were moved forward in the hiring process. Of these 3, one has accepted a position with another department. Chief Douglas is performing extensive background checks on the remaining two candidates.

A new certified part-time candidate has submitted application to the department. Chief Douglas will perform a preliminary interview with this candidate.

A motion was made by Mr. Howell and seconded by Ms. Arnold to exit the non-public session. Motion passes unanimously.

Public session reconvened at 4:25pm.

Chief Douglas expressed continued concerns about ATV use on Class VI roads. Mr. Howell expressed his pleasure with the department and also relayed public praises he has heard regarding the department. Chief Douglas thanked the Board for their continued support.

There was a discussion regarding the Oral Review Board and the interpretation that it may be considered a public body. Chief Douglas stated he would reach out to the Chief's Association for guidance.

A motion was made by Ms. Arnold and seconded by Mr. Howell to enter a non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II(a) at 4:38pm. Roll Call Vote Howell – Aye; Arnold – Aye; Kunhardt-Aye.

A motion was made by Ms. Arnold and seconded by Mr. Howell to exit the non-public session. Motion passes unanimously.

Public session reconvened at 5:28pm.

A motion was made by Ms. Arnold and seconded by Mr. Howell to seal the minutes of the non-public session as it was determined that divulgence of the information likely would affect adversely the reputation of a person other than a member of the board. Roll Call Vote Howell – Aye; Arnold – Aye; Kunhardt-Aye.

#### **Heritage Commission - Michele Ferencsik**

Ms. Ferencsik was present to update the Board on the fundraising efforts the Heritage Commission has planned. Ms. Ferencsik handed out sheets showing the 5 grants (Fidelity, Hunt, Peabody, PSNH and Verney) that they are currently working on. Two fundraisers have been scheduled; a concert on September 24<sup>th</sup> and the Annual Halloween Party. Lisa Stewart and BJ are going to head up a fundraiser activity including a door-to-door campaign. They plan to get some residents involved to help out. Ms. Arnold asked about the expectations from grants and what amount from other fundraisers would be needed to close the gap. Ms. Ferencsik said Barbara should have that information by next week and promised to get that information to the Board. The Heritage Commission will send an update letter to residents and donors within the month. The letter will include an update of fundraising efforts and it will ask if donors wish to remain anonymous and if so, would they let the Heritage Commission know. Mr. Howell suggested a more direct approach by calling donors and asking them, rather than having the donor initiate contact. She agreed and said they will call the donors who they think may wish to remain anonymous. She also found a list of Francestown Academy Alumni and will try to contact them for donations. Ms. Ferencsik explained that they plan to start collecting pictures, old and new, of the Town Hall and the events that take place there. Ms. Arnold indicated that the Board of Selectmen voted to allow the Heritage Commission to accept donations, but that town counsel advised that it cannot. Every donation must be voted on. Thus, the Board of Selectmen needs to be made aware of all donations so they can vote to accept the donations. Discussion ensued. Each event should note the amount of donations received and the Board can vote to accept. If there are individual donations and it is known who made the donation, it should be noted.

### **Consent Agenda**

- A. 06/20/2016 Payroll & Accounts Payable Manifests
- B. Notice of Intent to Cut on East Road, Map 4 Lots 17 & 18
- C. Abatement Request from Eversource Energy; Denied
- D. Abatement Request from Fairpoint Communications, Inc.; Denied
- E. LCHIP funding Application by Frankestown Land Trust for Governing Body Acknowledgement
- F. Application for Veterans Property Tax Exemption for Charles Thompson - Approved

Abigail Arnold made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda items A through F, seconded by Brad Howell. **Motion passes.**

### **New Business**

2015 Abatement Recommendation of Paxton K. Mitchell from Timothy Northcott recommending the abatement request be approved. The Mitchells disputed the 2015 assessment. On April 1, 2015 they received an opinion of value of \$164,000 which was the purchase price on November 6, 2015. Mr. Northcott performed a review and full inspection on April 4, 2016. Due to deficiencies he found he recommended the abatement be granted. Mr. Northcott flagged the property for re-inspection in 2017 to see if any improvements have been made.

Brad Howell made a motion to grant the Abatement based upon the Assessor's Recommendation, seconded by Abigail Arnold. **Motion passes.**

Jamie Pike mentioned that there will be one more Abatement Recommendation coming next week from Tim Northcott for the Tower on Bible Hill Road.

Ruth Behrsing was present to discuss Complete Streets, a SNHPC project. Towns can apply for the SNHPC team to come out and evaluate a proposed project and produce a report/recommendation. The town can then decide whether or not to go forward with the project. The Planning Board would like to apply to be selected for the project and have the SNHPC team come out and look at the 5-way intersection in front of the Town Hall. The Planning Board feels it is unsafe and would like to see what the team recommends to make it safer. She asked if the Board of Selectmen can be added to the list as an interested party. There is no commitment. The Board agreed to be added as an interested party.

### **Correspondence**

- Notice of Fundraiser for the Town Hall on September 24, 2016 from 7:30 pm to 10:00 pm
- Technical Information Release for House Bill 1198 – Valuation of Poles and Conduits Owned by Telephone Utilities
- Press Release from Chief Douglas – 06/06/16 - 06/13/16
- Job Tasks Report from Chief Douglas – 6/13/16 – 6/16/16
- Copy of a letter from DES regarding a complaint against the landowners at 1225 Pleasant Pond Road for dumping sand on their beach in violation of NH Wetlands statute RSA 482-A and ordering them to remove said sand

- Email correspondence between Beth Simmons of the Community Church of Frankestown and Jamie Pike requesting permission to place the signs on the Town Common for the upcoming Community Yard Sale. The Board agreed to let them place the sign as long as it moved 25' back from the center of the roadway.
- Email correspondence from BJ Carbee questioning whether or not permission was granted to OMH to place signboards on their lawn. Discussion of who owns the land that OMH sits on ensued and whether or not the Selectmen's Sign Policy regarding signs on Town owned land applies. The Board of Selectmen will look into the issues to make sure all entities are treated fairly.
- Town Administrator's Report dated June 17, 2016

### **Administrative Update**

Mr. Pike indicated the following:

- At the Waste Disposal Committee meeting with Matt from Monadnock Disposal the paper container overflowing too quickly was discussed. Matt will work on getting a 40 yard container and will swap out the roof structure to the new container.
- Met with Derek Bryant of Bryant Landscapes about re-seeding the Town Common. Mr. Bryant suggested hydro-seeding. He estimated that the area is about 5000 s/f and the cost would be approximately \$600. However, as with any grass, it would need to be watered daily for the first 2-3 weeks of growth. The cost to have Warren Kiblin water the lawn daily for that period of time would be roughly \$350.00. A long term solution would be to hydro-seed heavily in the fall. At the roadside in front of Town Hall Mr. Bryant suggested replacing the soil with new loam and hydro-seed there. There was discussion about what happened to the lawn that was re-seeded last year. It was agreed that it was probably due to winter sand and salt. Mr. Pike asked for permission to remove the dead tree on the common. The Board will look at the tree and make a decision. There was discussion about the window restoration taking place and what impact it would have on the lawn around Town Hall. The Board indicated doing something about the lawn in the fall but did not indicate their exact plan.
- The Town has received the grant from NH Fish and Game for OHRV wheeled vehicle enforcement in the amount of \$1,080. The funds are to be used by June 30, 2017 and the rate of pay is \$45.00 per hour to run patrols. Mr. Pike needs the Board's approval to authorize acceptance of the funds and authorize Chief Douglas to execute the Agreement.

Abigail Arnold made a motion to accept the funds and authorize Chief Douglas to execute the Agreement, seconded by Brad Howell. **Motion passes.**

### **Liaison Report**

Mr. Howell spoke about the herbicide treatment for milfoil being delayed because the permitting process is behind schedule. They can go ahead with the Dash treatment in the next few weeks. Ms. Arnold asked Mr. Pike to put up signs because they have to close the beach during the herbicide treatment.

**Old Business**

Mr. Kunhardt discussed vegetation control at the dam. He contacted VCS, Vegetative Control Services, and thinks it would cost at least \$1,000 to have them remove the invasive species from the dam. Mr. Kunhardt said that he thinks the eroded material could be replaced first. The Highway Department will be filling in the embankment and repairing the eroded spots, perhaps in the fall. The spraying of the invasive species has to be done by a professional.

**New Business**

Mr. Kunhardt suggested putting the Library bulletin board back that was removed some years ago. It may need repairs and the Board will talk to the Library Trustees about repairing it.

**Public Questions**

BJ Carbee asked if the low-volume issue on Town Hall Streams has been adjusted. Mr. Pike responded that it was adjusted prior to tonight's meeting.

Polly Freese commented about the sand left behind after the winter season and asked why it isn't removed. She recommended that the snow be removed from the intersection instead of plowing it up onto the lawns. She further asked if the town was in the process looking for a full-time police officer. She was assured the process is moving forward.

Solar-Up update; Francestown has been approved to partner with New Boston in the Solar-Up program. An installer has to be chosen by the end of the week. Meetings will be announced.

Chairman Howell adjourned the meeting at 6:36pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jamie A Pike

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Brad Howell

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Abigail Arnold

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Henry Kunhardt