

THE PLANNING BOARD
Town of Francestown
Francestown, New Hampshire 03043

January 20, 2010
APPROVED MINUTES

Planning Board Members Present: Abigail Arnold – acting Chair, Bob Lindgren – Chair, Linda Kunhardt, Mike Tartalis, Lisa Stewart, Sarah Pyle, Ben Watson joins the board at 7:07pm.

Members of the Public: Betsy Hardwick, Bill McCauley, Tom Anderson, Charles Pyle, Nick Wilder.

Melissa Stewart is taking the minutes.

Chairman Lindgren brings the Planning board meeting to order at 6:32pm.

Lindgren met with Selectmen and Budget Committee and their strategy was to keep the budget flat. Planning board budget for 09' was \$11,672.00 board only used 58% of budget. Lindgren is proposing to keep the budget the same for 2010 as the board will be working on the Master Plan this year. Lindgren proposed dropping Southwest Regional Planning Commission. Brief discussion regarding pro's and con's of withdrawing membership. Stewart moves to drop membership, Sarah Pyle seconds. All in favor.

Lindgren turns the meeting over to Abigail Arnold.

Arnold announces that budget committee met on Monday and determined that there is no extra money in the operating budget that can be cut and applied towards any capital projects.

Reappraisal Strategy and Reserve Funding Discussion:

Tom Anderson provides an update on reappraisals. Anderson spoke with Jim Rice on Monday regarding the town's budget for reappraisals. Jim's personal opinion was that the town would not have to allocate significant funds this year however he would speak to his co-worker Jeff and get Anderson an estimate. Anderson states that the town allocated 8K this year and last year the town allocated 10k. Anderson will follow up and get a solid number from Jeff as soon as possible. Arnold would also like an estimate from Anderson on what it would cost to do the Town assessment in 5yrs so they can plan for this.

Arnold states that Transfer station, building reserve and Heritage Commission are really Selectmen issues and board wants to know Selectman's view on these items.

Transfer Station Discussion:

Anderson states that the Waste Disposal Committee would like to upgrade the facility by putting a concrete pad under the steel pile, reconfigure the building so that the roll offs containing the glass and construction debris face a different way allowing easier access for pick up, as well as fencing in a section of the facility. Anderson states that bids have been requested, none have been received yet. Anderson's estimate on building reconfiguration is 30K+. Anderson feels that it is not a necessity and does not feel that this is the time to bring it before the town. Although these upgrades would be nice, Anderson would counsel to postpone them at this time. Waste Disposal Committee would like to request a separate reserve account so they can improve the facility. Anderson says that is fine but it is not a necessity. Pyle asks if the current building reserve fund could act as that fund for them? Selectmen feel it could. Tartalis asks if the proposals are due to State requirements. Anderson states that the State recommends these upgrades but the State is not currently mandating them.

Heritage Commission Discussion:

Heritage Commission was awarded an L-chip grant for 16k. The Commission is asking the town to increase money in their budget. Discussion regarding prior grant submissions and the length of time the Commission has to use the L-Chip grant. Betsy Hardwick states the Commission has two years to use the L-chip and that because they received the L-chip they are now going to re-submit prior denied grants. Board will wait to see what additional grants can be acquired now that the L-chip grant has been received.

Scobie Milfoil project discussion:

Anderson feels this will be an ongoing issue. Arnold asks if the Selectmen feel this is something that town should continue. Anderson states that town has put money into the project and feels that if they don't continue with it they are going to loose any ground that they have gained. Brief discussion regarding possibility of making this a permanent budget item and if so which board would take it on. Selectman state that the current process is working well and Scobie Pond residents are active participants so the Selectman are recommending keeping the process the same as it has been.

Bridge Reserve Discussion:

Discussion regarding what is needed for Bridge Reserve Fund. Should town increase the fund by 240K needed for upcoming projects. It is noted that the Town is on the State Bridge list for 2015 however this does not mean that the funds will not be allocated to them sooner and if that happened the town needs to be prepared or else they will lose the funding from the State. Hardwick states that at the time of submission for State funding the Selectmen had to sign off stating that matching funds would be available for these projects.

Discussion ensues of taking 240K from undesignated funds and 40K from taxation.

Kunhardt makes a motion to move 240k from undesignated funds surplus into the Bridge program. All in favor.

Road Improvement Discussion:

Stewart asks how much material the town has still available to them in the tri-town pit. Hardwick states that Frankestown takes the most material at this time and yes there is a ceiling on the amount of material they can take. However they do not believe they are close to the ceiling and they are looking into alternative solutions such as the possibility of purchasing more material from the other two towns sharing the pit.

Arnold states that she would recommend the selectmen take all undesignated funds and put them into roads and bridges in the future.

Based on the current proposed plan in front of board members there would be zero increase in the taxes this year. Next year would be 10cents however if they add 100k to the Road Improvement fund this year it will increase the tax rate by 50 cents per thousand.

The Select board recommends presenting the 100k this year and if the voters turn it down that is fine but at least they will be fully aware of the current Road Improvement situation.

Pyle leaves the meeting at 8:28pm.

Kunhardt makes a motion to increase Road Improvement fund to 150K beginning 2010. Motion is not seconded.

Stewart makes a motion to increase Road Improvement fund by 100k as additional spending for road improvement for this year and until 2015. Tartalis seconds the motion. Kunhardt opposed, All others in favor.

Building Reserve Fund Discussion:

Arnold asks if board would like to increase Building Reserve fund? Watson states he does not feel this is the year to do that, he feels that because the town is working on grant programs he would like to wait until the Heritage Commission and Town have reports to provide to the boards and at that time the board can consider the data and make a recommendation.

Watson makes motion that moneys not be allocated to the Building Reserve Fund in 2010 but note that the board does recognize that funding is needed and should be made available in the future for all town buildings. Lindgren seconds. All in favor.

Lindgren moves to accept remainder of plan as written, Tartalis seconds. All in favor.

Lindgren passes out additional reading material from AT&T.

Next Planning board meeting is February 2, 2010 at 7pm.

Meeting is adjourned at 8:45pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Melissa J. Stewart
Minutes Clerk