

THE PLANNING BOARD
TOWN OF FRANCESTOWN, NEW HAMPSHIRE

January 18, 2012

MINUTES

Planning Board Members Present: Bob Lindgren (Chair), Mike Tartalis, Prescott Tolman, Lisa Stewart, Bill McNeil, Henry Camirand and Abigail Arnold.

Members of the Public Present: BJ Carbee, A. Dawson, H. Kunhardt, T. Anderson, B. Moul, B. Hardwick, S. Carbee, C. Pyle, S. Pyle, C. Lavery, L. Ames, M. von Rosenvinge, N. Wilder, S. Bell.

Barb Martin takes the minutes.

The meeting is brought to order at 7:00 pm.

CIP Workshop Continued

Police Department

Chief Bell advises there is a cruiser set to be purchased in 2014.

Arnold asks if expenses are increased by \$25,000 per year, will it be enough to cover bridges, etc.?

Lindgren asks if there are any building upgrades needed for the police? Bell advises the building is okay for now.

Lindgren asks if there are any grants the police department is looking into. Bell advises he is trying to secure a speed enforcement grant. Wants to work with neighboring towns, especially during ski season. Applied for a bike helmet grant, but was denied due to lack of funds. Looking to apply for a bulletproof vest grant, town's vest life expectancy is five years; we are coming up on that.

Highway Department

Budget has stayed the same for the last three years, and was cut for 2015 and 2016. Equipment to be purchased is a grader; backhoe has been put off. Also need to purchase a ½ ton truck.

G. Paige advises the board that he would like to see funding put back into the Highway Department. Advises we are losing ground on reconstruction. We need to maintain current roads. The \$70,000 in the maintenance expenditures is not enough to maintain the 26 miles of roads.

Advises the crack sealant program is successful.

Advises all work done on Pleasant Pond will now need a final seal coat. Currently, the maintenance will come from the reconstruction funds. This is not adequate.

Discussions regarding cost of reconstructing various lengths of road (reclaim & replace), what amount of road could be completed for the current funding amount, or if funding was dropped.

Bridges: Currently there are four bridges in the state highway plan. Arnold suggested reactivating the road committee. Discussions regarding the need to put the 2015 bridge on the 2012 Warrant Article in order to get the project going. This will allow for engineering costs, etc.

Gary advises the last bridge reports were done in July 2011 and the DOT report includes 8 bridges.

County Road North over Collins Brook was constructed in 1981. It is in poor condition with similar problems that occurred at Russell Station. Also showing signs of severe rusting, etc.

2nd NH Turnpike Bridge: Has been moved to the top of the list. State estimates the cost to repair at \$1,045,000.

So. New Boast Road: Pushed out to 2020.

Juniper Hill and Woodward Hill: These bridges are on the list for 2016.

Gary discusses various wood bridges in town. The cost to maintain them (re-decking, etc.) is minimal --- \$7,000 to re-do two of them. Recommends keeping the ones we have.

Discussions regarding the need and uses of the town bridges.

Discussion on Pleasant Pond Road completion, etc.

Further discussions regarding bridge repair and replacement. Poor Farm Road bridge repair & what was involved with that and why it won't work for other bridges.

Discussions on process for getting on the state list.

General discussion on how to tackle the long and short-term bridge issues. Funding sources available – federal, state and grants, as well as bonding as a source for funding.

Discussion regarding how to bring it to Town Meeting. Gary would prefer to have a committee look at the bridge situation and bring it to Town Meeting next year.

Discussion about whether the \$25,00 increase (starting in 2013) in the current proposal is adequate.

C. Pyle states he believes the town is not prepared to spend more money this year.

N. Wilder believes it could be explained in a coherent way and the voters will likely accept it.

Discussions on how to come up with the additional money.

Tolman brings up the issue of the school district – some discussion on that, however it is a separate issue.

C. Pyle believes funding should be added for buildings. S. Pyle expresses the need to address the building issues (Town Hall).

Discussion on the responsibility of the Planning Board and the various departments to come up with a responsible plan and help guide the town.

Arnold advises the Selectmen will need to meet to regroup. Set an increase at 2.9 % - 3%.

CIP Meeting to be continued to Tuesday, January 24, 2012 at 7:00 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Barb Martin