

THE PLANNING BOARD
TOWN OF FRANCESTOWN, NEW HAMPSHIRE

January 24, 2012

MINUTES

Planning Board Members Present: Bob Lindgren (Chair), Mike Tartalis, Prescott Tolman, Lisa Stewart, Bill McNeil, Linda Kunhardt, Jennifer Vadney and Abigail Arnold.

Members of the Public Present: H. Kunhardt, B. Hardwick, S. Carbee, C. Pyle, S. Pyle, C. Lavery, L. Ames, M. von Rosenvinge, N. Wilder.

Barb Martin takes the minutes.

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

CIP Workshop Continued

Board discusses wants vs. needs with respect to prioritizing expenditures. By funding over the long term with a minimal increase of 2.9% we are planning better for the future.

Arnold reminds the board the 2.9% increase does not address the issue of the Town Hall repairs. One option would be to utilize the \$100,000 set aside for Recreation (to purchase a Town Beach in the future). Current Town Beach lease is short term. It is very reasonable, but it is only short term.

Board discusses the possible use of those funds, however, not inclined to move the \$100,000 from Recreation at this time.

Discussion about the actual life of the fire department vehicles – Can those vehicles last longer?

Kunhardt voices her view on wants vs. needs. Do we need new fire trucks, do we need to completely repair the Town Hall, purchase new police vehicles?

Scott Carbee states he backs and defends the men of our fire department. Believes they work very hard at reusing and recycling vehicles and vehicle parts to save the town money. Not to mention the amount of time they give to protect our town.

Discussion regarding the purchase of a new grader for the Highway Department. We cannot put the purchase off. Gary is looking at the price of it --- it may not cost \$300,000, maybe only \$280,000.

Kunhardt questions what the \$75,000 in Town Building Improvements is for. Repairs are thus far are being paid out of the general building fund and operating budget (need to be repaid from CIP). \$10,600 paid out in 2011 and \$6,000 paid out in 2012 so far (out of operating budget). \$100,000 is needed to make the building usable for public assembly.

Further discussions about the work necessary to fix the Town Hall.

Lindgren asks how the Selectmen are planning to present the Town Hall issue at Town Meeting. \$75,000 needed to stabilize the Town Hall. Would a \$100,000 Warrant Article be presented at Town Meeting? Discussion regarding the time frame in which the Town Hall would be brought to assembly ready specification.

S. Pyle voiced concern with the responsibility of the board and in its making recommendations to the town. We are under funding town buildings --- specifically the Town Hall.

Discussion regarding the way in which the board has prioritized projects in the past.

C. Pyle recommends taking \$150,000 from Road Improvement and put it toward Town Hall repairs.

B. Hardwick: The \$75,000 will protect the structural integrity of the Town Hall.

Discussion concerning the funding for Pleasant Pond Road construction. What about just protecting the work done so far, and that is it for now?

H. Kunhardt voices his view that we need to properly fund town buildings.

Discussion regarding taking funds from roads and put them toward buildings and police roof. Drop funding for roads to \$130,000 and move \$50,000 to buildings. Further discussion about priority of fixing Town Hall, Police Station roof, etc.

Proposal to cut \$50,000 from road; instead of current \$180,000, drop it to \$130,000. Take the \$50,000 and put it into Building Repair (making it \$125,000).

Discussion regarding possible grant funding for Town Hall repairs.

L. Stewart recommends moving \$50,000 from Road Improvements into Building Improvements. Keep it unspecified to be prioritized later as needed.

Discussion about how matters are brought to Town Meeting.

Discussion about what projects need to be done, when they need to be done and how to pay for them.

Kunhardt recommends \$70,000 for Town Hall stabilization, \$8,300 for repair of Police Station roof, \$1,500 for Transfer Station retaining wall.

CIP Meeting to be continued to Wednesday, January 25, 2012 at 7:00 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Barb Martin