

Town of Francestown

Select Board

Minutes of Meeting

Monday, February 26, 2024

Select Board Members present: Chair Scot D Heath, George Ravalico, and Charles M. Pyle, III

Others present: Town Administrator, Jamie Pike; Admin. Asst., Monica Harrington; Karen Fitzgerald, Patrick Troy

Mr. Heath called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

Appointment

Karen Fitzgerald is working on the AARP Challenge Grant for Handicap Access of the Town Offices. The grant is able to provide 100% funding but may be supplemented with ARPA funds. Depending on the final estimate, renovations may include 2 walkway options, automated doors on both floors, and altering the main entrance's men's bathroom to be unisex handicap accessible. Mr. Pike will work with Ms. Fitzgerald on the grant application; the deadline is March 6.

New Business

Check Manifest dated 02.27.2024

A motion was made by Mr. Pyle to approve the manifest and was seconded by Mr. Ravalico. Heath, Aye; Ravalico, Aye; Pyle, Aye; **Motion passes.**

Warrant Article Presentations Assignments were determined between the Select Board members.

A political signage request was received for use of the Town Common. Mr. Troy asked what the options are. BOS standard policy is "no" due to open access for any political signs on any topic. BOS in favor if they can limit it, specifically to include no hate speech &/or offensive language, a limit of the number of signs posted, location, and duration of signage posting. Mr. Pike will speak to Town Counsel.

A motion was made by Mr. Ravalico and seconded by Mr. Pyle to approve the minutes from February 5th and 12th. Heath, Aye; Ravalico, Aye; Pyle, Aye. **Motion passes.**

Old Business

Credit Card Acceptance/Internet at Transfer Station – Mr. Pike met with Interware to test the credit card machine and it worked on site. The cost of the machine is \$525, plus \$85/yr for the unlimited warranty and replacement. T-Mobile provides 5G cell service for the machine and the Bible Hill Rd Tower provides their highest bandwidth of service at the Transfer Station. T-Mobile internet is \$60/month for as long as we maintain the service through their T-Mobile Government program. The Town Office would also be able to provide credit card service via a computer accessed portal. Post credit card machine purchase it will take 6-8 weeks to go live. This will also allow for computer internet access on site.

BOS gave permission to purchase the credit card machine out of ARPA funds \$525, the remaining fees will be from the budget.

Project Updates

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Solar - Mr. Pike is working on two RFP's for solar arrays. One is for the Mountain and the other for the roof of the Town Office or Police Department. He is basing it on [Chester's model](#) as it was an open design/build proposal so the option that best fit the town could be chosen. The state is also waiting on the USDOE to provide final approval of the Municipal [Grant Program](#) for smaller (60kW) systems which will hopefully receive approval this spring. This grant is funded by the Biden Infrastructure grant and is up to \$400K per award. Mr. Pike will provide updates next week.

Repairs at the Police Station – The two entry doors need to be replaced; they were not replaced in 2017. The number one reason the existing door failure is rain splash back due to the current rain diverters. Mr. Pike spoke to Mr. Rokes about the doors and Vaillancourt Roofing about the gutters. These projects will be updated into the 2023 Warrant Article 12.

A motion was made by Mr. Ravalico and seconded by Mr. Pyle to enter into a nonpublic session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II(c) at 6:33 pm. Heath, Aye; Ravalico, Aye; Pyle, Aye. **Motion passes.**

Mr. Pike briefed the Select Board on an incident that occurred on East Road.
No action taken at this time.

A motion was made by Mr. Ravalico and seconded by Mr. Pyle to exit the nonpublic session at 6:46 pm. **Motion passes unanimously.**

Final Business

The 2023 Town Report will be out on Friday.

On Poor Farm Road past Bible Hill surveying work is being done there. BOS was notified by landowner.

On Poor Farm Road and Main Street from the Triangle to the Bennington line, short wooden stakes with orange ribbons have been placed by Eversource to prepare for replacement of telephone poles.

Being no further discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Heath and seconded by Mr. Ravalico to adjourn the meeting at 6:53 pm. Heath, Aye; Ravalico, Aye; Pyle, Aye; **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Monica Harrington

Approved 03.11.2024