

Town of Francestown

Select Board

Minutes of Meeting

Monday, March 4, 2024

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

Others present: Town Admin. Jamie Pike; Admin. Asst. Monica Harrington; Charles Scott, Kevin Pobst

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

Appointment

Electric Aggregation Plan Approval – Mr. Pobst spoke for the Community Power Committee. Their last two meetings only had 9 people in attendance, but they had good questions and feedback. No alterations to warrant language are needed prior to the upcoming vote. Francestown's plan is valid and the Public Utilities Commission gave a public notice stating the program can only be initiated if the rate initially contracted is below the default rate of Eversource. The Town has no liability with the program, all of the onus is on the provider. After the town vote, if BOS is given authority, a consulting committee should be initiated to monitor the markets. Moving forward the Town can use a broker or a coalition as an energy provider. Eversource's next posting is June for August 1. Mr. Pobst recommends watching the process/coalition for the next year or so. The BOS considered Mr. Tovey's suggestions per email he sent 02.29.24. A motion was made by Mr. Ravalico to accept the Community Power Aggregation Plan and was seconded by Mr. Pyle. Heath, Aye; Ravalico, Aye; Pyle, Aye; **Motion passes.**

New Business

Check Manifest dated 03.05.2024

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

A motion was made by Mr. Ravalico to accept the LCHIP stewardship grant of \$550.00 to the Conservation Fund and was seconded by Mr. Pyle. **Motion passes.**

A motion was made by Mr. Ravalico to accept the LCHIP stewardship grant of \$385 to the Town and was seconded by Mr. Pyle. **Motion passes.**

Select Board Policy for Signs on Town Property Policy – The newest changes made today were approved by Town Counsel. The most important changes include limit on size, total of 2 signs with only 1 per approved location, Hate Speech, and Fighting Words. All signs need approval by the BOS and must have an approval sticker placed on each sign.

A motion was made by Mr. Pyle to approve the Updated Select Board Policy for Signs on Town Property and was seconded by Mr. Ravalico. **Motion passes.**

A motion was made by Mr. Ravalico to change the approved Updated Select Board Policy for Signs on Town Property to 4 signs with 1 per approved location. It was seconded by Mr. Pyle. **passes.**

A motion was made by Mr. Ravalico to approve the School Study Committee's request for political sign posting and was seconded by Mr. Pyle. **Motion passes.**

Old Business

Fire Chief Kullgren informed Mr. Pike the fire truck replacement scheduled for next year will be delayed as the current build time exceeds 36 months. The contract price will be as of delivery date, not the order quoted price.

WIFI at the transfer Station is effective today via T-mobile. Mr. Pike is building a computer for the Transfer station.

AARP Challenge Grant Update – Ms. Fitzgerald and Mr. Pike will work on this Tuesday, the deadline is Wednesday at 5 pm, and if the grant is approved, the work must be completed by the end of 2024.

A motion was made by Mr. Pyle to approve Mr. Pike to complete, sign, and submit AARP Challenge Grant and was seconded by Mr. Ravalico. **Motion passes.**

Being no further discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Heath and seconded by Mr. Pyle to adjourn the meeting at 6:22 pm. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Monica Harrington

Approved 03.11.2024