

Town of Franchestown

Select Board

Minutes of Meeting

Monday, March 25, 2024

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

Others present: Town Admin. Jamie A Pike; Admin. Asst. Monica Harrington; Laura Mafera, Patrick Troy

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

Discussion

ConVal Withdrawal Feasibility Study & Franchestown Education Committee (FEC)

Laura Mafera, Chair of the Education Committee, decided with the BOS that the FEC will remain a non-affiliated resident committee. Ms. Mafera will provide the BOS a link to the FEC drive that will share the data collected up to this point. Mr. Pyle will be the BOS member on the Feasibility Study that ConVal will have to initiate. BOS to draft a letter to School Board Chair Mr. Dunning regarding withdrawal.

ConVal's attorney will be at the next School Board meeting, April 2nd, for the community to ask questions regarding withdrawal options.

Consent Agenda

1. Check Manifest dated 03.26.2024
2. Capitol Reserve Withdrawal – Highway Equipment - \$63,987.00 – 1-ton
3. Capitol Reserve Withdrawal – Highway Equipment - \$1,179.38 – 10-wheeler
4. Current Use Application – May 8 Lot 119 – Henry Hardwick, III

A motion was made by Mr. Pyle to approve the Consent Agenda and was seconded by Ms. Fitzgerald. **Motion passes.**

New Business

A motion was made by Mr. Heath to approve the Charitable Tax Exemption Application for the Franchestown Village Water Company, Map 5 Lot 82-1 and was seconded by Ms. Fitzgerald. **Motion passes.**

2024 Employee COLA of 3.5% was approved by the BOS.

IT Service Contract – The Town is in contract with Twin Bridge Services through 12/31/2024. Umbrel Technologies met with Mr. Pike regarding their IT service options and offered a \$0 fee contract for 2024 and a pay contract for 2025. The Board denied the contract offer and will send out an RFP in the future for future IT services.

Finance Software – QuickBooks changing pricing structure this year, an additional \$6-8 K increase yearly. The BOS signed a letter appointing Mr. Pike the point of contact for QuickBooks to discuss current contract terms. MRI software is recommended by Twin Bridge Services as an alternative to QuickBooks.

Project Updates

Tree Removal at Hooper's triangle – Last week the BOS approved Eversource cutting down and replacing the 2 maple trees at Hooper's triangle. Scott Carbee suggested that instead, the Town have those two 20-year-old maple trees

Select Board Minutes 03.25.2024

professionally dug out of the ground and moved across the street to OMH and Veteran's Park. Faulker's Landscaping and Nursery explained to Ms. Harrington the removal/replanting process. It is a 12-week progressive removal process with a cost of \$7-10K/tree. The root damage done to the established tree is extensive and in 25 years they have never had a tree that size and age successfully transplanted. The BOS appreciates Mr. Carbee's suggestion, but will stay with their previous decision.

Eversource will remove the tree at the end of the Town Offices driveway in lieu a town expenditure.

Tennis Courts – The lowest bidder will be requested to complete a site visit and provide a firm bid of the project. Ms. Harrington will ask Mr. Bitterli, RecCom Chair, his view on the matter.

AARP Grant – Town needs to look into workers provided we win the grant. Ms. Fitzgerald will reach out to Whitcomb excavation. Mr. Pike will speak to providers for project components.

Town Hall Kitchen – Sarah Pyle wanted to take on project, Mr. Pyle will follow up with her. The idea is to make it a potential disaster center with kitchen, generator, shower, etc.

Hazard Mitigation Meeting on April 4th at 7pm at the Fire Station

Non-Public Session RSA 91:A:3, II(a) – A motion was made by Mr. Pyle and seconded by Mr. Pyle to enter into a nonpublic session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II(a) at 6:28 pm. Heath, Aye; Pyle, Aye; Fitzgerald, Aye. **Motion passes.**

Mr. Pike updated the board on an ongoing personnel matter.

A motion was made by Mr. Heath and seconded by Mr. Pyle to exit the nonpublic session at 6:38 pm. **Motion passes unanimously.**

Being no further discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Heath and seconded by Mr. Pyle to adjourn the meeting at 6:39 pm. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Monica Harrington

Approved 04.08.2024