

**BOARD OF SELECTMENT MEETING
AUGUST 7, 2014 MINUTES
FRENCHVILLE TOWN OFFICE AT 6:30PM**

Present: Percy Thibeault, Andrew McQuarrie, Clarence Roy, Camille Bernier, Craig Lawrence

Others: John Davis, Eric Blanchette, Phil Levesque, Gilman Hebert, Bob Ouellette

1. **Call meeting to order:** The meeting was called to order by Chairman Percy Thibeault at 6:30 p.m.
2. **Pledge of allegiance was recited.**
3. **Minute of July 15, 2014:** A motion was made by Andrew McQuarrie, seconded by Craig Lawrence to accept the minutes of July 15, 2014 Select Board meeting. All in favor. APPROVED.
4. **Items to be signed:** The Board signed warrants # 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64. The Town Manager went over the warrants summary.
5. **Articles taken out of Order:** There were no articles taken out of order.
6. **Reports and/or Correspondence:**
 - A. **MDOT Paving-** For the Selectmen information, the Town Manager informed the Board that the Department of Transportation will be paving 5.74 miles of US Route 1 beginning at the Madawaska/Frenchville town line. This project is projected to begin sometime in 2017.
 - B. **United States Public Health Services (USPHS)-**The Town Manager informed the Board that a representative of the USPHS maybe conducting interviews with some residents as part of national study on health related issues. People will be under no obligation to respond, but those who do will receive \$30 in cash.
 - C. **Triply Activity- August 24, 2014-**John Davis went over the schedule of activities that will be taking place on the final day of the Acadian Congress on August 24, 2014 in Temiscouata. The event will begin at 9:00am and conclude around

3:30pm.

D. Thank you card from Northern Maine Veteran's Cemetery-The Town received a thank you card from chairman of the Northern Maine Veterans Cemetery for its \$70 donation that the town makes on a yearly basis.

7. Public Participation:

Time Opened 6:40PM Time Closed 7:00PM

A. Mike Michaud- disclosure-Mike presented the Board with a letter that fully discloses that he has no say in any policy decisions for the Town of Frenchville. With this disclosure, Mike will be qualified to receive funds from the Micro Enterprise grant that was awarded to the towns of Frenchville, St. Agatha, and Madawaska.

B. Gil Hebert- Junk yard-Gilman doesn't agree that he should have to apply for a Junk yard permit. Code Enforcement Officer, Bob Ouellette, explained to Gilman that if he doesn't apply for a permit or if the permit is denied, he will have to clean up his yard in order to be in compliance with the Maine State Statute that governs junk yards. Gilman was given two (2) weeks to get the permit.

C. Calvin Ouellette- Junk yard-The CFO is concerned that Calvin may be moving Junk from one of his properties to another. The Town Manager will contact Stephanie Beaulieu of the Maine Motor Vehicle Department and ask her to do an inspection of some of these properties.

D. Paving end of Nelson Avenue-Public Works Director, Eric Blanchette went over his estimated of what it would cost to pave the remaining 105 feet at the end of Nelson Ave, which as it turns out does belong to the Town. The estimate was \$545 and will use millings instead of asphalt. This will save the Town almost

\$2,000. The intention is to do this job sometime before winter. A motion was made by Andrew McQuarrie, seconded by Craig Lawrence to approved the project. All in favor. APPROVED.

E. Lisa Schroder Tax Abatement-Lisa's request for tax abatement was denied in 2013. She claims that the Board didn't follow the right process in that denial.

Lisa believes she should receive a letter from the Board explaining the reasons behind the denial. She also claims that the auction company that she bought the house from told her that the back taxes would be forgiven. Craig Lawrence suggested that her battle is with the mortgage company and not the Town.

F. Mid Ozarks Tax Abatement-The Town had inadvertently doubled billed the

Mid Ozarks for 11 properties. The corrections have been made and Mid Ozarks has been notified of this.

G. CIT Communication Tax Abatement-It was discovered that CIT Communication

has disposed of account #000042 as of this year, so the \$27 tax bill was abated also. CIT Communication has been aware of this.

8. New Business:

A. Flag Fund- Percy Thibeault informed the Board that 100 flags have been installed and \$3,600 has been collected. There was some discussion about creating an account at budget time to maintain the flags. Percy will have a full report at the next meeting on August 19, 2014. Clarence Roy asked if it was alright to put a flag on each post of the sign at the Community Center for the Roy and other family reunions. A motion was made by Craig Lawrence, seconded by Andrew McQuarrie, to allow the various families having a reunion at the

Community Center to put flags on the Sign Posts. All in favor.
APPROVED.

B. Raise undeveloped land value-The Town Manager will contact the assessor to

get more information on this. As it stands now, undeveloped land in Frenchville

is valued at \$135 an acre and an acre of hardwood is valued at \$150 an acre.

Some landowners are actually paying more to put their land in tree growth which

designed to give landowners a tax break.

9. Unfinished Business:

A. Sewer Report-The Board agreed by consensus not to take any action on what to

charge St. Agatha for the months of April, May, and June of 2014 until the value

at the WWTP has been dug up and a determination has been made as to whether

or not the problem is Project related.

B. Insurance for building at Community Center-A motion was made by Andre

McQuarrie, seconded by Clarence Roy to pay the extra seven (7) dollars and

insure the dug outs, snack stack, and small building at the Community Center.

All in favor. APPROVED.

C. Soft Ball field update- Camille Bernier explained that a couple of eight foot gates

needs to be installed on the right field side of the fence to allow Public Works

crew an opening to mow the lawn and to provide access for the Fire Dept. to

flood the skating rink in the winter. Erick Blanchette will check the areas hardware stores to see if they have any of the gates available.

D. Water Tower Report-Percy Thibeault informed the Board that the water tower

project is completed and he recommends that people go see it. He will provide

a more detailed report at the next Board meeting on August 19, 2014.

E. Paving- end of Nelson Ave-

F. Pelletier Avenue Cost Estimate-Eric Blanchette discussed his cost estimate for

Pelletier Avenue, including the ditching, Eric figures the turn can do about 1,200

feet of repairs which will be about the length of the hill. A motion was made by

Andrew McQuarrie, seconded by Camille Bernier to go ahead with this plan.

All in favor. APPROVED.

G. Madawaska Parade-For Selectmen information, the Town Manager contacted

the Town of Madawaska and reported to the Board that there will be a parade

on August 15 at 5:30 pm, and another one on August 17 at 1:00 pm.

H. Bob Dionne- In response to a letter that Mr. Dionne addressed to the Town

Manager, and the Board, the Selectmen decided to continue with the status quo.

The Town Manager will contact Stephanie Beaulieu to have her come to Frenchville and have a look at a number of properties.

I. Speed limit on Church Ave-John Davis will write a letter to Jim McKinnis of the

MDOT requesting a speed limit change on Church Avenue.

J. Stray Cats-Some residents are experiencing a problem with stray cats on Nelson

Avenue. Percy Thibeault will speak with the Chief of Police in Madawaska to see

how they handled a similar problem a few years ago. The Town Manager will

contact the Animal Control Officer to have present a copy of the statute to the

woman who is letting her cats stray on to the property of her neighbors.

K. Post Office update-Percy Thibeault reported that the Post Office will be open

for 6 to 5 hours per day, but residents will have access to the P.O. boxes 24

hours per day. Percy informed the Board that 33% of the citizens of Frenchville

responded to the survey that the Post Office sent out a month ago.

Considering

that 5% is the norm, this was a very high % of responders.

10. Other Business:

A. Sign Assessor's Certification-The Board signed the Assessor's Certification

B. Air Show update-Camille Bernier said that a B-17 had landed at the airport

earlier in the day on August 7th and everything went well.

C. Selectmen help at Festival-The Selectmen agreed to help set up for the festival.

John Davis will get the date and time things need to be ready and report to the

Board at the August 19th meeting.

D. Two (2) cleaners at the Community Center-A motion was made by Craig

Lawrence, seconded by Camille Bernier, to have two (2) cleaners during the two

weeks of the Acadian Congress. All in favor. APPROVED.

E. Advertise Festival on Sign at Community Center-The Board agreed to allow

advertising

11. Future meeting dates: The next regular Board Meeting will be on;
August 19, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. at the Frenchville Town Office.

12. Mike Michaud Resignation-A motion was made by Clarence Roy, Seconded by Camille

Bernier to accept (with regret) Mike's resignation as the Frenchville Fire Chief.

All in

Favor. APPROVED.

13. Adjourn-A motion was made by Andrew McQuarrie, seconded by Craig Lawrence to

adjourn at 8:45 p.m. All in favor. APPROVED.

BOARD TABLED ITEMS

1. **Historical Society**
2. **Gagnon bridge**
3. **Sewer ordinance**
4. **Bob Dionne-Junk yard**
5. **Ed Latham- Turnaround**
6. **Susan Hebert- Abatement**

Agenda Items for Special Town Meeting

1. **Marijuana Ordinance**
2. **Nelson Street Paving**
3. **Gagnon Bridge**
4. **Pelletier Ave Road Improvement**