

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING  
FEBRUARY 18, 2014 MEETING MINUTES  
FRENCHVILLE TOWN OFFICE AT 6:00 P.M.**

In Attendance: Percy Thibeault, Camille Bernier, Clarence Roy, Andrew McQuarrie.

Others: John Davis, Eric Blanchette, Bob Ouellette, Paul Gagnon, Carroll Pelletier, Aurel Lavoie, Paul Gervais, John Ouellette, Craig Lawrence, Bob Dumais, Phil Pelletier

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Percy Thibeault at 6:05 p.m.
  - A. Minutes of February 6, 2014. A motion was made by Andrew McQuarrie, seconded by Clarence Roy, to accept the minutes of the February 6, 2014 meeting. All in favor. Motion carried.

2. ITEMS TO BE SIGNED:

A. **Warrants, Expenses, and Payroll**

Warrant Batch Date	A/P #	Payroll #	
2/12/2014		12	
2/13/2014	13		

- The Town Manager gave a brief summary of the warrant expenses.

3. ARTICLES TAKEN OUT OF ORDER: There were no articles taken out of order.

4. REPORTS AND/OR CORRESPONDENCE:

- A. Code Enforcement Officer to speak about doing an inspection at the Safe Alternatives Building. Code Enforcement Officer (CEO) Bob Ouellette spoke about doing an inspection at the Safe Alternatives Building. Some citizens are concerned that there may be some hazardous chemicals stored in the building and a possibility of some prohibited activity taking place. Bob said that he has passed by the residence a number of times and nothing appears out of the ordinary. The Town Manager checked with the MMA Legal Department and was advised that the CEO can go on the grounds but would need an

administrative warrant to enter the building if the owner of the property denies him access. The Board agreed that the first course of action should be to write Mr. Trudel a letter asking to inspect the building. A motion was made by Andrew McQuarrie, seconded by Camille Bernier, to have the Code Enforcement Officer write a letter to Mr. Trudel asking for permission for Bob and one Selectman to inspect the premises. All in favor. Motion carried.

- B. Snowmobile club to address the Board about a landowner closing off part of the trails.** Paul Gagnon, President of the Frenchville Snowmobile Club, passed out a letter from a disgruntled landowner stating that due to decisions by the Frenchville Board of Selectmen, that he had no choice but to close the snowmobile and ATV trails on his land effective March 15, 2014. Paul explained that this could shut off the trails from Fort Kent to St. Agatha and would have a devastating effect on the Town of Frenchville's economy. Percy Thibeault assured Paul that the Board of Selectmen have always supported the snowmobile and ATV clubs and clearly understood the ripple effects this could have on the town. But the Board was unanimous in its position that Frenchville can no longer accept the liability of plowing private driveways and roads with public equipment without a legal agreement with the landowner. In order for this agreement to be valid, the town has to show that it will benefit the citizens in the form of paying fewer taxes to have Public Works haul the snow away and prevent the danger of drifting snow, etc.

In respect to the Picard Road, Public Works will plow just the portion of the road that is on public property.

- C.** For Selectmen information, the Manager had been asked to find out the cost per pupil for education. The Superintendent's office supplied John with that information. For elementary students the cost is \$6,902 and \$7,843 for secondary students.

**5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

Opened At: 6:55

Closed At: 7:10

Craig Lawrence inquired about the wording that should be used to rescind the changes made to the marijuana ordinance last in March of 2013. He

said that Article I through Article VIII need to be rescinded in order to bring the ordinance back into compliance with federal regulations. Percy informed him that even if the ordinance is changed, it does not prevent someone from challenging it in court.

**6. New Business:**

**A. Frenchville Website:** The manager received an email from marketing consultant Marc Jones about issues he noticed with the town's web page. The Board agreed to get the original designer to make any improvements that may be necessary. The item was tabled and the manager will get more information.

**B. Email from Dona Saucier:** Dona sent an email to the Town Manager about a town in Louisiana that is looking to "twin" or "friend" the town of Frenchville. This concept became popular in Europe after WWII as countries worked to rebuild themselves. "Twinning is sometimes compared to pen pal relationships and can lead to student exchange programs and economic and cultural collaborations. The Board instructed John to get more information on this.

**7. Unfinished Business:**

**A. Sewer Project:** The manager received an email from WWTP operator, Steve Young, about ongoing issues with Woodard/Curran concerning the sewer project with St. Agatha. His main concern is Pumpstation 3 and the barrier that was supposed to be placed around it. He believes this should have been resolved with the project plans. As far as the barge is concerned, Steve was satisfied with the progress being made and said he will be able to complete this deal soon. There is no resolution to the sewer ordinance and this is also a cause of alarm. The Board told John to inform Steve that they are pleased with the effort he has put into this project and that they are backing him with his concerns.

**B. Certificates of Deposit:** John has talked to Steve St. Pierre of Key Bank for some advice. Steve said that right now the best rate on a CD would be 1% and the money would have to be tied up for 27 months

to receive that rate. The rest of the options are paying less than 1%. Steve will put together a package of choices and send it to John.

- C. Abatement for Susan Hebert: The town needs to find out whose name the tax bill is in and when the electricity and sewer was disconnected.

**8. Other Business:**

- A. Budget Update: The Board will meet Saturday morning, February 22, 2014 to go over the budget, and then meet with the Budget Committee on Thursday, February 25, 2014.
  - B. Transmission in plow truck: The Public Works crew noticed a nine-inch crack in the bell housing on the 2000 plow truck. Al Ouellette will look at it and the truck will be out of commission for about one week. Al will inspect the truck before he can tell if there is anything wrong with the transmission. In the meantime, Public Works will put the single axle truck in service and if necessary, they can plow snow with the grader until the plow truck is back in the fleet.
  - C. Historical Society Sub-Committee: Percy reported that that the committee had met on February 13<sup>th</sup> and was planning to meet again on February 20<sup>th</sup>. A motion was made by Camille Bernier, seconded by Clarence Roy, to have Donna Levesque sit on the committee. All in favor. Motion carried.
9. Future Meeting Dates: The Board will have a budget meeting on February 22<sup>nd</sup>, meet with the Budget Committee on February 25<sup>th</sup>, and the next regular meeting will be on March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2014, at 6:30 at the Frenchville Town Office.

**10. Tabled Items:**

1. Historical Society
2. Gagnon Bridge
3. Sewer Ordinance
4. Bob Dionne- Junk yard

**11. Adjourn:**

A motion was made by Camille Bernier, seconded by Clarence Roy, to adjourn at 8:01. All in favor. Motion carried.