



Frenchville Board of Selectman Meeting Minutes
Frenchville Community Center
Tuesday, June 21, 2016 6:30 P.M.

Present: John Ezzy, Danny Collin, Jamie Voisine, Craig Lawrence, Yvon Dube, Ryan Pelletier

Budget Committee: Gary Paradis, Jeremy Pelletier, Aurel Lavoie, Kevin Lavoie, Daniel

Pelletier (Vernon Labbe was there but didn't sign in)

Others: Eric Blanchette, Danna Ayotte (many members of the public which didn't sign in)

1. **Call meeting to order:** The meeting was called to order by Chairperson, John Ezzy at 6:30 PM.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance:** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
3. **Public Comment Period:**

Time Opened 6:31pm Time Closed 7:41pm

There were discussions regarding Article 25 known as the Road Project which was approved at March 22 Town Meeting. The following is highlights of what was discussed and comments made:

- Decision was made at the Town Meeting to fix the roads. Why are we here?
- Pelletier gravel road is a private road and it is illegal to spend tax money on it.
- Do you know how many roads in town are accurately deeded to the Town of Frenchville? None. That means Public Works can no longer plow or maintain any of our roads.
- If you go to the Registry you won't find records but you will find minutes proving owners gave the land to the town.
- Does this mean Public Works can't clean roads to allow ambulance and other emergency vehicles to pass on the back roads because of a few people?

- Ownership problems on all our roads. If we follow what 3 people are trying to pass it means we can't work on any roads.
- Mr. MacDonald, land surveyor, commented on roads being owned by town by prescriptive use. Seen recorded at Caribou Registry as County ways. I've researched every road in this area.
- Per Paul Bernier, Commissioner's office possess records since 1850. Request made by Public Works Foreman, Eric Blanchette to research. Did what he could with short time given. Doesn't make any sense. Why are we here? We voted in March. I love my town. I ran as selectman years ago and resigned before I did something wrong. Conflict of interest is bull. We made some good steps at this year's meeting. Let's give them a chance to go forward.
- There are good people in this town available to be on board of select people and make changes to this town. The only one attempting change is John.
- Offense with prior comment made regarding John only Selectman attempting change. Majority of Selectmen are supporting him on the project.
- Craig Lawrence gave presentation regarding:
 - MMA rules,
 - Budget Committee should not vote,
 - Easements not in place,
 - Plowing private roads,
 - Payments higher than discussed at town meeting,
 - Promises made are not possible.
- Responses to Craig's presentation:
 - But the Pelletier gravel road is not a private road
 - You are in the wrong chapter of the book
 - What are you suggesting?
 - You used the word "Assume" a few times. We all know what that word means. In one instance it's ok and in another it's not.
- Landowner, David Pelletier, stated he was the first one to build on the gravel road in 1997. The road was not opened in the winter. I met with the Selectmen to discuss and the Selectmen agreed to open the road. I never had a problem until this year. All we want is what everyone else has in Frenchville. We are not asking for a golden road. I've been there for almost 20 years and have paid over \$120,000 in taxes. This has gone on far enough.
- March meeting stated that taxes would not go up. How many mils would our taxes go down by? 2 mils?
- Response to prior statement: the \$75,000 per year was ongoing funds going towards the roads. It will now be going towards payments instead.
- Do you honestly think your mil rate will go down?
- John states facts found in 1857 Acadian Archives. Road was a public way and not deeded because Town of Frenchville was only established in

1869. There was no one to deed them to. There are an estimated 1400 drivers using the road weekly.

- Why don't the people residing on Pelletier Road transfer easements to the town to settle this?
- Landowners were told by then Chairman that easements were not necessary due to prescriptive use. Town had been maintaining road for over the 30 year mandate. But research has found that prescriptive use is false.
- Town Manager, Ryan stated that the town has already spent over \$65,000 on the gravel portion of Pelletier road. The town would be throwing that out and wasting those funds if we stop maintaining the road. We need to maintain that road for emergency vehicles. The town people should consider the options. Since 1997, the subject of quick claim deeds and easements for Pelletier gravel road has been brought up 6 times but never happened.
- At the last Budget Committee and Board of Select People meeting, John stated that the easements were happening no matter what. They are being worked on and are coming. What happened to the easements?
- BOS and Budget committee had voted to move forward without the easements.
- The easements are prepared and can be completed easily.
- If all the people want is the easements then let's get them.
- What percentage of work has already been done?
- About 20-25% of work is done.
- Hardwork done by BOS. We are at war. We need to listen to facts instead of rumors. Word in town is certain person wants private road paved so they can sell their property and go to Florida. We've had 4 town managers in 6 years. Let give this one a chance. Let's be honest with each other.
- I agree some work should be done.
- Public Works Foreman, Eric Blanchette gave an update to the people on the road project. He stated that the project is started. The earthwork of Pelletier Avenue is done as of last Friday. But they have not included the gravel portion. They should be paving July 4th week or the following week. The earthwork on Starbarn road will be started shortly. The plan for the Pelletier gravel road is to do ditching, one foot of gravel and chip seal which will only be done on the Frenchville owned sections and we will not touch the Madawaska sections. The deadline for the contractors to get the job done is September 31.

Motion made to close the Public Comment period by Daniel Collin; seconded by Jamie Voisine. All in favor. Motion Carried.

BREAK FROM 7:41 TO 7:45 -

4. **Minutes of June 7, 2016:** Motion to approve minutes as amended made by Yvon Dube; seconded by Daniel Collin. All in favor. Motion carried.

5. **Warrants, expenses, and payroll:** Warrants were signed and reviewed.

Warrant Batch Date	A/P	Payroll
June 9, 2016		40
June 10, 2016	41	
June 16, 2016		42
June 17, 2016	43	

6. **Unfinished Business:**

A. St. Agatha Sewer Payment: A check was received in the amount of \$2,676.50 instead of the invoiced amount of \$9,622.64 for the month of April which was the month with the overflow again. This seems to be an annual event in which they don't pay the bill for the overflow month. We are going to Mediation on June 30 for the 2015 flow. Will we be repeating this process next year? We are providing a service and are not getting paid for it. We have the option to give a one year notification of end of contract. We would like to see the two towns get along but not at Frenchville's cost. Discussion was had regarding the MOU. Issue tabled until the July 5th meeting which will be after the June 30 mediation. Town Manager will invite Steven Young to attend the mediation. He will also contact Rick Currier to confirm if he would like to meet with the BOS before mediation. We could possibly do a conference call prior night during meeting.

7. **New Business:**

A. Sign Documents for BAN: Motion made to withdraw from Acadia FCU interim financing approved at last meeting made by Jamie Voisine; seconded by Yvon Dube. All in favor. Motion carried.

Motion to accept and sign interim financing BAN documents from Key Bank made by Daniel Collin; seconded by Yvon Dube. All in favor. Motion carried.

Documents were signed.

B. Office Administration: Town Manager informed BOS that Valley Recycling Facility will no longer house the bookkeeping and administration at the Frenchville Town Office effective on July 1, 2016. This service will be provided by the Town of Madawaska. The part time employee will no longer be needed due to this change and has been notified that she will be laid off as of July 1st. The office will proceed with the full time town clerk and a per

diem position. This change will positively affect the town budget with the saving of the part time wages and benefits which should be a savings of an estimated \$37,000 per year in future years. The per diem position will be posted shortly.

C. Personal Property Tax: Town Manager informed BOS that Declarations for personal property tax have not been sent since 1989. 17 accounts have been deleted due to no longer being in business. From this point on the town of Frenchville will be sending declaration sheets to the local businesses for an updated list every spring which is what other towns practice. A letter will also be sent with the declaration pages explaining the BETE and BETR programs. We estimate that this will increase revenue to the town for future years.

8. Other Business:

A. BYOB Permit Applications: The town clerk requested signatures on three BYOB permit applications for events scheduled for the month of July. Two events will be held at the Community Center and one at a privately owned property in town.

B. Tax Commitment: Tony Pinette from Maine Revenue Service Property Tax Division will be in Friday, June 24 to assist the town manager, Ryan, with committing the taxes for this year. Ryan requested a meeting with the BOS next week to discuss options for the mil rate. This will allow him to finalize the commitment by July 1st and get the tax bills out to the town people. BOS decided to meet next Wednesday, June 29th.

C. Community Center Rental: Prices discussed for upstairs rental. Current price of \$450 and \$500 if kitchen is used seems to be an issue with the public. Town clerk receives many calls but people either cut the conversation short after they get the price or they don't call back. BOS agreed to decrease amount by \$100 therefore upstairs renting will be \$350 and \$400 if kitchen is used. Downstairs prices will remain the same. BOS stated that already existing contracts should be adjusted accordingly.

D. Farmer's Market: Craig Lawrence was approached with a request for a farmer's market in town. BOS would like to see this in town and suggested that the town manager contact the Heritage Park committee to ask if the park could be used for the Farmer's Market. Item was tabled until next meeting.

E. Town Signs: A question was asked if we received more information regarding getting the town line signs repainted? Town Manager mentioned that David Wylie was looking into grant money to get this done. Yvon Dube suggested we contact Job Corp because he was told they do them there for free.

F. Security Cameras: More information was received regarding the cost and operation of security cameras. BOS discussed and determined that more research was needed. Item was tabled until next meeting.

9. Future Meeting Dates:

- **Wednesday, June 29, 2016 at 6:30 pm at the Frenchville Town Office.**

- Tuesday, July 5, 2016 at 6:30 pm at the Frenchville Town Office.

10. Adjourn: A motion was made by Craig Lawrence, seconded by Jamie Voisine to adjourn at 8:42 pm. All in favor. Motion Carried.