

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
April 3, 2014 Minutes
Frenchville Town Office at 6:30 p.m.

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

Others: John Davis, Eric Blanchette, Adrien Morneault, Robert Dumas, Gary Picard, Jeremy Pelletier
 Dan Pelletier, Paul Bernier, Paul Gagnon, Auriel Lavoie

1. **Call Meeting to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Chairman Percy Thibeault at 6:30p.m.
 - A. A motion was made by Andrew McQuarrie, seconded by Camille Bernier to accept the minutes of March 6, 2014 meeting. All in favor. APPROVED.

2. **Items to be Signed:**
 - A. The following A/P and Payroll warrants were approved and signed by the Board.

Warrant Batch Date	A/P#	Payroll#
03/06/2014		18
03/07/2014	19	
03/13/2014		20
03/14/2014	21	
03/19/2014		22
03/21/2014	23	
03/26/2014		24
03/28/2014	25	

3. **Articles Taken Out of Order:** There were no articles taken out of order.

At this time the meeting was moved to public participation:

4. Public Participation:

Time Opened 6:35P.M.

Time Closed 7:15 P.M. ?

- Gary Picard informed the Board that Reno Voisine wanted his name removed from the letter the landowners had drafted expressing their concerns with the Town stopping the practice of plowing private roads and driveways. Gary said he was present to the follow up on the last meeting. He talked about the letter the landowners had presented and wanted to know where the Board was on the issue.
- John Davis went over the minutes of the May 26, 2011 minutes in which the Board looked at insurance bids from the Maine Municipal Association (MMA) and Trident. Al Michaud was present for Trident and he explained that company's coverage, while Trident's bid was \$6,000 lower, it didn't offer nearly as much coverage. For Trident to be comparable to MMA, more protection would have had to be added and the final cost savings to the Town would have been minimal. A motion was unanimously passed to stay with the MMA. John also explained the contents of a email he had received from Al Michaud in which Al's underwriter for Municipal Insurance said that with all the turmoil and exposure around this issue, she was not certain if they would want to entertain this or not. John also mentioned that Rick Currier, the Town's attorney, agrees with MMA's assessment of not using Public funds for private purposes.
- Paul Bernier said he was discouraged and he thought there would be a change in the mindset of the Board but could see that was not the case. Paul explained that his was brought up originally when Phil Levesque was Town Manager and he looked the other way. He said that the state has put a lot of money into trial system and he is getting questioned as to why the system was shutting down.
- Auriel Lavoie commented that his doesn't make sense and that this decision affects everyone that passes through town.
- Dan Pelletier said that this is causing grudges between friends and neighbors. He assured the Board that landowners are not bluffing and the trails will be shut down.
- Craig Lawrence offered that the law needs to be changed in Augusta and the insurance part of this problem is irrelevant.

After much more discussion, Percy Thibeault told the landowners that the Town will have an answer for them in the near future.

5. Unfinished Business:

- A. Insurance Coverage: The municipal insurance coverage had already been taken up.
- B. Sewer Projects: John Davis informed the Board that the barge for the WWTP had been approved and that the MDOT was looking at a plan to put a barricade around pump station # 3.
- C. Commemorative Coin: The Board agreed to use the Town's logo on the face of the commemorative coin that the Town will be selling as part of the Acadian Congress.

- D. Carlton and Daniel Albert Property: The court ruled that the Albert's owe the Town of Frenchville \$82,231.69 in court fees.
- E. Paving bid for Chad St, Nelson Ave, and Hill Ave: Eric Blanchette explained that Public Works uses the money from the State to pave a street each year. Normally the Town receives about \$26,000, this is usually enough but the estimate for Nelson Ave, according to the last years bid prices will cost around \$35,000. Camille Bernier advised that the Town goes out for bids first and see how much we can get paved. A motion was made by Camille Bernier, seconded by Craig Lawrence to bid the job out of from there. All in favor. APPROVED.
- F. Workshop on Local Roads: The Board agreed to send John Davis and Eric Blanchette to this workshop in Caribou on May 13, 2014.
- G. Update on Public Works Overtime: Eric Blanchette explained that it has been a rough Winter and as of now Public Works has used up about 90% of it's over time, with the rest of April and the month December to go. Gas and diesel usage is almost maxed out as well.
- Eric Blanchette discussed the issue of building the road on Pelletier Ave. He was not certain that the project could be done in-house and still completes the tasks such as screening gravel, culverts, ditching, paving, and grading shoulders. These jobs that are part of the Public Works Summer Roads classification. He talked about a contractor doing it and Percy Thibeault advised that he should talk with Ryan Pelletier who lives on Pelletier Ave and is experienced in this type of work. John and Eric will form a committee and report back to the Board
- H. Investing Buy-In Money: Discussion on investing money from St. Agatha sewer buy-in. John Davis talked to Liana Kingsbury about investing with the Maine Community Foundation. This firm offered some good deals, but the Town will be putting tax payers money at risk. The opinion of the Board was not to do this. The Board directed John to talk to Key Bank for better rates, and call both Acadia and Norstate Credit Unions.
- I. Former Marijuana Dispensary Building: Craig Lawrence wants the Code Enforcement Officer to inspect the building because he believes there was a variety of work done there that was never inspected. He feels that failure to allow the inspections would give the town that right to revoke a certificate of occupancy if the present owner tries to sell the house. The Board intends to schedule a public hearing to change the Town's ordinance back to its original form. Percy Thibeault stated that his may be a good time to hear other issues the Board is dealing with.

6. Other Business:

- A. National Weather Service Report: John Davis provided a copy of this for Selectmen Information.
- B. Pelletier Ave Petition: A motion was made by Craig Lawrence, seconded by Clarence Roy to accept the petition as part of the record pending verification of the signatures. All in favor. APPROVED.
- C. Select the Town Manager to be Frenchville's alternate on Valley Recycle Board: A motion was made by Craig Lawrence, seconded by Camille Bernier, to appoint the Town Manager as Frenchville's alternate of the Valley Recycle Board. All in favor. APPROVED
- D. Ambulance Service: The Town Manager has heard a few complaints over the winter about the lack of an ambulance service in Frenchville. St. Agatha has an ambulance but the town cannot get enough experienced people (EMTs, Paramedics) to provide the proper medical attention. The concern is the time it takes for the ambulance to get from Fort Kent to Frenchville. Percy Thibeault is on the ASI Board and he will address this at the next meeting.
- E. Contact the Railroad, to snow blow, around the Station house near tracks: John Davis, and Eric Blanchette will take care of this.
- F. Roy Easement: John Davis informed the Board that his is a fast track he expected to get the signed document from JJ. Roy by next week.

Item 1B ELECTION of OFFICERS

Chairman: A motion was made by Andrew McQuarrie, seconded by Clarence Roy, to elect Percy Thibeault as Chairman. All in favor. APPROVED.

Vice Chairman: A motion was made by Clarence, seconded by Camille Bernier, to elect Craig Lawrence as Vice Chairman. All in favor. APPROVED.

9. **Future Meeting Dates:** -The next regular meeting will be on
Tuesday, April 22, 2014 at the Frenchville Town Office.

10. **Executive Session to Discuss Personnel Matter:** The executive session was tabled until next meeting.

There was more discussion about plowing private roads/driveways before the meeting adjourned. There is some concern about plowing the church parking lot because this is also private property. Camille Bernier will check to see if the church was gifted to the Town and is so will the parking lot be considered public property. Before the meeting ended, the Board decided that it has no choice but to abide by the 1989 Maine Supreme Court ruling and discontinue the practice of plowing private roads with public funds unless such plowing serves the public purpose. The Town Manager will send letters to the land owners.

- 11. Adjourn:** A motion was made by Camille Bernier, seconded by Craig Lawrence to adjourn at 9:15 p.m. All in favor. APPROVED.

BOARD TABLED ITEMS

1. Historical Society
2. Gagnon Bridge
3. Sewer Ordinance
4. Bob Dionne- Junk Yard
5. Susan Hebert Abatement