



Frenchville Board of Selectman Meeting Minutes

Frenchville Town Office

Tuesday, November 1, 2016 6:30 P.M.

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

Others: Anne Ezzy, Eric Blanchette, Rachel Raymond, Derek Ouellette, Trisha Ouellette, Jean Ouellette, Calvin Ouellette, Nicole St. Pierre, Marie Ouellette, Michael Rossignol, Ben Dionne, Paul Bernier, Matt Fongemie, Danna Ayotte

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 7:26 pm

The Ouellette family was present to discuss events of Monday, October 31st in which Bruce Ouellette tilled the Pelletier gravel road which was to be paved this morning.

- Jean Ouellette (Bruce's wife) expressed the following:
 - this situation has gone too far.
 - A survey done less than 20 years ago showed that the road changed place.
 - Many rumors going around Bruce was plowing land purchased by the town which is untrue.
 - BOS has had illegal meetings. One of them being last February when John Ezzy participated in a meeting via telephone while he was in Florida.
 - Presentation by John Ezzy at the March 22, 2016 Town Meeting regarding the road project was over an hour which was too long.
 - Minutes on February 25 stated that a request was made to have separate Articles for each road. Voting results would have been different if each road had been separate Articles.

- Concerned that if the road gets paved there will be more accidents like the one which just happened last Saturday night when a pickup truck rolled over on that road.
 - Suggestion to bring this road back to referendum in March.
- Paul Bernier also had statements to make:
 - Everyone here are friends. Things should not be this way.
 - The vote made at the March 22, 2016 Town Meeting was unanimous. People voted Yes. People should have talked when it was time.
 - Yesterday should never have happened. This “monster” had legs which was a “famous group of 4-5 people” who all sat on this BOS at one time.
 - The Judge looked at the records. There is no credible evidence that the road is not a public way.
 - Taxpayer money was spent to fix the road and the road needs to be brought back to what it was.
 - As for the speed and more accidents; back settlements are the same and you will meet vehicles going just as fast.
 - Having a hard time living in Frenchville right now with all the politics.
 - Very disappointed and feel for everyone involved.
- Anne Ezzy stated that this is a war in a small community. This project was to fix all roads to protect the citizens.
- Marie Ouellette said the road was being well maintained and should have stayed that way. Roads should of been in more than one Article. People were confused and didn't know what they voted on.
- Rachel Fortin who lives on Airport Avenue had concerns about:
 - The speed on Pelletier road if it is paved. Mentioned last weekend's accident.
 - She saw three moose this morning so people should go slower on that road.
 - Traffic will also increase
 - Garbage trucks will ruin the road.
 - No shoulder space.
- Dan Collin addressed the public as a member of the BOS;
 - The BOS is attempting to honor what the people voted on. The Article was passed.
 - He questioned why the Ouellette's seemed concerned but ok until about a month ago. Seems like it became an issue once the chip seal was changed to hot top. Expressed the reason for the change was because it was less expensive to hot top due to the late season temperatures.
 - Many roads are not deeded to the town but are maintained by the town.

- Calvin Ouellette explained that the concern is that pavement can't be graded. He asked the BOS if they plan on hot topping that road every two years because the hot top won't last.
- Paul Bernier agreed with BOS that most of Route 1 is not deeded to the State of Maine but the state pays to maintain it. Very evident that this is a personal issue. Hope it ends soon. Driven by someone not in this room.
- Bruce Ouellette addressed Paul Bernier by stating they have no affiliation with person he is implying. The BOS couldn't show me a deed. Documents in 1998 to donate land was never signed. My father never signed easements.
- Craig Lawrence, member of BOS; Survey done by Matt Macdonald stated statute were not met for prescriptive use. Can easements still be secured today?
- Bruce more than happy to sign but easement he was presented had no maps, no bank signatures, etc. Not well prepared. Willing to sign easements but will not give control to the town.
- Ben Dionne feels that the Ouellette family has been paying taxes and farming this land for 30 years and they should be respected.
- Mike Rossignol stated that prior town manager stated that that road would never be tarred.
- John Ezzy, Chairman of BOS, stated that two judges have claimed the road as a public way.
- Bruce Ouellette asked the BOS why they aren't taking over Madawaska section of road if they feel they can take over his section.
- John Ezzy's response was that the Madawaska section is owned by private individuals.
- Yvon Dube, member of BOS, asked John Ezzy why he didn't complete the easements as he had promised in the beginning of the year which would of avoided this conflict.
- Craig Lawrence, member of BOS, this needs to go to court.
- Rachel Fortin expressed her concerns about member of the BOS who is making statements on Facebook is very unprofessional and sounds like "gloating".

4. **Minutes of September 27, 2016 & October 10, 2016:** Motion to approve minutes by Yvon Dube; seconded by Jamie Voisine. All in favor. Motion carried.

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

Warrant Batch Date	A/P	Payroll
9/29/16		72
10/4/16	73	

10/6/16		74
10/13/16		75
10/14/16	76	
10/17/16	77	
10/19/16	78	
10/20/16		79
10/27/16		80

6. **New Business:**

A. **Poverty Abatement & Tax Acquired -Executive Session** - tabled until November 15 meeting.

B. **Junk Yard Applicants-**

a. Letter received from Gilman Hebert's attorney. Property is not a junkyard. Gil just wants to live his life and be left alone. BOS concerned if he is actively scraping. Are there matching vehicles in the yard which he could be using as extra parts for his vehicle?

b. Donald Beaulieu- will not apply because he is going out of business within two years. Daniel Collin explained that Don buys units to rebuild. Sometimes takes time to get two identical units to build one good one. This is a body shop and not a junkyard. He feels that Bob Ouellet, Code Enforcement Officer should be more personable vs. sending letters. BOS requested to Ryan, Town Manager, to discuss this situation further with Code Enforcement Officer and get his opinion. Ryan stated that Bob did go for a visit and is aware of Don's inventory. The State of Maine states more than 3 units should be considered scrap.

c. All applications will be reviewed at the November 15 meeting.

C. **Pelletier Avenue Plowing-** Public Works Director, Eric Blanchette, asked the BOS for direction regarding plowing Pelletier gravel road should we get snow before situation is settled. Discussion regarding turn arounds and liability issue on plowing sections of roads not belonging to the town. Yvon Dube made a motion that Public Works should plow only roads which are considered owned by the town which means do not plow Madawaska

- sections; seconded by Daniel Collin. John Ezzy abstained from voting. 4 votes in favor. Motion carried.
- D. **Camera** - The Town Manager brought up discussion regarding the recording of our meetings. The recording began last winter when one board member requested that the Madawaska High School students record every meeting. We do not legally need to record our meetings. As long as we have minutes. Minutes are also being posted on website for public to review. John Ezzy feels it's a public service and lets people know what goes on at the meetings. Motion made by Yvon Dube to stop having Madawaska students come record the meetings; Jamie Voisine seconded the motion. 3 votes approved the motion; 2 votes opposed. Motion carries.
(FYI: MMA states that we can not stop the public from coming in and recording the meetings. Colin Jandreau from Madawaska H. S. stated during a email conversation with Ryan that after reviewing the contents of the recording for the November 1 meeting he no longer wants to send his students to record the meetings.)
- E. **Auditors Proposal for Financial Services** - BOS was provided a copy of the contract drawn up with, new auditor hired, Chester Kearney, CPA.
- F. **Skating Rink Project**- Skating Rink walls must be replaced. Discussion regarding lower walls and shrinking down size of rink. Ryan will check with insurance if shorter walls would be considered hazardous. Public Works department is willing to cooperate and assist project. Yvon Dube expressed concerns that the water pump is in the recreation building and a hose leads to the community center. This is causing the town to heat the rec building when not in use. Reason it's set up this way is because it was there before the community center was built. The water pump should be moved to the community center which would be more cost effective. Eric will research this further. A motion was made by Craig Lawrence that the skating rink walls be cut shorter and we go ahead and shrink the size if MMA states there is no liability issue with the insurance; Jamie Voisine seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carries.
- G. **Baseball Field Project** - Gravel was ordered and paid for which was approved at an earlier meeting. Gravel should be in by weekend. Scheduled to begin groundwork at 12:00 Sunday. Looking for volunteers. Will post online.
- H. **Liquor License Approval**- Selectmen signed off on Liquor/Catering Permit Application received from County Connection for the Madawaska Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting to be held at the Frenchville Community Center Friday, November 4, 2016. Motion to approve made by Yvon Dube; seconded by Daniel Collin. All in favor. Motion carried.
7. **Unfinished Business:**
- A. **Road Update & Current Schedule:** 2016 road work is done. Yesterday's incident amounted to \$50,000-\$55,000 in damage. MMA and the town's attorney have both been contacted regarding the incident. Craig Lawrence stated that the town should get easements on all roads.

B. Sewer Mediation Update: Town Manager, Ryan Pelletier, updated BOS with financial numbers and the town's loss if they agree to any settlement at the Mediation scheduled for Monday, November 7 at 9 am.

8. Other Business:

A.Christmas Party: The Town Clerk informed the BOS that the Christmas Party is scheduled for Friday, December 2. Location for the party this year has been changed to the Lakeview Restaurant since Dolly's Restaurant is no longer renting the downstairs. The only other venue in town is Rosette's Restaurant but administration felt that since there is no separate party room that there was a lack of privacy.

B.Executive Session: Yvon Dube requested an Executive Session with the BOS.

9. Future Meeting Dates:

- **Tuesday, November 15th, 2016 at 6:30 pm at the Frenchville Town Office.**

10. Adjourn: A motion was made by Daniel Collin, seconded by Yvon Dube to adjourn at 9:30pm. All in favor. Motion Carried.

Tabled Items:

1. Junkyard Permits due October 31.
2. Plumbing & Sewer Fees
3. BOS -Right to Know training
4. Foreclosure
5. Farmer's Market Agreement
6. Denver Avenue Easement
7. Revaluation for 2017
8. Budget Adjustments for Sewer Pipe Break & Dumb Waiter.