Town of Francestown

Select Board
Minutes of Meeting
Monday, August 24, 2026

Members present: Chair Karen Fitzgerald, Scot D Heath and Charles M Pyle III
Others present: Town Admin. Jamie A Pike, Admin. Coord. Sarah Morin

Chair Fitzgerald called the meeting to order at 5:32 pm.

Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Mr. Heath and seconded by Mr. Pyle to accept and approve the manifest dated 08.26.2026. **Motion passes.**

A motion was made by Mr. Heath and seconded by Ms. Fitzgerald to accept the $375 donation made by FIHS to repair the obelisk in the Turnpike Cemetery. **Motion passes.** Mr. Pyle abstained.

New Business

The contracts for the Old County Road North Bridge project were received. A motion was made by Mr. Pyle and seconded by Mr. Heath to approve the Notice of Award to Cold River Bridges LLC, the Form of Agreement, the Notice to Proceed, and the Wetlands Permit. **Motion passes.**

The Board reviewed the Hedderly Driveway Permit (Map 5 Lot 3) but deferred action pending receipt of the approved state permit.

The Board reviewed the Beowulf Consulting Driveway Permit (Map 8 Lot 43-1) but deferred action to allow the Building Inspector to review the wetlands area.

A motion was made by Mr. Pyle and seconded by Mr. Heath to approve the Excavation Tax Warrant to Francestown Sand & Gravel for $13.16. **Motion passes.**

A motion was made by Mr. Heath and seconded by Mr. Pyle to appoint John Arnold Jr. as an alternate to the Budget & Advisory Committee. **Motion passes.**

A resident requested an appeal of a returned-check fee that resulted from using the online payment kiosk. The Board discussed that this was the residents' first occurrence and agreed that it was reasonable to reduce the fee to the amount incurred by the Town. A motion was made by Mr. Pyle and seconded by Mr. Heath to reduce the return check fee to $15 as a one-time courtesy. **Motion passes.**

HealthTrust contacted Mr. Pike to explain that the Town currently has an agreement with SAU 1 to be grouped together for insurance premiums. If the Town leaves SAU 1, it would no longer be covered under that group. HealthTrust recommended that the Town join with the Independent School District to form a new group. Mr. Pike will follow up with HealthTrust to gather additional information.

The Board reviewed the policy regarding political signs in the right-of-way and on Town property. Permission from the Select Board is required to place a sign on Town property. However, permission is not required for signs advertising Town,

Library, ConVal, OMH, or FIHS-sponsored events or programs, provided they are placed in permissible areas. This information is being provided as a reminder; the Select Board is not actively monitoring or policing signs throughout the Town.

Old Business

Mr. Pike spoke with the Town Administrator in Henniker regarding the proposed off-road vehicle ordinance. Henniker has adopted a similar ordinance, and the Town Administrator reported receiving a high number of complaints related to it. She recommended that the Town establish a subcommittee to review and research the proposed ordinance. Mr. Pike drafted a charter for the proposed subcommittee for the Board's review.

Other Business

The Road Agent confirmed that he was able to create a turnaround on Hayhill Road without using any abutting properties.

Mr. Pike contacted Eversource regarding the pole work on Old County Road South following a resident's concern about tree cutting on a scenic road. Eversource explained that the work is necessary due to difficulties maintaining reliable service in that area. Eversource also plans to approach the Planning Board to request a future public hearing regarding additional work on scenic roads.

The Town Office was made aware of two unlicensed Airbnb's currently operating in Town. Mr. Pike will send letters to the property owners requesting that they appear before the Planning Board.

With no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Mr. Pyle and seconded by Mr. Heath to adjourn the meeting. **Motion passes.** Ms. Fitzgerald adjourned the meeting at 6:17 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Morin, Administrative Coordinator

APPROVED 08.31.2026