

**TOWN OF FRANCONIA
BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 14, 2019 AT TOWN HALL**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Eric Meth, Jill Brewer.

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Jeff Blodgett

OTHERS PRESENT: Holly Burbank, Jenny Monahan, Peter Grote, Tim Egan.

The meeting was called to order at 3:05pm.

APPOINTMENTS:

Tim Egan: As part of meeting with all the Select Boards in his constituency, Tim visited with the Board to update them on his recent projects as Grafton District 02 State Representative.

SIGN/APPROVE:

The January 2, 2019 meeting minutes were approved as amended.

The January 17, 2019 Transaction List was reviewed and approved.

TO DISCUSS/REVIEW:

2019 Prosecutorial Contract: The Board was presented with the 2019 Prosecutorial Contract with the Town of Littleton and Prosecutor Natch Greyes for review. Selectman Meth cited concerns with some language in the contract, so Town Administrator Burbank will submit it to Town Counsel for review.

Bickford Hill Bridge:

After doing a site visit to the Bickford Hill Bridge, HEB Engineers recommended narrowing the bridge from 20' to 18' so it can be formally designated as a one-lane bridge. They also noted that 20% of the girders are in disrepair, and reducing the bridge to one lane would lessen the load on the girders. Per HEB, in order to proceed with changing the bridge to one lane, the load rating for the bridge would need to be reassessed. Town Administrator Burbank said Scott Leslie supported the plan and said the bridge is mainly used as a one lane bridge already. The Board agreed that the contract with HEB for the bridge work could be amended to reflect this change.

Letter to Best Western:

Chairman Brewer said that Angela McShane is having difficulty getting The Best Western Hotel to support the Profile Trail project by agreeing to an easement, and hoped that receiving a letter from the Selectmen letting Best Western know that the Town supports the project may be helpful. After a brief discussion, Chairman Brewer said she would draft a letter for the Board's review.

Notice of Hearing for Proposed Telecommunications Tower:

Town Administrator Burbank said there is a public hearing regarding a 175' telecommunication tower being erected in Woodstock. Franconia was notified as an abutter; however the notice was received very close to the hearing date and coincided with the Tri-Town Budget Review.

Correspondence:

The Bancroft House sent a letter of thanks to the Town for allowing them to use the pavilion for their recent fundraiser, "The Longest Night."

OTHER DISCUSSION:

Town Administrator Burbank asked the Board how they would feel about moving the deliberative session to after Town Meeting Day, such as on the following Saturday. Town Administrator Burbank wondered if this may be a good option considering there are over 40 articles on the warrant, and the evening could go very late, which may be more difficult for residents than coming in on a weekend day. Town Administrator Burbank said she would do some research on the idea.

The Board rescheduled the January 16th Final Budget Review for January 23rd at 4:00pm.

Town Administrator Burbank also let the Board know that the Town has not received a non-profit funding request from the Franconia Notch Regional Chamber of Commerce. While this has been part of the Town budget each year, the Board agreed that the Chamber should request the funds. Town Administrator Burbank will reach out to Cort Roussell.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Conservation Commission: None.

Energy Commission: Selectman Meth said the next meeting is January 15th at 4:30pm.

Planning Board: Selectman Meth said the PB had their 2nd of two required public hearings for the mixed use zoning ordinance on January 8th.

Northern Pass: Selectman Meth said he had done a little more research on Mindi Messmer and she seemed like a good candidate for NH SEC appointment.

Chamber of Commerce: None.

Cable Consortium: Selectman Meth said the subject of dissolving the Cable Consortium came up at the last meeting. He said that as more people are using streaming services (such as Netflix and Hulu), less are using cable TV. Selectman Meth said Chad Fillion was researching what would need to happen for Granite North TV and the Cable Consortium to merge.

PUBLIC INPUT:

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 3:48 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jenny Monahan
Administrative Secretary