

**TOWN OF FRANCONIA
BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 11, 2019 AT TOWN HALL**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Eric Meth, Jill Brewer, Jeff Blodgett.

OTHERS PRESENT: Holly Burbank, Jenny Monahan, Peter Grote, Mary Grote, Dawn Steele, Karen Foss, Bob Whitney.

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

APPOINTMENTS/WORK SESSIONS:

Town Moderator Jim Walker met with the Board to review the warrant in preparation for Town Meeting. When he inquired if any articles seemed problematic, Karen Foss said the Cemetery Article may have an issue. Karen said she was unsure if funds should have been changed from Perpetual Care to a Capital Reserve Fund. Karen said she did not feel the article was ready to be voted on.

SIGN/APPROVE:

The March 4, 2019 meeting minutes were approved as amended.

A Current Use application was approved for Map 21 Lot 11-2 and 11-3.

The March 14, 2019 Transaction List was reviewed and signed.

The Board approved the appointment of Jeff Dube as a part-time officer to the Police Department.

Town Administrator Burbank let the Board know that some committee appointments were needed.

Chairman Brewer made a motion to appoint Chuck Lukasik to the Energy Commission. Selectman Meth seconded the motion. All were in favor. **Motion passes.**

Chairman Brewer made a motion to appoint Art Daily to the Conservation Commission. Selectman Meth seconded the motion. All were in favor. **Motion passes.**

TO DISCUSS/REVIEW:

Letter to NH Liquor Commission re: Chef Joe's Outside Patio:

Chef Joe's has to renew their outdoor serving liquor license and requested a letter stating that the Town has no issue. The Board stated their approval and Holly Burbank will draft a letter of support.

Franconia Artwalk Association Agreement: Town Administrator Burbank said the FAA Agreement had been amended by Town Legal Counsel and shared the updated document with the Board.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE:

Town Administrator Burbank let the Board know that she was interested in taking a NH Government Finance Officers Association Government Accounting Certificate Program and will apply for a scholarship.

Town Administrator Burbank also said Scott Leslie had found a much better price on the One-Ton truck replacement for

the Highway Department than had been previously quoted. She said the truck would need to be ordered this week though, in order to receive the offer. The Board approved of Scott ordering the truck. It was understood that the warrant article at Town Meeting would have to pass in order for the truck to be purchased, and Plymouth Ford was made aware of this.

CORRESPONDENCE:

The Board received a letter from Skyler Cruz Wolsey of Ballston Spa, NY that included his recommendations for improved safety and energy efficiency at the intersection of Main Street and Rte 116. The Board asked Town Administrator Burbank to send a letter to Mr. Wolsey thanking him for his letter and recommendations.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Cable Consortium: No update - Selectman Meth said the next meeting is March 21st.

Chamber of Commerce: No update – Selectman Blodgett said the next meeting is March 20th.

Conservation Commission: No update.

Energy Commission: No update – Selectman Meth said the next meeting is March 19th.

Northern Pass: Eric said the Opposition Brief from the intervenors is due March 21st.

Planning Board: Next meeting is March 26th.

OTHER DISCUSSION:

Chairman Brewer expressed thanks to the Safety Services personnel who attended a reading celebration at the school to read books to classes there.

PUBLIC INPUT:

Karen Foss asked whether the Fire Department and Life Squad had spent the funds approved on 2017's warrant for new turnout gear. Holly thought that those funds had been used, but would have to check and would let her know.

Peter Grote asked where the \$70,000 payment to the Safety Services Building Bond for the closing of the Safety Services Building Project checking account is reflected in the Town Report. Town Administrator Burbank and the Board looked through the Town Report and after not readily finding that payment reflected, Peter said it was a major oversight. Holly told Peter the total amount was \$70,233.54 that closed that account, and that the payment was made to Passumpsic Bank to be put towards the loan principal.

Karen Foss questioned the Balance Sheet not showing long term assets or liabilities. Chairman Brewer said that would be researched.

Bob Whitney asked if his wife, who does not have US citizenship, could vote at Town Meeting. He was told that people who are not US citizens cannot vote.

Bob Whitney also said he had written to the NH DOT about the placement of the blinking light at the intersection, and received a reply that he felt was dismissive and did not address the issue. Chairman Brewer said perhaps the Board should compose a letter to NH DOT to see what their response would be.

Bob Whitney asked generally about \$7,000 used to hire a company. He wasn't sure what they were hired to do or who

they were. Chairman Brewer and Town Administrator Burbank explained that there was a proposed \$7,000 on the warrant for a wage and compensation study, but those funds were not yet approved and no company had been hired.

Mary Grote said the Town previously used a committee of residents to recommend employee wages and salaries and that didn't cost the town anything and she intended to point that out at Town Meeting.

Karen Foss said the figures on page 50 of the Town Report were incorrect. Holly said the figures are pulled directly from QuickBooks and she would look into it.

Peter Grote asked why it wasn't indicated in the Town Report what the outstanding tax anticipated notes were. Town Administrator Burbank said a tax anticipated note was not taken last year. Peter asked if there was any short term borrowing last year. Town Administrator Burbank confirmed there was not.

Bob Whitney asked the Board to respond about the Wage and Compensation Study. Chairman Brewer said the Board feels that having a professional, unbiased company do the study was worthwhile. Selectman Meth said the Board was looking to have a professional, renewed evaluation of personnel issues.

Dawn Steele said she was part of that committee of residents that did the 2016 study and stated that she is fully qualified having done similar work historically for a Fortune 100 company. Dawn said she understands the need for a fresh set of eyes but some of the people on the original committee were as qualified as people the Town would hire. Dawn said the employee salary ranges need to be updated as well as some job descriptions.

Peter Grote said he took issue with the Board using the word "unbiased" and asked if that meant the Board thought the previous committee was biased. Chairman Brewer said that was not being implied at all. Peter said that \$7,000 is a lot of money to spend in a "north of the notch" tax base to duplicate the study that was done by residents previously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jenny Monahan
Administrative Secretary