

**TOWN OF FRANCONIA**  
**BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S REGULAR MEETING**  
**APRIL 6th, 2020 HELD REMOTELY VIA ZOOM**  
\*\*\*\*\*

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

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Jenny Monahan, Kim Cowles, Alan Gould, Dawn Steele.

**The meeting was called to order at 3:15pm.**

**TO SIGN/APPROVE:**

The February 3rd and February 11th meeting minutes were approved as written. The February 10<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes were approved as amended.

**TO DISCUSS/REVIEW:**

**Town Operations During Covid-19:** Chairman Brewer said that due to Covid-19 the Transfer Station is not accepting recycling at this time. This information has been posted to the website. Traffic cones have been set up to control the flow of traffic and help keep appropriate distancing. The Office of the Selectmen is closed to the public but the Town Clerk/Tax Collector office remains open.

Chairman Brewer said the possibility of closing the park and trails was discussed with Recreation Director Kim Cowles but they decided against doing that and hope residents will adhere to social distancing recommendations when using those spaces.

**Alan Gould, President and COO of Municipal Resources Incorporated:** Selectmen Meth has been talking with Alan about what MRI could do for the town to assist with Town Administrator duties.

Alan said there are some challenges for Franconia in hiring a new Town Administrator due to the town's somewhat rural location and the salary range offered is not high enough to draw candidates away from their current positions or encourage them to commute from other areas.

Alan suggested the town consider employing a model with a part-time Town Administrator for overseeing operations and using MRI for financials (accounts payable, accounts receivable, payroll and MS form filing). He said removing the finance qualifications from the position may access a greater hiring pool for the position. Alan said MRI's services for the town's financials would cost about \$12,000 per year.

The Board briefly discussed the idea of using MRI for the town's financials and unanimously agreed to pursue a six month contract with them. Eric will contact Alan to see what the next steps are.

**Resident Concerns about Covid-19:** Chairman Brewer has heard from some residents with concerns about Covid-19 pertaining to out of state visitors, part-time residents coming to their vacation homes and concerns about the Village Store not exercising precautionary measures in the store.

Chairman Brewer said she understands the concerns but there are no laws that can force people to quarantine. She also said the Village Store is a private business and the town has no authority to mandate that they observe recommendations to mitigate the spread of Covid-19.

Selectman Meth said he has heard similar concerns and agrees with Chairman Brewer's response. He also spoke with

Kevin Johnson (owner of Gale River Motel), and Kevin offered his rooms as quarantine spaces if needed.

Selectman Blodgett suggested using the site to communicate the town's request for part-time residents to self quarantine for two weeks upon arrival. The Selectmen also discussed the idea of a town wide mailing to all residents informing them of Covid protocols and encouraging them to adhere to self-quarantine recommendations.

**Additional Discussion:** The Board briefly discussed the need for budget analysis to find places to cut the \$100,000. Chairman Brewer said employee increases typically take effect April 1<sup>st</sup> and some employees have inquired about the status of the increases. The Board plans to make a decision on this soon.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** None.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Cable Consortium:** No update at this time.

**Chamber of Commerce:** No update at this time.

**Conservation Commission:** No update at this time.

**Energy Commission:** No update at this time.

**Planning Board:** No update at this time.

**Additional Discussion:** The Board decided to meet weekly through the pandemic rather than bi-weekly.

**PUBLIC INPUT:**

Dawn Steele asked if the website would be updated with any information about people with Covid in Franconia, such as places they have been that other residents may have been exposed. Kim Cowles said it wouldn't be appropriate information for the website and residents should assume they have been exposed and act accordingly. Chairman Brewer referenced HIPAA laws and agreed that residents should behave as if they have been exposed since there is very little testing being done at this time and asymptomatic people can be infectious.

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 4:32pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jenny Monahan  
Administrative Secretary