

**TOWN OF FRANCONIA
BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 9, 2018**

TOWN OFFICIALS PRESENT: Eric Meth, Jill Brewer, Jeffrey Blodgett

OTHERS PRESENT: Jenny Monahan, Holly Burbank, Peter Grote, Karen Foss, Dawn Steele, Nick Mike, Mary Grote, Bob Montagno, Claudia LaChappelle, Jim Alden, Kim Cowles, Justin Roshak.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Brewer at 3:00pm.

Upon opening the meeting, Chairman Brewer suggested scheduling the Informational Meeting to discuss the Town's website. After a brief discussion, it was scheduled for Tuesday, May 1st at 6:00PM at Town Hall.

To Sign/Approve:

The April 2, 2018 meeting minutes were approved as amended. The April 2, 2018 non-public session minutes were approved as written.

The Board signed Officer Sean Donahue's record of appointment.

An Intent to Cut application for Map 1 Lot 1 was reviewed and approved.

Town Administrator Update:

Holly Burbank advised the Board that the Town Auditors were at Town Hall and will be throughout the week.

Correspondence:

Chairman Jill Brewer said that she had spoken with Rick Skarinka of NH Dept. of Environmental Services regarding the idea of a Town Sewage system. Chairman Brewer said she had seen an article in the paper recently about how other towns have been able to obtain funds for things like Town sewage or drinking water projects. Jill said she was advised to reach out to Anne Getchell, a Community Programs Specialist for the USDA. Jill Brewer advised attendees that if anyone would be interested in helping look into the issue their assistance would be welcomed. Bob Montagno offered to look into this.

Selectman Blodgett asked who is responsible for cleaning up the property at Evergreen Apartments, noting that now that the snow has melted there is trash in front of the building. Holly advised Selectman Blodgett the Town is responsible as the property is tax deeded and said she will have it picked up.

Committee Reports

Conservation Commission: None

CIP Meeting: None

Energy Commission: Eric said while he was not able to attend the Energy Expo at Profile School this Saturday it had reportedly gone very well.

Planning Board: None

Northern Pass: Eric Meth said the current status of the Northern Pass project is waiting for Eversource to file their expected motion for a rehearing.

Public Comment:

Dawn Steele asked if the Town has made any payments to the school or to the Safety Services Building Bond. Holly Burbank advised Dawn that the Town pays the schools monthly and the Treasurer has just dissolved the account with the additional funds from the Safety Services Building Bond, so a check will be forthcoming, which will then be applied to the principal of the Safety Services Building Bond.

Bob Montagno asked about the possibility of using the \$70,000 left over from the Safety Services Bond to put aside for a future solar installation in town, possibly behind the Transfer Station. Selectman Meth said that future solar installations have been discussed by the Energy Commission Board but the Town has already voted on what to do with those funds.

Jim Alden commented about the informational meeting for the website and asked how the Board arrived at scheduling it now, and stated that the Board has overturned the Town vote.

Jill Brewer said the plan to have a meeting has been discussed at previous meetings. Selectman Meth said the Town Meeting vote regarding the website had not been overturned, and yes, the meeting will be noticed.

Holly Burbank commented that the Board is doing their due diligence in gathering information before making a final decision.

Dawn Steele asked why the survey was put on the website without a board vote authorizing it. Chairman Brewer said that she authorized Kim Cowles to put the survey on the site for the purpose of information gathering. Dawn also said that the survey isn't valid, because anyone can take it and it can be taken multiple times, and that it "could be stacked". Chairman Brewer said she hopes she can trust the town's residents not to abuse the survey, and while the survey information will be taken into account, the Board's decision will not be based fully on information gathered from the survey.

Jim Alden said that one person of a three person Board bypassing the Town Administrator and approving a survey be conducted on the site was a "red flag".

Selectman Meth commented that there was previous discussion at meetings identifying the Board's intent to gather information through a survey, and he is supportive of that plan to gather information. He understands this is an important issue for the Town and the Board is doing what they feel is appropriate before making a final decision.

Jim Alden said he had reached out to Eric at one point and Eric didn't feel it would be appropriate to have a one on one discussion. Jim asked if that principle was being uniformly applied.

Holly remarked that she felt that it is okay that Board members have one on one conversation with people, but it is up to that individual Board member if they choose to do that or not.

Eric Meth said that he does read all the emails he is sent, but does not engage in one on one dialogue with their senders. Chairman Brewer mentioned that as stated at the previous meeting, it is best to contact the Selectmen through Town Administrator Burbank.

Nick Mike asked if there had been any solicitation of opinions by Board members, and then stated that there had been solicitation of opinions by Board members. Chairman Brewer said yes, she has invited residents to provide their feedback on the site, regardless of their stance on the topic at hand, to provide their input.

Mr. Mike then questioned the security of the site, stating that they had done a test, and the site received an F.

Chairman Brewer said that the site only has public information content and any payments made through the site are conducted through the State's secured site.

Claudia Lachapelle then asked if there could be issues with data being collected from users of the current website as the site is not secure. There was a brief discussion before Chairman Brewer suggested this would be a good topic for the Informational Meeting on May 1st.

Dawn Steele offered to help with the development of a new Organizational Chart for the Town and provided a draft copy made in 2016 that she said she could update.

Karen Foss inquired about the new part-time officer, Sean Donahue. Holly explained that Officer Donahue was an addition to the force to be able to provide coverage when needed.

Claudia Lachapelle asked if video of the Select Board meetings could be added to the site. Jill said it would be considered.

Dawn Steele asked if there would be any further announcements letting people know about Sergeant Jarvis's recent appointment, such as something on the website. Chairman Brewer said the Board would look into that.

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 3:43pm on a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jenny Monahan
Administrative Secretary