

TOWN OF FRANCONIA
BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 20th, 2020 HELD REMOTELY VIA ZOOM

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

PRESENT PANELISTS: Jenny Monahan, Kim Cowles, Tim Blake, James Fitzpatrick.

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

APPOINTMENTS:

Jim Fitzpatrick – Chairman of Franconia Energy Commission: Jim attended to let the Board know that the Energy Commission is applying for a Solar Energy Installation grant through the Northern Borders Regional Commission. The Board said they are in support of the grant application.

TO SIGN/APPROVE:

The March 16th minutes were approved as amended. The April 6th minutes were approved as written.

TO DISCUSS/REVIEW:

Municipal Resources Inc. – Professional Services Contract: Selectman Meth updated the Board on his communications with MRI and his review of the proposed Professional Services contract. He said MRI's President, Alan Gould suggested that the best plan for the town is to contract MRI on an hourly basis which would allow the town to leave the contract at any time. The hourly fees would be \$40 an hour for their Finance Administrator and \$90 for their Senior Finance Consultant. Selectman Meth said on the high end, their services would be approximately \$20,000 a year. Due to Covid-19, most of their work would be done remotely. Jenny will scan the contract and email it to the Selectmen for their signatures.

Chairman Brewer made a motion to accept and sign the Professional Services Agreement with Municipal Resources Incorporated. Selectman Meth seconded the motion. All were in favor. **Motion passes.**

NRRA Recycling Webinar: Transfer Station Supervisor Tim Blake attended the Northeast Resource Recycling Association's webinar on recycling during the Covid-19 pandemic. He feels that the Transfer Station can begin accepting recycling again on Thursday with some safety modifications such as asking residents to wear masks when at the Transfer Station, pre-sorting recyclables before arriving at the Transfer Station and controlling traffic so people will be appropriately spaced. Due to the recyclables being placed outside, the Transfer Station will not accept paper and cardboard if it is raining or forecasted to rain.

Correspondence: Chairman Brewer said she heard back from Allan Clark regarding the complaint about Presby's Recycling Center. He said as far as he can find in his research, the facility is grandfathered and is thus in compliance with the town's zoning requirements as well as being licensed through the town. Allan will issue a formal report of his findings after he has completed his investigation. The Board also pondered whether the facility is in compliance with the Department of Environmental Services regulations and Selectman Blodgett suggested the town may wish to do some testing of the water in the Ham Branch downstream from the facility.

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION:

Chairman Brewer said Public Works Director Scott Leslie let her know that the Cat Grader needs about \$7,765 worth of repairs. Selectmen Meth and Blodgett agreed that the grader is a necessary piece of

equipment that warranted the expense of repairing.

Chairman Brewer made a motion to expend up to \$8,000 from the Highway Equipment Fund to repair the Cat 120 Grader. Selectman Blodgett seconded the motion. All were in favor. **Motion passes.**

Chairman Brewer also provided a brief update on the Town Administrator position. She said if the Board wants to move forward with a part-time Town Administrator that would work in conjunction with MRI than the position should be advertised. Selectman Blodgett and Meth agreed to have the adapted job description posted for hire.

Chairman Brewer also proposed taking a week off from meeting during April vacation week. The other Selectmen agreed to not meet on April 27th and resume meetings on May 4th.

Additional Correspondence

Selectman Meth updated the Board on some additional discussions he had with residents. He said he spoke with a resident at Mittersill who has an ongoing issue with the Franconia Development Corporation about tying into their sewer line and a leaking pipe under the road that is compromising his retaining wall. Selectman Meth said the FDC is not being cooperative in that it has not responded to the resident's attempts at contact and resolution.

Selectman Meth also let the Board know that Walter and Kathryn Palmer have submitted an application for a Historical Preservation Easement for a barn on their property. Selectman Meth said he is still researching the process and the town has 60 days to respond.

Committee Reports:

Committee Reports were omitted for this meeting.

PUBLIC INPUT:

Dawn Steele asked if draft minutes will be posted to the website within five business days going forward. Chairman Brewer said Jenny has been doing extra tasks in the absence of a Town Administrator but will be working to ensure minutes are posted on time.

The Board entered non-public session at 4:00pm for reasons of personnel.

The Board left non-public session at 4:41pm. Chairman Brewer made a motion to seal the minutes of the non-public session. Selectman Meth seconded the motion. All were in favor. **Motion passes.**

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 4:41pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jenny Monahan
Administrative Secretary