

TOWN OF FRANCONIA
BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 8th, 2020 AT 3:00PM, HELD REMOTELY VIA ZOOM

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

PRESENT PANELISTS: Jenny Monahan, Kim Cowles.

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

APPOINTMENTS:

3:00 – Chief Cashin re Computer Services: Chief Cashin met with the Board to discuss the need for an additional computer workstation for Officer Barnum and Certified Computer Service's recommendation to upgrade the Police Department's computer system to Windows 10.

Chief said the town's Computer Services – New Equipment budget is small and does not have enough funds to pay for the estimate of \$2,300.00. He said he can fund the purchase out of his own Equipment budget but wanted to let the Board know that he would be using funds from his budget to purchase the computer equipment.

The Selectmen said they approved of the equipment purchase and upgrading the Police Department's operating system.

TO SIGN/APPROVE:

The June 1st minutes were approved as written.

TO DISCUSS/REVIEW:

Town Administrator Update: Town Administrator Cowles updated the Board on the events of the previous week. There was a break in the water main on Wednesday, June 3rd, which caused the Water Department to have to enact a boil order that cannot be lifted until two tests of the water done on consecutive days are submitted to the Department of Environmental Services in Concord and show no contamination.

Town Administrator Cowles also let the Board know that due to the many issues the Library has had with the pellet stove heating system since it was installed, they have decided to sell their pellet stove and install a propane heating system.

Sally Small continues to assist at Town Hall. Kim is hoping to spend some time with her evaluating the budget for places for additional places to reduce to meet the \$100,000 budget cut.

Town Administrator Cowles said the Recreation Department has decided to move forward with the Summer Program this year with a plan that observes the guidelines put forth by the State.

The Cat Grader is repaired and the Highway Department is grading roads this week and may also repaint the crosswalks.

Glass has been ordered for the Selectmen's office window above Jenny's desk. It should be installed in about two weeks and then the office can be opened to the public again.

Town Administrator Cowles said the boil order has been particularly hard on the Lafayette Center and she would like to do something to show the town's appreciation for the staff there by possibly arranging a visit to the facility with signs and if donations are received, possibly thank you cards with gift cards for staff there.

Selectman Blodgett asked where the water main break was and Town Administrator Cowles said it was at the former Mac's Grocery Store site and confirmed to him that it was related to the construction going on there.

Correspondence:

Selectman Meth commented that he had sent a copy of the draft audit report to MRI as suggested at the previous meeting.

Committee Reports:

Cable Consortium: Selectman Meth said there has been no recent activity with the Cable Consortium. He did comment that he has heard from some residents about the lack of broadband which might be compounded by residents being at home more and he would like to begin pursuing the initiative to establish broadband access throughout town again.

Chamber of Commerce: Selectman Blodgett said the Chamber will meet again next Wednesday.

Conservation Commission: Chairman Brewer said the Conservation Commission is planning to meet on June 16th at 4:00pm.

Energy Commission: Selectman Meth said there are no meeting updates at this time but Energy Commission Chairman James Fitzpatrick sent an email encouraging members to vote in favor of Profile School's Warrant Article #6 regarding the installation of a solar panel array at the school.

Planning Board: Selectman Meth said he chatted with Planning Board Chairman Thad Presby about having a meeting and mentioned the town's Master Plan being due for updating.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Lynn Terres asked how the Recreation Department plans to run a safe program when surrounding towns have opted not to offer summer recreation programs for safety reasons. Town Administrator Cowles said Franconia's resources allow for the guidelines from the CDC, Department of Health and Human Services and American Campers Association to be followed. She said the program will be open to the tri-towns and there will be health screenings every morning for campers and councilors. Campers will be spread out over four locations so there will be groups of ten at each location.

Dawn Steele asked what the plans are to begin holding Board of Selectmen meetings at Town Hall again.

Chairman Brewer said new guidelines will be issued by the Governor on June 15th and the Board hopes to resume meetings in person when it is safe to do so.

The Board entered non-public session at 3:34pm for reasons of personnel.

The Board left non-public session at 3:59pm.

With no further discussion, the public hearing was adjourned at 3:59pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jenny Monahan
Administrative Secretary