



**TOWN OF FRANCONIA**

**INCORPORATED 1764**

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S REGULAR MEETING**

**JULY 03, 2017 AT 3 O'CLOCK PM AT TOWN OFFICES**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mr. Eric Meth, Chairman- Ms. Bernadette Costa, -Ms. Jill Brewer.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Holly Burbank Town Administrator, Chris Gautreau Admin Asst.

**INVITED GUESTS:** N/A

**GENERAL PUBLIC:** Mary Grote, Peter Grote, Justin Roshak, Gabriel Tetreault, Kathleen Taylor, Bob Whitney.

The regular meeting was called to order at 3:02 PM by MR. ERIC METH- BOS CHAIRMAN.

**ITEMS FOR REVIEW/APPROVAL/DENIAL/DISPOSITION**

1) Meeting minutes of June 19, 2017 & June 24, 2017. Mr. Meth made a motion to accept the minutes as amended. Ms Costa seconded the motion with all in favor.

2) Transaction list: June 29, 2017 & July 06, 2017. The transaction lists of June 29, and July 03, were reviewed and signed by The Board.

3) Abatement applications -Map 24- Lot 2- The final abatement request was reviewed by Avitar. Based on the application information, Avitar reports that the property was properly accessed and recommends denial. The Board reviewed the file and agreed with the recommendation and signed.

4) Final Approval- MS-535 (Financial Report of Town Budget.) Holly reported that the DRA approved the draft and with no changes, presented to the Board for signatories. The draft will now go to the DRA website.

5) Holly reported that the transaction list from last week was sent to Tina Peabody and signed. This was due to the cancellation of the June 26, 2017 Board meeting.

In addition, Holly gave a status update on building permits. Map 26 Lot 16 on Wells Rd is building a small home with Mr Clark overseeing the conditions that were specified on the permit.

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The second permit was for Garnet Hill initiating interior upgrades to their building. Mr. Clark has signed this permit as well.

Holly reported that we will no longer be using Property Tax Form- PA-28, and presented the document to The Board for signature approval. We have been requested to notify each year that we will no longer be using PA-28.

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### **SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS**

#### **3:00 PM- Bob Montagno- Gale River- A Franconia Asset & WWII Plaque.**

ACTION(S) Bob talked of attracting new business to downtown and with the river being Franconia's main asset. Bob went on to about ways of improving the view by initiating some clean up of the brush and weeds blocking the view of the river. He also envisioned a walking path with interpretive signage, along with creating a park-like area with picnic tables and the like.

In regards to the WWII Memorial Plaque restoration, Bob has made contact with three entities that are qualified. Bob has set up an August 07, 2017 meeting with one of them from the Watertown, Massachusetts area. The mission would be to restore and preserve. Bob gave an estimate for doing the work at five to seven thousand dollars. Further discussion revolved around raising funds through The Heritage Society. Selectman Costa stated that creating a new plaque could possibly be a better option.

#### **3:15pm- MaryAnn Nehring- Tree cutting**

ACTION(S) - Absent

#### **3:30- Greg Wells- Staffing**

ACTION(S) - Postponed

#### **4:00pm- Barbara Ashley- Visitor's Center**

Action(S) - Ms. Ashley commended everyone involved in making Old Home Day a huge success. The New Hampshire Division of Parks and Recreation gave huge accolades as well.

Ms Ashley voiced her concern about the deterioration of the town Information Booth. Ms Ashley went on to discuss the history of the booth and its significance to the area. Ms. Ashley cited the condition of the booth itself as well as the issues relating to the electrical system functionality. She envisions enlarging the booth at some point as this is an important asset to the town.

#### **4:30 pm- Doug Maskiwicz of Horse & Hound - Flooding damage from July 01, 2017 storm.**

ACTION(S) - Mr. Maskiwicz addressed the Board concerning road damage leading to his business. Apparently the culvert on Wells Rd. breached and overflowed making the road impassable. Doug mentioned this has been an ongoing issue for quite some time. Doug feels that the culvert is also not adequate enough to handle, *although an extraordinary occurrence*, this sudden and voluminous storm event. Mr. Meth assured Mr. Maskiwicz that he has spoken with the Emergency Management Director about the feasibility of a "box culvert" with wings that would be located under the road. Mr. Meth advised that Mr. Taylor and Mr. Leslie address this important issue at the next scheduled Board meeting

on July 11, 2017. Mr. Maskiwicz was asked to attend this meeting so that a plan could be formulated, and with input from all related parties.

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### **TOPICS FOR REVIEW/UPDATE/ DISCUSSION**

- 1) Town Administrator HOLLY BURBANK: Holly advised that detour signs are being installed around town for the upcoming construction in the Sugar Hill area. Holly stated that the project would be approximately 5 weeks in length.

Holly also discussed the importance of dialing the 211 line as a means to increase the chances to receive FEMA Funding pertaining to the flooding that occurred on Saturday July 01, 2017. Holly made an assessment of the basement area flooding and made the calls to assist in clean-up and mold mitigation, if any.

- 2) Change to June 05, 2017 Meeting Minutes: Holly reported that after a correspondence with Mr. Jim Alden, that the recorded minutes be changed. After the changes were discussed and changes made, Mr. Meth made a motion to accept the minutes as amended, with Selectman Costa seconded the motion with all in favor.

- 3) Authorization for Board Chair to discuss Profile Lake Project: Mr. Meth had some questions as to what the topic of discussion was, and that he would meet with Mr. Jim Alden to find out if he is on board.

- 4) Dow Field/ Franconia Community Church Crosswalk: Selectman Costa presented an advisement letter from Mr. Michael O'Donnell, P.E. from The NHDOT regarding the crosswalk initiative. Ms. Costa stated that there are a few items that the town must commit to as we move forward. The discussion centered on curb ramps, crosswalk markings, lighting of the area, handicap access, and signage. The town must also fund the electric bill for this area. The overall consensus is that it will be approved, based on the conditions set forth in the letter. Mr. Meth's comments centered around financing the initiative.

- 5) Toad Hill Farm Winter Plowing: A discussion centered on two roads leading to Toad Hill Farm. These two roads are not under town control. Selectman Costa made a motion to discontinue plowing of these two roads, with Ms Brewer seconded, with all voting in favor. Ms. Holly Burbank will inform those affected by this change.

- 6) CMAQ Program: Holly presented a handout regarding the Congestion Mitigation Air Quality Program. Holly pointed out some of the projects that would qualify: Alternative Fuel Projects, Traffic Issues, and Sidewalks to name a few. There was an enthusiastic discussion as to how best the town could take advantage of the grant. Selectman Costa responded that there were

plenty of grants prior to this one, and that it would be very advantageous to everyone in moving forward. Holly advised that the deadline for submitting a letter of interest is July 07, 2017.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTING**

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION:** Selectman Brewer enthusiastically reported that the beaver dam was not breached during the torrential downpour on Saturday, July 01, 2017. Jill, along with Kim Cowles, Greg Weiskerger, and the hydrologist visited Franstead Campground. Options were discussed and in particular what the fallout would be if the dam broke. Mr. Chris Nicodemus from The Conservation Commission was said to be confident about there being enough space for dispersion if the dam breached, and was not a public safety issue at this time. Mr. Meth questioned the beaver baffle solution and Ms. Brewer states that the dam would have to be dismantled to install them. The estimated cost was approaching 8-10,000 dollars as quoted from the hydrologist. Jill had some concerns as to the financial expense with all Board members seeming to be in agreement.

**CIP COMMITTEE:** The CIP Committee will be meeting with The Board on Thursday morning at 8am. The Fire Pond owners had a few questions in regards as to the type and scope of any maintenance issues regarding the pond. An e-mail was sent out to Mr. Gaudette referencing this concern.

**ENERGY COMMISSION:** Mr. Meth reported that the Street Light Project was moving forward.

**NORTHERN PASS:** Mr. Meth stated that The SEC would be doing site visits in our area on July 27-8, 2017. The SEC will be making stops from Plymouth north to Bethlehem. They will be in Franconia on July 28, 2017 between two and three pm.

Eric stated that the last session for Non- Intervenors would be on July 20, 2017. Eric agreed to reach out to other public officials to weigh in on this very important, **but controversial** project.

**PLANNING BOARD:** Mr. Meth reported that the next Planning Board meeting would be on July 11, 2017 with new members already lined up. Eric mentioned that Kayla Grey from The North Country Council has been extremely helpful and talented with the mapping features.

**MISCELLANEOUS:** Chairman Meth reported that the Dow Pavilion Construction Contract was voted upon, and subsequently awarded to The Presby Corporation. Construction will commence once the balance of the funds are raised.

Chairman Meth praised and thanked all the principals involved for doing a fantastic job in response and mitigation from the sudden storm that swept the area on July 01, 2017. He singled out The Road Agent and our EMS Officials as well as our Town Administrator, Ms. Holly Burbank, for all her efforts coordinating, scheduling, and management, during this tumultuous period.

<b>ITEMS TO REVISIT:</b>
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AirBnB's	Cisterns & Fire Ponds (3/28/16)
Buildings Plan	Updating Pole License Agreement
Road Plan	F150 vs F550 (highway)
Sidewalk Plan	Purchasing & Bidding Policy
Tri-Town Recreation Agreement	Purchase of Presby Building
FD Generator in Trailer	Antique Fire Truck Storage

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

**Ms. Mary Grote:** Ms Grote commented on the location of the Dow Pavilion that is due to be constructed. She was concerned about the 100 yr. flood plain and **IF** the location is suitable. Mr. Meth advised that he will study the issue further with the contractor.

**Mr. Bob Whitney:** Mr. Whitney had a concern about culvert and storm drain blockage in the Academy Ave. area. He specified the bridge area at Rte. 116, and has spoken to The Department of Transportation who was in the area recently. The DOT was unsure as to the responsibility for maintaining this area. Ms. Burbank advised that she will initiate contact with The DOT for clarification.

Mr. Whitney also spoke of having the town remove some large Scotch pine trees on his property. Mr. Meth commented as to whether the trees were a public hazard. Mr. Whitney commented that there are large dead branches hanging from the trees. Mr. Meth will take the issue under advisement.

**Ms. Kathy Taylor:** Ms. Taylor was concerned about flooding near her Kerr Road property. Ms. Taylor commented that water overflows and washes away part of Kerr Road. She also stated that “waterfalls” are pouring down her driveway. She also noted that there are numerous culverts in this area, but they seem to fail frequently. Ms. Burbank advised that Mr. Scott Leslie is aware of the situation and will be in the area on July 05, 2017 for assessing and repairing.

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\* Mr. Meth made a motion to enter non-public session @ 5:10 pm for Legal and personnel Matters as per RSA 91-A3,II (c) (e). Selectman Costa seconded the motion with all in favor.

With a unanimous voice vote, The Board adjourned the meeting.

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Prepared and respectfully submitted by:

*Mr. Christopher J. Gautreau*

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Administrative Assistant

