

**TOWN OF FRANCONIA
BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S REGULAR MEETING
JULY 6, 2020 AT 3PM AT TOWN HALL**

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Kim Cowles, Jenny Monahan, Dawn Steele, Mary Grote.

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

APPOINTMENTS:

None

TO SIGN/APPROVE:

The June 22nd meeting minutes were approved as written.

The July 6th transaction list was signed by the Selectmen.

TO DISCUSS/REVIEW:

Sign Permit Applications: The Hungry Bear Café – The Hungry Bear started using an inflatable “Now Open” sign approximately a week ago when they reopened after a long period of being closed due to Covid-19. The Selectmen discussed allowing the sign to be used temporarily, ultimately deciding to allow it to stay up for another week.

Franconia Market & Deli – The newly opened grocery store applied for a street side “Franconia Market & Deli” circular sign that will be 3’ on a 7’ tall granite post. There is an existing sign of the same design on the face of the building that is 5’ tall. The Selectmen approved the sign application.

Town Hall Fee Schedule: The Selectmen approved a basic fee schedule for copy, fax, scan and print services at Town Hall that will go into effect when the town hall reopens to the public.

Town Administrator Update – Town Administrator Cowles said the town applied for and is getting a grant from the Childcare Recovery Stabilization Program. She thinks we should receive about \$10,000.

Cemetery Sexton Penny Keeler will be doing some gardening work on town properties to help with Buildings & Grounds workload while that department is down an employee.

Chief Cashin held a workshop at town hall on Friday July 3rd that aimed to help officers better understand the national climate in regards to police brutality and the black lives matter movement and provide a forum for questions and discussion. About 20 area officers attended including Franconia’s officers.

The Town Clerk/Tax Collector office will be closed from July 8th through July 14th.

Up to date budgets have been sent to department heads so they can be reviewed with Kim in the next

few weeks.

The ZBA met last week to conduct a hearing for a special exception and a variance. As that Board has a vacancy due to a resignation, Alex Peoples has volunteered to fill the position. If approved by the Selectmen, he will be officially appointed at a later time.

Selectman Blodgett asked Kim if the Wells Road culvert that needs to be replaced is the one by the Horse and Hound. She said it is and a discussion about the issues with the culvert ensued. Kim said she thinks it is time to get a replacement estimate and plan on creating a warrant article for the replacement of the culvert.

Sandy Kellogg has replaced Meaghan Caron as the Water Department Secretary and is keeping office hours Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 8am to 12pm.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Cable Consortium: Selectman Meth said Mountain Top Telecom has applied for funding through the Cares Act to fund a project that would provide wireless internet access throughout Franconia. They expect to hear back from the State in the third week of this month.

Chamber of Commerce: Selectman Blodgett commented that the Chamber is providing a porta-potty at the Information Booth for visitors to use.

Conservation Commission: The Conservation Commission is working on scheduling a July meeting.

Energy Commission: The Energy Commission is on hiatus for the summer.

Planning Board: Selectman Meth said the Planning Board has scheduled a meeting for July 14th.

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION:

Selectman Blodgett asked Town Administrator Cowles if she could provide some data from the website showing the amount of visitors, where they were visiting the site from and what they viewed on the site. Kim said she will look into it.

PUBLIC INPUT:

Mary Grote commented that the problematic culvert on Wells Road has been having issues for many years and wondered if the town had ever done a long term study on it as she thinks any culvert would be inadequate at that location and we may need to do something different, such as a bridge. Chairman Brewer said we may have one that was done at some point in the past during previous issues with the culvert.

Dawn Steele commended the Transfer Station for doing a great job with the changed station operations during the pandemic. Dawn asked what can be done about people that do not wear a mask even though it is posted as being required. Chairman Brewer said a Transfer Station employee should inform

the person that they must wear a mask to use the Transfer Station. Dawn also said there has been a problem with fireworks this year happening late at night and it doesn't only violate the town's noise ordinance but posed a fire hazard, particularly in recent weeks when the fire danger was very high due to abnormally dry conditions throughout the state. Dawn thanked the Police Department for following up on complaints about the fireworks. Dawn next let the Board know that some towns in the state have started requiring Airbnb's to register with the town and requiring that they follow certain regulations. Dawn provided the Selectmen with a form that Canterbury uses for Airbnb registration.

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 4:10pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jenny Monahan
Administrative Secretary