



**TOWN OF FRANCONIA**

**INCORPORATED 1764**

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S REGULAR MEETING**

**JULY 10, 2017 AT 3 O'CLOCK PM AT TOWN OFFICES**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mr. Eric Meth, Chairman, Ms. Jill Brewer. **ABSENT:** Ms. Bernie Costa

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

**INVITED GUESTS:** N/A

**GENERAL PUBLIC:** Mary Grote, Justin Roshak, Bob Montagno, Doug Maskiwicz, Kim Cowles.

The regular meeting was called to order at 3:00 PM by MR. ERIC METH- BOS CHAIRMAN.

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

1) MEETING MINUTES OF JULY 03, 2017 REGULAR MEETING- Mr. Meth made a motion to accept the minutes as amended. Selectman Brewer seconded the motion with all in favor.

2 The July 13, 2017 transaction list was reviewed and signed by the Selectmen.

3) Holly reported receiving numerous phone calls from upset residents at Mittersill in regards to the planned water shut-off. Holly did not think a one week notice was sufficient. The discussion also centered on providing a temporary water source during the three week shut-off. In the interim, Holly will correspond with Ray to check the status of the outage and, if possible, postpone the shut-off scheduled for July 11, 2017.

**SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS**

RE: **3:00 PM Greg Wells- Staffing**

ACTION(S) Postponed

RE: **3:15 PM-Wells Road Culvert**

ACTION(S) Mr. Red Mc McCarthy opened the discussion regarding the flooding at The Horse & Hound Inn during the recent storm event. Red stated that the water from up the road as well as the adjacent

land, channels down Wells Rd. flooding the parking area and land of The Horse and Hound Inn. Apparently the culvert in this area is not big enough to handle large volumes of water during this storm and during past storms. The culvert was estimated to have been installed in the 70's. Selectman Meth spoke with Mark Taylor, our Emergency Management Director, and Mark provided a brief history of prior flooding as well as the terrain in that area. The Selectmen acknowledged that this area has been problematic for some time. Mr. Taylor reiterated that there have been four major flooding events in this area not including this most recent occurrence. Mark stated that he has sought out FEMA grants to address this area in prior years, albeit unsuccessful. Mr. Maskiwicz stated that he and some of his employees make it a point to clear out any brush, logs, limbs, and debris every spring. The Selectmen agreed that a permanent fix was long overdue. Mr. Scott Leslie discussed the financial impact of repairing in the past, and agreed that a permanent solution would be in the best interest of the town and the business owners and residents that are affected.

Chairman Meth stressed that an iconic business such as The Horse and Hound Inn, should be protected with a permanent solution. With that being said, Mr. Scott Leslie will be spearheading the efforts to retain a qualified hydrologist to study and make the recommendations for a permanent solution. Ms. Brewer discussed funding sources as well as possibly going to warrant for voter approval.

Mr. Maskiwicz thanked everyone involved for the attention given to his concerns, as well as the planning that is involved moving forward, to mitigate any future flooding event in this area.

**RE: 3:30pm Bickford Hill Bridge Engineering Report**

ACTION (S) Mr. Scott Leslie presented his findings on the condition of The Bickford Hill Bridge. Apparently The State of New Hampshire has red-listed this bridge as being in need of repair. Scott discussed the bridge supporting structure and the I-beam steel construction. Patchworks of steel plates have been welded to the bridge in prior years and most notably, in the areas where rot and wear are most prevalent. Scott reported that these plates are now in "rough shape," with some buckling of the bridge evident. Scott introduced a few pictures to the Selectman, as evidence of the deterioration.

Mr. Red McCarthy discussed the I-beam construction as well as funding for the project through State Bridge Aid. An 80/20 cost sharing reference was made as well as the various bridge contractors that frequently do this type of construction.

Ms Holly Burbank introduced a few questions from Selectman Bernie Costa referencing financial considerations as well as having town employees paint the beams once they are fabricated. Mr. Leslie spoke to the impracticality of the painting aspect.

Chairman Meth read a document pertaining to a bridge contractor that performs this type of work for municipalities.

Ms Brewer made a motion for Holly to work with Mr. McCarthy in regards to The N.H. State Aid Bridge Program. Selectman Meth seconded the motion with all voting in favor.

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**TOPICS FOR REVIEW/UPDATE/ DISCUSSION**

- 1) TOWN ADMINISTRATOR HOLLY BURBANK: Holly referenced the summer schedule change to the Board. A discussion centered on changing the Selectman's meeting time to 8AM from the

current 3PM schedule. This change was approved and will commence with the July 17, 2017 meeting.

- 2) SANSOUCY CONTRACT- Tabled for discussion and review at a future date in Non-Public session.
  
  - 3) NORTHERN PASS LETTER: Chairman Meth was forwarded a letter from Irene Ball that she sent to the Site Evaluation Committee. Ms. Ball speaks in opposition to the project. Selectman Meth read the letter into the minutes of the session.
  
  - 4) TRAIL SIDE ROAD LETTER: This letter by The Trail Side at Franconia Notch Association, requests the town to consider taking over a section of Franconia Mountains Road. This is an extension of Franconia Mountains Road which is already town maintained. This extension is approximately 3000ft and graveled. Mr. Scott Leslie has stated that the road is in good condition with the exception of moving a few large boulders, which would make more room for snow collection during the winter months. Selectman Meth proposes following protocol moving forward, and advises that this is required to be put on the ballot at next year's town meeting should they choose to act on it.
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## **COMMITTEE REPORTING**

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION:** Mr. Meth reported that the beaver dam was holding up very well and more importantly, after the extreme storm of July 01, 2017. Also noted, is that there has been no communication from the hydrologist, nor any report issued in regards to the site visit two weeks ago.

**CIP COMMITTEE:** Nothing to report.

**ENERGY COMMISSION:** Chairman Meth reported that they are in possession of a letter from the contractor, in regards to the Street Light project. The Committee will be meeting sometime next week. Eric mentioned the GIS mapping of the project and mentioned the luminosity and specifics of the new lighting that will be installed.

**NORTHERN PASS:** Selectman Meth reiterated the upcoming SEC visit on July 28, 2017 in Franconia. Eric also reported that the Town of Bethlehem has exhausted their budgeted fund account to continue fighting in opposition of Northern Pass. Ms. Kim Cowles was asked by Mr. Meth to draft the language to notify residents of the visit on the Peabody & Smith sign board.

**PLANNING BOARD:** Chairman Meth reported that there were still a few loose ends to tie up in regards to the MTAG grant, but everything to date has been moving along nicely. Mr. Meth will also present the Trail Side Road Letter to the Planning Board at the July 11, 2017 meeting.

Ms Kim Cowles reported on the Dow Pavilion Project. The Presby Company has been awarded the project and she reports that fundraising is on-going. Kim noted that she will address the Board with the Building permit once the financing aspect of the project is completed.

**MISCELLANEOUS:** Kim Cowles reported that the basement area at Town Hall is over 90% dry. Kim has spent countless hours moving water logged boxes and the like from the basement area, as well as mopping and sanitizing those areas that have been affected. Kim met with the insurance adjuster on July 07 2017, and a listing of damages has been completed.

Kim also addressed the drainage system below the parking area, and how heavy rains will overcome the drainage system and flood the garage/basement area.

**ITEMS TO REVISIT:**

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

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**PUBLIC INITIATIVES/COMMENTS/QUESTIONS:** Kim Cowles stated that the winners of the Old Home Day duck races are posted around town and more specifically, at The Franconia Post Office.

Erik Meth signaled a "nice opening" at the new Plain Kates Restaurant formerly, The Cannon Mountain View Restaurant.

With a unanimous voice vote, The Board adjourned the meeting AT 4:37 pm.

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Prepared and respectfully submitted by:

*Mr. Christopher J. Gautreau*

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Administrative Assistant

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