

**TOWN OF FRANCONIA
BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S REGULAR MEETING
JULY 20, 2020 AT 3PM AT TOWN HALL**

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Kim Cowles, Jenny Monahan, Dawn Steele, Peter Grote, Bob Montagno, Jessica Bahrakis, Kathy Lovett.

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

APPOINTMENTS:

3:00pm – Noco Mural Project – Jessica Bahrakis & Kathy Lovett: Jessica Bahrakis, of the NOCO Mural Project talked to the Board about installing some murals that are designed to honor essential workers. After the discussion, it was agreed that two murals will be installed; one at the church and one at the bank.

TO SIGN/APPROVE:

The July 6th meeting minutes were approved as written.

The July 20th transaction list was signed by the Selectmen.

DRA PA-28 Inventory of Taxable Property Form for 2021 – The Selectmen signed the form that informs the Department of Revenue Administration that Franconia will not utilize the PA-28 form for 2021.

Driveway Permit – Map 4 Lot 17 was signed by the Selectmen.

TO DISCUSS/REVIEW:

Town Administrator Update – Town Administrator Cowles let the Selectmen know that Assessor Dave Woodward made two abatement recommendations. For Map 13 Lot 6, The Village House Association, he recommends granting the abatement based on a property value reduction of \$118,000. For Map 14 Lot 17, Regan, he recommends granting the abatement based on a property value reduction of \$7,400.

Kim spoke with Valic about changing the employee retirement contribution match from the flat rate of \$20 to up to 5%, but she will first need to send them a form signed by the Selectmen that allows Kim signing authority.

Kim also discussed the Sign Ordinance with the Selectmen and suggested revisiting the town's Temporary Sign Ordinance to make sure that it's appropriate for both the town and the local businesses.

After interviewing applicants, a new employee was hired for the Transfer Station. Alyssa Murphy will start Friday the 24th as a part-time employee.

CORRESPONDENCE: Selectmen Meth provided an update on the Fox Hill Cooperative after back taxes for abandoned or uninhabitable units were abated by the Selectmen approximately one month ago. He said they have had some issues with demolishing the abandoned units. Selectmen Meth said it is concerning as it was anticipated that the units would be demolished quickly after the abatements were granted.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Cable Consortium: Selectman Meth said Mountain Top Telecom expects to hear back on the grant application to the Cares Act this week.

Chamber of Commerce: Selectman Blodgett said that at its recent meeting, the Chamber discussed the idea of a regionalized Chamber of Commerce with surrounding towns.

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

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

Planning Board: Selectman Meth said the Planning Board met July 14th. There was no official business but they discussed a few topics including updating the Master Plan and Airbnb operating guidelines.

PUBLIC INPUT:

Peter Grote said that according to the CDC it is safer to meet outside, and the ZBA would like to meet at the pavilion instead of town hall. The Selectmen gave approval for the ZBA to meet at the pavilion weather permitting.

Dawn Steele commented that there are no 2020 ZBA minutes on the town's website. Peter responded that Jenny has done minutes for the June 30th meeting. Jenny said she will post them to the site.

Dawn also asked about the Room & Meals Tax the town receives. She noticed that it hasn't increased much since 2014 and wondered if the town is collecting the tax on all Airbnb rentals.

Dawn next opined that Kim should wear a helmet when traveling on her bike for work.

The Board entered non-public session at 3:51pm for reasons of personnel.

The Board left non-public session at 4:05pm.

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 4:05pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jenny Monahan
Administrative Secretary