



TOWN OF FRANCONIA

INCORPORATED 1764

BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S REGULAR MEETING

MONDAY AUGUST 14, 2017 AT 8:00 AM AT TOWN OFFICES

TOWN OFFICIALS PRESENT: Ms. Jill Brewer, Ms. Bernie Costa. **ABSENT:** Mr. Eric Meth

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

INVITED GUESTS: NONE

GENERAL PUBLIC: Mr. Peter Grote.

The regular meeting was called to order at 8:04 am.

ITEMS FOR BOS REVIEW/APPROVAL/DENIAL/DISPOSITION:

- 1) MEETING MINUTES OF JULY 31, 2017: The approval/ amendment of the minutes was tabled to the Aug 21, 2017 meeting as Chairman Meth was not present today.
- 2) AUGUST 03 AND AUG 10 TRANSACTION LIST: Holly presented the transaction lists for Aug 03 and Aug 10 respectively which The Board reviewed and signed.
- 3) TAX ABATEMENT- MAP 15/ LOT 25: Holly presented this tax abatement application for \$11.00 which she recommended to abate. The Board signed this abatement.
- 4) ABATEMENT APPLICATION- MAP 5/ LOT 5: Holly discussed the specifics of the Johnson abatement and Avitar's recommendation. Dave from Avitar gathered property information and recommended abating \$19,100 of valuation. Based on the findings, The Board reviewed, granted, and signed the application.
- 5) INTENT TO CUT- MAP 12/ LOT 1: The specifics of the intent to cut permit was reviewed by Holly and The Board. Holly will check with Carol Wills for any arrearage. The Board signed the document.
- 6) SEWER PERMIT- MAP 28/ LOT 10: The Board reviewed the application and design blueprints for this site. There was some concern pertaining to the exact location of the proposed septic system. The Board tabled the permit review to the next Selectmen's meeting which will be held on August 21, 2017 at 8:00AM.

SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS:

RE: MR. PAUL DALEY- Tax Abatement

ACTION (S): Mr. Daley approached The Board in regards to the land value portion of the latest assessment from Avitar. He previously applied for abatement and was denied. Mr. Daley circulated a spreadsheet of the assessments for his property and the abutters. He is specifically concerned with his land value change which increased upwards of 90%. His calculations showed an average increase of 8.87% to the abutters. Mr. Daley commented that his intentions were of fair valuation, and he hopes a compromise can be reached without a Superior Court proceeding. Holly has contacted Avitar whom will be re-visiting Mr. Daley's property sometime on Wednesday, August 16.

Mr. Grote commented on the new formula used for re-assessment. Amongst the new metrics are elevation, horizontal angle of view, and distance.

Selectman Brewer commented that she hopes that the matter can be resolved.

Paul thanked The Board for responding to his concern in a timely fashion.

RE: MARY O'TOOLE- MAP 18/ LOT 29

ACTION(S) Ms. O'Toole had some questions concerning the building application process. She is considering purchasing a 5 acre parcel that she may be constructing a 5 bedroom house on. Ms. O'Toole had some questions concerning set-backs, aquifers, as well as the time frame for starting and completing the project. Holly recommended that the town building inspector drive out and view the parcel. Ms. O'Toole left her contact information that will be given to Mr. Clark.

RE: MS. KAREN FOSS, MR. JIM FITZPATRICK- ENERGY COMMISSION- STREET LIGHT PROJECT

ACTION (S): Ms. Karen Foss and Mr. Jim Fitzpatrick from the Energy Committee approached The Board for funding considerations pertaining to the Street Light Project. More specifically they are asking the town to float the rebate money to the project and thus be able to initiate the light installations without having to wait till the next fiscal year. They are requesting \$14,300 with the hopes of starting the project sometime in November of 2017, and completion by early December 2017.

Selectman Costa had some specific questions relating to repayment should the float be approved, as well as inter-departmental borrowing for temporary funding.

Ms. Foss read part of the contract to The Board for more financial clarification. Karen also advised that she will rework the figures and get back to The Board once completed.

Selectman Costa advised that The Board could not motion the request until more information is made available. Mr. Fitzpatrick stated that the project would pay for itself in relative short order from the savings garnered from a reduced electric bill with the replacement of these energy efficient lights. Jim also stated that the project may ultimately have to be pushed back to 2018 due to unanticipated roadblocks.

TOPICS FOR REVIEW/UPDATE/ DISCUSSION:

- 1) **TOWN ADMINISTRATOR HOLLY BURBANK:** Holly reported receiving a letter request for a BYOB from The Northern Grafton County Democrats for a BBQ event on The Dow on August 27, 2017 from 5-8 pm. Selectman Costa made a motion to grant the BYOB request with Selectman Brewer seconded the motion with all in favor.
Holly spoke to a letter from Anthony Arconi sent to The New Hampshire Department of Transportation. Mr. Arconi requested additional speed limit signs be erected on Rte. 116 near Wells Road. Holly received the response from DOT which denied the request.
- 2) **POLE LICENSE AGREEMENT:** NOTHING TO REPORT
- 3) **DEPARTMENT HEAD YTD BUDGETS:** Holly presented the preliminary budgets created in QuickBooks. The board was enthusiastic with the new format, and addressed a few line items for clarification. Holly responded to all the queries and noted that nothing looked unusual in the reports.
- 4) **FINAL ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT FY 2016:** Holly has received the final audit report from Plodzic & Sanderson. The report will be posted to the town website today and there are three hard copies for the town office. A hard copy can be reviewed in the lobby at The Town Offices.
- 5) **SENATE BILL 38-ADDITIONAL HIGHWAY BLOCK GRANT FUNDS:** Holly reported that the town has been granted \$45,704.63 in Additional Highway Block Grants. She noted that the town must hold a public hearing to accept the funds and hence will be posted in the newspaper. The funds must also be tracked as not to go to the bottom line should there be any remaining monies left. Holly advised how the funds could be used and noted the Mr. Scott Leslie of The Highway Department has been briefed on the grant.

COMMITTEE REPORTING

CONSERVATION COMMISSION: NOTHING TO REPORT

CIP COMMITTEE: Holly reported sending out updated asset reports under the new pro for-ma. This is a work-in-progress and Holly discussed expanding the reporting to include department specific projects to include visuals as well. Ms. Costa will not be at the next CIP Meeting due to a prior commitment. Mr. Meth will be asked to attend the next session.

ENERGY COMMISSION: CHAIRMAN METH OF THIS COMMITTEE WAS ABSENT. NOTHING REPORTED.

PLANNING BOARD: NOTHING TO REPORT

PUBLIC INITIATIVES/COMMENTS/QUESTIONS: Mr. Grote commended The Board for their diligence, responsiveness, and reciprocity with the auditors during this past audit. He was very impressed with the

information that has been garnered through the audit, which will aid in a more sharpened and focused decision making process.

OTHER WORK/ COMMUNICATION(S)/ ACTION(S)

Holly followed up on a Board request for lot maps pertaining to the McKenzie property and the Transfer Station property. The maps will be filed to the appropriate mailboxes.

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

* Selectman Brewer made a motion to enter a non-public session @ 9:50am for personnel issues as per RSA 91-A: 3, II. Selectman Costa seconded the motion with all in favor.

* The Board came out of Non-Public Session at 10:45am

* Selectman Costa made a motion to seal the Non-Public minutes with Selectman Brewer seconded, and all voting in favor at 10:46 am.

* With a unanimous voice vote, The Board adjourned the meeting @ 10:46 am.

Prepared and respectfully submitted by:

Mr. Christopher J. Gautreau

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Administrative Assistant