



**TOWN OF FRANCONIA**

**INCORPORATED 1764**

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S REGULAR MEETING**

**MONDAY AUGUST 28, 2017 AT 3:00 PM AT TOWN OFFICES**

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

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

**INVITED GUESTS:**

**GENERAL PUBLIC:** Ms. Mary Grote

The regular meeting was called to order at 3:05 pm.

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

- 1) MINUTES AUGUST 21, 2017: The Board reviewed and approved the meeting minutes of August 21, 2017 as amended, with a motion by Selectman Brewer and seconded by Chairman Meth with all voting in favor.
- 2) SULLIVAN ABATEMENT- MAP 19/LOT10/SUBLLOT 6: The Board signed and approved the Sullivan abatement after hearing from Holly. Mr. Woodward from Avitar Accessing was able to gain entry into the house and make some critical measurements and notations. A mapping error was also discovered and rectified. A value adjustment of \$122,000 was made after true measurements were factored in and updated.
- 3) DRAFT MS-1: Holly presented The MS-1 which will be uploaded to The Department of Revenue Administration. This is the preliminary step as the revenue department gets ready to set the new tax rates. The Board signed The MS-1.
- 4) PROPERTY TAX PAYMENT AGREEMENT: Holly discussed the Gargano payment agreement for their tax arrearage. The interest has been waived by The Board, and Selectman Brewer noted that this agreement was in the best interest for both parties.

- 5) SEPTIC PERMITS- MAP 28/ LOT 10 AND MAP 22/LOT4/ SUBLOT 1-3: Holly discussed setbacks as it pertains to Mittersill and the application for Map28/ Lot10. Chairman Meth will be discussing this with The Planning Board at their next meeting.

The second permit for Map22/ Lot 4/ Sublot 1-3 was reviewed and signed by The Board.

- 6) BUILDING PERMITS: A building permit for Map 30/ Lot 6-1 was reviewed by The Board. An attachment with conditions listed was reviewed as well and attached to the permit. The Board then signed the application.

A building permit application for Map 18/ Lot 29 was denied at this time.

INTENT TO CUT: An Intent to Cut Application for Map 11/ Lot 6 & 8 was reviewed and signed by The Board.

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### **SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS**

#### **RE: 3:00PM-PUBLIC HEARING- HIGHWAY BLOCK GRANT FUNDS:**

ACTION(S) A public hearing was called to order by Chairman Meth at 3:06 pm. A quorum was present. The outline of the Highway Block Grant Funds was presented by Holly. She advised how the monies could and could not be used. The total amount awarded to Franconia is \$45,704.63.

If there is any remaining money left over after being distributed for qualifying projects, these monies can be rolled over to the following year. The allocation to the towns is based on the number of highway miles there are specific to each town. Chairman Meth asked if anyone is opposed to receiving these funds and there were no dissenters. Chairman Meth then made a motion to accept The Highway Block Grant Funds with Selectman Brewer seconded, with all in favor. Chairman Meth made a motion to close the hearing at 3:16 pm with all voting in favor.

#### **RE: 3:15 PM-MR. PAUL DALY:**

ACTION(S) Mr. Daly appeared at the Board Meeting in regards to his abatement request. Mr. Daly thanked The Board and Town Administrator Holly Burbank for their professionalism, expediency, and diligence. Mr. Daly also commended Mr. Dave Woodward from Avitar Assessing for coming out to his property and explaining the aspect of view and how it factors into the database used for valuation. Mr. Daly's abatement was recently approved and he stated that it was a fair re-assessment.

#### **RE: 3:30 MR. MARK TAYLOR- FEMA FUNDING- JULY 01 STORM**

ACTION(S) Holly discussed the recent meeting held in Bethlehem with Mark Taylor and officials from The Federal Emergency Management Agency, FEMA. An intent to request funds to cover the costs of the July 01, 2017 storm was initiated. Culvert replacements located in some of the harder hit places in town were discussed. Holly explained some of the complexities of the FEMA process and advised contacting Mr. Red McCarthy to consult with in regards to bridges and culverts. A representative from The State of New Hampshire will also be involved with completing the FEMA application process.

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

- 1) **TOWN ADMINISTRATOR HOLLY BURBANK**: Computer back-up at Town Hall was discussed by Holly. Profile Technologies advised that there is no off-site data storage and back-up. An external storage solution with cloud storage capabilities was suggested. The cost was quoted at \$750. The solution was discussed with The Board and with a voice vote of approval by Chairman Meth and by Selectman Brewer.
  - 2) **POLE LICENSE AMENDMENT**: Holly is working on the new Pole License Amendment which will need a public hearing. The amendment pertains to rights of way along telephone pole routes and how they are taxed. Suppliers must be noticed prior to a hearing and this new amendment will negate any prior license, which will have an impact on future taxation.
  - 3) **HIGHWAY BLOCK FUNDS-STREET LIGHT IMPROVEMENTS** : The current street light initiative will fall under the umbrella of qualified infrastructure projects. A brief discussion was held about project funding and the anticipated loan that was requested by The Energy Commission. Holly advised that she will let Karen Foss know that the funds are available.
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## **COMMITTEE REPORTING**

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION**: Selectman Brewer had nothing to report for this week but advised that the next meeting of The Conservation Commission would be on September 26, 2017 at 8 am.

**CIP COMMITTEE**: Chairman Meth stated that this week's Capital Improvement Committee meeting will be on Wednesday August 30, 2017 at 5:30 pm.

**ENERGY COMMISSION**: Chairman Meth commented on the loan requested by the commission, with the hopes of using the Highway Block Grant Funds that have recently been rewarded to the town.

**PLANNING BOARD**: The Planning Board will be meeting tomorrow night and will be reviewing The Master Plan. Chairman Meth will also be discussing setbacks with Thad Presby and as it relates to Mittersill.

**NORTHERN PASS**: Chairman Meth read an excerpt of a letter by Kris Pastoriza that was published in The Caledonian Record as it pertains to rights of way along the proposed Northern Pass transmission route. Grafton County Attorney Lara Saffo has filed a motion to suspend The Northern Pass project based on inaccuracies as per RSA 228:35 which addresses this requirement.

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**PUBLIC INITIATIVES/COMMENTS/QUESTIONS**: There were no public comments today.

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

Chairman Meth made a formal apology to The Board for reaching out to some of our local representatives with regards to a family reunion that was to be held in Franconia, and relocated to Florida. Insensitive comments pertaining to New Hampshire in general were written by one of the family members, which Chairman Meth took exception to.

The Boston Post Cane tradition was bestowed on Mr. Charles Besaw honoring him on his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. The entire Besaw family was thrilled at the presentation made by Chairman Meth, and with the hope that he will get to use it for a very long time.

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

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\* Chairman Meth made a motion to enter a non-public session @ 4:35 for legal and personnel issues as per RSA 91-A: 3, II (a) (c) (e). Selectman Brewer seconded the motion with all in favor.

\*The Board came out of Non-Public Session at 4:50 pm.

\*Chairman Meth made a motion to seal the Non-Public minutes with Selectman Brewer seconded, and all voting in favor at.

\*With a unanimous voice vote, The Board adjourned the meeting @ 4:51 pm.

Prepared and respectfully submitted by:

*Mr. Christopher J. Gautreau*

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Administrative Assistant