

**TOWN OF FRANCONIA
BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 7, 2019 AT TOWN HALL**

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Holly Burbank, Jenny Monahan, Mary Grote, Dawn Steele, Chuck Lukasik, Kevin Low, Karen Foss, Chad Fillion, Zak Mei, Ann Steurnagel, Sue Ford, Elaine French.

The meeting was called to order at 3:02pm.

TO SIGN/APPROVE:

The September 23 minutes were approved as amended.

A Driveway Permit for Map 15 Lot 33, Iron Foundry Road was approved.

Petition for Pole License (PSNH dba Eversource Energy) on Plantation Road was approved.

Intent to Cut – 151 Timber Lane - was approved.

Quarterly Vote of Expenses to come from Trust Funds – The Board made the following motions to approve expenditures:

Chairman Brewer made a motion to expend \$592.79 from the Dow Clock Fund. Selectman Meth seconded the motion. All were in favor. **Motion passes.**

Chairman Brewer made a motion to expend \$1809.55 from the Bridge Construction Maintenance Fund. Selectman Meth seconded the motion. All were in favor. **Motion passes.**

Chairman Brewer made a motion to expend \$10,846.00 from the Lafayette Recreation Fund to the General Fund. Selectman Blodgett seconded the motion. All were in favor. **Motion passes.**

Bickford Hill Bridge Award – Town Administrator Burbank said HEB Engineering had reviewed the five bids received for the Bickford Hill Bridge Project and recommended that the Town accept the lowest bid, which was received from Austin Construction at \$150,540.00.

Chairman Brewer made a motion to award the bid to Austin Construction for the Bickford Hill Bridge Project. Selectman Blodgett seconded the motion. All were in favor. **Motion passes.**

TO DISCUSS/REVIEW:

Class Action Lawsuit (National Prescription Opiate Litigation): Town Administrator Burbank said she checked with Legal Counsel to confirm the legitimacy of this lawsuit that every town and city in the state is included in unless they request to opt-out. Legal Counsel advised Town Administrator Burbank that there is no reason to opt out. Selectman Meth said he reviewed the document and it is a negotiation

and does not prevent the Town from choosing to take further action in the future unless a settlement is awarded.

APPOINTMENTS:

Chief Rick Gaudette: Chief Gaudette said the Fire Department's radios are about 20 years old and technologically outdated. For safety reasons he would like to purchase 14 new radios totaling \$14,075.61. He would like to use Capital Reserve Funds under Personal Protective Gear.

Chairman Brewer made a motion to expend \$14,075.61 from the Fire Safety Equipment Fund for 14 radios for the Fire Department. Selectman Meth seconded the motion. All were in favor. **Motion passes.**

Kevin Low – Mountain Top Telecom: Kevin chatted with the Board about the efforts of Mountain Top Telecom to provide wireless broadband internet to customers that are out of range to receive cable or DSL and how a regionalized campaign may help to address the challenges of expanding internet access in the North Country.

TO DISCUSS/REVIEW (cont.):

Northern Pass Defense Fund: Town Administrator Burbank said she had inquired with Legal Counsel regarding the remaining donation funds given for Northern Pass legal expenses and was advised that those funds cannot be used for any other purpose as they were solicited specifically for NP. Options are to return the funds dollar for dollar, which there is enough money to do including accumulated interest, or deduct the percentage that was spent and return the remaining percentage of each donation. The Board discussed sending a letter to the donors asking if they want their donation returned or would opt to re-donate it to another fund, such as the Energy Commission. There was no decision made at this time.

APPOINTMENTS (cont):

Carol Miller – NH Director of Broadband & Technology: Carol visited the Board to discuss different strategies that have worked for other communities to accomplish greater broadband access in their areas and to provide advice on how to get the process started.

Melissa Elander – Solar Fields: Melissa met with the Board to offer information and assistance to the Town regarding pursuing town solar projects.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Cable Consortium: No update at this time.

Chamber of Commerce: Selectman Blodgett said the Chamber has been recently discussing liability, employee compensation and the end of the year festival that is currently planned to be held at the Iron Furnace Brewery on December 14th.

CIP: Selectman Blodgett said the CIP is meeting weekly and meets again on October 9th.

Conservation Commission: No update at this time.

Energy Commission: Next meeting is October 15th at 4:30.

Planning Board: No update at this time.

OTHER DISCUSSION: Town Administrator Burbank requested that the Policy Review Meeting scheduled for October 9th be rescheduled. The Board will reschedule the meeting at a later time.

Public Input: Mary Grote asked for clarification of dates for upcoming meetings. Chairman Brewer said the October 9th Policy Review will be rescheduled but the October 16th Budget Work Session and October 21st regular Board of Selectmen Meeting dates remain unchanged.

OTHER DISCUSSION: Selectman Blodgett asked if Chief Gaudette had provided a list of mandatory repairs for the Town Hall when he revoked the Assembly Permit for Town Hall. Town Administrator Burbank said no, but she and Corey Rush collaborated on an inventory of Town buildings that will be presented to CIP.

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 5:18pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jenny Monahan
Administrative Secretary