



**TOWN OF FRANCONIA**

**INCORPORATED 1764**

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S REGULAR MEETING**

**MONDAY OCTOBER 16, 2017 AT TOWN OFFICES**

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**TOWN OFFICIALS PRESENT:** Mr. Eric Meth, Chairman, Ms. Jill Brewer, 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 by Chairman Meth.

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

- 1) Meeting Minutes of October 02, 2017: The meeting minutes were reviewed by The Board with Selectman Costa making a motion to approve the amended minutes and Selectman Brewer seconded with all in favor.
- 2) Transaction List- October 19, 2017: The transaction list was reviewed and signed by The Board.
- 3) Building Permits: Paynotta, Michael- Map 22/ Lot 4-3, TTW, LLC- Map 22/ Lot 4-3, and Burgener Septic Permit on Timber Lane: The building permits were reviewed and signed by The Board of Selectmen. The septic permit was also reviewed by The Board with Chairman Meth making a motion to approve the septic plans and Selectman Costa seconded with all in favor.
- 4) Northern Pass Fundraising Letter: Holly presented the fundraising letter for The Board to review. Everyone was impressed with the letter and each homeowner will receive one soon, as we will be mailing them towards the end of the week once the mailing is assembled.

**SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS:**

**RE: 3:00- Mr. Greg DiSanto North Country Council:**

ACTION(S) Mr. DiSanto addressed The Board in advising and discussing items of interest to Franconia with regards to The Department of Transportation's Ten Year Plan. Selectman Costa has sent a memo to the NHDOT listing the projects that are of interest which were reviewed and discussed on with Greg. He advised starting the planning process sooner than later and made some concrete suggestions to The Board. Greg also advised with regards to bike and walking trails, to adopt a comprehensive streets policy including all modes of transportation in writing. His contribution and wise advice was acknowledged by The Board and they thanked him for his appearance.

**RE: 5:00- Franconia Village Store Owner Meeting in Bethlehem:**

ACTION(S) Due to time constraints, the meeting will be tentatively rescheduled to Monday October 30, 2017.

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**TOPICS FOR REVIEW/UPDATE/ DISCUSSION**

- 1) TOWN ADMINISTRATOR HOLLY BURBANK: Holly reported meeting individually with all the department heads to address the 2018 budget. She will be having a budget meeting again tomorrow morning at 10am at Town Hall with department heads. Congestion Mitigation Air Quality, (CMAQ) certification will be on Thursday and Holly will be in attendance.
  - 2) PRIMEX CONTRIBUTION ASSURANCE PROGRAM (CAP): Holly discussed our contract with Primex for workers compensation insurance. We have been in the CAP Program for the past three years and there seems to be no competition for insurance services. She also advised that the maximum increase for the 2018-2020 period is capped at 8%. After some discussion, Holly presented the three year contract which The Board signed.
  - 3) SIGN PERMIT VIOLATION: The motel sign at All Ways Inn was discussed and meeting minutes from 2016 were referenced for sign history conversations last year. Although nothing concrete was decided in the prior meeting, everyone was in agreement that the motel sign could be bigger than the zoning restrictions are for that area. Holly wanted some direction from The Board and it was decided that a letter informing the owners to apply for a sign permit, was the best course of action to take. Selectman Costa stated that the motel would have to make the sign comply with the zoning if it exceeds the square footage ordinance.
  - 4) TAX DEED PROPERTIES: Holly presented the tax deed list for ten properties. Two of the ten are mobile homes and the town would be required to pay the park rent for those units, so it was decided to forgo any proceedings on these two properties. Each property was discussed in detail so The Board could have all the facts before making the decisions to act upon these properties. The list of properties that The Board agreed to tax deed for the 2014 tax year are as follows:  
Map 14- Lot 82.  
Map 15- Lot 2.  
Map 21- Lot 21.
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LAND ONLY:

Map 6- Lot 22.

Map 6- Lot 16.

Map 29-Lot 40-Sublot 8.

Map 21-Lot 21.

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- 5) **HEALTH INSURANCE:** The current health insurance policies for town employees were discussed focusing on whether or not to allow former spouses to remain on the plan. Holly has been in contact with our provider, Health Trust, who advised that it is up to the municipality, but Health Trust signaled that continuing coverage for former spouses was not advised as well. After discussion, Selectman Costa made a motion to go with Health Trust's recommendation that we do not offer health insurance to ex-spouses. Selectman Brewer seconded with all in favor. Holly will be drafting a written policy to reflect this decision.
  - 6) **US POSTAL MAIL DELIVERY ON ACADEMY STREET:** The Postal Service will now be allowing private mail boxes on Academy Street. There was some discussion as to where the boxes will be placed, and Holly will follow up with the Postmaster of Franconia.
  - 7) **GRANITE STATE POWER LINK:** Please refer to Northern Pass minutes on page 4.
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**COMMITTEE REPORTING:**

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION:** Selectman Brewer presented the CMAQ grant application letter to The Board for review and signatories. The Board signed the letter and Jill advised that we may only be applying for the bridge portion, but will talk with Nick Altonaga of North Country Council. Estimates for the bridge only, came in at \$85,000-\$ 112,000. The bridge spans approximately 102 feet. Jill also advised that the proposed trail is not required to be ADA compliant.

**CIP COMMITTEE:** Selectman Costa reported meeting with the Life Squad and Fire Department heads to discuss and update their equipment worksheets. The main concern for the Fire Department is breathing apparatus equipment. Rick would like to have three new air paks this year as the current paks will be uncertifiable soon. The Life Squad is in pretty good shape and further discussions will be needed to address the replacement of the ambulance.

**ENERGY COMMISSION:** Selectman Meth reported signing the executed Affinity contract for the Street Light Project. The commission will be meeting tomorrow night with the agenda of: Material delivery of the new street lights, and solar panels for the Dow Pavilion project. Selectman Costa asked if anyone checked back on the functionality of the pellet stove and the heating in the Highway Garage.

**PLANNING BOARD:** Chairman Meth thanked Selectman Costa for attending the last Planning Board meeting. Bernie reported that the Palmer subdivision was approved as well as the site plan review by the Presby Corporation. Also, the Planning Board decided that the Mittersill commercial property cannot merge their vacant land because there is more than one structure. They can combine pieces of land but cannot combine it as one piece of property. Bernie also reported that a suggestion was made to

maintain the guardrails on Plantation Road and that Main Street should have one side of the street a sidewalk, and the other side a two-lane bike path.

Selectman Costa met with Phil Beaulieu and asked for the criteria for taking down signs along the highways, and they are as follows:

- a) The signs cannot be attached to DOT assets, i.e. traffic signs, route signs, signal poles, etc.
- b) The signs cannot cause or be a hazard to motorists.
- c) The signs cannot interfere with DOT mowing activities.

**NORTHERN PASS:** Chairman Meth reported that the presentation by Granite State Power Link on October 11, 2017 was well attended by the public. The presentation referenced the project by National Grid, a competitor with Northern Pass for the Massachusetts Clean Energy Proposal. The company will be chosen before the Site Evaluation Committee decision which is forecasted to be in late January, 2018. The presentation was delivered by Sean Downy which Eric commented was very interesting and substantive. Eric also left some materials about the project with each board member. Eric went on to read some specifics of this project into the minutes. Eric also reported that there has been very little resistance to this proposal as they will be using the existing utility lines.

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**PUBLIC INITIATIVES/COMMENTS/QUESTIONS:** Public comment was silent today.

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

Holly commented on her trip to Plymouth, New Hampshire to attend the planned gathering of officials and representatives of the North Country addressing Northern Pass. Holly said a robust crowd was in attendance to show their objections to the Northern Pass Project. Activism remains strong as well, Holly reported

Holly addressed the antique fire truck storage. The Heritage Museum has agreed to have it housed at the museum and The Fireman’s Association will construct an appropriate structure for the fire truck. Because this is a town–owned building, a construction plan and building permit will be required to commence the construction initiative.

**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

\* Chairman Meth made a motion to enter a non-public session @ 5:52 pm for legal issues as per RSA 91-A: 3, II. Selectman Brewer seconded the motion with all in favor.

\*The Board came out of Non-Public Session at 6:09 pm.

\*Chairman Meth made a motion to seal the Non-Public minutes with Selectman Brewer seconded, and all voting in favor at 6:08 pm.

\*With a unanimous voice vote, The Board adjourned the meeting @ 6:10 pm.

Prepared and respectfully submitted by:

*Mr. Christopher J. Gautreau*

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Administrative Assistant