

TOWN OF FRANCONIA
BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2017 AT TOWN OFFICES

TOWN OFFICIALS PRESENT: Eric Meth, Bernardette Costa, Jill Brewer

OTHERS PRESENT: Erik Rasmussen, Peter Grote, Dawn Steele

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

Bernadette Costa made a motion to enter non-public session at 3:04pm pursuant to NH RSA 91:A:3, II (a), (c).

The Board came out of non-public session at 3:45pm. Bernardette Costa made a motion to seal the minutes of the non-public session. Jill Brewer seconded the motion. All were in favor. **Motion Passes.**

The Board re-entered public session at 3:47pm.

APPOINTMENTS:

None

SIGN/APPROVE:

The Board reviewed the November 20, 2017 meeting minutes. After a brief discussion, Selectmen Costa made a motion to accept the minutes as amended. Selectmen Meth seconded the motion. All were in favor. **Motion Passes.**

The November 30, 2017 Transaction List was reviewed and signed.

The Board reviewed a Service Agreement from Plodzic & Sanderson for the Town's Audit ending Fiscal Year December 31, 2017. Before signing, the Board would like to know what they paid to Plodzic & Sanderson for last year's audit. Town Administrator Burbank will get that information and update at the next Board meeting.

The Board reviewed and signed documents pertaining to the Community Development Finance Authority (CDFA) Loan for the Streetlight Conversion Project.

TO DISCUSS/REVIEW:

The Board discussed Police Chief Monaghan's request to increase the part-time officer pay from \$17.50 per hour to \$20 per hour to become more competitive with Sugar Hill, Littleton and Lisbon. With the injury of one of the department's officers, they will need to have more part-time coverage while the officer is out on sick leave.

Holly next presented a letter from Brien Ward, Attorney for Samuel Fletcher, Manager of SIBYL OTL, LLC. The letter was concerning plowing at 76 Pioneer Road at Mittersill. He notes that the current way the snow is being plowed up the hill, is resulting in accessibility to the property being severely impacted.

Town Administrator Burbank noted that she had already spoken with Scott Leslie, Highway Director, and he will work with the homeowners to address this issue. The Board briefly spoke about the difficulty of plowing at Mittersill, with its narrow roads, and the many cars parking in the roads. Holly will send a letter to Brien L. Ward advising him that Scott Leslie would be looking into the situation.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Conservation Commission: Jill Brewer noted that the Conservation Commission met last Tuesday. A walk through the McKenzie-Woods property to locate the property lines was successful. Jill noted that the property lines were hard to find.

The Commission gave an update on the Beaver Dam. The original dam has been abandoned, and 3 smaller dams have been constructed downstream.

A recap of the Trail Meeting was given at the meeting as well.

Jill also noted that the Conservation Commission had a discussion regarding the Crocker Property, which ACT is purchasing.

CIP Committee: Bernardette Costa noted that the CIP Committee would be meeting Thursday, November 30th. She noted that the CIP Committee had some questions in regards to paving at Mittersill. They were unsure of where the paving would begin, as the State of NH maintains the entrance to Mittersill.

Bernadette next spoke to the Board regarding the new crosswalk that has been approved by the State of NH. There was a brief discussion to see if Red McCarthy would do an engineer study on the crosswalk, look at the NH DOT letter and its requirements to install. The Board asked Holly to reach out to Scott Leslie and have him speak with Red. Jill Brewer made a motion to move forward in creating a crosswalk from the church parking lot to the dow field, and remove the crosswalk at Harvard Street. Bernardette Costa seconded the motion. All were in favor. **Motion passes.**

Bernardette Costa also wanted to make sure that the Board's decision to have her stop at Mac's Market Corporate Office in Rutland, VT was noted in the public minutes. The Board noted that they all had agreed to have her stop into Mac's Corporate Office to speak to them about easements.

Energy Commission: Eric Meth noted that the Energy Commission met last week, and he noted that Bob Tortorice would be happy to stop by Town Hall to look at the lighting and windows needing replacement in the main hall to discuss with Kim Cowles energy efficient ideas.

Eric gave a brief update in regards to the Streetlight Conversion Project, and noted that Affinity, the contractor doing the work would like a point person from the Town should they have any questions, problems etc. After a brief discussion, Bernardette Costa made a motion to appoint Scott Leslie as the point person for the Streetlight Conversion Project. Jill Brewer seconded the motion. All were in favor. **Motion passes.**

Planning Board: Eric Meth noted that there will be a second public hearing on November 28th at 7pm at Town Hall. The public hearing is scheduled to take comments on the MTAG Grant and new proposed zoning changes.

Northern Pass: Eric Meth is scheduled to testify December 19, 2017. Eric will be prepped for the testimony on December 7th by Christine Fillmore, at her office in Lebanon. Chairman Meth invited Selectmen Costa, Selectmen Brewer and Town Administrator Burbank to attend if they wanted to . Eric noted that Peter Grote would be attending as well.

Eric let the Board know that December 22, 2017 is officially the last day for the adjudicative hearings and that the deliberative sessions would begin January 30, 2018 and run for 12 days.

Eric read excerpts from two different articles in regards to Northern Pass. One was an article by Garry Rayno, InDepthNH, entitled "Appraiser Sansoucy Criticizes Northern Pass Property Valuations", and the second article written by Kris Pastoriza, Easton Conservation Commission, entitled "Opinion – A response to Consumer Advocate Kreis' 'A Northern Pass Ratepayer Victory'". Both articles are attached to these minutes.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Chairman Meth updated the Board regarding Sam's Place. He noted that Kris Pastoriza will have Paul Pinkham go look at the building and determine how it could be moved safely.

Eric also asked that we put the discussion of RSA 79-e on the items to revisit list. The Board would also like to see what the Planning Board's thoughts were in regards to adopting this article. Eric will bring to the Planning Board and report back.

Holly shared a letter from Plodzik and Sanderson explaining the current fund balance. A copy of this letter will be available at Town Hall, and will also be placed in the Town's annual report.

Jill Brewer next spoke to the Board about a book she had been given. The book is entitled "Miracle Town, and is an inspiring story written about Leavenworth, WA. The book talks about how a small community revitalized its Town by creating a Bavarian village and yearly events that brought visitors and revitalized the community. Jill presented this book as the Town of Franconia looks for different ways to find its niche and revitalize the community.

Jill also handed out a paper showing another community that created a forest walk illuminated by sound and lights to draw visitors to their city center. Another way a community has helped revitalize their Town.

PUBLIC INPUT:

Dawn Steele wanted to compliment the Police Department for their good and very responsive work, relating to recent break-ins in her neighborhood.

With no further discussion, the Board adjourned at 5:07pm on a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Holly A. Burbank
Town Administrator