

**TOWN OF FRANCONIA
BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 2nd, 2019 AT TOWN HALL**

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Holly Burbank, Jenny Monahan, Mary Grote, Peter Grote, Bob Montagno, Jayne O'Connor, Chris Collman, Karen Foss.

The meeting was called to order at 3:00pm.

After calling the meeting to order, Chairman Brewer opened a public hearing for the acceptance of unanticipated revenue received In Loving Memory of Barbara Holt.

During the hearing's public comment, Chris Collman remarked on the many ways Barbara served the town and commended her work with the Heritage Council and as a Cemetery Trustee.

The public hearing was closed at 3:02 pm, and the regular session reconvened.

Chairman Brewer made a motion to accept the \$10,000 gift to the Cemetery Maintenance Fund and the \$10,000 gift to the Iron Furnace Interpretive Center from Barbara Holt. Selectman Blodgett seconded the motion. All were in favor. **Motion passes.**

Chairman Brewer added that the Board is very grateful for Barbara Holt's gifts and that it is a wonderful way to continue her legacy with the town.

TO SIGN/APPROVE:

The November 18th meeting minutes were approved as amended.

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION:

Selectman Blodgett asked about the November 18th meeting discussion regarding conducting a mail survey of residents to find out how many people would be interested in having cable if it were available to them. After a brief discussion about the cost of conducting the survey, Selectman Meth said he would like to find out more about how useful the survey data might be and also whether SNS/Mountaintop Telecom may be considering collecting the data themselves.

APPOINTMENTS:

Franconia Artwalk Association – As part of preparing the FAA budget, Bob Montagno requested that for future art installations, the Highway Dept. employees could provide labor and the FAA would reimburse the town for their hourly expense.

Due to being members of the Artwalk Association, Selectman Blodgett and Selectman Meth recused themselves from the discussion.

Chairman Brewer said she had concerns about using town employees for a non-profit association's labor needs as it could set a precedent that may encourage other non-profits to request the same.

There was no vote on the matter as there was no quorum.

TO SIGN/APPROVE:

The December 5th, 2019 Transaction List was signed.

Septic permits for Fini Realty Trust on Profile Road, Joseph Kwasnik at 72 Harvard Street and Ed Duffy on Butterhill Road were reviewed and approved.

PSNH Settlement Agreement – At a previous meeting, the Board voted to accept an offer to settle this lawsuit for \$36,115.00 to be paid in increments biannually until 2022 with no interest. Selectman Blodgett noted that there is an error in the town name on the document, so Town Administrator Burbank will check into getting it corrected before the Selectmen sign it.

Waiver of Interest – Town Administrator Burbank said that a property at Mckenzie Woods Road, Map 22 Lot 4-7, accumulated a Land Use Change Tax while some research was being done that took longer than anticipated.

Chairman Brewer made a motion to waive the Land Use Change Tax for Map 22 Lot 4-7. Selectman Meth seconded the motion. All were in favor. **Motion passes.**

TO DISCUSS/REVIEW:

2019 YTD Budget Review – Town Administrator Burbank provided copies of the budget to the Selectmen for their review. She commented that the Legal Line is overspent by \$11,000, mainly due to the PSNH lawsuit.

2020 Budget Packet Review – Town Administrator Burbank explained the contents of the budget packets that she put together for the Selectmen.

Tri-Town Meeting Date – Town Administrator Burbank reached out to Sugar Hill and Easton and a suggested date for the Tri-Town meeting is January 6th. The Selectmen said that date would work for them.

Correspondence: Town Administrator Burbank emailed the Selectmen some letters from North Country Council that inquire about the Town's waste disposal and offer to visit the Transfer Station and review their processes. The Selectmen said they were interested in pursuing this.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Cable Consortium: No update at this time.

Chamber of Commerce: No update at this time.

CIP: The CIP committee has completed their meetings with Department Heads and will begin preparing their recommendations for the Selectmen.

Conservation Commission: Next meeting is December 3rd at Town Hall, 3pm.

Energy Commission: Next meeting is December 17th at 4:45pm. Selectman Meth said he spoke with Freedom Energy Logistics about their Community Choice Aggregation Program and the Energy Commission will be having a representative come to their January 21st meeting.

Planning Board: No update at this time.

PUBLIC INPUT:

Mary Grote asked what the deadline for petitioned warrant articles is, and was informed it is Tuesday, February 4th, and there must be a minimum of 25 registered voter signatures on the petition.

Peter Grote asked if a letter for a resident from the ZBA that is required to be on Town of Franconia letterhead could be sent to Town Administrator Burbank for printing on the letterhead. Her response was yes.

Karen Foss said that she has been looking into Performance Contractors on behalf of the Energy Commission, and asked if the Board would be interested in considering their services. The Board said yes, they are open to that.

Karen also asked if there were absentee ballots available for the Primary Election. The answer was yes, and to check with Carol Wills for details.

The Board entered non-public session at 3:58pm for reasons of personnel.

The Board left non-public session at 4:14pm.

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 4:14pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jenny Monahan
Administrative Secretary