

**TOWN OF FRANCONIA
BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 16th, 2019 AT TOWN HALL**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Eric Meth, Jill Brewer.

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Jeff Blodgett

OTHERS PRESENT: Holly Burbank, Jenny Monahan, Mary Grote, Peter Grote, Bob Montagno, Dawn Steele, Cindy Berlack, Kim Cowles, Ann Steurnagel.

The meeting was called to order at 3:03pm.

APPOINTMENTS:

Ann Steurnagel – Housing: Ann relayed her experience trying to find a home to purchase in town to the Board, saying that it seemed nearly impossible for middle income earners to move to Franconia. Chairman Brewer said hopefully the 2019 enacted multi use zoning changes will help with providing more affordable housing in town. Selectmen Meth responded that he had attended a meeting regarding Residential Owned Communities at Fox Hill Mobile Home Park. He said Fox Hill is working with the Community Loan Fund for a loan to purchase the land the mobile home park is on, which would make the park's land a cooperative with the homes remaining privately owned. Selectman Meth said if the initiative is successful it would be a source of low income housing in perpetuity.

Kim Cowles – Recreation Budget: Kim presented the proposed 2020 Lafayette Recreation Budget to the Selectmen. The proposed budget reflects a decrease of 1.53% over last year.

Bob Montagno – Franconia Artwork Association – Sculpture Installation: Bob visited the Board to ask the Selectmen to again consider allowing the Highway Department employees to assist with sculpture installations for the FAA, and the FAA would reimburse the Town for the hourly wages of the employees. Bob said that a precedent exists for using Town employees to assist non-profit organizations in that the Highway Department plows for two town churches. Chairman Brewer said a decision cannot be made at this time due to Selectman Blodgett and Selectman Meth being members of the FAA.

TO SIGN/APPROVE:

The December 2nd and December 4th meeting minutes were approved as written.

A Timber Tax in the amount of \$17.64 for Map 24 Lot 33 was approved.

Quarter 4 Trust Fund Expenditures - The following motions were made for the approval of Trust Fund Expenditures for the total amount of \$27,963.49

Chairman Brewer made a motion to expend \$46.34 from the Dow Clock Fund. Selectman Meth seconded the motion. All were in favor. **Motion passes.**

Chairman Brewer made a motion to expend \$4,725.59 from the Bridge Construction/Maintenance Fund. Selectman Meth seconded the motion. All were in favor. **Motion passes.**

Chairman Brewer made a motion to expend \$13,577.25 from the Fire Fighting Equipment Fund. Selectman Meth seconded the motion. All were in favor. **Motion passes.**

Chairman Brewer made a motion to expend \$1,500 from the Heritage Museum Fund. Selectman Meth seconded the motion. All were in favor. **Motion passes.**

Chairman Brewer made a motion to expend \$8,114.31 from the Lafayette Recreation Fund. Selectman Meth seconded the motion. All were in favor. **Motion passes.**

Deed Waivers – Four properties at Fox Hill Mobile Home Park that were eligible to be tax deeded were granted deed waivers by the Board of Selectman per RSA 80:38 II-a.

Property Tax Abatements – The Board of Selectmen voted to grant property tax abatements to PSNH as part of the Settlement Agreement for the lawsuit. The abatements are for the second issue of 2019, the first and second issues of 2020 and 2021, and the first issue of 2022. The Selectmen signed the abatement forms.

TO DISCUSS/REVIEW:

Volkswagen Electric Vehicle Charging Station Grant – Town Administrator Burbank received the informational packet and application for the Volkswagen Electric Vehicle Charging Station Grant. After a brief discussion, Selectman Meth took the packet for review with the Energy Commission.

Correspondence: Chairman Brewer received a letter from a woman that has a second home on Forest Lake who suggested Coos and Grafton Counties may wish to consider forming a municipal landfill for the counties combined future disposal needs.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Cable Consortium: No update at this time.

Chamber of Commerce: No update at this time.

CIP: The CIP committee will meet with the Planning Board on Jan. 7th and Selectmen on Jan. 8th to present their recommendations.

Conservation Commission: Met December 3rd. After continuing discussion on the Save Forest Lake initiative which protests the possibility of a landfill facility being sited in Dalton, it was decided to take no public stance at this point. They are also in communication with a couple property owners with the hopes of preserving trails and trail access points on their properties.

Energy Commission: Next meeting is December 17th at 4:45pm.

Planning Board: Met December 10th but did not have a quorum.

OTHER BUSINESS: Selectman Meth attended the Water Dept. meeting on Dec. 12th to learn about the issue with the hydrants. Chief Gaudette was in attendance as well and let the Water Dept. know that the hydrants are not usable to the Fire Dept. due to low pressure. Selectman Meth said he let the Water Dept. know the Board defers to Chief Gaudette on this issue.

PUBLIC INPUT:

Mary Grote said she attended the Water Dept. meeting and asked them about the process of decommissioning the hydrants and the possible repercussions of leaving them in place while not maintaining them. She said there was no answer given at that time.

OTHER BUSINESS cont. In regards to the previous discussion on Fox Hill Park working towards becoming a Resident Owned Community, Selectman Meth suggested the Board make public their support of the initiative. Selectman Meth made a motion that the Board officially supports Fox Hill Mobile Home Park becoming a Resident Owned Community. Chairman Brewer seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Motion passes.

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 4:32pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jenny Monahan
Administrative Secretary