

**Town of Franconia  
Board of Selectmen's Regular Meeting  
Monday, April 15<sup>th</sup> at 4PM  
at Franconia Town Hall**

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**Board Members Present: Eric Meth, Dan Walker**

**Board Members Absent: Jill Brewer**

**Others in Attendance: Libby Staples, Jenny Monahan, Jan Cole, Dawn Steele, Don Metz, Stacy Holmes, Bill Mellekas, Trevor Presby, Thad Presby, Chief Mac Cashin, Officer Justin Barnum, Kaitlyn Barnum**

**The meeting was called to order at 4PM.**

**Appointments/Work Sessions**

**Stacy Holmes and Don Metz, Frost Place Update:** Don and Stacy provided a list of needed repairs for The Frost Place, most of which stem from mold damage to the building. They have already had a mold survey and received remediation recommendations from Absolute Resource Association in March and purchased two dehumidifiers to address the humidity level in the basement. A full house and basement mold remediation is recommended and quoted at \$24, 679 by Octagon Cleaning & Restoration out of Meredith. This would include spray coating all wood surfaces in the basement with a product that prohibits the growth of mold. On the two floors above, they would HEPA vacuum and filter air from all interior house surfaces (including items such as furniture and books) to remove mold spores. Other recommendations include:

- Footing drain and waterproofing of NW basement wall - \$2,500
- Spray foam insulation on interior basement walls - \$3,400
- 38,000 BTU Rinnai space heater, installed - \$4,300
- Painting exterior of house - \$13,790
- Interior plaster patching and painting – no quote on this yet
- Two HEPA air purifiers - \$300

Funding the repairs was briefly discussed; The Frost Place is seeking grants and donations, there is about \$6,000 in their fund and some could come from the Town Buildings CRF. They do not feel that they can have programming without addressing the mold, although it is not black mold, as many people have sensitivities to any mold. The selectmen agree that the repairs need to be done but no decisions were made at this time, this will be discussed again at a future meeting. The total of the work is estimated at about \$60,000.

**Chief Cashin and Officer Justin Barnum, Oath of Officer:** Officer Barnum was sworn in by Selectman Walker.

**Bill Mellekas, Old Home Day Update:** Bill said that two couples have stepped forward to fulfill the role of parade organizers and have already started the work. The Chamber asked if they can still hold the craft fair in the parking lot and have volunteered to organize the non-profits on Main Street. Bill said there is an issue with finding a sound system and sound technician for the parade as the previously

used person is not available. Selectman Meth suggested checking with North Country Community Radio. Thad Presby suggested checking with the ski club and said he will reach out to them. Bill may need to request the use of some funds for bands at a later date.

**Trevor Presby – Regionalization:** Trevor asked if there have been any developments towards safety services regionalization since contracting with Littleton for EMS at the cost of \$600,000 a year. He thinks Franconia should work harder to regionalize with the tri-towns or surrounding towns in part because Franconia supports EMS for Franconia State Park/Cannon Mountain that generate a large portion of the EMS calls. He is concerned that rising property taxes will keep people from moving to town and cause current property owners to leave.

Selectman Meth said that a letter is being drafted to state and local legislators to start the conversation about the tax burden Franconia carries for the park and ski area. Selectman Walker reviewed the history and circumstances that led to contracting with Littleton. He feels other towns may be more open to the idea of regionalizing once they find themselves in a similar situation that Franconia was in. Trevor would like the town to be bolder in approaching other towns to open the door to regionalization discussion.

Trevor brought up several other topics: he does not think the proposed refrigerated ice rink should be situated at the current rink as it is not an adequate space for parking or a full-size hockey rink and does not wish to see the town tax burden increase to support the operation of the proposed refrigerated rink.

Trevor commented that the eclipse traffic and public restroom situation was a big problem for residents and visitors and should have been handled differently by local and state entities.

### **Public Comment**

Dawn Steele asked about the commemorative license plates expiring December 31<sup>st</sup> 2023 and thinks a reminder should be publicized. Dawn also commented on the town's costs with Amerigas for propane and that if the town wants to change vendors, Irving Energy will come inspect tanks and buy them from Amerigas.

### **To Sign/Approve**

The minutes of April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024 were approved as amended. The minutes of March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024 were approved as written.

The April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024 to April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024 transaction report was reviewed and signed by the selectmen.

**Appointment Record – Timothy Sykes to ZBA:** Timothy was appointed to the ZBA on a motion from Selectman Meth and second from Selectman Walker.

**Waiver of Lien Penalty – Annie Oh 2016 Revocable Trust –** The selectmen approved the waiver of the penalty that was accrued due to the payment transaction posting time.

Town Administrator Staples recognized Jenny Monahan for her assistance with the town audit last week.

**Correspondence**

Town Administrator Staples read a letter from Kim Cowles lamenting that the town report was not dedicated to the Franconia Life Squad and pointing out some pages on the website that needed to be updated.

The new selectperson in Littleton, Kerri Harrington, sent a notification for a workshop to cultivate LGBTQ+ inclusivity in communities that will be held Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup> from 9-12 at the AHEAD conference center in Littleton.

Selectman Meth reminded that the Broadband Committee is meeting with Fidium reps on the 18<sup>th</sup> in the hope of getting Franconia moved to an earlier position on the broadband installation schedule.

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 5:19PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenny Monahan  
Executive Assistant