

TOWN OF FRANCONIA
BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 19th, 2021 AT TOWN HALL

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Eric Meth, Jill Brewer, Dan Walker

OTHERS PRESENT: Jenny Monahan, Dawn Steele, Lynn Terres, Karen Foss, Mary Grote, Peter Grote, Chief Mac Cashin, Bill Melekas.

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

TO SIGN/APPROVE:

The April 19, 2021 transaction list was reviewed and signed by the Selectmen.

The minutes of April 12, 2021 were approved as amended on a motion by Selectman Walker and a second by Chairman Brewer with all voting in favor.

APPOINTMENTS/WORK SESSIONS:

3:00pm Bill Melekas – Old Home Day: Bill chatted with the board about what Old Home Day would look like this year. Due to the many missed holidays and events people were not able to attend last year due to the pandemic, Bill suggested that a good theme for the parade would be “Celebrations throughout the Year”. Bill also requested that the selectmen develop a parade policy.

Record of Appointment – Water Department Commissioner – H. Ted Cammann: Mr. Cammann wrote a letter to the board expressing his interest in becoming a water commissioner. The board signed the record of appointment.

Record of Appointment – Planning Board – Monica Laflamme: The selectmen signed the record of appointment.

Re-sign Park View Drive Repurchase Deed: The selectmen signed this document again as the Dept. of Revenue Administration does not accept two-sided documents, as the last deed was.

TO DISCUSS/REVIEW:

Water Dept. Letter of Support for Northern Borders Regional Commission Grant: The Water Department has requested a letter of support from the town to support their grant application. Selectman Blodgett wrote a very good letter last year that Jenny will retype for the selectmen's signatures at the next meeting.

APPOINTMENTS/WORK SESSIONS:

3:15pm – Chief Cashin – Face Covering Ordinance: The selectmen and Chief Cashin discussed the town's mask ordinance, which states that it is in effect for thirty days after the state's mandate ends or until rescinded by the selectmen. Chairman Brewer also said she spoke with Health Officer Charles Wolcott about the issue and his opinion was that the mask ordinance should stay in effect at this time due to the increase in cases in surrounding towns. Selectman Meth read an April 16th statement from Littleton Regional Hospital about masks helping prevent the spread of the virus (statement attached to these minutes). After the discussion, the selectmen opted to keep the ordinance in effect at this time.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Cable Consortium: Selectman Meth said North Country Communications District Committee has a meeting this Friday the 23rd at 11am.

Chamber of Commerce: Selectman Walker will be attending the next meeting, which is Wednesday the 26th.

Conservation Commission: Chairman Brewer said the CC will next meet on Wednesday the 28th via Zoom at 4pm.

Energy Commission: Selectman Meth said the next meeting is April 20th at 4:30pm and one of the topics planned for discussion is the creation of a town solar policy.

Planning Board: Selectman Meth said the Planning Board met on Tuesday the 13th and discussed solar arrays with some residents and considered talking to the Energy Commission about a solar policy to help protect people's views. They also discussed the Master Plan and how to conduct a survey of residents and appointing Monica Laflamme to the board. Selectman Meth said properties on the trail systems that have posted their property as "No Trespassing" were also discussed and possible tactics to encourage those landowners to allow people to use the trails on their land.

PUBLIC INPUT:

Mary Grote commented in support of the continued town wide mask mandate.

Dawn Steele commented that the town's financial policy section 202 states that purchases of \$1,000 or more require three quotes and section 404 states that \$5,000 or more requires three sealed bids, which is somewhat confusing.

Regarding the minutes from April 12th, Dawn Steele commented that Article 19 was amended at town meeting and asked whether the minutes should be changed to reflect the amendment. Jenny will change the minutes.

There was no further public comment. Chairman Brewer made a motion to enter non-public session pursuant to 91A-3, II(c) at 3:52pm which was seconded by Selectman Meth.

The selectmen left non-public session at 4:06pm. With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 4:06pm on a motion from Chairman Brewer and a second from Selectman Walker.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jenny Monahan
Administrative Secretary