

**TOWN OF FRANCONIA
BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 4, 2022 AT 6:00PM AT TOWN HALL**

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Kim Cowles, Jenny Monahan, Peter Grote, Mary Grote, Jan Cole, Dawn Steele, Larry Plate, Ann Foss, Monica Laflamme.

The meeting was called to order at 6:05pm

APPOINTMENTS/WORK SESSIONS

Chief Paul Schmucker, Life Squad Update – Paul first provided the board with a printout of what other local departments pay their EMT's. He said that as previously discussed, the Life Squad is extremely short staffed and relying heavily on mutual aid, predominantly the town of Littleton, to respond. He said Franconia's Life Squad wages are not competitive and suggested that an increase be considered to help with retention and recruitment and that the town consider staffing two twelve hour shifts per day, seven days a week. He said this would cost approximately \$165,000.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment was taken from Peter Grote, Dawn Steele, Larry Plate, Mary Grote and Jan Cole.

TO SIGN/APPROVE

The April 4, 2022 transaction report was reviewed and signed by the selectmen.

The minutes of March 21st and March 28th 2022 were tabled until next week.

Records of Appointment/Reappointment: Chairman Brewer made a motion to reappointment Art Daly to the Conservation Commission and to appoint Dan Zajic as an alternate to the Conservation Commission. Selectman Walker seconded the motion with all voting in favor. **Motion passes.** The appointment records were signed by the board.

TO DISCUSS/REVIEW:

Update on Public Hearing & Special Town Meeting for Purchase of Highway & Fire Trucks: Town Administrator Cowles said town attorney Laura Spector-Morgan strongly recommends not doing the prepayment option for the fire truck because if there is something wrong with the truck, the town would not have the option of not executing the acceptance certificate and equipment should always be received and inspected before executing the acceptance certificate. If the town were to forgo the prepayment option, it would lose the discount of \$21,000. Town Administrator Cowles said the leasing company has a performance bond that offers some protection. Jan Cole commented and said she still recommends that the town do the lease option and suggests letting town counsel know about the performance bond. Town Administrator Cowles said she did let counsel know about the performance bond and is waiting to hear back from Laura Spector-Morgan.

Update on Public Bathrooms/Warming Hut: Town Administrator Cowles noted that the former warming hut/public bathroom building has been razed and the water department will be starting the waterline work next week. The forms for the footings and foundation should be started April 20th. The walls are being built at their warehouse and will be brought to the site for installation when the foundation is ready. The anticipated completion date is July 7th.

The RFP for the solar array was sent out this morning.

Correspondence: Resident James Walker wrote to Town Administrator Cowles to express concerns that the Welcome Center project is proceeding illegally due to the warrant article for additional funding being voted down in 2021. This inquiry was shared with town counsel and the response received detailed their disagreement with Mr. Walker and stated that the project can move forward.

Chairman Brewer said that it was brought to the attention of the board by Jan Cole that the board's decision last week to use \$21,000 from the Fire Department Safety Equipment fund to repair the Engine 1 cannot be used for that purpose. Chairman Brewer said this will need to come out of the line item budget instead.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Broadband Initiative: Selectman Meth said the next meeting of the Franconia Broadband Committee is April 21st at 4:30 via Zoom.

Chamber of Commerce: Selectman Walker asked Town Administrator Cowles if she had touched base with Kevin Johnson about the chamber's town wide yard sale using the parking lot of town hall for additional seller's spaces. She said she will be attending the chamber's next meeting to discuss.

Conservation Commission: Chairman Brewer said the P&S agreement for map 17 lot 3 has been signed electronically by both parties and they are now just waiting for the original documents to be returned.

Energy Commission: Selectman Meth said the EC next meets on Thursday April 14th at 4:30pm at town hall. He also said the RFP for the solar project has been sent out. The EC is also sending a letter of interest to the Northern Border Regional Commission for a grant. Selectman Meth said NHPR ran their story on local municipal solar arrays (to include Franconia's) today.

Planning Board: Selectman Meth said the PB met on March 29th at 7pm at town hall. He said they have new members and have been working on Rules and Procedures and finishing the Master Plan. The next meeting is the 12th at 7pm at town hall.

CIP: No update at this time.

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 7:05pm on a motion from Chairman Brewer and a second from Selectman Walker with all voting in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jenny Monahan
Administrative Secretary