

**TOWN OF FRANCONIA
BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 31, 2020 AT 3PM AT TOWN HALL**

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Kim Cowles, Jenny Monahan, Peter Grote, Mary Grote, Keith Batchelder, Kevin Johnson, Jayne O'Connor, Melinda Richmond.

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

APPOINTMENTS:

Kevin Johnson – Public Restrooms and Chamber of Commerce EV Charging Stations: Kevin met with the board to request that the public restrooms be reopened to the public now that summer recreation has ended and the campers are no longer using the facilities. He said the information booth attendant will clean the restroom every two hours and it would be open during the hours that the Information Booth is open and closed when it is not. The board agreed to open the public restroom at town hall during the hours that the information booth is open. Town Administrator Cowles asked that the attendant ensure that the restroom is locked when the information booth closes. The town will supply the paper products for the restroom.

Kevin also talked about Electric Vehicle Charging Stations in town. He's been in touch with Gilbert Brown of Freedom Energy Logistics and Chris Palmieri of EVBox about getting some charging stations in town. Kevin would be interested in having stations at his motel and thought the Chamber could reach out to their members to see if other businesses were interested in installing the chargers as well. The board supported the idea and Chairman Brewer said the town would be interested in installing some chargers if a grant was received to pay for it.

TO SIGN/APPROVE:

The August 17th, 2020 meeting minutes were approved as written.

The August 31st, 2020 transaction list was signed by the Selectmen.

A Driveway Permit for Lafayette Road (driveway in Franconia, parcel in Sugar Hill) was approved by the Selectmen.

A second Tax Abatement Application for Franconia Soaring Center (Charitable Exemption) was briefly discussed before being tabled by the Selectmen.

Committee Appointments: The Selectmen reappointed the following board and committee members:

Recreation Committee - Cindy Berlack, Adam Boyer and Meghan McPhaul.

Energy Committee - James Fitzpatrick, Karen Foss, Charles Lukasik.
CIP - Karen Foss, Trevor Presby, Steve Plant, Peter Grote, Mark Hesler.
Conservation Committee - Chris Nicodemus.

TO DISCUSS/REVIEW:

Grader Tires Purchase Using Heavy Equipment Fund: Town Administrator Cowles said the Grader is in need of new tires and the quote is \$5,395.

Chairman Brewer made a motion to expend \$5,395 from the Heavy Equipment Fund for the purchase of new tires for the Grader. Selectman Meth seconded the motion with all voting in favor. **Motion passes.**

Mask Policy for Town Buildings: The idea of drafting a town policy for mandating masks in town buildings was discussed. Town Administrator Cowles said she was initially unsure of the legality of having a mask mandate for town buildings but checked with Primex and learned that the Selectmen can require masks in town buildings. Library Director Ann Steurnagel called into the meeting by phone to participate in the discussion as she would like the library to have the same policy as the town. Chairman Brewer said her opinion is that masks should be required in town buildings except for employees in the building that are working in their own space. After some discussion, Town Administrator Cowles suggested that rather than finalize a policy today perhaps more research should be done first and we should make it a priority to get a policy established soon. The board will revisit this topic later.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE:

Town Administrator Cowles said road paving is in progress by NH DOT on Route 116. The town is paving the sidewalks from Harvard Street to the cemetery in conjunction with the road paving. There is a meeting scheduled with DOT on September 15th to discuss paving Main Street and redoing those sidewalks. DOT wants the curb of sidewalks to be no less than four feet away from the white line or 16 feet from the center line, and the sidewalk itself to be five feet wide. Because the sidewalks throughout town are four feet wide and closer than four feet from the white line, this would mean moving the sidewalks back by as much as six feet in some areas.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Cable Consortium: Selectman Meth said Tripp Legendre will be visiting the board regarding the broadband bond process. He said the governor had awarded some more of the CARES grant funds as well and

Chamber of Commerce: No update at this time.

Conservation Commission: No update at this time.

Energy Commission: No update at this time.

Planning Board: Selectman Meth said the Planning Board met on August 25th and discussed a few issues to include Airbnb's.

PUBLIC INPUT:

Jayne O'Connor said she has worked with NHDOT in her professional capacity in the past and gave the Selectmen some suggestions for working well with them.

Keith Batchelder spoke with the board regarding several topics. He first said he would like to get on the agenda to discuss Airbnb with the Selectmen and provided a couple documents for the board's review.

The second topic was the Transfer Station and the economic future of recycling. Keith said he would send some information on this to the board after the meeting. Keith also said he feels that there should be both PAYT bags and a resident vehicle sticker for annual purchase to offset Transfer Station costs.

Keith next requested that the Select Board formally request that the Water Department provide their itemized budget for public review as their budget is voted on at town meeting and the information should be available to voters.

Peter Grote commented that there is a large, dead pine tree at Rte 116 and Wells Road that is a hazard and should be removed. Peter said the removal will require the road be closed and significant clean up after. Town Administrator Cowles said she will talk with Scott Leslie about the tree removal.

Mary Grote commented that the Franconia Soaring Foundation is not a charitable organization in the sense that it does not perform charitable acts and should not be eligible for abated taxes under that reason.

The Board entered non-public session at 3:56pm for reasons of personnel. Public session reconvened at 4:25pm.

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 4:25pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jenny Monahan
Administrative Secretary