

**TOWN OF FRANCONIA
BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 3, 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, Scott Leslie, Rick Gaudette, Jean Akers.

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

APPOINTMENTS:

3:00pm – Scott Leslie re Paving at Mittersill – Scott said he has attained four bids to pave Mittersill's roads starting at the fire station but excluding Alpen Hill Road, Deer Run Road and Mittersill Road. Mittersill Resort will be doing the parking lot. The project will be done for \$77,845 by GMI. Chairman Brewer signed the contract.

While Scott was present, Selectman Meth advanced the agenda item **Crosswalk at Academy/Church Street** and inquired about the possibility of installing a crosswalk there. Scott said with the road being repaved he didn't think it was likely to happen. He also said that it could cost as much as \$40,000 for the crosswalk and there is already one up the road that has been updated for ADA compliancy. Scott said he will check with the state.

3:15pm – Chief Rick Gaudette re Truck Issues – Chief Gaudette said there are significant problems with the 2004 Kenworth Fire Pumper. He said the chassis is a 1993 and a new body was put on the chassis in 2003. The truck has been requiring a lot of maintenance and is currently not inspectable due to broken springs in the back. He said the brakes have been changed numerous times in spite of only 7,000 miles being put on the truck since the town purchased it, which he believes is due to the body being too heavy for the chassis. Rick thinks the truck should be replaced soon. Town Administrator Cowles will do some research on the truck and the Capital Improvement Plan details for the truck and meet with Rick to discuss the situation.

TO SIGN/APPROVE:

The July 20th meeting minutes were approved as written.

The August 3, 2020 transaction list was signed by the Selectmen.

DRA-PA16 Application for Reimbursement for Federal & State Lands was signed by the Selectmen.

Driveway Permit – Map 20 Lot 2-27 was signed by the Selectmen.

ZBA Appointments for alternate members Alicia Shambo and Alex Peoples were approved by the Selectmen.

Tax Abatements – Fox Hill Cooperative: Chairman Brewer reviewed the tax abatement paperwork that Carol Wills prepared for the Selectmen. The abatement for Map 14 Lot 43-23 was due to the parcel being erroneously listed as being owned by Fox Hill Cooperative when the property is still owned by the park's former owner, Joyce Fisher. The Selectmen abated those taxes and signed a Supplemental Tax Warrant so the taxes can be charged to Joyce Fisher.

The other abatements for Fox Hill properties were requested due to the owner's of the units being deceased or the units being abandoned and uninhabitable.

Selectmen Meth commented that the town's counsel reviewed the abatement requests and confirmed that the Selectmen are able to use their authority to grant the abatements.

TO DISCUSS/REVIEW:

Town Administrator Update – Town Administrator Cowles asked the Selectmen if they thought the fireworks and concert the town planned to host on the Dow on August 22nd should be held or cancelled to avoid having a gathering of people. No decision was made.

Town Administrator Cowles is hopeful that the stairs on the back of town hall can be completed by the election if materials can be obtained.

The federal government is providing PPE for elections. Town Administrator Cowles will pick it up in Littleton at the fire station.

Alyssa started at the transfer station this week restoring the Transfer Station to three employees. Tim Blake reports that things are going very well.

Town Administrator Cowles said all the Highway Block Grant installments have been received.

UNH emailed about having their engineering students work with municipalities on projects to gain some experience and assist the town.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Cable Consortium: Selectman Meth said Mountain Top Telecom expects to hear back on the grant application to the Cares Act this week.

Chamber of Commerce: Selectman Blodgett said the Chamber hasn't met but Governor Sununu has designated money to go to Chamber's to help their members and this part of the state should get about \$350,000.

Conservation Commission: The Conservation Commission met last week and discussed the Van Pelt property on Wells Road. They are hoping that Ammonoosuc Conversation Trust can purchase the property to preserve it as a key piece of the trails network.

Energy Commission: The Energy Commission is still on hiatus for the summer, but Selectman Meth did talk with Gilbert Brown from Freedom Energy Logistics who is interested in working with the town on a Community Choice Aggregation proposal. Selectman Meth hopes to continue the discussion with Gilbert Brown when the Energy Commission resumes meeting. Selectmen Meth also said he spoke Gilbert Brown about EVBox Charging Stations and hopes to pursue more discussion with him about electric car chargers in town.

Planning Board: Selectman Meth said the Planning Board will meet August 11th.

PUBLIC INPUT:

Mary Grote commented that she didn't think it was a good idea to host the fireworks show on the 22nd as it isn't possible to make sure people social distance.

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 3:56pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jenny Monahan
Administrative Secretary