

Town of Franconia
Board of Selectmen's Regular Meeting
Monday, February 12, 2024
at 6:00PM at Franconia Town Hall

Board Members Present: Jill Brewer, Eric Meth, Dan Walker

Others Present: Libby Staples, Jenny Monahan, Mark Hessler, Pat Garvin, Mary & Peter Grote, Dawn Steele, Jayne O'Connor

The meeting was called to order at 6:01PM

Appointments/Work Sessions

6:00PM - Rep. Jared Sullivan – Legislative Update: Jared reviewed bills the state legislature voted on in 2023.

6:15PM - Dawn Steele and Mary Grote – Planning Board Communication: Dawn and Mary addressed the board about concerns they have with the process the planning board followed in regard to the gambling and accessory dwelling unit zoning amendments and some concerns about recent communications with the planning board. Planning Board Chair Mark Hessler and Planning Board member Pat Garvin responded to the selectmen about these concerns and maintain that appropriate procedures were followed. After hearing the concerns and responses, the selectmen briefly discussed that legal counsel was consulted for an opinion and counsel agreed that the planning board acted appropriately. The Planning Board held an additional hearing on February 15th.

Public Comment

Dawn inquired about the \$40,000 housing grant from the Hillwinds project and about a public hearing for the updated Master Plan to be approved. Dawn also inquired about the planning board seeking RFP's for services. Dawn also noted that the Franconia Notch Regional Chamber of Commerce has increased their appropriation request from \$9,000 to \$12,000 and asked what validates that increase.

To Sign/Approve

The board approved the minutes of January 29th, 2024 as written.

The board reviewed and approved the February 9th, 2024 to February 15th, 2024 transaction list.

The board approved a septic application for Gillis Rev. Trust – 26 Woodchuck Trail.

The board approved raffle permit applications for Secret Sock Society and Gale River Cooperative.

To Discuss/Review

Town Administrator Staples said the quote the selectmen recently approved for replacing the town hall's boilers was actually expired and presented an updated quote.

Chairman Brewer made a motion to expend \$24,876 from the Town Buildings Expendable Trust Fund to replace the boilers at town hall. Selectman Walker seconded with all voting in favor. **Motion passes.**

Town Administrator Staples advised the board that the housing grant the planning board applied for from InvestNH was approved and the town received \$40,000 of funding. She suggested using \$12,000 of those funds for the Zoning Ordinance update instead of raising funds through taxation. The board agreed that the \$12,000 line could be removed from the planning board's operating budget and the grant funds could be used instead.

Town Administrator Staples said she spoke with Chris Fournier of HEB Engineers and the FEMA grant the town applied for in 2022 for assistance replacing the Wells Road culvert is still active. HEB said it would cost \$2,500 for them to continue pursuing the grant on the town's behalf. The board discussed that this may be able to be paid through the Bridge Maintenance Fund. Town Administrator Staples will research this.

Committee Reports

Broadband Committee: Next meets Thursday, Feb. 14th via Zoom.

Chamber of Commerce: Next meets Tuesday, Feb. 20th at Woodsville Guaranty.

Conservation Commission: Met on Feb. 6th, received an update on the Lang/Sabados matter, continue to work with Elise Lawson on the Natural Resource Inventory update, have two new alternate members and are forming a Hydrology Committee.

Energy Commission: Next meets Feb. 20th at 4PM at town hall.

The board briefly discussed that there would be no meeting on President's Day and may meet instead on Wednesday the 21st at 4PM if there is business.

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 7:16PM.

Respectfully,

Jenny Monahan
Executive Assistant