

**TOWN OF FRANCONIA  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S REGULAR MEETING  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2023 AT 6:00PM AT TOWN HALL**

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**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jill Brewer, Eric Meth

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Sharon Penney, Jenny Monahan, Pat Garvin, Monica Laflamme, Steve Schwartz, Karen Foss, Carol Walker, Janice Cole, Lynn Terres, Dawn Steele, Chief Mac Cashin, Lorie Aldrich, Paul Hayes (Caledonian Record), Jayne O'Connor

**The regular meeting was called to order at 6:03pm**

**APPOINTMENTS/WORK SESSIONS**

**Public Hearing for Acceptance of Unanticipated Revenue - Highway Safety Grants to the Police**

**Department:** Chairman Brewer opened the public hearing at 6:04pm. Chief Cashin and Police Department Administrative Assistant Lorie Aldrich explained to the board that the Police Department had been awarded grants through the NH Dept. of Safety, and the NH Dept. of Safety then amended the grants to include additional funding. She said the original grant award was \$5,964 for extended patrolling. Additional equipment grant funds have been added in the amount of \$6,007.50 making the total award for the Dept. of Safety grants \$11,971.50, an amount which triggers a public hearing automatically. The additional \$6,007.50 will be used to purchase portable radar units and a handheld Lidar unit. The radar units are \$2,500 each however with the grant the town would be able to purchase them for \$648 each. Chief Cashin said the items would be purchased from his budget's equipment line and cost nothing additional to the town.

Lorie continued that the second part of the grant award is through the NH Department of Justice and would allow the police department to upgrade equipment such as ballistic vests, portable radios, HazMat gear and "go bags" for the entire department. It could also be used for two trainings through the state's Police Standards & Training program. This grant award is \$19,692, and both grants are reimbursement grants.

Chairman Brewer made a motion to accept the NH Dept. of Safety grants in the amounts of \$5964 and \$6007.50. Selectman Meth seconded the motion. **Motion passes.**

Chairman Brewer made a motion to accept the NH Dept of Justice grant in the amount of \$19,602. Selectman Meth seconded the motion. **Motion passes.**

Chairman Brewer signed the associated grant paperwork.

The public hearing was adjourned at 6:14pm on a motion from Chairman Brewer and a second from Selectman Meth.

The regular meeting resumed at 6:14pm.

**2023 Warrant Review:** Town Administrator Penney, Janice Cole and the selectmen reviewed the 2023 warrant articles. Some typos were identified and minor amendments were made.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Monica Laflamme commented on an appropriation request for Veterans 2 Veterans. Dawn Steele asked about commenting during the subsequent portion of the meeting. Dawn Steele commended the Police Department for securing grants for the town. Dawn Steele commended the department heads for being present at the budget hearing and providing input.

#### **TO SIGN/APPROVE**

The February 21, 2023, transaction report was reviewed and signed by the selectmen.

The minutes of February 13, 2023 were approved as amended by the selectmen on a motion from Selectman Meth and a second from Chairman Brewer.

#### **TO DISCUSS/REVIEW**

**Master Plan with North Country Council:** Chairman Brewer said the board was informed that funds were not budgeted to have North Country Council review the draft of the updated Master Plan and possibly recommend revisions. Planning Board members Pat Garvin and Monica Laflamme said the cost for this service will range from \$8,000 to \$14,000. The board discussed that they agree that this service through North Country Council should be employed.

The board agreed to add \$14,000 to Contracted Services in the Executive Budget for the Master Plan update with North Country Council.

**Updated Short Term Rental Application & Letter:** Planning Board members Pat Garvin and Monica Laflamme provided the updated STR application to the selectmen. They said they added the rental property address (as opposed to the just the property owner's address) and that the building official field had been amended.

The board also reviewed a letter to be sent to STR property owners letting them know of the updated registration criteria and process. Some small changes will be made to the letter by Secretary Jenny Monahan as directed by the board.

**Building Official:** Chairman Brewer said she spoke with Dave Wiley as the board of selectmen is looking to pursue a different direction for the position. He is willing to be appointed as the new building official for the Town of Franconia. This appointment replaces the current building official, Allan Clark. Chairman Brewer said Dave's fee is slightly higher than previous fees, but he is very efficient in his reviews so things should even out. He will submit his hours monthly.

Chairman Brewer made a motion that the Town of Franconia contract with Dave Wiley as the town's building official effective immediately. Selectman Meth seconded the motion. **Motion passes.**

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Town Administrator Penney said the town received an invoice from Coalition Communities NH 2.0 requesting payment of \$1,831 in membership fees for 2023. The board discussed that the coalition seeks to prevent a return to the education funding system that required excess Statewide Education Property Tax to be redistributed from donor towns to receiver towns. No decision was made at this time.

Selectman Meth said he received an email from Sugar Hill Selectman Margo Connors in regard to long term plans for the town's waste disposal needs. Mt. Carberry was discussed as a potential alternative to NCS in Bethlehem.

**Additional Discussion:** Selectmen Meth said the governor and executive council meets tomorrow and one of their agenda items that will be voted on is a contract with Consolidated Communications, Inc. and the award to them of \$40 million dollars from the American Rescue Plan Act. Selectman Meth said if these funds are awarded, Franconia's broadband initiative could be advanced.

Chairman Brewer reminded the public that Franconia's selectmen meet with Littleton's selectmen tomorrow at 5pm at the Community House on Main Street to discuss EMS services.

There is no selectmen's meeting next week, the 27<sup>th</sup>.

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 7:05pm on a motion from Chairman Brewer and a second from Selectman Meth.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jenny Monahan  
Administrative Secretary