

TOWN OF FRANCONIA
BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2022 AT 4:30PM AT TOWN HALL

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Kim Cowles, Jenny Monahan, Lynn Terres, Dawn Steele, Jan Cole, Mary Grote, Peter Grote, Larry Plate, Karen Foss, Carol Walker, Ginny Jeffryes, Mike Betley

The meeting was called to order at 4:30pm

APPOINTMENTS/WORK SESSIONS

Trevor Presby & Karen Foss – Highway Truck Purchase: Trevor said he found a truck that would be a good solution for the Highway Department. It is running about \$186,000. Trevor said he put down a refundable \$5,000 deposit to hold the truck for 30 days. As it is too late to create a warrant article for the purchase, the board discussed holding a Special Town Meeting. After the discussion, Selectman Walker made a motion to pursue a Special Town Meeting for the purchase of a Highway Truck to be funded from the Capital Reserve Fund established for such, and we post this vote and wait ten days before petitioning the court for approval. Selectman Meth seconded the motion with all voting in favor.

Motion passes.

Steve Plant – Updated Treasurers Report: Steve said he made some changes to the layout of the report to make it easier to read. He said he and Town Administrator Cowles had discussed the Special Police Fund with the auditors and they said in the audit report it will be reflected as a restricted fund balance within the General Fund. The account has \$442.44.

TO SIGN/APPROVE

The February 22, 2022 transaction report was reviewed and signed by the selectmen.

The January 31, 2022 minutes were approved as amended on a motion from Chairman Brewer and a second from Selectman Walker.

TO DISCUSS/REVIEW:

Acceptance of Donations for Library Projects: Town Administrator Cowles said the cost of the new lift at the library is \$80,670. This will be paid completely through donation. The library is also in need of a new roof. The library received a quote of \$162,384 for the roof replacement. In the CRF for the library roof, there is \$67,000 currently, and there is another donation of \$100,000. The donated funds will be used first and then the remainder will be pulled from the CRF. The following motions were made:

Selectman Walker made a motion to accept the donation of \$80,670 for the purpose of a new library lift. Chairman Brewer seconded the motion with all voting in favor. **Motion passes.**

Chairman Brewer made a motion to accept the \$100,000 donation to go towards the replacement of the roof at the library. Selectman Walker seconded the motion with all voting in favor. **Motion passes.**

Selectman Walker made a motion to accept the initial \$43,000 towards the burying of utilities around the library. Selectman Meth seconded the motion with all voting in favor. **Motion passes.**

Correspondence: Ann Steuernagel wrote to the board expressing her concern that the town does not have longer hours of police coverage.

Chairman Brewer read a letter from Virginia Mike (per her request) stating that she was overtaxed and feels Town Administrator Cowles did not fulfill her responsibility and requested that the letter be put in Town Administrator Cowles personnel file. The board agreed the letter would not be placed in the personnel file.

Town Administrator Cowles shared two letters from residents requesting that the mask mandate be lifted.

Selectman Meth said he spoke with a resident that complained about a permanent dumpster at an Airbnb near his home.

Town Administrator Update: Town Administrator Cowles said she's been in conversation with Chief Schmucker and the chiefs of surrounding towns and the run card will be changed so Littleton will be toned first after Franconia. She also said Avitar is visiting properties that had building permits this week throughout town. She said the town report has been sent to the printer. She said both the boys and girls' alpine ski teams at Profile High School won the state championships.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Broadband Initiative: Selectman Meth said there was a meeting of the recently formed Franconia Broadband Committee attended by Carol Miller. He said they worked on developing goals and made plans to be ready for the middle mile. He said Pat Garvin and Martha McLeod are new members. The FBC will meet the third Thursday of each month at 4:30pm via Zoom.

Chamber of Commerce: Selectman Walker said the COC met last Tuesday at Woodsville Guaranty. He said Kevin Johnson is the new Management Director and he's been very active in the new role.

Conservation Commission: Chairman Brewer said the CC met Wednesday February 16th at 4pm at town hall and primarily discussed map 17 lot 3, which they hope to purchase and conserve.

Energy Commission: Selectman Meth said the EC met at town hall on Thursday the 17th at 4:30pm and worked on preparing for the presentation on the Solar Array at town meeting and the energy report for the year.

Planning Board: Selectman Meth said the Planners have been working on the Master Plan draft.

CIP: A quote from Transfer Station Manager Tim Blake for a new Skid Steer was briefly discussed.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Public comment was given by Larry Plate, Ginny Jeffryes, Tina Betley, Monica Laflamme, Pat Garvin,

Dawn Steele and Mike Betley about the mask mandate. Tina Betley and Mike Betley asked about how second homeowners are differentiated from full time residents at town meeting. Tina Betley commented on correspondence letter from previous meeting and why it was reviewed at that time.

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 5:30pm on a motion from Chairman Brewer and a second from Selectman Meth with all voting in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jenny Monahan
Administrative Secretary