

**TOWN OF FRANCONIA
BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, JANUARY 10, 2022 AT 6:00PM AT TOWN HALL**

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Kim Cowles, Jenny Monahan, Dawn Steele, Mary & Peter Grote, Lynn Terres, Dr. Ginny Jeffryes, Larry Plate, Virginia Mike, Mike Betley, Rick Gaudette.

The meeting was called to order at 6:02pm

TO SIGN/APPROVE:

The January 10, 2022 transaction list was reviewed and signed by the selectmen.

The December 20, 2021 minutes were approved as written on a motion from Chairman Brewer and a second from Selectman Meth with all voting in favor.

A Septic Application – Map 31 Lot 31 – Timber Lane – was approved by the board.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE: Town Administrator Cowles said she will be meeting with Allan Clark, Chip Stowell and a few others to discuss the Welcome Center RFP this Wednesday at 11am. The public is welcome to attend. She has been working with department heads on budgets and the Highway Department and Buildings & Grounds budgets will be reviewed at the next selectmen meeting on Tuesday, January 18th. The Transfer Station and Recreation budgets were reviewed today at a meeting with Sugar Hill and Easton Select Boards at 4pm in Sugar Hill.

APPOINTMENTS/WORK SESSIONS

6:00pm – Chief Paul Schmucker – Life Squad Budget Review: Chief Schmucker did not attend the meeting due to being on a Life Squad call, so Town Administrator Cowles provided a brief overview of the Life Squad Budget. She said the budget looks good overall and the department has taken in \$124,000 in transport payments. She said Chief Schmucker is planning to request an increase in wages to match the Fire Departments rate of \$20 per hour. The department is very shorthanded which is causing delayed response times. She said a short-term solution to that may be changing the run card so it tones to Littleton after Franconia instead of Bethlehem as Bethlehem is also shorthanded and Littleton has a full time EMS staff. The board would like to consult with Chief Schmucker about this.

TO DISCUSS/REVIEW:

Correspondence: None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Broadband Initiative: Selectman Meth provided an invoice from New Hampshire Broadband Initiative for \$3,750 as well as the contract to join the initiative as partners with Sugar Hill as decided at last week's hearing. Chairman Brewer signed the contract and commented that she spoke with a second homeowner who said the only thing preventing them from living here full-time is the lack of reliable

internet.

Chamber of Commerce: No update at this time.

Conservation Commission: No update at this time.

Energy Commission: Selectman Meth said the EC plans to meet on Wednesday the 19th at 4:30pm at town hall.

Planning Board: Selectman Meth said the Planning Board' is scheduled to meet tomorrow at 7pm.

CIP: The CIP is next meeting this Wednesday the 12th at 4pm at town hall.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mary Grote commented that the board needs to be more specific about the reasons they are going into non-public session.

Dawn Steele asked that a property that has an error on its property card is checked by Avitar.

Dawn Steele said Sugar Hill included employee salaries and unredeemed tax liens in its annual town report. Mary Grote asked that the unredeemed tax liens be included in this year's town report.

Dawn Steele gave a 91A (Right to Know) request to the board for the Short-Term Rental registration folder, but offered her assistance in creating a spreadsheet of the registrants.

Virginia Mike said has been overtaxed for one year, nine months and 13 days because Avitar did not do an interior inspection of her home. She also feels that Avitar did not conduct themselves appropriately when she did not allow them access to the interior of her home because she was not expecting them and it was almost dark and because she has dogs in her home. She said she would like Avitar held accountable for not inspecting the interior of her home at a later date. Dawn Steele spoke to this somewhat and said updates made to the contract should eliminate some of the issues Virginia mentioned.

Dawn Steele said there was no building permit on some of the additions to a property at Forest Hills and someone from her neighborhood went to the Zoning Board about it. She thinks it fell through the cracks but it can be corrected now.

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 6:47pm on a motion from Chairman Brewer and a second from Selectman Walker with all voting in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jenny Monahan
Administrative Secretary

These minutes of the Town of Franconia Select Board have been recorded by its Secretary. Though believed to be accurate and correct they are subject to additions, deletions and corrections by the Select

Board at its next meeting when the Board votes its final approval of the minutes. They are being made available at this time to conform to the requirements of New Hampshire RSA 91-A:2.