

TOWN OF FRANCONIA
BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, JANUARY 17, 2023 AT 6:00PM AT TOWN HALL

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Dan Walker, Jill Brewer

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Eric Meth

OTHERS PRESENT: Sharon Penney, Jeremy Hall, Jan Cole, Monica Laflamme, Karen Foss, Larry Plate, Mike & Tina Betley, Mary & Peter Grote, Dawn Steele, Lynn Terres.

The meeting was called to order at 6:01pm

APPOINTMENTS/WORK SESSIONS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dawn Steele commented on the police prosecution contract and sanding the Dow Park parking area. Karen Foss commended the Highway Department for their clean-up of downed trees after the recent storm.

TO SIGN/APPROVE

The January 17th, 2023 transaction report was reviewed and signed by the selectmen.

The January 3rd, 2023 minutes were approved as written.

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION

Chairman Brewer thanked the Highway Department for their good work on maintaining the roads during the icy, inclement weather the area has had lately.

The Board briefly discussed Building Official Allan Clark's pay and will revisit this topic at a subsequent meeting.

TO DISCUSS/REVIEW

Recreation Committee Resignation & Appointment: Samantha Presby submitted her letter of resignation from the recreation committee. Peter Gaudette submitted a letter of interest to the board to join the recreation committee. After reading their respective letters, Chairman Brewer made a motion to appoint Peter Gaudette to the recreation committee. Selectman Walker seconded the motion with all voting in favor. **Motion passes.**

Intent to Cut Application – Map 29 Lot 1 – Tucker Brook Road: Reviewed and signed by the selectmen.

NHDOT Block Grant: Town Administrator Penney said the town was notified by GMI that a \$62,877.13 invoice for paving at Mittersill had not paid in 2022. She said the check was cut for the payment today and she inquired with the auditors in regard to how the payment should be executed since we are in the new calendar year. They advised not to backdate the check. She said she is unsure at this time if Highway Block Grant funds are kept in the general fund or elsewhere. Jan Cole commented that she thinks the Highway Improvements line item is the repository for those funds. There followed a lengthy discussion about state bridge aid. Selectman Walker

inquired whether a warrant article would need to be drafted if the town is awarded the grant for the culvert project on Wells Road as a 10% match by the town is required. Selectman Walker said he thinks the block grant funds may be represented in the highway department income line of \$98,000. Town Administrator Penney said she will check into it.

Ammonoosuc Conservation Trust Wildlife Sanctuary: Chairman Brewer said the Conservation Commission recently voted to use \$5,000 from their conservation fund in support of a conservation initiative for three adjoining lots owned by the Grotes on the north side of Wells Road. She said the 19 acres of land will be preserved as a nature sanctuary. The selectman thanked the Grotes for their generosity.

Budget Advisory Group: Chairman Brewer suggested forming an informal budget advisory group to analyze departmental budgets, make suggestions and work with department heads. She said several residents have expressed a willingness to participate to include Jan Cole, Karen Foss, Dawn Steele, Steven Schwartz, and possibly Steve Plant. She said moving forward budgets will be sent to the advisory group for review and discussion and Karen Foss could assist with QuickBooks.

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION

Chairman Brewer said a quote received for paving at the transfer station should be considered as a potential warrant article and discussed at the tri-town meeting next week. She also said increasing the Patriotic Purposes budget to support the town's 250th anniversary celebration should be part of the board's budget planning this year.

Jan Cole commented that a reimbursement request for approximately \$1,600 was made to the Trustees of the Trust Fund for the swings at the Dow playground. She said this should be a tri-town expense and suggested the board discuss this at the tri-town meeting next week.

Selectman Walker said he spoke with Road Agent Jeremy Hall about the purchase of the new ten-wheeler that is scheduled for this year. He said the dealer the town anticipates buying the ten-wheeler from could be ordered now and that would provide an earlier delivery date. He said there is nothing binding to the town in making the order now and if the warrant article did not pass there would be no penalty to the town.

Selectman Walker made a motion to enter non-public session at 6:43pm pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (a). Chairman Brewer seconded the motion with all voting in favor.

The board left non-public session at 7:05pm. With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 7:07pm on a motion from Chairman Brewer and a second from Selectman Walker.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jenny Monahan