

TOWN OF FRANCONIA
BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, JANUARY 23, 2023 AT 6:00PM AT TOWN HALL

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Dan Walker, Jill Brewer

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Eric Meth

OTHERS PRESENT: Sharon Penney, Dinny Richmond, Sally Small,

The meeting was called to order at 6:01pm

APPOINTMENTS/WORK SESSIONS

6:00pm – Dinny Richmond – NH Charitable Foundation Grants to the Town (NHCF): Dinny first updated the board on the repair work that has been done and is still ongoing at the library; she said the roof was completed and should be sound for a century. The restoration of the doors and windows is still in progress as the project was delayed due to illness.

Dinny said the library was not scheduled to meet with the CIP committee this year and would still like to request the \$5,000 for their building CRF. Selectman Walker confirmed that the \$5,000 for the library CRF was included in this years CIP.

Dinny said quotes were received for the repair of the failing basement wall ranging from \$6,000 to \$30,000. She said where the stone of the building meets the concrete foundation, the shim has collapsed causing water to seep down the wall into the basement. She said it was sealed six years ago and the repair lasted five years. They plan to have it sealed again. She said the removal of the embankment for the construction of the welcome center helped with water coming into the back basement.

The front steps of the library are shifting and will have to be replaced at some point. This has been done once in the past. The water leaking into the foundation may be contributing to this issue.

Dinny said she spoke with former Town Administrator Kim Cowles last fall and after reviewing the landscaping plan, offered to pay for the landscaping for all three buildings – welcome center, library and town hall. She also created a grant for The Frost Place and the town should be receiving that check from the NHCF.

6:15pm Bill Mellekas – Old Home Day Parade: Bill said the town has always budgeted \$1,000 for the Old Home Day Parade and wanted to ensure that continues for 2023. Chairman Brewer said the board is considering increasing the Patriotic Purposes budget for this year due to the town's 250th anniversary celebration and if he feels more is needed for the parade, to let the board know. Bill said he feels confident that he can get some help from sponsors and shouldn't need to request more funding for the parade.

6:30pm – Kevin Johnson – 250th Celebration: Kevin said he's been hosting meetings for the planning of the celebration since last year and has received some input from the community. He said that there is a period of time during the festivities after the duck race and before the band starts that the Franconia Notch Regional Chamber of Commerce would like to utilize. He said one plan is to hold an "open-air market" at the hockey rink for local businesses, artisans or other individuals to sell their wares. He said the chamber is also approaching businesses in the village area to create a selection of activities and events (ex. dunk tank, balloon animals, face painting, etc.). He said there would be a small fee and pre-registration required. Chairman Brewer said the recreation committee has discussed having a pickle ball tournament, so the rink may be used for that on that day. She suggested checking with the rec department to see if they plan to use the rink during that period of time.

Kevin also said there will be a postal cancellation that has been designed and will be available July 8th. The post office will be open until noon to affix the cancellation that can be a souvenir of the day.

A coin is being minted for the town's 250th celebration as well. The leftover 200th celebration coin may be sold there as well.

Kevin suggested that the board budget \$5,000 for the celebration, including the \$1,000 for the parade and bands requested by Bill Mellekas.

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 7:07pmpm on a motion from Chairman Brewer and a second from Selectman Walker.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jenny Monahan