

**TOWN OF FRANCONIA
BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 4, 2021 AT 3PM HELD REMOTELY VIA ZOOM**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Eric Meth, Jill Brewer, Jeff Blodgett.

OTHERS PRESENT: Kim Cowles, Jenny Monahan.

The meeting was called to order at 3:03pm.

APPOINTMENTS:

3:00pm – Franconia ArtWalk Association – Request for assistance developing new space for exhibits:

Selectman Blodgett presented this topic to the other selectmen. He said that although the FAA is a non-profit, they won't be gaining any financial benefit from the town assisting with the installation of a ramp in the lower field next to the river that is across from Hillwinds. The property is town owned. Chairman Brewer said she is not against using town resources to provide access to that land but would prefer to keep the FAA out of the discussion and not do it primarily for their temporary use. Town Administrator Cowles said the land is a floodplain and a plan with drawings should be developed that the board can look at and perhaps do a site visit.

TO SIGN/APPROVE:

The January 4, 2021 transaction list was reviewed and signed by the Selectmen remotely.

TO DISCUSS/REVIEW

Town Administrator Update: Town Administrator Cowles said she is primarily working on end of year tasks and budgets currently. Chairman Brewer, Selectmen Meth and Town Administrator Cowles met with the Dept. of Labor inspector to review their inspection report last Wednesday.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Cable Consortium: Selectman Meth said he received an email from Carol Miller, the state Director of Broadband Technology, and she announced that she is retiring but offered her assistance as needed going forward.

Chamber of Commerce: No update.

Conservation Commission: No update.

Energy Commission: No update.

Planning Board: Selectman Meth said the Planning Board met on the 29th of December to receive an application from Northern Wolfpack Partners for a wireless internet tower that would be erected at Iron Furnace Brewery. The intent of the tower would be to improve internet service for Mountaintop Telecom's internet subscribers.

CIP: No update.

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION:

Chief Cashin, Police Activity Update: Chief Cashin let the board know that on December 16th, there was a burglary at Cannon Mountain and a stabbing. He also said there have been some trespassing issues, a motor vehicle rollover on Christmas and a habitual offender operating a vehicle without a license recently as well.

PUBLIC INPUT:

Karen Foss followed up on last week's suggestion of having a Salary & Benefits Committee look into the proposed increase to employee's retirement contributions to match the amount that members of NH Retirement System receive. She would like to proceed with doing that research with a committee. After a brief discussion, Chairman Brewer suggested the topic be put on the agenda for discussion in a couple of weeks. Karen will contact Kim for some information.

Karen also suggested that the FAA exhibits just be moved farther back from the road but stay in the same area they are usually in.

Mary Grote asked how the town will do budget hearings this year and there was a brief discussion about what the statutory requirements are.

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 3:36pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jenny Monahan
Administrative Secretary