

**Town of Franconia**  
**Board of Selectmen's Regular Meeting**  
**Monday, July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023**  
**at Franconia Town Hall**

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**Board Members Present:** Dan Walker, Eric Meth

**Board Members Absent:** Jill Brewer

**Others Present:** Libby Staples, Jenny Monahan, Matt & Elizabeth Steele, Mary Grote, Dawn Steele, Judy & Jeff Lavin, Karen Foss, Carol Walker, Jan Cole, Janelle Lawton, Jeremy Hall, Mike & Tina Betley, Chris Thayer, Dan Kennerson, other unknown members of the public.

**Appointments/Work Sessions**

**Lafayette Recreation – Matt & Elizabeth Steele – Top Notch Triathlon Update:** Matt said 173 people have signed up for the August 5<sup>th</sup> triathlon and registration is still open. All arrangements to hold the event are in place with 45 volunteers and EMS services scheduled. They do not anticipate much of a traffic impact on Rte. 18. A financial accounting of the event will be provided to the board mid-August.

**Granite Outdoor Alliance – Tyler Ray - Graniteer Event Update:** Tyler said Granite Outdoor Alliance needs a one-day special use liquor permit from the state for the event as they plan to have 5 or 6 craft breweries with beer tents there. He said the event will use a wristband system to control access to the areas that allow liquor and is waiting to hear back from the state liquor commission to determine what else will be required. Selectman Meth asked what the plan is for cordoning off the park and particularly if the playground will be fenced off from the public during the event. Tyler said the GOA would prefer to have the playground included in the roped off area as they do not want kids separating from their families during the event, but people would still be allowed to use the playground free of charge during the event with a playground wristband. Selectman Walker asked that when Tyler meets with the fire chief and liquor commissioner, he could let the board know as one of the selectmen may attend.

After the discussion, Selectman Walker made a motion to allow Granite Outdoor Alliance to sell alcohol at Dow Park on Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Selectman Meth seconded, motion passes.

**Public Comment**

Mike Betley asked why Granite Outdoor Alliance is choosing to hold the Graniteer in Franconia this year rather than Littleton again. Mike also asked about liability to the town, additional insurance and if access to the river will be cordoned off. Mike Betley asked how OHD went. Dawn Steele said she received a phone call from a musician who said they didn't get paid prior to the OHD. Dawn also asked when the town expects to receive the audit report from Plodzick & Sanderson.

**To Sign/Approve**

**TOTF Fund Transfers:** Town Administrator Staples said votes need to be made for reimbursements to the town's general fund from the town's trust funds. The first is for the Iron Furnace Interpretive Center for work done in 2022.

Selectman Walker made a motion to transfer \$6,616.18 from the Franconia Heritage Museum Maintenance Fund Capital Reserve to the General Fund. Second by Selectman Meth, **motion passes**.

The second transfer is for the emergency exit staircase on the back of the town hall. This work was arranged in 2020 but the work was not completed until 2023 due to pandemic issues. The invoice was paid from the Buildings & Grounds town hall maintenance line, over expending the line, but the expense was identified by the TOTF as meeting the criteria for a capital reserve fund item.

Selectman Walker made a motion to transfer \$9,550 from the Town Buildings Maintenance Fund Expendable Trust to reimburse the Buildings & Grounds operating budget. Selectman Meth seconded the motion, **motion passes**.

The minutes of July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023 were approved as amended.

The July 21<sup>st</sup> to July 27<sup>th</sup> transaction list was approved by the selectmen.

### **Discuss/Review**

**Pickleball Update:** Road Agent Jeremy Hall provided photographs of the rink before, during and after the paving done last year. Jeremy first showed that the rink did not fully drain prior to the paving and there was a 4” difference in the grade from one end to the other, however the grade was higher at the far end of the rink than the side closest to the Welcome Center. He said efforts were made to level the rink as much as possible with the funds that were available for the project and make the rink easier to flood by eliminating the grade difference from end to end. Jeremy also said that the curbing existed on the rink prior to the repaving last year. He also said the asphalt is less compacted in the center where the post sleeves were installed as it had to be done by hand so it is slightly higher in that area. After the paving was done Jeremy flooded the rink to locate pooling areas and installed the drains in the curbing in those areas. He said the walls of the rink will also prevent draining when they are put back up after the painting is done and they stay in place year-round, but they can slightly elevate them to facilitate better draining when the skating season is over. Jeremy said GMI fulfilled their contract and did the best that could be done with the available funding. There was then a lengthy discussion about the idea the Opalinski's are advancing to raise funds for refrigeration of the ice on the rink to extend the skating season. Several residents expressed concerns about the costs and the timing of the project if it were to move forward soon as the rink has just been repaved.

**National Collaborative for Digital Equity Contract Renewal:** Selectman Meth said this will be revisited when the town is invoiced and a public hearing will be held to request the use of \$3,750 of ARPA funds for the contract as it was last year.

**EMS Update:** Selectman Walker said Littleton's Select Board voted last week to approve a one-year contract with Franconia for \$657,236.30. He said the town will be given credit for 85% revenue generated from calls and if the SAFER grant is approved those funds will be applied to the principal.

**PD Administrative Assistant Wages:** Chief Cashin wrote the board to request that the PD Administrative Assistant hourly wage is increased to \$25 to stay competitive with other agencies and be consistent with other wages in the department.

Selectman Walker made a motion to accept Chief Cashin's proposal to raise the Police Department Administrative Assistant wage to \$25 per hour. Selectman Meth seconded the motion. **Motion passes.**

Selectman Walker also informed the public that a recent non-public session with Chief Cashin involved increases to officer wages for retention purposes and that the ARPA funds approved for two officers at the June 5<sup>th</sup> public hearing have been awarded to the town's two current full-time officers.

**Septic Application – Map 28 Lot 178 – Mittersill Road:** The selectmen approved this septic application.

**Franconia ArtWalk Association 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Agreements:** Selectman Walker signed the 3<sup>rd</sup> party agreements for the art installations on the art walk this year.

**Overnight Parking at Welcome Center:** Selectman Walker said Kevin Johnson has noticed some overnight parking at the Welcome Center and suggested posting signs prohibiting overnight parking. After a brief discussion the selectmen said Jenny Monahan could ask Corey Rush to look into some signs.

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jenny Monahan  
Executive Assistant