

**Town of Franconia
Board of Selectmen's Regular Meeting
June 26, 2023 at 6:00PM
at Franconia Town Hall**

Board Members Present: Eric Meth, Dan Walker

Board Members Absent: Jill Brewer

Others Present: Sharon Penney, Jenny Monahan, Chief Chad Miller, Paul Hayes, Larry Plate, Rosalind Page, Mike & Tina Betley, Virginia Mike, Carol Walker, Karen Foss, Peter Gignac, Jack McEnany, Pat Garvin, Monica Laflamme, Lynn Terres, Dawn Steele, Jan Cole, Jayne O'Connor

The Meeting was called to order at 6:00PM

Appointments/Work Sessions

6:00PM – Rosalind Page – Ammonoosuc Conservation Trust (ACT) – Memorandum of Understanding:

Rosalind has met with the tri-town select boards to review and update the memorandum of understanding. She said one of the towns has recommended adding more detailed language to section five which addresses allocation of revenue sharing for timber harvesting. She said the trees will not be ready for harvesting for 35-40 years. ACT consulted their attorney and accountant to assist with this update. She said the update to section five includes reimbursing ACT for their expenses for managing the property and putting some money aside for future needs of the forest's management. Revenue after those expenses would be dispersed between the other towns. Both Selectman Walker and Selectman Meth said they were comfortable with the update. Rosalind will have the draft finalized and provide it for the town's final approval.

Littleton Fire & Rescue - Chief Chad Miller – EMS Update: Chief Miller said he has been working on making sure everything is being done correctly to facilitate services for the extended contract with Franconia. He said part of that involves Littleton taking ownership of Franconia's ambulance. He is working on getting the details on how this would work. They are also still in the process of adding personnel.

Public Comment

Jan Cole asked about the SAFFER grant. Chief Miller said this is still in process. Mike Betley asked Chief Miller if any candidates Littleton is hiring are from adjacent towns. Larry Plate asked which town would be responsible for maintenance of the ambulance. Dawn Steele commented that there were road closures for a triathlon that went through part of town and there were no notifications for residents about it. Jayne O'Connor said there should be a permitting process for all events that take place in town that has fees. Jan Cole asked about broadband funding being recently reduced in the N. Country and if that impacts the town's plan for broadband. Mike Betley commented about water pooling on the rink, the status of the solar array and whether the town has received the final audit. Peter Gignac asked about the status of the sign violation at 955 Profile Road. Jayne O'Connor said she called the Dept. of Labor about the town's firefighters pay schedule and the town is not allowed to pay the firefighters on

the schedule they wish to be paid on. Jayne also said the Graniteer event on the Dow is being held at a bad time due to foliage traffic.

Sign/Approve

The selectmen approved the minutes of June 12th, 2023 as amended.

The selectmen reviewed and signed the June 23rd to June 29th transaction list.

The selectmen signed the record of appointment for Nathan Hamilton who will work part-time for the police department.

A sign permit application from Franconia ArtWalk Association for a sign at Franconia Market & Deli was approved. The application included approval of the sign on the market property by Thad Presby.

Discuss/Review

North Country Council (NCC) – Professional Services Agreement - Master Plan Update: Planning board member Pat Garvin said the current Master Plan is in Microsoft Publisher format and cannot be updated. There is also census data that North Country Council can provide and has templates for. The top issue of concern expressed by residents in the master plan survey was housing and Pat said NCC would be willing to do a listening session with residents to gather more information directly. Sharon will look over the memorandum of understanding from NCC and get back to Pat this week.

Additional Discussion

There was a lengthy discussion with the public about the recent decision to stop accepting #3 - #7 plastics.

Town Administrator Position: Selectman Meth said the town has signed a contract with Libby Staples for the town administrator position and she is scheduled to start on July 5th.

Mike Betley thanked Sharon Penney for her work for the town which was followed by applause from attendees.

Administrative Secretary Position: Selectmen Meth and Walker said Administrative Secretary Jenny Monahan has been retitled as Executive Assistant and received an increase in compensation.

Correspondence – Ragnar Reach the Beach Road Race – The town received a request to have this relay race to Hampton Beach course through Franconia on Route 3 and Route 18 to Cannon Mountain before continuing on the Pemi Trail. Chief Cashin said he didn't anticipate any problems and the selectmen said they did not have any objections.

Jenny updated the board on some Old Home Day plans. They had no objections to having JA Corey look at the siren's electrical system.

With no further discussion, Selectman Meth made a motion to enter non-public session at 7:25PM

pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (a) taking with them Chief Mac Cashin. Second by Selectman Walker.

Public session resumed at 8:18PM. With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 8:18PM.