

TOWN OF FRANCONIA
BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, JUNE 28, 2021 AT TOWN HALL @ 3PM

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Eric Meth, Dan Walker

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Jill Brewer

OTHERS PRESENT: Kim Cowles, Scott Leslie, Carl Martland, Mary Grote, Dawn Steele, Peter Grote, Janice Cole, Bob Montagno, Chief Mac Cashin

The meeting was called to order at 3:00pm.

TO SIGN/APPROVE:

The June 28, 2021 transaction list was reviewed and signed by the Selectmen.

The minutes of June 14, 2021 were approved as written on a motion by Selectman Walker and a second by Selectman Meth with all voting in favor.

A septic application for Map 22 Lot 4-2 was approved by the Selectmen.

APPOINTMENTS/WORK SESSIONS:

Scott Leslie – Sidewalk Bids Review: Scott said the town received three bids and Central Paving's bid was the lowest and low enough that the town could also pave the sidewalks on the north end of town as well. This will be done as two separate projects totaling \$84,000.

Carl Martland – North Country Scenic Byways Council Award (NCSBC): Carl said that Franconia was selected as the winners of the first "Read the Marker Award". As written in the NCSBC's press release, the award "goes to the town and residents of Franconia for the many improvements to the site of the Stone Furnace Historical Marker on NH18, which is part of the River Heritage Trail." The Franconia Area Heritage Council and Franconia ArtWalk Association will split an award of \$1,000 for their contributions to the betterment of the site.

DISCUSS/REVIEW:

American Rescue Plan Municipal Funds: Town Administrator Cowles said the town is expecting about \$110,000 that will be paid in two installments over approximately a year. There are four different categories that the funds can be used for and of those the town may qualify for broadband infrastructure or water system infrastructure improvements.

CORRESPONDENCE: Town Administrator Cowles said she has received some correspondence from residents who are concerned about the increase to their preliminary assessment. Avitar is currently conducting meetings with residents that scheduled appointments.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE: Town Administrator Cowles said Summer Rec began this week and that is going well. She said there are three groups of campers at three different locations this year.

Town Administrator Cowles, Selectman Meth, Selectman Walker and Chief Cashin will be meeting with NHDOT on July 16th to discuss the intersection. A representative from North Country Council will also attend.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Broadband Initiative Committee: Selectman Meth said the North Country Communications District met and discussed creating teams to address various tasks such as operations, financing and bonds, working with the county, working with vendors and general broadband development. He said he read in the paper that Consolidated Communications is working on broadband installation with a number of towns in the southern part of the state and hopefully they will continue that work in the northern part of the state.

Chamber of Commerce: No update at this time.

Conservation Commission: No update at this time.

Energy Commission: Selectman Meth said the EC met on June 17th at the pavilion at 4:30pm and discussed the Welcome Center and the EPA Portfolio Manager account.

Planning Board: Next meeting is July 13th at 7pm at town hall.

OTHER DISCUSSION: Town Administrator Cowles said the public hearing that was scheduled for tonight to discuss the Welcome Center is postponed until July 26th. It will still be at 5:30pm at the elementary school.

PUBLIC INPUT:

Mary Grote asked where the money is coming from to install the new walkway in front of town hall. Town Administrator Cowles said it is coming from the Buildings Maintenance Fund. She also asked how much it will cost and Town Administrator Cowles said it has not gone to bid yet but no money has been spent so far because the preliminary work has been done with town employees. She also asked what the town is doing with the slate.

Peter Grote asked if the Planning Board should update the Wireless Tower Ordinance as it is out of date and the laws have changed over the years.

Dawn Steele said that she thinks that Avitar should still meet with the town to discuss assessments and that there are properties that have been changed and the tax cards are not updated. Mary Grote also commented that she is not pleased with the assessment for her cottage and would like the town to look at other assessing companies.

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 3:59pm on a motion from Selectman Meth and a second from Selectman Walker.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jenny Monahan
Administrative Secretary