

**TOWN OF FRANCONIA
BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, JUNE 7TH, 2022 AT 6:00PM AT TOWN HALL**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Dan Walker, Jill Brewer, Eric Meth

OTHERS PRESENT: Kim Cowles, Jenny Monahan, Dawn Steele, Lynn Terres, Virginia Mike, Peter & Mary Grote, Mike & Tina Betley, Jan Cole, Jayne O'Connor

The meeting was called to order at 5:30pm

APPOINTMENTS/WORK SESSIONS

5:30PM Non-Public Session (RSA 91-A:3, II (a)) The board entered non-public session at 5:30pm and left non-public session at 5:59pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment was taken from Dawn Steele, Tina Betley and Mike Betley.

TO SIGN/APPROVE

The June 7th, 2022 transaction report was reviewed and signed by the selectmen.

A septic application for map 28 lot 73 was approved by the selectmen.

A septic application for map 15 lot 2-1 was approved by the selectmen.

An Intent to Cut application for map 24 lot 66 was approved by the selectmen.

The minutes of April 18th, 2022 were approved as amended.

Michael Betley was appointed as an alternate member of the Trustees of the Trust Fund on a motion from Chairman Brewer and a second from Selectman Walker with all voting in favor.

TO DISCUSS/REVIEW:

Noise Ordinance Seasonal Exemption: Resident Mandy Young wrote to the board requesting exemption from the noise ordinance from Memorial Day weekend to Columbus Day Weekend while they host weddings and events at their farm on Toad Hill Road. Town Administrator Cowles said that while this was discussed as an option during the noise ordinance hearings, the details had not been finalized. The board briefly discussed how seasonal exemptions from the ordinance should be handled and decided to issue a temporary exemption while a process is developed.

Chairman Brewer made a motion that on Friday and Saturday evenings for the remainder of the month of June, the hours of the noise ordinance are extended until 11pm for Toad Hill Farm. Selectman Meth seconded the motion with all voting in favor. **Motion passes.**

Property Tax Abatement Applications:

Brown – 128 Slalom Lane – Town Assessor Dave Woodward reviewed this application and recommended that the abatement request be denied. After a brief discussion, Selectman Walker made a motion to deny the request for property tax abatement for 128 Slalom Lane based on the assessor's analysis and recommendation. Selectman Meth seconded the motion with all voting in favor. **Motion passes.**

Wilk – 746 Wells Road – Town Assessor Dave Woodward reviewed this application and recommended that this property's value is temporarily lessened by \$137,400 and that an abatement be granted on a revised parcel total. He will revisit the property annually to check on the status of renovations and adjust accordingly.

Selectman Meth made a motion to accept the assessor's recommendation and grant the request for property tax abatement for 746 Wells Road. Chairman Brewer seconded the motion with all voting in favor. **Motion granted.**

Short-Term Rental Rules & Regulations: Selectman Meth said the Planning Board recently had a workshop and presentation from the NH Office of Planning & Development about what towns can do to control short-term rentals. Selectman Meth said it would be beneficial to form a committee to assist creating a plan for the regulation of STR's.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE

Town Administrator Cowles said the new library roof has been completed and the total is \$167,664, of which \$67,144.80 is coming out of the library maintenance CRF. She said the roofers discovered issues with the chimney while they were repairing the roof. She said the cost for the chimney repair is \$10,400 which will be paid for by a \$15,000 grant from the NH Charitable Foundation.

Chairman Brewer made a motion to expend \$67,144.80 from the library maintenance CRF for the library roof replacement. Selectman Walker seconded the motion with all voting in favor. **Motion passes.**

Chairman Brewer made a motion to accept the grant up to \$15,000 from the NH Charitable Foundation for the repair of the library chimney. Selectman Meth seconded the motion with all voting in favor. **Motion passes**

Town Administrator Cowles next presented the most favorable quotes received for several paving projects. First was a quote of \$60,870 to pave Mittersill Road and Woodchuck Trail from GMI Asphalt. Town Administrator Cowles said this will be paid out of the Highway Block Grant Funds and from Highway Improvements in the Highway Dept. budget.

The next quote was \$22,763 for the paving of the town hall parking lot and would be paid from the Highway Dept. Budget, Highway Improvement line.

The paving from the town hall parking lot to the front of the Welcome Center was quoted at \$9,885 and will be paid from donation funds.

Paving the rink was quoted at \$10,985 and will be paid from the rink maintenance expendable trust fund.

About 1,850 linear feet of sidewalk in the village area will receive another layer of asphalt for \$8 per linear foot, which comes to approximately \$15,000 and will be paid from the Sidewalks Capital Reserve Fund.

Town Administrator Cowles said all the quotes provided to the board are from GMI Asphalt and the other companies that provided bids were Central Paving and Pike. The work is currently planned for August.

Selectman Walker made a motion to approve the GMI proposals for the Mittersill, town hall parking lot, welcome center, town ice rink and town sidewalks bids. Selectman Meth seconded the motion with all voting in favor. **Motion passes.**

Town Administrator Cowles also reported that she and Asst. Fire Chief Tyler Gaudette have been discussing merging the Fire and EMS into one department. They would like to move forward with hiring per diem staff and have been putting together job descriptions and expected qualifications for potential hires. She recommended a committee be assembled

that would include Chief Schmucker and Gaudette, Emergency Management Director Nate Hanson and herself to assist with the transition and create a proposal for next year. She suggested that Asst. Chief Tyler Gaudette be in charge of scheduling, training and hiring. At this time, they would like to start getting the word out to begin attracting potential hires. The positions would be part time.

Correspondence: Town Administrator Cowles said Karen Foss wrote to the board to resign from her position on the Capital Improvements Plan Committee. The board accepted Karen's resignation and thanked her for all the work she has done for the town.

Bob Montagno wrote the board and assured that ArtWalk installation locations on town property will be approved by the town prior to installation going forward.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Broadband Initiative: Selectman Meth said the Northern Grafton Communications District meets tomorrow via Zoom at 5pm. The Franconia Broadband Committee meeting will be June 16th at 4:30pm.

Chamber of Commerce: Selectman Walker said the Chamber met recently but did not have a quorum. They have been working on the lease for the space in the welcome center and getting the former chamber building removed.

Conservation Commission: Chairman Brewer said the CC met last week and is getting very close to finalizing the sale of map 17 lot 3. She said there was an issue with some trees being cut on the Delaney's land and some conserved bordering land and that issue was resolved with the involved parties.

Energy Commission: Selectman Meth said the Energy Commission is next meeting Thursday, June 9th at 4:30pm at the pavilion. They have been focusing on seeking grants for the solar array.

Planning Board: Selectman Meth said the next meeting is June 28th at 7pm at town hall.

Additional Discussion: Jenny Monahan asked the board if they had considered adding Juneteenth to the list of holidays observed by the town and that it became a federal holiday last year. After a brief discussion, Selectman Meth made a motion that the town begin observing Juneteenth as an additional paid holiday. Selectman Walker seconded the motion with all voting in favor. **Motion passes.**

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, June 14th at 5:30pm.

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 7:33pm on a motion from Chairman Brewer and a second from Selectman Walker with all voting in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jenny Monahan
Administrative Secretary