

**TOWN OF FRANCONIA
BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, MARCH 22, 2021 AT 3PM VIA ZOOM**

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Kim Cowles, Jenny Monahan, Dawn Steele, Janice Cole, Jayne O'Connor, Karen Foss, Lynn Terres.

The meeting was called to order at 3:01pm.

TO SIGN/APPROVE:

The March 22, 2021 transaction list was reviewed and signed by the Selectmen remotely.

The minutes of February 23, 2021 were approved as amended.

PDIP Approval for Treasurer Steve Plant: Town Administrator Cowles said the bank requires that the select board minutes reflect that Steve Plant was elected treasurer of the town and has the authorization from the select board to communicate with the bank about the town's accounts. The approval can be reflected in the minutes. The Selectmen confirmed this information.

APPOINTMENTS/WORK SESSIONS:

Tax Abatement Request – Map 23 Lots 22 & 25: Dave Woodward of Avitar Assessing, the town's assessor, recommended that this abatement request be denied. The selectmen discussed that they would like more information on the sale of the property before making a final decision. Administrative Secretary Jenny Monahan said she will send the selectmen the deed for the property sale for their consideration. No decision was made at this time and this will be revisited next week.

TO DISCUSS/REVIEW:

Town Administrator Update: Town Administrator Cowles said some boards and committees have inquired about returning to in person meetings at town hall. After a brief discussion, the selectmen agreed that they are comfortable with opening the town hall back up for meetings while following Covid-19 protocols. The selectmen will meet next week in person at town hall.

Town Administrator Cowles asked the selectmen what they thought of holding Old Home Day this year. It was briefly discussed that the activities take place outdoors and people are more practiced following the recommended guidelines. The selectmen all agreed that the event could be planned and the date was set for July 10th.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Cable Consortium: Selectman Meth said the Grafton County Broadband Committee had a zoom meeting on the 12th that was moderated by Nick Coates. Selectman Meth said plans for Grafton County

moving forward with broadband infrastructure was discussed. At the next meeting of the North Country Communications District Committee on the 26th, Carol Miller, the state's former Director of Broadband Technology will attend.

Chamber of Commerce: No update.

Conservation Commission: Chairman Brewer said the CC is meeting the 25th at 4:00pm via zoom. Some landowners with property on the trail network have been invited to the meeting.

Energy Commission: Selectman Meth said the Energy Commission met on Tuesday, March 16th, and discussed a town energy policy and strategies for reducing energy use in town buildings. They also discussed the Northern Border grant, a solar zoning ordinance and getting ready to speak to their warrant article at town meeting. The next meeting is April 20th at 4:30pm but the location is not yet decided.

Planning Board: Selectman Meth said the Planning Board met on March 10th and further discussed their plans for doing a town wide survey of residents for information about the Master Plan.

PUBLIC INPUT:

Chairman Brewer read an email sent to Town Administrator Cowles from Lydia Cumbee, which states her disappointments that the non-profit warrant articles have been grouped together into one article, citing a previous vote for the articles to be voted on individually. Chairman Brewer said the request to do so was from Town Moderator Jim Walker, and town counsel was consulted.

Karen Foss commented that the auditor's management letter is on the website and was included in the town report and asked if we have the full report. Town Administrator Cowles said the letter is from the 2020 audit and we do not have the 2021 audit report yet.

Dawn Steele asked what the current balance of the Unassigned Fund Balance is since the auditors have recently done the audit. Town Administrator Cowles said she believes it is \$1.3 million dollars. Dawn also asked about the uncollected taxes in the tax collector's report in the 2020 town report and whether or not the amount needs to be considered in regards to the Unassigned Fund Balance. Town Administrator Cowles said that is what the Capital Outlay is for. Selectman Meth commented that the health of the fund balance puts the town in a good position to refinance its bonds, as was recently mentioned may be a good thing to do.

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 3:54pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jenny Monahan
Administrative Secretary