

**Town of Franconia
Board of Selectmen
Monday, March 27, 2023 at 6pm
at Franconia Town Hall**

Board Members Present: Jill Brewer, Dan Walker

Board Members Absent: Eric Meth

Others Present: Town Administrator Sharon Penney, Administrative Secretary Jenny Monahan, Dawn Steele, Lynn Terres, John Agostinelli, Larry Plate, Virginia Mike, Jayne O'Connor, Mike Betley

Chairman Brewer called the hearing to order at 6:00pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Larry Plate asked about the status of the updated short-term rental regulations that take effect April 1st.

John Agostinelli asked about the unsightly condition of the Mittersill Fire Station and future plans to improve the property.

TO SIGN/APPROVE

The minutes of March 20th, 2023 were approved as written.

The selectmen signed the March 24th to March 30th transaction report.

The selectmen signed documents for previously approved property tax abatement (Pratt and Kenet/Gold).

A septic application for Map 16, Lot 22, Keenan was approved by the board.

A Raffle Permit Application for Gale River Cooperative Preschool was approved by the board.

There was a brief discussion about providing extra portable toilets on the Dow for the Old Home Day/250th celebration. Jenny will arrange for two additional units.

TO DISCUSS/REVIEW

Mittersill Fire Station – Town Administrator Penney said she spoke further with Bob Spoerl of the NH Div. of Forests and Lands in regard to the town's lease on the Mittersill Fire Station. She said the state may be willing to trade the Mittersill property to the town for a section of the riparian land at town owned 192 Main Street. It was briefly discussed that at some point during the lease of the Mittersill Fire Station, the use of the property strayed from the intent of the agreement and water infrastructure was installed on the property. Town Administrator Penney said the board will need to meet with representatives from the NH Division of Forests and Lands at some point to discuss a solution.

CORRESPONDENCE

Town Administrator Penney said she received an email from Littleton's Fire Chief Chad Miller that included a request from Commissioner Quinn at the NH Dept. of Safety regarding Franconia's ambulance. Chief Miller has requested a waiver from the state's inspection during the transition of EMS services from Franconia to Littleton and the state is seeking information on the ambulance itself.

A copy of the email was circulated between the selectmen.

Town Administrator Penney said Road Agent Jeremy Hall asked if the Highway Department could change its work hours from the winter schedule of 6am to 2:30pm to 6:30pm to 3pm now that it is spring. The board had no objections to implementing the summertime schedule now.

Town Administrator Penney said she received notification from the NH Dept. of Safety Homeland Security and Emergency Management division inviting letters of intent to a program that seeks to mitigate long-term risk to people and property from natural hazards and their effects. She said this may be applicable to the Wells Rd. culvert issue. The board discussed that the town has already applied for a grant to address the Wells Rd. culvert failure and that this may be the same program brought to the town by HEB Engineers, Inc., who is handling the application process on the town's behalf.

Nate Hanson of Adaptive Sports wrote the board requesting use of the park and garden behind town hall for their programming needs as has been done yearly. The board agreed to continue allowing Adaptive Sports to use the park and the garden behind town hall this year for their programs.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Dawn Steele asked about the status of the town's ambulance and if it will be utilized by Littleton as a supplemental emergency vehicle for Franconia calls. Mike Betley suggested the board look into a lease arrangement, perhaps for a nominal fee if it may provide liability protection to the town.

Larry Plate asked about a previously discussed proposal for fixing Lafayette Bridge and the current status of the proposal.

Dawn Steele asked about the selection of skates in the warming hut being in disarray and where skates could be stored so the warming area could be straightened up.

With no further discussion, Chairman Brewer made a motion to enter non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II(c) at 6:44pm. Selectman Walker seconded the motion.

The board left non-public session at 7:24pm. Selectman Walker made a motion to seal the minutes of the non-public session, seconded by Chairman Brewer. With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 7:24pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jenny Monahan
Administrative Secretary