

**TOWN OF FRANCONIA
BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, MARCH 28, 2022 AT 6:00PM AT TOWN HALL**

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Kim Cowles, Jenny Monahan, Peter Grote, Trevor Presby, Virginia Mike, Dawn Steele, Ann Foss, Monica Laflamme, Jan Cole, Ginny Jeffries, Pat Garvin, Mary Grote, Sally Small, Larry Plate.

The meeting was called to order at 6:02pm

APPOINTMENTS/WORK SESSIONS

CIP Committee, Steve Plant – Recommendation for Fire Truck Purchase: Steve said the CIP met last week and recommends taking \$400,000 from the Fire Department Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve Fund to put towards the new truck. The CIP also supports the lease agreement that was discussed at the same meeting.

There was a discussion about how to write the warrant article for the lease. Town Administrator Cowles referenced the way Sugar Hill did their article for a lease and will consult town counsel about the language of the article. She said the total price of the truck is \$669,759. \$400,000 would be taken from the Fire Department Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve Fund and used as a down payment. There is a discount of \$21,724 and the remaining \$248,035 would be financed over six years on a lease to own basis. Payments would not start until the truck is received by the town, which is anticipated to take 18-20 months. Steve said the CIP was unanimous in their recommendation of this financing plan.

After some discussion, Selectman Walker made a motion to move forward with the Special Town Meeting on May 2nd, 2022 for the purchase of a Fire Truck and a Highway Department Truck. Selectman Meth seconded the motion with all voting in favor. **Motion passes.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment was taken from Larry Plate, Monica Laflamme, Dawn Steele, Virginia Mike and Mary Grote.

TO SIGN/APPROVE

The March 28, 2022 transaction report was reviewed and signed by the selectmen.

The March 7th and March 14th, 2022 minutes were approved as amended on a motion from Chairman Brewer and a second from Selectman Walker.

A septic permit application for map 21 Lot 11 and map 21 lot 18-4, Horse and Hound Club, LLC was approved by the board.

The selectman signed a letter letting a resident know of the board's decision on their abatement application.

TO DISCUSS/REVIEW:

Conservation Commission Property Purchase: Chairman Brewer said the commission held a public hearing today to receive public comment on the purchase of map 17 lot 3 on Profile Road. She said the property abuts town owned forest that abuts the Lawrence family property and will increase access to both those parcels. She said there are wetlands on the property and abundant wildlife has been observed by those living nearby. She said public input at the hearing was very positive. Attorney Bill Oliver has been contracted to oversee the closing.

Chairman Brewer made a motion to authorize Conservation Commission Chair Chris Nicodemus to sign and execute a purchase & sale agreement for an acquisition price of \$75,000 to purchase map 17 lot 3 subject to the provision of 50% of the purchase price and closing cost to come from a donor advised fund at the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation. Selectman Meth seconded the motion with all voting in favor. **Motion passes.**

Chairman Brewer next made a motion to accept a grant of \$38,058 from a donor advised fund at New Hampshire Charitable Foundation with the purpose of this grant being to defray the cost of purchasing map 17 lot 3. Selectman Meth seconded the motion with all voting in favor. **Motion passes.**

Special Town Meeting: Town Administrator Cowles said the revised plan from town counsel for the special town meeting is to hold the meeting on May 2nd, and proposed having the meeting at Lafayette School, adding that she has confirmed the availability of the school for that evening. The public hearing on the warrant articles was suggested by counsel to be held on April 7th. After a brief discussion, the board decided to hold the special town meeting on May 2nd at 7pm at the school and the public hearing on April 7th at 6pm at town hall.

Franconia Scholarship and Towse Athletic Prize Policy and Procedure: Chairman Brewer said the advisory board is a three-member advisory aboard with one member chosen by the selectmen, one member chosen by the trustees of the library and one member chosen by the trustees of the Franconia Community Church of Christ. Selectman Walker said he had seen Jane Brewer recently and she expressed interest in joining the advisory board.

After a brief discussion, Selectman Walker made a motion that the board recommend Jane Brewer as the appointee to the Franconia Scholarship and Towse Athletic Prize Advisory Board. Selectman Meth seconded the motion with all voting in favor. **Motion passes.**

Correspondence: None

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION: The Chamber of Commerce's town wide yard sale and the Lafayette School's spelling bee fundraiser were briefly discussed. The board also decided not to hold their regular meeting on the day of the special town meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Not reported this week.

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 7:07pm on a motion from Chairman Brewer and a second from Selectman Meth with all voting in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jenny Monahan
Administrative Secretary