

A regular meeting of the Franconia Board of Selectmen was held at 3:00 p.m. on Monday, May 15, 2017, at the Franconia Town Hall.

Members Present: Eric Meth, Bernie Costa, Jill Brewer, Holly Burbank

Eric Meth called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

The Board of Selectmen reviewed the minutes of May 8, 2017 and made the following amendments:

- Page 2 - Paragraph 3 - Under Committee Reports, Conservation Commission - last sentence to read; The Conservation Commission is willing to take any feedback from the public.
- Page 2 - Paragraph 6 - CIP - forms, sentence three to read; The department heads should send updated photos attached to their equipment request sheets.

With no further changes, Chairman Meth made a motion to accept the minutes as amended. Seconded by Bernadette Costa. All were in favor.

The Board reviewed and signed the May 18, 2017 Transaction List.

The Board next reviewed and approved a septic system application for Habitat for Humanity.

Town Administrator Burbank next spoke to the Board and gave a brief update on the Town Office Renovations. She mentioned that we are at move in stage. She noted that the electrician was in today to finish up his work, the computers were being moved back into the office today/tomorrow, the new phone system would be installed on Tuesday, and the building will be re-keyed on Wednesday. Holly also noted that with the office renovation, and only one Administrative Secretary desk, we would be temporarily changing the hours that Kay Whitcomb and Herbie Bartlett work. Kay will work in the morning from 8:30am-12:30 pm, and Herbie would continue to work 12:30-4:30pm. She also noted that interviews for the Administrative Secretary position have been scheduled for Tuesday, May 16 and Thursday, May 18. A total of five candidates will be interviewed.

Jill Brewer next gave an update on the Conservation Commission. She noted that some members of the Conservation Commission met with Ed Rolfe last Wednesday and he caught them up on the Profile Lake Project. Some members of the Conservation Commission as well as Ed Rolfe met with representatives of the State of NH Profile Lake Project to tour the Lake and look at different options for the project. It was noted by Eric Meth that he had heard that the project is on hold until possibly next year. Jill read a portion of an email she had received from Chris Nicodemus who was on the Profile Lake tour, and he noted that "Ed Rolfe's report was re-explored as well as potential approaches to Ed's plan B and also reviewed the visual impacts of Plan A as being advanced. DES is asking for a renewed round

of public hearings on the proposal and the response of our community has been heard clearly.”

Town Administrator Burbank next spoke to the Board and mentioned that a couple of people have spoken to her and they weren't clear as to what the Board's position was on the Profile Lake Project. The Board had initially made a vote to do everything in their power to stop the project. Since that vote, the Board met with Jeff Rose, Commissioner of NH DRED, heard from other members of the community and some members of the Old Man of the Mountain Legacy Fund, and Holly wanted to make sure she was clear on the Board's position. She also noted that Jim Alden sent an email stating his concerns regarding the minutes of May 1, 2017 and that he felt they didn't accurately capture the actual meeting. His email will be attached to these minutes. Town Administrator Burbank asked the Board if they would officially take a position on the project so that when questions arise she can better answer them.

After a brief discussion regarding their position on the Profile Lake Project, Eric Meth made a motion that the Board is opposed to the Profile Lake Trail Project as it is currently proposed. Jill Brewer seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Fire Chief Rick Gaudette joined the meeting to discuss the possibility of building a garage at the Public Safety Building to be used for storage.

Chief Gaudette mentioned that currently, there is a storage container behind the Public Safety Building (PSB), and the Fireman's Association would like to build a small garage in its place. The design of the garage would match the PSB. Chief Gaudette stated that it would be constructed of the same low maintenance materials as the PSB. The garage would be 20 feet by 26 feet. The Fireman's Association would pay for building the garage, and would then donate it to the Town when it is finished. They would like to store the Antique Fire Truck in this garage, as well for other storage. He noted that the Antique Fire Truck is currently housed in the Fire Bays, and is at risk of getting damaged due to the close proximity of opening truck doors into it etc. Chief Gaudette also mentioned that maybe the Franconia Heritage Museum might have room for it there. This fire truck is the first fire truck the Town had ever purchased. The Chief asked that the Town consider allowing the garage to be built. The Board and Fire Chief next discussed different options for placement of the Antique Truck. There was also a discussion as to what costs the Town would incur by taking over this garage. Bernadette Costa asked if the Chief could come back with what it might cost for insurance and heating for the building.

Bernadette Costa next gave an update on the CIP Committee. She noted that Eric Meth informed her that Dick Reinhold no longer wanted to be on the CIP Committee, so a new member of the Planning Board will need to be on CIP. A meeting of the CIP Committee will be scheduled for sometime in early June.

There was a brief discussion regarding the purchase of the Presby Building. Before deciding to pursue the purchase of the Presby Building, the board would like to look into what the cost would be to upgrade the current Highway Garage to fit the Town's needs so a comparison could be made as to what would be most cost effective and best for the Town.

Eric Meth gave an update on the Energy Commission. He noted that the contractor, J.A. Corey that was awarded the contract for the street light project has withdrawn their proposal. Karen Foss will be having a conversation with J.A. Corey to see if they will reconsider.

Eric Meth next gave an update on the Planning Board. He noted Kayla Gray was present at their last meeting to talk about the MTAG grant. Although it was Kayla's last meeting, she had set up everything nicely so that the Town could move forward on the Grant in her absence.

Eric Meth next gave a brief update regarding Northern Pass. He gave an update on SB128 which speaks to the Purchase Power Agreement (PPA) between Eversource and Hydro Quebec which essentially would have been a detriment to the taxpayers of New Hampshire and would have helped move the Northern Pass Project along. Eric noted that it has been retained by the house committee, and cannot be discussed until next year.

Eric next mentioned some public comments sessions that are coming up June 15, June 22 & July 20 from 9a-12pm in Concord. Concerned citizens can be part of the public comment sessions, and would have to call and sign up by May 31st to be part of these sessions. The Board agreed to post something on the sign at Peabody & Smith, directing citizens to contact Town Hall or visit our website for more information.

With no further discussion, Bernadette Costa made a motion to enter non-public session at 3:55pm to discuss personnel issues.

Eric Meth made a motion to adjourn the meeting and seal the minutes of the non-public session at 4:21pm, Bernie seconded the motion with all voting in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Holly A. Burbank
Town Administrator