

**Board of Selectmen's
Regular Meeting
Monday, May 15th, 2023
at 6:00PM at Town Hall**

Board Members Present: Jill Brewer, Eric Meth, Dan Walker

Others Present: Sharon Penney, Jenny Monahan, Peter & Mary Grote, Dawn Steele, Lynn Terres, Pat Garvin, Carol Walker, Karen Foss, Mike & Tina Betley

The meeting was called to order at 6:01PM

Appointments/Work Sessions

None

Public Comment

Dawn Steele said she expected to see the topic of payment for the secretary of the planning board on the agenda, and Chairman Brewer said she had heard from some people with the same question. Selectman Meth said it was discussed at the most recent planning board meeting and there is \$2,000 in the Planning & Zoning Budget for secretary services. Jenny Monahan said Planning and Zoning secretary hours are paid and they only need to submit a time sheet. Chairman Brewer said her understanding was that the request for payment was for volunteer work such as the Short-term Rental work that was done by members of the planning board and this was concerning to her as there are many residents that do volunteer work for the town. Mary Grote commented that historically if the person doing the minutes and agenda is a planning board member, they are not paid. Pat Garvin said the payment would be strictly for doing the minutes which have become more complex and time consuming recently due to the types of cases coming to the planning board.

Peter Grote commented about the new building that is going to be built at the airport and asked if the town has considered resident concerns, if all the necessary approvals were sought and if it is in line with the town's master plan. Dawn Steele said the Franconia Soaring Association went before the Planning Board for a site plan review public hearing.

At a resident's request, the board updated the public on the short-term rental work session held on Thursday, May 11th. Chairman Brewer said the decision was made to expand the safety inspection checklist and have the owner of the property complete the checklist rather than send the building inspector or fire chief to inspect each property. She said this should reduce liability to the town and decrease costs associated with STR regulation. There followed a lengthy discussion with the public about various STR issues.

To Sign/Approve

2023 First Issue Property Tax Warrant: The selectmen signed the property tax

warrant. The selectmen approved the minutes of May 8, 2023 as written.

The selectmen reviewed and approved the May 12th – May 18th transaction report. The selectmen signed an updated Memorandum of Understanding between the town and

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Greenleaf Library. The change made was the addition of the words “at night” in reference to responding to issues with the heating system that may happen during the day or night.

To Discuss/Review

Notice of Intent to Cut Wood or Timber Applications: The selectmen signed PA-7's for T&T Mtn. Investments, Map 13 Lot 22 & May 13 Lot 28.

The selectmen approved a current use application for Bradford Humes Whipple Revocable Trust, Map 32 Lot 1.

Letter to Dept. of Environmental Services (DES): Chairman Brewer said that at last week's Conservation Commission meeting there was a lengthy discussion about the property issue involving Lang vs. Sabados and subsequent drainage issues after a large area of the property was cleared. She said the town of Sugar Hill received a Letter of Deficiency from DES that outlined deficiencies that would need to be addressed by the landowner but Franconia did not receive a letter because the parcel is in Sugar Hill, but the runoff from the cut is affecting property in Franconia as well as Sugar Hill. A letter was drafted by members of both towns to send to DES stating the town's concerns about unpermitted logging and soil disturbance and the resulting redirection of several streams now depositing sediment and runoff onto private property and town of Franconia infrastructure. The letter asked DES to consider that both towns are affected, that both towns are kept abreast of developments and that the issue is addressed with some urgency.

After the discussion, Selectman Walker made a motion that the board approve the letter as written for submission to the Dept. of Environmental Services. Selectman Meth seconded the motion. **Motion passes.**

Lafayette Expendable Trust Fund for Old Home Days Funding: Town Administrator Penney said there is a deficiency in funding for the Old Home Day/250th celebration. She said the time capsule project will cost about \$600, fireworks will cost \$6,000, the Wicked Smart Horn Band will cost \$1,800 and the stage and sound will cost \$1,750. There is \$3,000 in the budget but some of that is already earmarked for other costs. TOTF Jan Cole was consulted and said that the Lafayette ETF has historically been used to pay for OHD expenses and received OHD donations and could be used for OHD expenses. Town Administrator Penney said there are other unconfirmed costs for proposed acts and programs and it has not yet been determined how they will be funded. She said some donations are still being sought from local corporations and we will hopefully have more information about that soon. It was discussed that when there is more information about how much money will be needed this will be revisited with the board.

Planning Board Alternate Request – Steve Schwartz: Steve wrote the board expressing his interest in being a member of the planning board and outlined his interests and experience.

Selectman Walker made a motion to appoint Steve Schwartz as an alternate member of the planning board. Selectman Meth seconded the motion, **motion passes.**

Correspondence: None

Committee Updates:

Broadband Committee Update: Selectman Meth said the BBC met last week and discussed how to keep Consolidated Communications Inc. on task while the broadband build out is planned. The next meeting is this Thursday at 4:30 via Zoom. They are also planning on holding a public presentation that would include the other involved towns.

Chamber of Commerce: The COC meets tomorrow at 9AM at Woodsville Guaranty.

Energy Commission: The Energy Commission meets tomorrow at 4:30PM at town hall. Selectman Meth said the Energy Commission is still discussing community choice aggregation to try to get better energy pricing for town residents. He said a committee would need to be formed and create a plan for approval by the select board. Public hearings would need to be held on the plan and then the plan would need to be accepted by voters at town meeting. The EC hopes to have this ready for voters for the 2024 town meeting. Selectman Meth said a new resident who worked on community choice aggregation programs professionally will be helping the committee with the project.

Planning Board: Selectman Meth said the PB met May 9th and continued to discuss the master plan and how North Country Council will be involved. They also elected their officers, with Mark Hessler being the new chair, Thad Presby being the vice-chair and Monica Laflamme being the secretary. STR was also discussed as well as paying the secretary for the minutes. NH Invest was also discussed and the grant funds expected from the apartments being built at the Hillwinds property.

The selectmen scheduled the public hearing for the proposed use of ARPA funds for Monday, June 5th at 5:30PM at town hall.

A resident asked about the status of the activation of the solar array – the town is waiting on Eversource.

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenny Monahan
Administrative Secretary