

DRAFT
TOWN OF FRANCONIA
BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, MAY 17, 2021 AT TOWN HALL

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Kim Cowles, Jenny Monahan, Karen Foss, Mary Grote, Lynn Terres, Janice Cole, Scott Leslie

The meeting was called to order at 3:00pm.

TO SIGN/APPROVE:

The May 17, 2021 transaction list was reviewed and signed by the Selectmen.

The minutes of May 10, 2021 were approved as amended on a motion by Selectman Meth and a second from Selectman Walker with all voting in favor.

The first issue 2021 tax warrant for \$2,690,356 was signed by the selectmen.

APPOINTMENTS/WORK SESSIONS:

3:00pm – Scott Leslie – Highway Truck Purchase and Paving Update: Rather than buy a new truck or pay an estimated \$10,000 for repairs as previously discussed with the board, Scott said he was able to locate parts for the truck for about \$2,200 and the work can be done by Highway Department employees on rainy days as the truck is not needed at this time.

In regard to the Main Street paving project, Scott said he is meeting with NHDOT tomorrow morning to walk the northern end of Main Street and discuss the sidewalks and drainage.

The front walkway of town hall was also discussed. Town Administrator Cowles said replacing the slate walkway with asphalt or concrete and potentially putting a concrete walkway straight to Main Street would be safer and easier to maintain. Scott Leslie will seek estimates for a concrete walkway to the parking lot and a concrete walkway to the street.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE:

Town Administrator Cowles commended Karen Foss and Janice Cole's work on creating an Unassigned Fund Balance Policy and asked that they, she, and Treasurer Plant meet with the board to discuss. This will be added to a future agenda based on Karen and Janice's availability.

There was a brief discussion about Old Home Day; Town Administrator Cowles said there is a change in the route due to the paving project and the parade will begin at the Dow instead of at Lafayette Drive. She thinks this may be a welcome change to participants as there is access to water, shade and porta-pottys at the Dow. She said this year's Old Home Day will not have the big yard sale. The Wicked Smart Horn Band will be playing music in the evening.

A meeting that was planned with the Fire Marshall with the owner of Plain Kate's has been rescheduled for next week.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Broadband Initiative Committee: Selectman Meth said Broadband Initiative Committee has a meeting this Friday the 21st at 5pm via Zoom.

Chamber of Commerce: Selectman Walker plans to attend the Chamber meeting on Wednesday the 26th.

Conservation Commission: No update.

Energy Commission: Selectman Meth said the EC meets at the pavilion on Wednesday the 19th at 4:30pm to discuss a town Solar Array Ordinance.

Planning Board: Selectman Meth said the Planning Board met on Tuesday the 11th and had an informal discussion about a new propane filling station going in next to the Transfer Station. The board continues work on the Master Plan as well.

OTHER DISCUSSION: Chairman Brewer commented on how great the Alice in Wonderland play on the Dow was and how much she and others enjoyed it.

Town Administrator Cowles said a ribbon cutting ceremony was never done for the pavilion due to the pandemic but she would like to do one this summer to celebrate the pavilion and the generosity of the many donors. A tentative date for this event is Wednesday, August 11th.

PUBLIC INPUT:

Mary Grote commented that she would hate to see the slate walkways go as they are charming and if the slate is removed they should be removed carefully for another use rather than being destroyed.

Karen Foss inquired about the tax abatements given to Fox Hill Cooperative and if the abatements should be given multiple times.

Karen suggested the town hire the auditors to look into the \$400,000 discrepancy from several years ago.

OTHER DISCUSSION:

Selectman Walker asked if the town should hold a hearing on 192 Main Street to gather information from residents on what the town should do with the property. It was discussed that this may be able to be held at the same meeting as the hearing for the Welcome Center. Chairman Brewer said a meeting was held at the location a couple years ago to get input from residents as well. A few ideas for the property were discussed.

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 3:58pm on a motion from Chairman Brewer and a second from Selectman Walker.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jenny Monahan
Administrative Secretary