

DRAFT
TOWN OF FRANCONIA
BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, MAY 24, 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, Steve Plant, Larry Plate

The meeting was called to order at 3:02pm.

TO SIGN/APPROVE:

The May 24, 2021 transaction list was reviewed and signed by the Selectmen.

The minutes of May 17, 2021 were approved as amended on a motion by Selectman Walker and a second from Chairman Brewer with all voting in favor.

The selectmen signed a \$45,000 proposal to chip seal Lafayette Road.

APPOINTMENTS/WORK SESSIONS:

3:00pm – Heritage Council – New Honor Roll Plaque Viewing Ceremony: The Selectmen and meeting attendees gathered on the front steps of town hall with members of the Heritage Council to view the new bronze Honor Roll plaque that was gifted to the town by the Heritage Council to replace the former plaque that was degrading.

3:30pm – Unassigned Fund Balance Policy Work Session with Karen Foss, Janice Cole and Treasurer Steve Plant: Karen and Janice shared their research on Fund Balance Policies with the selectmen and recommended that the town complete a risk assessment before determining the ideal percentage for the town's fund balance. Karen and Janice will meet with the board again on June 24th.

Treasurer Steve Plant also commented that he has investigated the \$400,000 discrepancy from 2019 and is unable to determine where the error is. He said the 2019 Treasurers Report and Balance Sheet do not match and there may have been a succession of recording errors that led to the discrepancy, but the funds are in the general fund.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE:

Town Administrator Cowles said the Dow Ave. Bridge and Lafayette Bridge were both cleaned during the fire departments last training.

Town Administrator Cowles and Selectman Walker met with Peter Hilton from LRW to discuss moving the water main at town hall to the back of the property in preparation for building the Welcome Center.

Selectman Walker said the town should be expecting more funds from the American Rescue Plan. Town Administrator Cowles is attending a webinar on Wednesday to learn more about how the money can be used.

Town Administrator Cowles said the Transfer Station needs a part time employee and she would like to advertise the position at \$15 per hour and increase Alyssa's pay to \$16 per hour. The selectmen authorized Town Administrator Cowles to move forward with this plan.

The Franconia Soaring Foundation applied for a Charitable Tax Exemption. After a brief discussion, the selectmen agreed to deny the request for tax exemption.

Selectman Meth made a motion to deny the request for tax exemption by the Franconia Soaring Foundation. Chairman Brewer seconded the motion with all voting in favor. **Motion passes.**

CORRESPONDENCE: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Broadband Initiative Committee: Selectman Meth said the Broadband Initiative Committee's Zoom meeting scheduled for the 21st was cancelled and will now take place this Thursday the 27th at 5pm.

Chamber of Commerce: Selectman Walker attended the Chamber meeting on Wednesday the 26th as well as Town Administrator Cowles. He said they have a new Membership Director and are working on growing their membership. Selectman Walker and Town Administrator Cowles updated the Chamber on Old Home Day, the Welcome Center and the Main Street paving project.

Conservation Commission: No update.

Energy Commission: Selectman Meth said the EC met at the pavilion on Wednesday the 19th and discussed the proposed Solar Array Ordinance, getting involved with the Master Plan update and their hope to have solar panels on the Welcome Center.

Planning Board: Selectman Meth said the Planning Board will meet on June 8th at 7pm.

OTHER DISCUSSION: Chairman Brewer said she supervised Profile School's prom at the Sunset Hill House and enjoyed the experience greatly.

PUBLIC INPUT:

None

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 4:55pm on a motion from Chairman Brewer and a second from Selectman Meth.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jenny Monahan
Administrative Secretary

These minutes of the Town of Franconia Select Board have been recorded by its Secretary. Though believed to be accurate and correct they are subject to additions, deletions and corrections by the Select Board at its next meeting when the Board votes its final approval of the minutes. They are being made available at this time to conform to the requirements of New Hampshire RSA 91-A:2.