

**Town of Franconia
Board of Selectmen's Regular Meeting
Monday, May 5th, 2025
at 4PM at Town Hall**

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

Others in Attendance: Jan Cole, Steve Plant, Carol Walker, Chief Mac Cashin, Sgt. Ryan Jarvis, Officer Justin Barnum, Officer Adam Clark, Kaitlyn Jarvis and family, various friends and family of Officer Barnum.

The meeting was called to order at 4:02PM

Appointments/Work Sessions

Ceremony for Promotion of Officer Barnum: Officer Justin Barnum was promoted to the rank of Corporal and sworn in by Selectman Walker.

Lafayette Recreation Committee: Recreation Chair Pete Gaudette was not able to attend the meeting, but Town Administrator Staples updated the board on discussions between her, Pete, and Rec Director Katie Raymond. In addition to changes to some of the language for the Lafayette Recreation Expendable Trust Fund in the 2025 warrant, they agree that the management and guidance of the rec director should come from the recreation board and the selectmen's office will oversee the administrative aspects of the recreation director's employment. The board discussed that it made sense to formally clarify this for the boards and the recreation director and expressed agreement with this plan.

Public Comment

Jan Cole, with the support of Carol Walker and Steve Plant, expressed interest in researching alternate insurance offerings in the event that HealthTrust stops providing services on Dec. 31 as their board has stated they will if SB297 passes in its current form. They cited that other towns are already preparing for this possibility and experiencing some difficulty getting necessary information from HealthTrust. There followed a lengthy discussion about the different possibilities and potential outcomes, after which the board agreed to allow information gathering on other insurance options in the event that HealthTrust stops providing services.

Sign/Approve

The minutes of April 21, 2025 were approved as amended.

The board reviewed and approved the May 2nd thru May 8th, 2025 transaction list.

Discuss/Review

Employee Handbook: Town Administrator Staples provided the Employee Handbook to the board. The updated handbook includes the recommendations from town counsel and amendments to the previous policy that have been made over the years since its was adopted. The board had previously received the draft for review. Chairwoman Brewer made a motion that the town adopt the updated Employee Handbook. Selectman Meth seconds, motion passes unanimously. The selectmen then signed the updated handbook.

Skating Rink Surface Update: As requested by the board at the last meeting after a resident asked about inserting a drain and/or pump in the rink, Town Administrator Staples inquired with Buildings & Grounds Supervisor Corey Rush about the idea of a drain and/or pump. Corey expressed concerns about having a hole in the surface as it could interfere

with the desired pooling when the rink is being flooded as well as water getting under the surface of the asphalt and causing it to degrade faster. He also felt that a recessed drain hole in the court could pose a safety issue.

The board discussed that the resurfacing of the rink was actually done to the requested specification of it holding water to fulfill its predominant purpose of performing as a skating facility. As years passed after the rink was originally built, the basketball and tennis courts were added to bring more seasonal uses to the rink without significant modification of the space and without compromising its use as a skating rink. It was discussed that perhaps when the rink needs to be resurfaced again, the rink may be able to be engineered differently, but at this time it is not feasible to alter the newly applied asphalt.

Library Grant Award: Chairman Brewer said the library was awarded a grant of \$10,000 from the American Library Association to be used towards the completion of an ADA compliant bathroom.

Chairwoman Brewer made a motion that the town accept the \$10,000 grant funds from the American Library Association that the library plans to use towards the completion of ADA compliant bathrooms. Selectman Walker seconds, motion passes unanimously.

Frost Place Update: Selectman Walker was contacted by Stacy at the Frost Place about a grant opportunity they are interested in pursuing that requires an executed legal agreement between the town and the Friends of the Frost Place granting the Friends of the Frost Place full managerial control of the building. They are hoping to get funding for foundation work on the building. The grant deadline is June 12th. Town Administrator Staples will look into this.

Committee Reports

Broadband Committee: Next meeting is this Wednesday the 7th via Zoom.

Chamber of Commerce: No update.

Conservation Commission: Next meeting is tomorrow at 3pm at town hall and then they are visiting the McKenzie Woods property.

Energy Commission: Next meeting is May 27th either at town hall or the pavilion. Selectman Meth said Jim Fitzpatrick has stepped away from the commission and Chris Dube is acting chair. As they are a commission they can nominate and appoint their own chair so no action is necessary by the BOS.

Planning Board: Next meeting is Tuesday May 13th at 6pm at town hall. At the last meeting they heard a lot line adjustment for the propane facility going in on Route 116 and a site plan review for some houses also going up on Route 116.

With no further discussion, Chairwoman Brewer made a motion to enter non-public session at 5:06pm pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II(e), seconded by Selectman Walker.

The board left non-public session at 5:18pm and immediately adjourned.

Respectfully,

Jenny Monahan
Executive Assistant