

**Town of Franconia
Board of Selectmen's Regular Meeting
Monday, May 8, 2023 at 6:00PM
at Franconia Town Hall**

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

Others Present: Sharon Penney, Jenny Monahan, Jared Sullivan, Bob Tortorice, Jan Cole, Larry Plate, Virginia Mike, Dawn Steele, Peter & Mary Grote, Mike & Tina Betley, Pat Garvin, Priscilla Hindley, Chief Mac Cashin

The meeting was called to order at 6:03PM

Appointments/Work Sessions

NH Rep. Jared Sullivan – Representative Sullivan reviewed the bills that have come before the state legislature this year and the voting results for each bill.

Bob Tortorice – Franconia Energy Commission – Energy Audits – Bob let the board know about programs through nhsaves.com that provide rebate and tax credit incentives of up to \$6,000 to homeowners for increasing energy efficiency in both existing and new construction homes.

Chief Mac Cashin – Old Home Day Check-in – Chief Cashin updated the board on some happenings with the police department: the new radar speed signs have been received and placed on Toad Hill Road, the department is hosting the Special Olympics on the Dow on May 20th, he is looking at a parking issue on Plantation Road with Road Agent Jeremy Hall, there has been an indictment for the theft case on the Dow and that there are some ongoing investigations in town and collaborative investigations with surrounding towns.

Chief Cashin said the police department is still down one officer and has not had any candidates for the position since it was posted 13 weeks ago. He said there is a shortage of officers statewide and the hiring environment is very competitive right now, and the current state of hiring also creates retention concerns as his officers have been approached by other departments with good offers. Chief Cashin asked that the board consider allowing him to use unspent wages from the open fourth officer position to provide retention bonuses for the two full time officer positions.

TOTF Jan Cole said this may be a permissible use for American Rescue Plan Act funds. The board discussed a public hearing would need to be held for the proposed use of ARPA funds. This will be scheduled for a future date.

Chief Cashin said that he does not anticipate any staffing issues for the Old Home Days weekend and can execute the parking plan and oversight as has been done in previous years. He said Sugar Hill usually helps with the event.

Public Comment

Mike Betley asked about the lease the Chamber of Commerce has for the welcome center office area and whether or not the town can use the space as an additional meeting area. Dawn Steele said that the Public Safety Building has a good meeting space that may also be used when its available. Virginia Mike asked if the town has considered drafting zoning to disallow casinos in the town.

Sign/Approve

The board approved the minutes of May 1st, 2023 as amended.

The Selectmen signed the May 5th to May 11th 2023 transaction list.

The board signed an updated transaction list for the week of April 27th 2023 that includes an additional payroll item.

Discuss/Review

Veteran's Credit Applications – The board approved All Veteran's Tax Credits of \$500 for Ackley Family Trust, map 14 lot 34 and Elmendorf FamilyTrust of 2022, map 15 lot 28.

Solar Energy Systems Exemption Application – Belenky – Map 26 Lot 17 – The board approved this application after confirming that the assessor verified the installation.

Automated External Defibrillator – Budget – Emergency Management Director Nate Hanson said as requested by Town Administrator Penney, he has looked at Automated External Defibrillators (AED) for town hall. He recommends a fixed location Zoll model which costs about \$1,460. Nate said he could arrange an instructor to teach people how to use the AED. TOTF Jan Cole said ARPA funds could be used for this type of purchase. The board discussed that the public hearing for this proposed use of ARPA funds could be held in conjunction with the request for police department retention bonuses. The board pondered other locations where an AED may be placed and registered with the state.

The Dutch Treat – Extension of Service Area Request – The board received a request from The Dutch Treat to extend their service area to outdoor tables in the front parking lot area. The board discussed that this area has been used for seating before and they didn't see any issue with full service being extended to that area. The board authorized Jenny Monahan to draft a letter to the State Liquor Commission stating that it has no objection to the extension of service area request.

Local Hazardous Mitigation Plan Update Grant – The board reviewed and signed the application for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funding. Chairman Brewer will complete the Certificate of Authority with Town Administrator Penney.

Correspondence

The board received a letter from Christie Shaw-Doran asking the board to consider being a more dog friendly community by way of installing excrement bag stations and receptacles in some walking areas throughout the town.

Additional Business:

Selectman Meth said he submitted the application on behalf of the town for additional ARPA funds that came available through the county and thanked County Commissioner Martha McLeod for her assistance with the process.

Chairman Brewer said the Conservation Commission meets tomorrow at 4PM at town hall and Selectman Meth said the Planning Board meets tomorrow at 7PM.

The board was then approached by Casella Territory Sales Representative Amber Vecchiarelli about the town's move to Mt. Carberry Landfill and hauling agreement with Normandeu Trucking. There followed a brief discussion about the town's choice to change its relationship with Casella and North

Country Environmental Services.

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 8:02PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jenny Monahan
Administrative Secretary