

**TOWN OF FRANCONIA
BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2021 AT 6:00PM AT TOWN HALL**

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Kim Cowles, Mary Grote, Dawn Steele, Peter Grote, Monica Laflamme, Jeremy Hall.

The meeting was called to order at 6:01pm

APPOINTMENTS/WORK SESSIONS:

None

TO SIGN/APPROVE:

The November 1, 2021 transaction list was reviewed and signed by the selectmen.

The minutes of October 18th, 2021 were approved as written and the minutes of October 25th, 2021 were approved as amended on a motion from Chairman Brewer and a second from Selectman Walker with all voting in favor.

A Septic Application for Map 28 Lot 92, 346 Mittersill Road was approved by the board.

A Timber Tax Warrant was signed by the board.

TO DISCUSS/REVIEW

Transfer Station PAYT Bag Increase: Town Administrator Cowles said that at the recent tri-town budget review meeting, the boards had voted to raise the price of the PAYT bags to offset shipping increases from the bag manufacturer. She said the small bags are now \$2 each and the large are \$3 each. The prices were made effective immediately and prices were changed at the local stores the day following the decision.

Highway Department Staffing: Town Administrator Cowles said Jeremy Hall applied for and was interviewed for the Road Agent position and has accepted an offer from the town. There is now a vacancy for an operator/laborer in the Highway Department that will need to be filled.

Town Wide Mask Ordinance: The board discussed that infection rates are currently trending downwards and feel it is promising that 5-11 year old children will be able to receive vaccinations soon. The Town Wide Mask Ordinance was not reinstated at this time.

CORRESPONDENCE

Town Administrator Cowles read a letter from the State Liquor Commissioner's office asking if the board has any objections to the Franconia Inn obtaining a liquor license. The establishment was previously licensed but has recently changed hands. The board had no objections.

Kim said the Master Plan Survey has been posted on the website.

Two proposals were received from property assessing companies. They are from Avitar Assessing and KRT. The board will review the proposals and discuss at a later time.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Broadband Initiative: Selectman Meth said the committee did not meet at the end of the month as anticipated. He said there is a new initiative between the New Hampshire Municipal Association and the National Collaborative for Digital Equity that aims to assist towns in getting broadband ready.

Chamber of Commerce: Selectman Walker said the next meeting is the annual meeting this month and that will be held via Zoom this year.

Conservation Commission: No update.

Energy Commission: No update, they did not meet.

Planning Board: Selectman Meth said the Planning Board met on the 26th and reviewed and finalized the Solar Ordinance and Sign Ordinance. The Master Plan survey is on the website and physical copies have been distributed at four locations in town. Dawn Steele presented a Keeping of Poultry Ordinance at the meeting.

CIP: The CIP met on October 27th with Chief Cashin (PD), Chief Schmucker (Life Squad) and Corey Rush (Buildings & Grounds).

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION

Selectman Meth said he received a letter from Victoria Stauches (Operations Manager for the Fox Hill Cooperative) informing the town that the co-op plans to tie into the town's water system in the spring. They do not have adequate funding available so ROC-NH recommends that the co-op apply for a Community Development Block Grant, but the town would need to apply for the grant for the co-op. Selectman Meth said he will follow up with Victoria for more details and report back.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Dawn Steele suggested giving the board members a copy of Avitar's current contract to review alongside the new proposal. Dawn also thanked Selectman Meth for all the time he devotes to different committees for the town and all the work he has put into updating the town's ordinances.

Dawn asked if the town has received the new tax rate yet. Town Administrator Cowles said not yet.

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 6:40pm on a motion from Chairman Brewer and a second from Selectman Walker with all voting in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jenny Monahan