

**TOWN OF FRANCONIA
BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2021 AT 6:00PM AT TOWN HALL**

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:01pm

APPOINTMENTS/WORK SESSIONS:

None

TO SIGN/APPROVE:

The November 8, 2021 transaction list was reviewed and signed by the selectmen.

The minutes of October 25th, 2021, Tri-town Budgets Review were approved as amended on a motion from Chairman Brewer and a second from Selectman Walker with all voting in favor.

A Driveway Application for Map 28 Lot 144, 58 Hubertus Ring, was approved by the board.

TO DISCUSS/REVIEW

Town Employee Wages: Town Administrator Cowles said that since Public Works Director Scott Leslie resigned, there had been a restructuring of the positions at the Highway Department, Transfer Station and Buildings and Grounds. Jeremy Hall has been promoted to Road Agent and will oversee the Highway Department. His pay is being increased by \$5 per hour. Tim Blake is now the Transfer Station Manager and has received a pay increase of \$2.50 per hour. Town Administrator Cowles received an annual increase of \$1,734. Jim Cyrs and Corey Rush are both receiving an additional \$1 per hour.

Library Lift and Utility Line Update: Town Administrator Cowles read a letter from the NH Charitable Foundation that informs the town that they have approved a \$16,502 grant to the town from an anonymous donor. The grant is to purchase an outside lift for the library. The total project will cost a little over \$80,000 and Town Administrator Cowles said the town is expecting another donation for the difference. The donor is also offering to pay to remove the utility pole and bury the power line.

CORRESPONDENCE

Town Administrator Cowles said Kris Pastoriza wrote a letter stating that it would be safer to have a right turn marker with a right turn arrow at the corner of the intersection next to the gas station. Town Administrator Cowles said she contacted NHDOT about this about a month ago and has a tentative meeting with this Wednesday at 1pm and she will ask them to examine the issue.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Broadband Initiative: Selectman Meth said the committee has not met and there is no meeting scheduled currently.

Chamber of Commerce: No update at this time.

Conservation Commission: No update at this time.

Energy Commission: No update at this time. He thinks they will meet the third week of November.

Planning Board: Selectman Meth said the Planning Board will meet tomorrow at 7pm. They have a lot line adjustment application and they will likely discuss the resident feedback from the recent public hearing for the Sign Ordinance, Noise Ordinance and Solar Ordinance.

CIP: Selectmen Walker said the CIP met with Road Agent Jeremy Hall, Fire Chief Rick Gaudette and Transfer Station Manager Tim Blake. He said there was discussion with Chief Gaudette about the potential for regionalizing the Safety Services with the other tri-towns and possibly other nearby towns as well.

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION

Town Administrator Cowles said the town has not yet received the new tax rate yet from the Dept. of Revenue Administration (DRA). She also let the board now that an assessor from DRA has been visiting properties in town to verify Avitar's assessments. The town also has to update its Current Use files and verify resident tax credits and exemptions as part of this process.

The board will meet to discuss the assessing company proposals received by Avitar Associates and KRT. She said Carol Wills, Sally Small and Dawn Steele will be invited to discuss the proposals with the board. The meeting will be on November 15th at 4pm at Town Hall.

Selectman Walker said he spoke with Dr. Ed Duffy and he offered to serve as the town's Health Officer.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Virginia Mike questioned how many houses Avitar does an interior assessment on and said she has had difficulty getting an interior assessment appointment with them.

Dawn Steele said there is a house in Forest Hills that does not appear to have an updated assessment when compared with its real estate listing and would like to know how that can be addressed. There followed a lengthy discussion about the process of updating houses that have had renovations done.

There was next a discussion about the process for determining employee pay scales.

Dawn Steele asked if the Keeping of Poultry Ordinance would be addressed at the public hearing next week.

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
Administrative Secretary