

**TOWN OF FRANCONIA
BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 9, 2020 AT 3PM AT TOWN HALL**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Eric Meth, Jill Brewer, Jeff Blodgett.

OTHERS PRESENT: Kim Cowles, Jenny Monahan, Mary Grote, Dawn Steele, Lynn Terres, Karen Foss.

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

APPOINTMENTS:

None.

TO SIGN/APPROVE:

The October 26, 2020 meeting minutes were approved as written.

The November 9, 2020 transaction list was signed by the Selectmen.

CRF Reimbursements to the General Fund – The Selectmen approved the following trust fund transfers to the general fund totaling \$294,705.05.

- Sidewalk Improvement: \$34,800
- Bridge Construction/Maintenance: \$37,755
- Police Cruiser: \$43,356.04
- Cemetery Maintenance: \$1,563.94
- Highway Improvement: \$158,100
- Highway Heavy Equipment: \$14,130.07
- Scholarship Trust Fund: \$5,000

TO DISCUSS/REVIEW:

Face Covering Ordinance: In light of the spiking Covid numbers in the state, Health Officer Dr. Charles Wolcott sent a Face Covering Ordinance that Plymouth recently enacted to the selectmen for their consideration. The selectmen discussed that the ordinance would mandate that the public wear masks in most indoor social circumstances and would be punishable with a fine for violations. The Selectmen opted to table the ordinance until the next meeting so they can talk to Chief Cashin about enforcement issues.

Welcome Center Update: Town Administrator Cowles provided a floor plan of the proposed Welcome Center for the selectmen. The facility will have two bathrooms, a space for the Chamber of Commerce, a warming area for ice skaters and storage areas. The plan shows the roof will be slanted for the installation of solar panels.

Town Administrator Update: Town Administrator Cowles said the annual contract for the town's auditors, Plodzick & Sanderson was received and requires signatures. The contract price has increased

\$200 this year. Chairman Brewer signed the contract.

We are still waiting for the tax rate from the Dept. of Revenue Administration so the town's 2021 tax rate can be set.

Healthtrust rates for 2021 were received and will be increasing 6.4%.

Intent to Cut applications for Map 24 Lot 67 and Map 11 Lot 8 were signed by Chairman Brewer.

Public Works Director Scott Leslie would like to purchase a 42" cutter for the excavator that would help with roadside mowing. The item is \$5,600 and he is hoping the funds can come from the Highway Block Grant.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Cable Consortium: Selectman Meth said there is a Zoom meeting today at 4:30pm for anyone that would like to attend. Carol Miller, the state's Director of Broadband Technology and Michelle Moren-Grey of North Country Council will be attending. Town Administrator Cowles will put the link to the meeting on the website.

Chamber of Commerce: No update at this time.

Conservation Commission: Chairman Brewer said the CC will meet on the 17th at 3:00pm.

Energy Commission: The Energy Commission will have Megan Schleck of Raising Green do a presentation at their meeting on Tuesday the 17th.

Planning Board: Selectmen Meth said the PB is meeting tomorrow at 7:00pm.

CIP: Department head interviews are complete. The committee will meet again with Scott for additional information on roads.

PUBLIC INPUT:

Mary Grote suggested that the Welcome Center drawings be added to the website so residents can be kept up to date and offer input. She also asked if the Chamber of Commerce will contribute to costs for the Welcome Center as there is a space planned for them in the facility. Town Administrator Cowles said that at the least she hopes to have them pay rent to cover building operating expenses.

Karen Foss said the Master Plan for the town is quite overdue and that should be addressed with the Planning Board.

Dawn Steele asked if there had been any consideration to the previous request of doing payroll bi-weekly as to do so would save some money. She also asked if Keith Batchelder's recommendations about short term rentals and the Transfer Station have been further considered.

Regarding the proposed Face Covering Ordinance, Karen Foss asked how news of its existence would be disseminated to the public for appropriate awareness.

The board entered nonpublic session at 3:37pm pursuant to RSA 91-A:3,II(a)(c). The board left nonpublic session at 3:47pm. With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 3:56pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jenny Monahan
Administrative Secretary