

TOWN OF FRANCONIA
BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, OCTOBER 17th, 2022 AT 5:00PM AT TOWN HALL

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Kim Cowles, Jenny Monahan, Larry Plate, Steve Plant, Jan Cole, Mike & Tina Betley, Karen Foss, Dawn Steele, Monica Laflamme, Lynn Terres, Ann Foss, Virginia Mike, Ann Foss, Rosaline Page, Chris Nicodemus, Chief Mac Cashin

The meeting was called to order at 5:05pm.

APPOINTMENTS/WORK SESSIONS

5:00pm – Jan Cole – Unassigned Fund Balance Work Session: The selectmen discussed concerns with risk management, citing such issues as the potential for an unexpected major water department expenditure, the issues with fire and EMS services the town is currently experiencing, major weather events or natural disasters, bridges in need of maintenance and other infrastructure issues, unforeseen legal expense and having funds available for when the general fund is low in between taxes being collected. Funding for goals in the town's master plan was briefly discussed as well as anticipated difficulties with forecasting for 2023 budgets with inflation affecting fuel, goods and services costs. 2022 revenues from recreation, motor vehicle and the transfer station are in the expected ranges. No significant changes are expected in revenue from the state at this time. It is not yet clear what amount may be contributed to the fund balance after this year. Shoring up capital reserve funds for the town's assets to be more in line with today's market values to insure a stable future tax rate was discussed as a potential way to return fund balance dollars to the taxpayers.

Rosalind Page – Ammonoosuc Conservation Trust – Jericho Cooley Forest Draft MOU: After meeting with the board previously and providing a draft memorandum of understanding for the management of the community forest, Rosalind met with the board to receive feedback on the memorandum. Inquiries and requests from Easton, Sugar Hill and Landaff were reviewed, such as ACT providing an annual report on the forest for publication in the town annual report, ACT having to remain a non-profit organization, allowing the town to have two representatives on the stewardship board and how timber revenue would be handled. The selectmen had no objections to the proposed amendments to the MOU. Rosalind said a draft incorporating the feedback from the towns would be prepared and reviewed by their counsel and then she will meet with the board again.

Steve Plant – Treasurer's Report: Steve said that there were discrepancies between the town and Municipal Resources Inc. quarterly reporting for June's reconciliation. He said this was due to some deposits being miscategorized and an incorrect VALIC payment. He said the errors were located and corrected and hopes the monthly reconciliations from MRI will be timelier in the future

Chief Cashin – Grant Opportunities & PD Update: Chief Cashin said the police department's administrative assistant has recently applied for a number of equipment grants and a Franconia Highway Safety Grant that could offset wages for increased highway patrol. He said he has planned for his

budget to cover any required matching funds. The board supported the grant applications and signed the required paperwork.

Chief Cashin said there has been an uptick in shoplifting at the market and all have been addressed. He said there has been a spike in motor vehicle violations as well.

Chief Cashin said the town should anticipate an increase in the prosecuting budget and it may be quite significant. He said the town contracts with Littleton to use their prosecutor and it has been very cost effective but he has been informed that a large increase should be expected for 2023. He will update the board when he has more information.

The parking on the road situation caused by the overflow from Echo Beach parking lot was briefly discussed. Chief said many tickets were written last weekend and the situation eats up officer's time for other duties. State police assisted in writing tickets.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment was taken from Jan Cole and Mike Betley

TO SIGN/APPROVE

The October 17th, 2022 transaction report was reviewed and signed by the selectmen.

The minutes of October 3rd, 2022 were approved with amendments requested by a resident.

An Intent to Cut application for map 24 lot 55 – Rockwood Road – was signed by the board.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE

Town Administrator Cowles said some work had been done to address the drainage issue in front of the town hall's garage bay as well as repair work on the eave there and gutters were added. Gutters were also added at the transfer station. The playground swings also need replacement parts and that cost will be \$1,362.08 to come from Dow Field fund.

Chairman Brewer made a motion to expend \$1,362.08 from the Dow Field fund. Selectman Walker seconded the motion with all voting in favor. **Motion passes.**

Town Administrator Cowles said the garage doors at the Mittersill Fire station need repair. The repair will cost \$930 and come from the building maintenance fund.

Health Insurance will be increasing by 11% for 2023. HealthTrust representative Andy Struth will be visiting with employees and Town Administrator Cowles on October 27th. Dental plans will also be discussed.

Having North Country Council assist with the facilitation of the newly updated Master Plan will cost about \$11,000.

CORRESPONDENCE: Cornelia Loritzen of Plain Kate's and All Ways Inn wrote to Town Administrator Cowles and feels that the health of her trees was negatively affected by the installation of the new

sidewalks.

The residents of 72 Woodchuck Trail wrote to the board asking that the town pave the cul-de-sac at the end of Woodchuck Trail and said they have asked many times and the dirt cul-de-sac causes diminished property values and creates hazardous conditions in winter.

The selectmen briefly discussed the condition of the cul-de-sac and the number of homes on the cul-de-sac (one).

With no further business to discuss, Chairman Brewer made a motion to enter non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (a) – Personnel at 6:55pm. Selectman Walker seconded the motion with all voting in favor.

The board left non-public session at 7:25pm on a motion from Chairman Brewer with a second from Selectman Walker with all voting in favor.

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 7:25pm on a motion from Chairman Brewer and a second from Selectman Meth with all voting in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jenny Monahan
Administrative Secretary