

**TOWN OF FRANCONIA  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S REGULAR MEETING  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2021 AT 6PM AT TOWN HALL**

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

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Kim Cowles, Mary Grote, Dawn Steele, Jayne O'Connor, Virginia Mike, Peter Grote, Karen Foss.

**The meeting was called to order at 6:04pm**

**APPOINTMENTS/WORK SESSIONS:**

**5:30pm Non-Public Session for Personnel**

**The public meeting was called to order at 6:00pm**

**TO SIGN/APPROVE:**

The October 18, 2021 transaction list was reviewed and signed by the selectmen.

**DISCUSS/REVIEW:**

**2022 Health Insurance Rates:** Town Administrator Cowles informed the board that health insurance rates are declining 8.1% for 2022.

**Health Insurance Return of Surplus:** Town Administrator Cowles said the return of surplus from HealthTrust is anticipated to be approximately \$18,000. She said the payment can be retained by HealthTrust and applied to a premium holiday or paid to the town directly. No decision was made.

**Water Department – Commissioner Jeff Bartlett:** The Water Department would like to obtain a credit card and due to the Water Department's checking account being associated with the towns Tax ID number, Woodsville Guaranty is requesting documentation that the selectmen approve of the Water Department having its own credit card and for that approval to be reflected in the minutes.

After a brief discussion, Selectman Walker made a motion to allow the minutes to reflect the board's approval of the Water Department obtaining their own credit card. Chairman Brewer seconded the motion with all voting in favor. **Motion passes.**

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Town Administrator Cowles said she has been in discussion with Kevin Johnson about the town's approaching semiquincentennial in 2023. Kevin is willing to oversee the planning for the event. After a brief discussion, the board stated its support to have Kevin be the lead for organizing the event.

Gary Harwood of Ammonoosuc Conservation Trust contacted Town Administrator Cowles about inviting the selectmen to a walkthrough of the Lawrence Property. Selectmen that wish to join the walk can

contact Gary directly.

Town Administrator Cowles read a letter from the Franconia Notch Regional Chamber of Commerce thanking the town for its \$9,000 appropriation and providing some updates on the chamber's operations.

Town Administrator Cowles read a letter commending the upkeep and appearance of Elmwood Cemetery.

Selectman Meth read a letter that was from one of the petitioners of 2021 warrant article 27, which asked voters to urge the NH General Court to carry out the redistricting that will be necessary following the federal census in a fair and transparent way by holding public meetings and without gerrymandering. The petitioner would like the select board to communicate the town's support of article 27 to the NH House & Senate. Selectman Meth will follow up on this.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Broadband Initiative:** Selectman Meth said the committee hasn't met since his previous update but hopefully will meet on Friday the 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Chamber of Commerce:** No update.

**CIP:** Selectman Walker said this year's first meeting is scheduled for October 27<sup>th</sup> at 4pm at town hall.

**Conservation Commission:** No update.

**Energy Commission:** Selectman Meth said the Solar Ordinance was sent to the Planning Board for their review.

**Planning Board:** Selectman Meth said the Planning Board meets on the 26<sup>th</sup> at 7pm to begin their review of the Solar and Sign and Ordinances in preparation for the public hearings scheduled for November 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION:**

Town Administrator Cowles said the Tri-Towns will be meeting on Oct. 27<sup>th</sup> to review the Transfer Station and Recreation budgets.

This Saturday, the Halloween Cup will be held on the Dow.

The bonfire and trick or treating will be held on Halloween, Saturday the 31<sup>st</sup> on the Dow.

On Monday November 1<sup>st</sup> at 7pm the first public hearing will be held to discuss the Noise Ordinance, Sign Ordinance and to review the new Solar Ordinance. The second hearing will be held on the 15<sup>th</sup>. Both hearings will be at town hall.

The annual Wobble Gobble 5K is confirmed for Thanksgiving.

Chairman Brewer said the Profile dance held on the Dow using the pavilion received great reviews from attendees and they would like to utilize the space more in the future.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Dawn Steele said she attended the Planning Board meeting Tuesday and presented the draft Noise Ordinance and Chairman Thad Presby suggested some changes. Dawn provided the recommendations to the board for their review. There followed a lengthy discussion about the suggested changes and the reasons proposed for them, and additional discussion about livestock in the Noise Ordinance.

A gentleman commented that the name decided on for the town's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration has been decided as "semiquincentennial".

Mary Grote commented that the Town Wide Mask Ordinance has not been discussed for several meetings. Virginia Mike followed up to comment on increasing Covid cases possible infection trends.

Dawn Steele asked about the status of a new Health Officer for the town.

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 6:48pm on a motion from Chairman Brewer and a second from Selectman Walker with all voting in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jenny Monahan