

**Town of Franconia
Board of Selectmen
Regular Meeting & Public Hearing
Monday, October 23, 2023 at 6PM
at Franconia Town Hall**

Board Members Present: Jill Brewer, Dan Walker, Eric Meth

Others in Attendance: Libby Staples, Jenny Monahan, Chief Mac Cashin, Sgt. Ryan Jarvis, Adam Clark, Steve Schwartz, Pat Garvin, Monica Laflamme, Jayne O'Connor, Karen Foss, Peter & Mary Grote, Lynn Terres, Dawn Steele, Virginia Mike, other unknown attendees.

The meeting was called to order at 6:03PM

Appointments/Work Sessions

Police Department – Swearing in of New Officer: Adam Clark was sworn in by Chairman Brewer, followed by welcoming remarks from Chief Cashin.

Public Hearing for Unanticipated Grant Funds (InvestNH): Chairman Brewer said this funding is \$40,000 and is associated with the building at the Hillwinds property that has been converted from hotel rooms to apartments.

Virginia Mike said she had heard that the property does not qualify for the grant funding as it has always been a motel renting short-term. The board was not aware of any issue with this. Pat Garvin said the grant guidelines state that the property has to be offered as long-term rentals for five years or the grant funds would need to be returned.

Pat Garvin provided the board with a document detailing what the grant funds can be used for. She also requested a significant portion of the funds for Planning Board use such as printing the Master Plan.

There was discussion about when the funds may be received. Town Administrator Staples said the state will not release the funds for disbursement until December 20th so it is possible they may not be received during 2023.

There was no further comment from the public. Chairman Brewer made a motion to accept the \$40,000 of grant funds from InvestNH. Selectman Walker seconded, motion passes.

Chairman Brewer signed an updated Certificate of Authority authorizing Town Administrator Staples to execute the contracts and agreements for the InvestNH grant.

The public hearing was closed at 6:15PM and the regular meeting resumed.

Public Comment

Dawn Steele said tomorrow's Planning Board meeting is not on the calendar. Dawn Steele asked about trick or treating on the Dow. Dawn Steele brought a picture to the board of cobwebs on the Public Safety Building and said it needs to be cleaned. Dawn Steele asked if any of the people on the STR spreadsheet that the town did not have registrations for have been contacted. Virginia Mike commented about unregistered STR's being noticed, too. Monica Laflamme said that part of the original STR plan was to use STR registration revenue to pay someone to administrate the program a couple hours per week. Dawn Steele commented that she doesn't think wage increases at this time of year are appropriate unless its a changed job description.

To Sign/Approve

The board reviewed and approved the October 20th to October 26th transaction list.

The minutes of October 16th, 2023 were approved as written.

To Discuss/Review

Community Power Coalition of NH – Membership Invitation: Selectman Meth said the energy commission would like to accept the invitation for the town to join the Community Power Coalition of NH and that three documented motions are required to join as well as two public hearings which will be held jointly with Bethlehem and Sugar Hill on December 7th and December 14th. He said the hearings will include powerpoint presentations made by personnel from CPCNH.

Selectman Meth moved to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into the “Joint Powers Agreement” of Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire under the provisions of New Hampshire RSA 53-A for the purpose of supporting member municipalities and counties in developing and implementing electric aggregation plans, pursuant to RSA 53-E, as well as related statutory authorities. Second by Chairman Brewer, motion passes.

Selectman Meth moved to appoint Chuck Lukasic to serve as Franconia’s primary representative to CPCNH and David Strange to serve as an alternate representative. Second by Selectman Walker, motion passes.

Selectman Meth moved to appoint the Energy Commission as the Electric Aggregation Committee pursuant to RSA 53-E:6 to oversee the development of a plan for an electric aggregation program. Second by Selectman Walker, motion passes.

Buildings & Grounds PT Employee Wages: This item will be discussed at the end of the meeting in non-public session.

Correspondence

Town Administrator Staples shared a note from Andy Smith and Chrissy Smith thanking the board for their time at the last meeting.

Town Administrator Staples said the 1st graders will be visiting town hall and the library as part of a “get to know the people in your town” day this week on Thursday.

Town Administrator Staples said she researched signs to put in front of town hall and the price is about \$3,000 based on several quotes. She said this could be added to the 2024 budget.

The board entered non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (a) at 6:45PM on a motion from Chairman Brewer and a second from Selectman Walker with all voting in favor. .

The board left non-public session at 7:15PM. With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15PM.

Respectfully,

Jenny Monahan
Executive Assistant