

TOWN OF FRANCONIA
BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12th, 2022 AT 6:00PM AT TOWN HALL

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Kim Cowles, Jenny Monahan, Chief Mac Cashin, Mary Grote, Pat Garvin, Monica Laflamme, Virginia Mike, Dawn Steele, Paul Hayes, Mike Jacobs, Robert Sacks

The meeting was called to order at 6:01pm.

APPOINTMENTS/WORK SESSIONS

6:00pm – Rosalind Page of Ammonoosuc Conservation Trust (ACT) – Cooley-Jericho Forest Draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU): Rosalind said ACT and the town had been working together in 2018 to develop an MOU for management of the Cooley-Jericho Forest but the agreement was never finalized. The 840-acre parcel is located entirely in Easton but abuts Franconia town forest and was purchased in 2013 with funds from Easton, Franconia, Sugar Hill and Landaff. Rosalind asked that the board review the draft MOU and she will return to discuss at the October 17th meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment was taken from Dawn Steele, Mike Betley, Larry Plate and Virginia Mike.

TO SIGN/APPROVE

The September 12th, 2022 transaction report was reviewed and signed by the selectmen.

The minutes of August 29th, 2022 were approved as written.

A driveway application for Map 28 Lot 11, Alpen Hill Road was approved by the selectmen pending the approval of Fire Chief Gaudette.

Commemorative License Plate: Selectman Walker said he has worked with Grafton County Dept. of Corrections to develop a design proof, which he provided to the board and the public for review. After reviewing the proof and the letter for the Dept. of Safety requesting permission to have the sign produced as part of the town's 250th anniversary celebration, the board approved the design and signed the letter. Selectman Walker said the design incorporates artwork from Moira North that was used on the 2018 town report cover and proceeds above costs will be donated to a local charity.

TO DISCUSS/REVIEW

Risk Analysis for Unassigned Fund Balance: Chairman Brewer said the Unassigned Fund Balance (UFB) is moving in the right direction, although slowly. The balance is still higher than the town would like it to be but the difference between the actual unassigned fund balance and the goal unassigned fund balance has slightly decreased. Resident Jan Cole agreed to continue assisting the board with the UFB plan and agreed to meet with the board on October 3rd at 5:00pm to begin the work.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE

Town Administrator Cowles said Water Dept. Commissioner Jeff Bartlett has stepped down so a replacement will need to be found and appointed to serve the remainder of his term.

The state's primary election is tomorrow and voting is from 8am to 7pm at town hall. The parking lot is currently being paved so a section will be paved before voting begins to allow access to the elevator for those that will need it. Alternate parking will be offered at the church next door to town hall.

The selectmen discussed their schedules for tomorrow and who will be present at town hall during the election. It became apparent that a selectmen designee would be needed for part of the day.

Chairman Brewer made a motion to appoint Jenny Monahan as a selectmen designee from 8am to 3pm on Tuesday, September 13th. Selectman Walker seconded the motion with all voting in favor. **Motion passes.**

Town Administrator Cowles said CIP began meeting today. They will meet with the Police Dept. and Transfer Station next week.

Some unanticipated revenue was received at part of the Highway Block Grant. It was about \$41,000 and needs to be used before June 30th, 2023. It is a consideration to use the funds for Lafayette Bridge engineering.

A larger speaker and additional microphones have been set up in town hall for use during meetings.

Correspondence: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Broadband Committee: Selectman Meth said the next meeting is Thursday the 15th at 4:30pm via Zoom and there will be a presentation from Netafy. He said an RFP should be out in about a month looking for Internet Service Providers. He said he spoke with a woman from Northern Community Investment Corporation about the "high level design" that will facilitate the completion of the middle mile and will likely be placed at town hall. Selectman Meth confirmed that the town is not responsible for the cost of the high-level design. Some new members have joined the committee.

Chamber of Commerce: No update at this time.

Capital Improvements Plan Committee: The CIP began meeting today. They have some new members this year and Steve Plant accepted the chairmanship. Their next meeting will be Monday the 19th at 3pm at town hall.

Conservation Commission: Chairman Brewer said the purchase of the Fini property has been completed and the commission is now hoping to work with the town on the terms of the conservation of the property.

Energy Commission: Selectman Meth said the Energy Commission met last Thursday the 8th at 4:30. He said he also attended the selectmen's meeting in Sugar Hill today to hear a presentation on Community

Power Aggregation which seeks to regionalize communities so they can negotiate better rates collectively. He anticipates the Energy Commission will be looking into energy aggregation more closely. Electric Vehicle chargers were also discussed and he thinks a member of the EC will be spearheading the research on that and making a presentation to the selectmen at some point. Selectman Meth said there will be an electric vehicle expo at the Bethlehem Public Library on Saturday, October 1st.

Planning Board: Selectman Meth said the planning board reviewed and approved two site plans (T&T Mtn. Investments and TTD Meadow Realty) at their meeting on August 30th. The next meeting is scheduled for the 27th at 7pm at town hall.

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 7:04pm on a motion from Selectman Chairman Brewer and a second from Selectman Walker with all voting in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jenny Monahan
Administrative Secretary