

**TOWN OF FRANCONIA
BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 14, 2020 AT 3PM AT TOWN HALL**

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Kim Cowles, Jenny Monahan, Peter Grote, Mary Grote, Dawn Steele, Martha McLeod.

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

APPOINTMENTS:

3:00 Tripp Legendre – Consolidated Communications – The Broadband Bonding Process: Tripp provided information to the Selectmen about the benefits of installing fiber-optic internet and beginning the process of securing a bond.

3:30 Megan Schleck – Raise Green – Solar Power: Megan provided an overview of the process for creating and financing a solar project through Raise Green.

TO SIGN/APPROVE:

The August 31st, 2020 meeting minutes were approved as written.

The Avitar Update Agreement was signed by the Selectmen.

The September 14, 2020 transaction list was signed by the Selectmen.

The Selectmen formalized their approvals of the following funds transfers:

Chairman Brewer made a motion to approve a transfer of \$313,674 from the General Fund to the Capital Reserve Expendable Trust Fund. Selectman Meth seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Motion passes.

Chairman Brewer made a motion to approve a transfer of \$216,919 from the General Fund to the Capital Reserve Fund. Selectman Meth seconded the motion. All were in favor. **Motion passes.**

Chairman Brewer made a motion to approve a transfer of \$44,625 from the General Fund to the Capital Reserve Fund. Selectman Meth seconded the motion. All were in favor. **Motion passes.**

Chairman Brewer made a motion to approve a transfer of \$500 from the General Fund to the Energy Capital Reserve Fund. Selectman Meth seconded the motion. All were in favor. **Motion passes.**

TO DISCUSS/REVIEW:

Dow Appreciation Sign – A resident inquired with the Selectmen about the status of an appreciation effort to create a plaque for Harriet Taylor for her many years of service with the Dow clock. The idea was originally discussed about a year ago.

Selectmen Meth said there is going to be a commemorative plaque placed at the Dow Academy to honor Harriet Taylor and possibly her father for his service with the clock. He said there had been some discussion on how the plaque should be worded and a picture of Harriet was being chosen. Selectmen Meth said the project is moving forward through the Academy.

Franconia Soaring Foundation Tax Exemption Application: Chairman Brewer said the Selectmen had reviewed the application and she agreed with the town's assessor that it doesn't qualify for tax exemption as a charitable organization. Selectman Meth and Blodgett agreed. The application was rejected.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE: As Kim was called away for a fire call earlier in the meeting, Chairman Brewer provided an update that the Water Department has instituted an outdoor water ban for all Franconia and Mittersill customers due to the drought conditions, asking residents to refrain from any outdoor water use at this time.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Cable Consortium: No update at this time.

Chamber of Commerce: Selectman Blodgett said the Chamber is having difficulties with attracting new board members and working on some other issues at this time.

Conservation Commission: No update at this time.

Energy Commission: No update at this time.

Planning Board: Selectman Meth expects the Planning Board will resume monthly meetings this month.

CIP: Selectmen Blodgett said the CIP has had their first meeting of the year. He said he examined some of the town hall safety assessment documents and was curious where it was stated that there is an occupancy limit on the town hall due to fire safety issues.

PUBLIC INPUT:

Mary Grote asked how formal an analysis has been done on the planning of the new warming hut. The Selectmen said the project planning is in its infancy and the details of the site and the building have not been decided yet.

Mary also asked if the board has considered using other companies for our assessing needs and suggested the board consider other companies.

Following Mary's suggestion, Dawn Steele commented that some properties sold this spring have not been updated on the online Avitar map of the town.

Dawn also commented that the town hall safety inefficiencies were discussed at a board meeting with Chief Gaudette and those minutes outlined what was said.

Dawn also asked what the selectmen were thinking of the Airbnb topic after Keith Batchelder shared his thoughts and some other town's policies with the board recently. She said there are some rentals that are not included on Airbnb listings and she wondered if they are paying Room & Meals tax. Dawn also expressed concern that rental properties are setting off fireworks while there are extremely dry conditions and questioned if there were any regulations that could be enforced to stop that.

As there was no further public discussion, the board entered non-public session at 4:14pm for reasons of personnel. The board left non public session at 4:35pm.

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 4:35pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jenny Monahan
Administrative Secretary