

**Town of Franconia  
Board of Selectmen's Regular Meeting  
Monday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
at 4PM at Town Hall**

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

**Others Present:** Libby Staples, Jenny Monahan, Peter & Mary Grote, Dawn Steele, Steve Schwartz

**The meeting was called to order at 4:00PM.**

**Public Comment**

Dawn Steele commented that the minutes of the last selectmen's meeting were not on the website as of an hour ago. Steve Schwartz asked if any progress has been made on forming a committee to evaluate a plan for roads. Dawn Steele said Paul Pinkham did a great job on Forest Hill's roads. Dawn commented that there are no minutes for the ZBA for 2024 on the website and no updated minutes for the Planning Board since February. Dawn said the Planning Board is not posting their regular meetings. Dawn said the Planning Board previous agendas are not available on the website and she thinks it would be easier to find minutes for certain meetings if they were. Peter Grote said the last few meetings of the ZBA have not followed correct procedure and it is concerning and a secretary is needed for the ZBA. Mary Grote commented that the Planning Board meetings are not being properly posted. Dawn commented on the number of members on the ZBA.

**To Sign/Approve**

**Minutes of April 29th, 2024** – Approved as written.

**Transaction List – May 10th thru May 16th, 2024** – Signed by the selectmen.

**1st Issue 2024 Property Tax Warrant** – Signed by the selectmen.

**Septic Application – Ferguson – Map 22 Lot 4-5** – Signed by the selectmen.

**Septic Application – Klotz – Map 33 Lot 3-1** – Signed by the selectmen.

**Property Tax Abatement – Bartlett – Map 28 Lot 119** – This abatement was requested by Tax Collector Wills due to the property owner's financial institution paying the incorrect amount which was quickly corrected. The selectmen approved this abatement.

**Veteran's Credit Applications – Susan & Mark Ober and Bush Revocable Trust** – Reviewed and approved by the selectmen.

**Property Tax Abatement Request – Map 16 Lot 33 – Kushawaha:** Chairman Brewer read the review of the property from Assessor Dave Woodward and his recommendation to deny the request for tax abatement. Chairman Brewer made a motion to deny the property tax abatement request for 76 Franconia Mountains Road. Selectman Meth seconds, Selectman Walker abstains. **Motion passes.**

**Notice of Intent to Cut Wood or Timber – T&T Mtn. Investments -Map 13 Lot 22 – Lafayette Drive (cont. operation) – Signed by the selectmen.**

**To Discuss/Review**

Town Administrator Staples said that due to the completion of the new fire truck being delayed resulting in the first payment being pushed back to September from April, interest has been added to the first payment in the amount of \$1,058. The additional funds are not available in the Fire Department budget but are available in the Police Department wages budget. Town Administrator Staples said the funds can be transferred from the Police Department budget to the Fire Department budget by the board.

Chairman Brewer made a motion to transfer \$1,058 from the Police Department budget to the Fire Department budget. Selectman Meth seconds, **motion passes unanimously.**

**Emergency Management Director Hourly Wage** – Town Administrator Staples said an hourly rate needs to be determined for this position so that the EMD hours spent on the FEMA declared storms can be claimed for reimbursement and for the emergency mitigation grant the town is pursuing. After some discussion, the board decided on \$30 for the hourly rate.

**ZBA Appointment – Tim Klotz** – Chairman Brewer read a letter from Tim expressing his interest in being appointed to the ZBA and his relevant experience. The board agreed to appoint Tim to the ZBA as a voting member and signed the appointment record.

**Correspondence**

Town Administrator Staples said Sugar Hill Administrative Assistant Jen Gaudette reached out to schedule a tri-town meeting. After a brief discussion, the board decided to schedule it for June 10<sup>th</sup> at 4pm at Franconia town hall. The board also discussed the Memorial Day holiday schedule and decided to meet on Tuesday, May 28<sup>th</sup> at 4pm.

Selectman Meth let everyone know that a celebration of life for George McNeil will be held at the Sunset Hill House on Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup> at 2pm.

Selectman Walker alerted the board to a new telephone pole that was erected at Academy Street to support the leaning pole on the church lot across the street via a wire across the road. Selectman Walker said he reached out to Matt Koehler at Eversource to intervene as the town spent money to bury the wires in the village area in the 90's. He will keep the board updated on this topic.

**Committee Reports**

**Broadband Committee:** Selectman Meth said there is no meeting in May but will be meeting in June with a representative from Fidium in June.

**Chamber of Commerce:** No update, has not met this month.

**Capital Improvements Plan:** Had a preliminary meeting and will begin meeting regularly for the season.

**Conservation Commission:** Chairman Brewer was not able to attend the last meeting and will update later when she has reviewed the meeting minutes.

**Energy Commission:** Selectman Meth said next meeting is the 21<sup>st</sup> at 4:30 at town hall or the pavilion. He thanked Town Administrator Staples for her assistance with the solar back up battery and the solar tax credit filing.

**Planning Board:** Meets tomorrow at 6pm and Tara Bamford will be giving a presentation via Zoom.

Chairman Brewer made a motion to enter non-public session at 4:47pm for reasons of reputation, seconded by Selectman Walker.

The board left non-public session at 5:10pm. With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 5:10pm.

Respectfully,

Jenny Monahan  
Executive Assistant