Members Present: Thad Presby (Chair), Mark Hesler, Mary Grote, John Dimarzio, and Eric Meth

Others Present: Karen Foss, Trevor Presby, Peter Grote, Kim Cowles, and Carol Wills

A regular meeting of the Franconia Planning Board was held via Zoom on Tuesday, January 12, 2021.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05pm by Thad Presby.

**7:05PM – CIP Committee, Presentation of 2021 Budget**

Karen Foss presented the CIP budget for 2021 to the Planning Board (attached), highlighting the following items:

There are no vehicles being purchased this year. All of the vehicles are being funded according to the schedule. The police purchased a new vehicle in 2020 so the funding going forward is slightly higher.

The State will be repaving Main Street this summer and the sidewalk needs to be rebuilt from Route 142 to the Catholic church. It will take everything that is in the CIP fund toward that project and additional funds will have to come from other sources (i.e., taxation, grants, etc.) There will be a warrant article presented at town meeting.

The Bickford Hill bridge was rebuilt in 2020 for a total cost of $183,000.00. Funding for the bridge maintenance capital reserve at $5,000.00 a year is clearly not sufficient. The recommendation is to have a more comprehensive plan to inventory the bridges and try to estimate what the cost of those repairs are going to be. A warrant article to establish a certain amount of money to go into the CIP to fund that is recommended so the town does not have to come up with the monies all at once. There are four town bridges: the Hillwinds bridge, the Delage Farm Road bridge, the Lafayette Road bridge, and the Bickford Hill bridge. The State inspects the bridges, but the town is responsible for the cost to replace/repair them. The Lafayette Road bridge is the same age as the Bickford Hill bridge and there are plans to regrade the top this summer, so probably in about five years the same work that was done to the Bickford Hill bridge will need to be done to the Lafayette Road bridge.

After a lengthy discussion it was agreed that a warrant article be prepared for town meeting asking voters to raise the amount of $40,000.00 ($200,000.00 over five years) to fund the Lafayette Road bridge repair.

Buildings Maintenance is being funded at $30,000.00 a year. Cory Rush put together a comprehensive document of all the buildings in town and all the capital components which will assist in deciding on a reasonable replacement schedule and priorities.

The Police Department, Life Squad, and Fire Department do not have any action in 2021; however, Chief Gaudette is considering trading in the rescue truck and the Sutphen Pumper for a single, more versatile and reliable vehicle because the Sutphen Pumper has high maintenance costs.

The recreation van has been put on the schedule and the other towns contribute to that and it comes out of the recreation budget, but it does look like it’s an increase in the year-to-year funding.

There was discussion regarding the Life Squad budget, bookkeeping, and Comstar, their billing service. Kim stated that she has discussed the Life Squad with the auditors and they are going to discuss it more when they come up in February, and Comstar will be involved in the conversation because there have to be checks and balances on what is being billed out and how the decisions are being made to not collect all those monies.

There was discussion regarding replacement of the ambulance. It was agreed that any surplus money from the Life Squad line item each year can be put into a capital reserve fund that is set up for the ambulance replacement. The $30,000.00 surplus from this year can be put into a warrant article to go into the ambulance replacement capital reserve fund.

Eric Meth made a motion to approve the CIP budget for 2021, second by John Dimarzio. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

**Sign Ordinance -** The Board had a brief discussion regarding the sign ordinance. Kim stated that she believed the deadline has passed for the Planning Board to hold the public hearings prior to town meeting for any zoning changes so this will need to wait until next year.

**Approval of Minutes -** Mark Hesler made a motion to approve the minutes of September 29, 2020, as written, second by Thad Presby. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Eric Meth made a motion to approve the minutes of October 13, 2020, as written, second by John Dimarzio. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Mark Hesler made a motion to accept the minutes of December 29, 2020, as written, second by Thad Presby. Motion passed (4-yes, 1-abstention).

There being no further business, Thad made a motion to adjourn the meeting, second by Eric. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Wills