

FRANCONIA*EASTON*SUGAR HILL
ANNUAL TRI-TOWN BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
MONDAY, JANUARY 6, 2020 AT SUGAR HILL TOWN OFFICES

Board Members Present: Sugar Hill Select Board - John J. Strasser III, Richard Bielefield, Margaret Connors –
Franconia Select Board – Jill Brewer, Eric Meth, Jeff Blodgett **Easton Select Board** – Bob Thibault, Toni Woodruff.

Others Present: Jennifer Gaudette, Holly Burbank, Jenny Monahan, Tim Blake, Kim Cowles, Meaghan McPhaul.

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

Lafayette Recreation Committee Budget Review: Kim Cowles presented the budget for the Recreation Committee. She said there are very little changes since she had reviewed the budget with each of the Boards independently, with the exception that the Wages section has since been completed by Town Administrator Burbank. Because of their familiarity with the budget, the Boards waived the need for a line by line review.

Kim said the biggest increase requested is to put more money into the Recreation Van Fund, which she thinks will need to be replaced in the next couple of years. She is requesting to increase that line from \$2,000 to \$5,000. Vehicle repairs are requested to increase in anticipation of increased maintenance on the van.

Kim updated the Board's on the condition of the skating rink. Resurfacing of the skating rink has been planned for 2020 with capital reserve funds, but Kim thinks it may be a good idea to wait another year for more funds to accumulate. The Boards also discussed that it would be ideal to eventually put a roof over the rink with solar panels.

Including Offsetting Revenue, the total increase for the Proposed 2020 Recreation Budget is 3.05%

The 2020 tax percentage breakdown based on the tri-towns respective school populations is:
Franconia – 51%, Sugar Hill – 30%, Easton – 19%.

Tri-Town Transfer Station Budget Review: Tim Blake presented the budget for the Transfer Station. He said the increases in the budget are mainly due to rising costs in shipping. He also noted a decrease in revenue from declining rates paid for recycled materials.

Tim also explained the increasing difficulties in finding avenues to offload recycled materials due to less product going to China and US facilities being saturated with recycled materials. Disposal of PGA has been difficult due to changes at the Littleton station and some unexpected costs were incurred due to having to landfill the material. Tim says this situation should be resolved now with the adoption of the contract with Littleton for PGA disposal.

Selectman Thibault inquired about the request to increase wages significantly over the 2019 Actual, and it was explained that the Transfer Station ran for a few months without a third employee, which made the Actual Wages less than a fully staffed station would have incurred. The Recommended Wages also include a 2% COLA increase and the 53rd pay week for 2020.

Under Contracted Services, C&D Plastic reflects an increase of 25%. This category also includes PGA. Selectman Blodgett would like to see the breakout of the Plastic and Glass disposal costs. Solid Waste Tipping Fees were overspent and request a total increase of 38.95% due mainly to increased fees from Casella.

Materials & Supplies was overspent due to costs incurred from hiring several new employees.

The Transfer Station took in a total of \$146,233.07 in offsetting revenue. Including this revenue, the Transfer Station Proposed Budget is -1.48% for 2020.

Other Discussion:

Selectman Connors said she met with Ammonoosuc Conservation Trust and they had the idea of doing a poster contest with the school for posters about recycling. The posters would be displayed on Town Meeting Day in the meeting room. The Boards all agreed they would like to participate.

Selectman Meth said the Energy Commission will meet with the representative from Freedom Energy Logistics regarding their Community Choice Aggregation program on January 21st to see if any energy savings can be had through the program. Selectman Meth invited the other selectmen to attend if they would like to.

Selectman Connors asked if the Franconia selectmen had considered the idea of regionalization for Life Squad services in the future. The Franconia selectmen said they were aware of the idea and agreed it was something to stay abreast of, noting that the decline in volunteerism is making staffing increasingly difficult.

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 4:05 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jenny Monahan
Administrative Secretary