

**TOWN OF FRANCONIA  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S BUDGET REVIEW  
JANUARY 8, 2020 AT TOWN HALL**

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

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Holly Burbank, Jenny Monahan, Karen Foss, Steve Plante, Trevor Presby, Thad Presby.

**The meeting was called to order at 4:01 pm.**

**APPOINTMENTS**

**CIP Committee:** The CIP presented their recommendations to the Board of Selectmen. Karen Foss provided a written summary and financial spreadsheets that the Selectmen reviewed. There was then a lengthy discussion initiated by Trevor Presby on the status of Sidewalk Improvements and questions about whether or not Sidewalk Improvement funds could be spent on road work. Town Administrator Burbank said that Sidewalk Improvement funds cannot be used for anything except the sidewalks. Trevor wondered if more capital improvement funding should be allotted to road work since road funds are being diverted into bridge work.

**Buildings & Grounds:** Karen Foss said there are no scheduled equipment purchases this year for Buildings & Grounds. Corey Rush provided a basic buildings inventory to the Committee this year that he is still working on. Karen said that eventually a schedule will be developed but for the time being the Committee is recommending \$30,000 in annual funding for the Buildings Maintenance Fund.

**Police Department:** The Ford Explorer will be replaced with a Chevy Tahoe this year. The Dodge Charger cruiser was scheduled to be replaced next year but has been delayed a year which allows the cruiser replacements to be staggered rather than in consecutive years.

**Life Squad:** The funding for the ambulance was not increased this year. The estimated replacement cost for the Stryker Cot was increased to \$50,000. Karen said the Committee looked into the Life Squad's financials and feel that the Life Squad operates like a business and should begin directing some of their funds towards their equipment expenses. Town Administrator Burbank said there is current discussion and a committee formed to study the idea of a regionalized Life Squad, but the actualization of that idea would likely take years. The general consensus at the end of the discussion was that the Life Squad could benefit from increased financial oversight and it would help give the town a clearer idea of how to plan future EMS for Franconia.

**Fire Department:** New radios were purchased this year out of the Fire Department's operating budget. Karen said Chief Gaudette said he is considering not replacing several of the

department's vehicles in the future and replacing them with a more versatile vehicle.

Miscellaneous: The library's tile roof is now receiving \$5,000 of funding for its replacement in approximately five years.

Transfer Station: All of the Transfer Station's equipment is now on the schedule. However, the funding has been suspended for a time due to the health of the fund. There was a brief discussion about implementing more financial oversight for the Transfer Station.

There was a brief discussion regarding whether the CIP should have oversight of the Water Department. Town Administrator Burbank said they manage their own funds as is dictated by NH RSA, however their information should be available for viewing and she recommends contacting them directly for questions.

Karen Foss said the CIP's total increase is 1.9% over last year and inquired if a public hearing should be scheduled. Town Administrator Burbank said a hearing is not required.

**Police Chief re: Radar Device Warrant Article:** Chairman Brewer said it may not be the best time to create a warrant article for a Radar Device due to the Police Department asking for an additional full time officer this year. Chief Cashin agreed. He did state that an article could be petitioned by any resident who felt inclined to do so and he would do the research for an appropriate device if that was the case. Chief said that while he feels it would be an effective traffic control it may not be a priority at this time while there are greater needs for the department. Selectman Blodgett asked Chief Cashin to get some pricing for a device and check with his sources regarding upkeep and maintenance costs and report back.

A public hearing for the addition of a fourth full-time officer was scheduled for Wednesday, January 29<sup>th</sup> at 6pm at town hall.

#### **TO SIGN/APPROVE:**

The Prosecutorial Agreement was signed by the Selectmen.

The review of the minutes for December 11<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> were delayed until the next meeting.

The Audit Agreement that acknowledges the auditor's annual fee of \$15,900 was signed by Chairman Brewer.

#### **TO DISCUSS/REVIEW:**

FY2019 Budget to date was reviewed. The budget was under spent and approximately \$140,000 will go into the unassigned fund balance.

FY2020 Recommended Budget Update documents were provided to the Selectmen.  
Town Administrator Burbank reviewed this year's warrant articles with the Selectmen.

**OTHER DISCUSSION:**

Selectman Blodgett requested that a phone call take place again with Legal Counsel about the Franconia Artwalk Association's (FAA) request to have Highway Department employees install art installations and have their hourly wages reimbursed to the town by the FAA. There was a lengthy discussion during which the Selectmen shared their different perspectives on the topic.

The Board entered non-public session at 5:57pm for reasons of personnel.

The Board left non-public session at 6:12pm. Chairman Brewer made a motion to seal the minutes of the non-public session. Selectman Meth seconded the motion. All were in favor.

**Motion passes.**

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 6:12pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jenny Monahan  
Administrative Secretary