

**TOWN OF FRANCONIA
BUDGET REVIEW MEETING
JANUARY 23, 2019 AT TOWN HALL**

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Holly Burbank, Jenny Monahan, Peter Grote, Mary Grote, Dawn Steele, Karen Foss.

The meeting was called to order at 4:03pm.

TO DISCUSS/REVIEW:

2019 Prosecutorial Contract: After consulting Legal Counsel regarding some concerns the Board had with language in the contract, Town Administrator Burbank returned with Legal Counsel's recommended amendments. It was noted that the annual cost of the Prosecutorial Services increased from \$6,000 to \$6,900. After discussing the recommended amendments, the Board agreed to have Town Administrator Burbank have Legal Counsel draft some wording of the recommended changes, after which Holly will make the changes and return the contract to the Town of Littleton for review.

Bickford Hill Bridge:

Town Administrator Burbank returned with the updated contract from HEB Engineers for the Bickford Hill Bridge repairs. After a brief discussion, Chairman Brewer signed the contract.

Franconia Gas Customer Agreement:

Town Administrator Burbank received pricing from several local fuel companies. Franconia Gas had the most favorable quote at \$1.54 per gallon.

Chairman Brewer made a motion to allow Town Administrator Burbank to sign the Customer Agreement with Franconia Gas. Selectman Meth seconded the motion. All were in favor. **Motion passes.**

Letter for Best Western:

As previously discussed, Chairman Brewer has drafted a letter to Best Western's management asking for their support with Profile Trail by allowing access from their property. Chairman Brewer said all 14 landowners along the Profile Trail route have agreed to access, with the exception of Best Western. The Board reviewed and signed the letter.

Final Review - Department Budgets:

The Board did a final review of the proposed Department Budgets where several line items were discussed and a few minor changes were made. Executive wages were briefly discussed before it was decided that it was appropriate to continue the discussion in non-public session later in the meeting.

Final Review – Warrant Articles:

Town Administrator Burbank said there are 44 warrant articles this year, and briefly reviewed each one with the Board. There was little discussion, with the following exception:

Article 15 - Demolish Building at 192 Main Street was discussed as the Board had yet to decide between the two bidders, Spears Brothers Building (\$22,300) and Presby Construction (\$35,900). After a brief discussion, it was decided to move forward with Spears Brothers Building.

Chairman Brewer made a motion to accept the bid from Spears Brothers Building to demolish the building at 192 Main

Street. Selectman Meth seconded the motion. Selectman Blodgett abstained. **Motion passes.**

Town Administrator Burbank also noted that *Article 16 - Repair Bickford Hill Bridge* dollar amount is still being put together by HEB Engineers.

Non-Profit Requests:

The Board briefly reviewed the 14 non-profit funding/charitable request articles.

ETF – Sidewalk Improvement Fund:

Town Administrator Burbank said the updated probable cost estimates she had requested from HEB Engineers for the sidewalk installation (from approximately the Gale River Motel to Rte 117) and crosswalk installation (at Church Street and Academy on Rte 116) have dramatically increased since the NH DOT is requiring that the Town widen the street to install the sidewalk. She has requested an explanation for the increases from HEB Engineers.

Budget Review Hearing – Wednesday, February 13th @ 7pm:

Town Administrator Burbank asked the Board if a second hearing should be scheduled. Due to the possibility of a storm delay, the Board decided to schedule a potential “snow day” reschedule for February 15th at 7pm.

The Board entered non-public session at 5:53pm for reasons of personnel.

The Board left non-public session at 6:20pm.

Chairman Brewer made a motion to seal the minutes of the non-public meeting. Selectman Meth seconded the motion. All were in favor. **Motion passes.**

The Board asked Town Administrator Burbank to update her contract to reflect the changes agreed to in the non-public session, and provide the updated contract to the Board for signatures at a future meeting.

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 6:28 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jenny Monahan
Administrative Secretary