

**TOWN OF FRANCONIA**  
**BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S REGULAR MEETING**  
**Wednesday, January 31, 2018 AT TOWN OFFICES**

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**TOWN OFFICIALS PRESENT:** Bernadette Costa, Jill Brewer, Eric Meth

**TOWN OFFICIALS ABSENT:** None

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Holly Burbank, Jenny Monahan, Peter Grote, Dawn Steele, Justin Roshak.

**The meeting was called to order at 4:25pm**

**DISCUSSION:**

The Board met to conduct a budget workshop with no public input after reviewing the 2018 Proposed Operating Budget on January 29th.

Bernadette Costa shared her recommended modifications to the proposed budget. She suggested removing the line items for the Life Squad and Fire Department's new turnout gear and instead having them be presented as warrant articles. The Board agreed and those amounts were removed from the budget and will be placed on the warrant.

Selectman Costa also recommended removing the \$3000 for Actuary Services but Town Administrator Holly Burbank said GASB 45 compliance was mandatory for 2018. This item was left in the budget.

Selectman Costa recommended removing the \$3283 line item for the purchase of Provident insurance for first responders as well. This item was removed.

The \$3000 to contract a company to design and host a new website was also removed.

After these modifications, the budget was at \$1,805,427, which is a 2.6% increase from last year.

Eric Meth said the Planning Board had discussed the town of Easton's Northern Pass related warrant articles regarding borehole drilling and geothermal backfilling and had decided not to pursue similar warrant articles for Franconia.

The Select Board briefly discussed their desire to create a formal policy regarding requests for the town to take over maintenance of roads.

Eric Meth said the Planning Board had discussed implementing NH RSA 79E Community Revitalization Tax Incentive and were supportive of it.

The Select Board discussed adding three Northern Pass construction related articles to the warrant. Each selectman will work on writing one of the articles.

The Select Board discussed how much money should be added to the town's Legal Capital Reserve Fund and decided on \$30k. They also discussed how much money should be in the Northern Pass Legal

Defense Fund. The Northern Pass Legal Defense Fund donation campaign received \$22,900 in donations, and the board decided to budget additional funds to total \$30,000.

Holly Burbank said she had researched dissolving the Transfer Station's Special Revenue Fund and creating a Transfer Station Revolving Fund instead and learned that this could be done without a public hearing.

Holly also let the Board know that the Water Department is going to have to increase their water meter fees to resolve budget issues and this will need to go on the warrant.

With no further discussion, the Board adjourned at 5:19pm on a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jenny Monahan  
Administrative Secretary