FRANCONIA*EASTON*SUGAR HILL
TRI-TOWN TRANSFER STATION MEETING
APRIL 15, 2019 AT FRANCONIA TOWN HALL

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, Zak Mei, Toni Woodruff.
Others Present: Holly Burbank, Jenny Monahan, Tim Blake, Scott Leslie, Dawn Steele, Mary Grote, Peter Grote, unidentified man.

The meeting was called to order at 3:05pm.

Purchase of Container
The Boards briefly discussed that Franconia's warrant article for funds to put towards the Tri-Town purchase of a truck scale and waste storage containers for the Transfer Station was voted down at Town Meeting.   Easton and Sugar Hill Selectmen now have the ability to expend their Transfer Station Capital Reserve Funds.

Transfer Station supervisor Tim Blake said he has minimized the use of the decrepit 30 yard open top container to extend its life as long as possible, but it is in very bad shape. A new replacement was quoted during 2018 at $6,200.00. Town Administrator Burbank said there is a contingency line in the Tri-Town Budget with $4,500.00 that Franconia could use to put towards the purchase of the container and then that amount could be added to future disbursements to Easton and Sugar Hill. Town Administrator Burbank said there is currently $144,456.27 in the Tri-Town Transfer Station Fund that is being dissolved, and the funds are 58% Franconia's, 28% Sugar Hill's and 14% Easton's.   Disbursements of the fund will be mailed out this week.

After some discussion about the current procedures and storage issues at the Transfer Station, Selectman Connolly suggested forming a committee for Transfer Station issues, with a member from each Board. The Boards agreed this may be a good idea to work on Transfer Station issues without having to get all three Boards together.

There was a lengthy discussion where Tim Blake fielded questions regarding pricing and current disposal procedures as the Boards discussed other options, such as renting another container from Casella or restricting the intake of C&D materials. In regards to renting, Tim said he would need to speak with the Casella representative to see if renegotiating the contract to allow for renting additional containers would be possible and what the cost would be.   It was suggested that Tim look into pricing for used containers as well as new.

Chairman Brewer made a motion to spend up to $6,200.00 for the purchase of a new 30 yard container for the Transfer Station. Selectman Bielefield seconded the motion. All were in favor. **Motion passes.**

Transfer Station Holiday Hours

Selectman Connors said she had received a complaint regarding the hours at the Transfer Station and it being closed on Monday holidays. She received a complaint from a resident who picks up trash at Mittersill and has to store it for several days when the Transfer Station is closed on Monday holidays. The Boards surmised that this same resident has discussed the issue with the Franconia Board and has been given access to the Transfer Station when it is closed.

During this discussion, Tim Blake said it may be a good idea to extend Monday and Friday regular hours from noon – 5pm to 9am to 5pm. He said the change would not affect operations and he thought many residents would appreciate the extra hours.

Acceptance of C&D

Chairman Brewer asked if the Transfer Station was allowed to stop taking C&D or if the State said they have to. Tim Blake said we could stop accepting it if we wanted to. A few different ideas for how to confirm that contractors coming in with C&D were doing the work for a resident were discussed. It was suggested that Tim could have copies of the town's name/address list for verification and can require a note from the homeowner confirming the C&D is from their home. The Board eventually decided to accept only residential construction debris beginning June 1st, 2019. This will be posted at the Transfer Station, at several locations in Town and on the website.

Mud/Gravel at Drop Off Area

After a brief discussion, this was deemed to be a seasonal thaw issue that was mitigated by grading. Tim said additional drainage might be needed in the future.

Acceptance of Brush

Tim Blake said residents bringing their seasonal trimmings and clean up brush is not a big problem, but there are issues when lawn care services bring in large volumes of brush. Due to state regulations, weather conditions, etc., it can be a long period before he is able to burn the brush pile. The falling ash also causes complaints as it lands on the vehicles of neighboring facilities. The idea of charging for brush was briefly discussed again, but the Board's decided to first implement a ban on accepting commercial brush and hope that makes the situation manageable without inconveniencing residents.

Chairman Brewer made a motion to only allow the acceptance of residential brush and discontinue the acceptance of commercial brush at the Transfer Station. Selectman Thibault seconded the motion. All were in favor. **Motion passes.**

There was a brief discussion about additional signage for the Transfer Station, and what role the committee would have in addressing issues.

Selectman Mei asked if the price of the PAYT bags should be increased to offset the increased costs of recycling. No decision was made at this time.

Town Administrator Burbank read aloud several passages from the Tri-Town Agreement. The Boards authorized her to make a few minor changes that were discussed.

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 4:25pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jenny Monahan
Administrative Secretary

These minutes of the Town of Franconia Select Board have been recorded by its Secretary. Though believed to be accurate and correct they are subject to additions, deletions and corrections by the Select Board at its next meeting when the Board votes its final approval of the minutes. They are being made available at this time to conform to the requirements of New Hampshire RSA 91-A:2.