

**TOWN OF FRANCONIA  
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PLAN MEETING  
OCTOBER 16, 2019 AT TOWN HALL**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Karen Foss, Steve Plant, Trevor Presby.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Jeff Blodgett, Peter Grote.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Jenny Monahan, Chief Rick Gaudette.

**Appointments: 3:00pm - Life Squad Chief Paul Schmucker, 3:30pm - Fire Chief Rick Gaudette.**

**The meeting was called to order at 3:07 PM.**

Chief Schmucker was called away to an emergency so was not in attendance. In his absence the Committee reviewed the Project Submission Forms for the ambulance and discussed its current funding of \$20,000 per year with the scheduled replacement year of 2023. Increasing the funding to \$23,000 per year was discussed but the Committee would like to meet with Chief Schmucker first to see what his thoughts are.

**Chief Rick Gaudette/Fire Department:**

Chief Gaudette was asked about the Scott Air Packs. He said they have been recently inspected and are having no issues. They are at the recommended replacement age of 10 years old but due to their limited use are still in good shape. He currently has 10 of these and would eventually like to have 13 but would like to replace all of them at once rather than having some be different ages than others.

It was confirmed that Chief Gaudette is using approximately \$14,000 of capital reserve funds to purchase 14 new radios. The current radios were bought with a Homeland Security grant after 9/11/01 and have recently begun malfunctioning. The replacement radios have been ordered.

Regarding Turnout Gear and Breathing Apparatus, Chief Gaudette has been making these purchases out of his budget under "Protective Gear".

Chief Gaudette recommended suspending Rural Water Supply funding until easements are set up to protect the Town's investment of maintaining the ponds. He said there are several usable ponds that can be used by law if necessitated by a fire. Chief Gaudette said he would talk with the Board of Selectmen about getting legal easements for fire ponds.

Chairman Foss asked Chief Gaudette about the Department's truck fleet. Looking to the future, should the Town be thinking of multi-purpose vehicles such as the "Quint"? Chief Gaudette said the E2 Sutphen "Attack Engine" is having problems and the pump won't pass recertification. He said when this truck needs to be replaced it would be beneficial to replace the E2 with a combination Rescue/Pumper and do away with the Rescue Truck (Ford F550). He said this was not an option before as the old station would not accommodate the size of a Rescue/Pumper. Chief Gaudette said this would also be a good plan for reducing maintenance costs and having less trucks in the future would be beneficial considering the trend of declining volunteerism.

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 4:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jenny Monahan  
Administrative Secretary