

TOWN OF FRANCONIA
BOARD OF SELECTMEN BUDGET REVIEW MEETING
OCTOBER 16, 2019, 4PM AT TOWN HALL

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

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

The meeting was called to order at 4:02pm.

State of NH Municipal Aid: Town Administrator Burbank said Municipal Aid from the State had been reinstated and the Town received a check for \$12,400.75. The funds can be used to either offset the tax rate or accepted as unanticipated revenue and spent how the Town chooses. The Board briefly discussed the options and agreed to use the funds to offset the tax rate.

Chairman Brewer made a motion to use the \$12,400.75 from NH Municipal Aid to offset the tax rate. Selectman Meth seconded the motion. All were in favor. **Motion passes.**

Square Credit Card Processing (Lafayette Recreation) – Woodsville Guaranty Account: Town Administrator Burbank said Recreation is getting a credit card processing machine and it would be a good idea to set up a separate account for the credit card transactions to flow into. The paperwork is prepared and awaiting signature at Woodsville Guaranty.

Chairman Brewer made a motion to allow Selectman Meth to sign for the new account being opened for Lafayette Recreation's Square Credit Card transactions. Selectman Meth seconded the motion. All were in favor. **Motion passes.**

Wages/Salaries (53 Payroll Weeks in 2020): Town Administrator Burbank let the Board know that 2020 is a leap year and there is an additional payroll week in 2020 that will need to be budgeted for. She also let the Board know that 2020 CPI-U Northeast is projected at 1.5% for 2020.

Health Insurance: Town Administrator Burbank alerted the Board that HealthTrust rates are increasing 7.4% for all plans, which results in an increase of \$22,321 for the Town for 2020.

Dental Insurance: Town Administrator Burbank is waiting on pricing for Dental Plans.

Worker's Comp/Unemployment Comp/Property & Tax Liability Rates: Town Administrator Burbank said Worker's Compensation is increasing 8%, unemployment Compensation decreased 21%, and Property & Tax Liability increased 8.5%.

Retirement (Valic): As a continuation of previous discussions about the employee retirement plan, Town Administrator Burbank presented the Board with numbers for different levels of employee retirement contribution. After a brief discussion, the Board agreed that values for a 5% match contribution could be used in the proposed budget.

Warrant Articles 2020: Town Administrator Burbank mentioned several topics that have been discussed as potential warrant articles over the course of the year for the Selectmen's consideration: AED's (Automated External Defibrillators) at Town facilities, the transfer of remaining funds from the closed Tri-Town Transfer Station fund into the General Fund, the purchase of a Driver Feedback Radar Device, Town Hall modifications to address Safety Issues, the creation of a Revolving Fund for Lafayette Recreation.

Paul Schmucker, Life Squad Chief – After being called away from his appointment with the CIP Committee due to a Life Squad call, Chief Schmucker delivered a letter to the Board regarding his concerns with the condition of the ambulance and Life Squad equipment.

The Board entered non-public session at 4:51 PM for reasons of personnel.

The Board left non-public session at 5:12 PM.

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 5:12 PM.

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.