

TOWN OF FRANCONIA
BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S BUDGET WORKSHOP
DECEMBER 12, 2018 AT TOWN HALL

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Jill Brewer, Jeff Blodgett.

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Eric Meth

OTHERS PRESENT: Holly Burbank, Jenny Monahan, Police Chief Mac Cashin, Tim Blake, Life Squad Chief Paul Schmucker.

The meeting was called to order at 4:08 pm.

Bid Opening – Demolition – 192 Main Street – Two bids were received for the demolition of the building at 192 Main Street, formerly known as Evergreen Apartments.

- Spears Brothers: \$22,300
- Presby Construction: \$35,900

Town Administrator Burbank read the scope of work provided by each contractor on their quote to the Board. No decision was made at this time.

Tri-Town Transfer Station Budget Review – Town Administrator Burbank reviewed the changes to the Transfer Station budget with the Board. She remarked on the following items:

- Regular time wages show an increase due to Tim Blake's promotion to the supervisor position and accompanying salary increase.
- An increase in Health Insurance is due to an employee's plan going from a single person plan to a two person plan.
- The Retirement line reflects the addition of NH Retirement, which would be split between the tri towns.
- Contracted Services shows an increase due to a large hike in hauling fees implemented by Casella Waste Systems.
- Uniforms line was increased to provide the employees with weather appropriate outdoor work clothes.

Town Administrator Burbank also mentioned that as the topic of purchasing scales for the Transfer Station has been discussed at the Tri-Town meeting several times, she asked Tim Blake to get some pricing. Tim provided a quote of \$70,000.

The Transfer Station is also in need of a new 40 yard storage container for construction debris. Tim said it is in very poor condition and becoming a liability during transportation of the debris. Tim also said efficiency could be improved if another container was purchased for electronics storage. The quotes received were \$6200.00 for the 40 yard storage container and \$3950.00 for an enclosed container for electronics storage.

Town Administrator Burbank said there is \$143,166.00 in the Tri-Town Special Revenue Fund that could be used for these purchases if supported by tri-town vote. The purchase of the scales and containers would leave \$63,000 in the fund. There is also the possibility of a **NH the Beautiful** grant, which can award up to \$5000.00 towards the scales or containers.

Warrant articles for Town Meeting: Holly Burbank said that after consulting with the Town's legal counsel regarding discontinuing the Tri-Town Special Revenue Fund so each town could create their own, it was recommended to first create a warrant article to expend the funds, then a warrant article asking to discontinue the fund, and finally an article

allowing the Town to pay out the fund to the Tri-Towns in the amounts that they have contributed.

Life Squad Budget Review – Chief Paul Schmucker reviewed the Life Squad’s budget increases with the Board.

- Telephone/Internet line increased as they now have a smartphone and mobile hot spot, so are utilizing the device for data transmittal.
- Materials & Supplies has increased due to costs from suppliers increasing and Nitrous Oxide being added to ambulance for pain management.
- Comstar Billing & Collection increased due to more calls.
- Radio Repairs and Maintenance increased as two radios need to be replaced.

Police Department Budget Review – The Police Department 2019 Proposed Budget changed very little from 2018. Regular Time Wages reflects a change of 1.04% for annual salary increases and Materials and Supplies - Equipment requests an increase of \$4000 so two new Tasers can be purchased.

The Board entered non-public session at 5:42 pm, pursuant to RSA 91-A:3. II(a).

The Board left non-public session at 6:07 pm.

Insurance Stipend – The Board briefly revisited this topic which was originally discussed in recent weeks at a previous meeting. Town Administrator Burbank said that there was an email thread from NHMA that showed that many towns provide a \$5,000.00 insurance stipend to employees who choose not to take Town offered insurance. Chairman Brewer and Selectman Blodgett both said they thought this was a fair amount.

Chairman Brewer made a motion to provide a \$5000.00 insurance stipend to employees who do not choose to use Town offered insurance. Selectman Blodgett seconded the motion. All were in favor. **Motion passes.**

Other Discussion: Town Administrator Burbank suggested that even though the Town Hall is in need of repairs, it may be good to hold off a year as the Town is facing other significant expenses at this time (Bickford Hill Bridge repairs, handicap ramp/lift at Town Hall, 192 Main St. demolition, etc.) Chairman Brewer and Selectman Blodgett agreed that the building repairs can be addressed next year.

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 6:18pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jenny Monahan
Administrative Secretary