**SPECIAL TOWN MEETING**

Franconia Town Hall

August 17, 2016 – 6:00PM

Moderator William Mead called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.  The Moderator led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ARTICLES OF A GENERAL NATURE**. To see if the Town will vote to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend the Fire Truck Tanker Capital Reserve Fund.

The article was read, moved by Bernardette Costa and seconded by Eric Meth. Bernardette Costa spoke to the article. At the March Town Meeting the town voted to establish a capital reserve fund to purchase a ladder truck and $37,000.00 was put into that fund. The Fire Department approached the Board of Selectmen stating they found a good deal on a used ladder truck which is half the cost of what the anticipated expense would be. The Board of Selectmen recommends purchasing the truck and using the funds from the Fire Truck Tanker Capital Reserve Fund. In order to do that the Town needs to vote to make the Board of Selectmen agents to expend that fund and that is what we are asking you to do today.

A concern was raised about the need for Franconia to have a ladder truck when we are members of Mutual Aid and there are surrounding towns that have ladder trucks. The Fire Chief explained the reason other towns have their own ladder truck is because the ladder truck needs to be the first piece of apparatus at a fire. It would take 20 to 30 minutes for a ladder truck coming from Littleton, Lisbon or Woodstock to arrive at a fire. Also, more and more houses are being built with metal roofs and solar panels on them and that makes it more dangerous for firefighters.

There was discussion regarding the legality of taking monies from the tanker fund to be used to purchase a ladder truck. Eric Meth stated the Selectmen have received an opinion from the Town Attorney stating that it is legal to use these funds for the ladder truck. Karen Foss stated that the Trustees of the Trust Fund would not necessarily honor the request to release the funds from a given capital reserve fund. The decision to release the funds hinges on the Trustees interpretation of the request in light of the purpose of the capital reserve fund in question.

There was discussion regarding whether the process being followed to purchase the ladder truck is appropriate. The Fire Chief explained the process he followed which involved discussions with the CIP Committee and following their recommendations. A question was raised regarding whether the entire Tanker Capital Reserve Fund would be expended or just enough funds to purchase the ladder truck. It was explained that if the Board of Selectmen are made agents to expend then they can expend the entire fund, but the Select Board is only concerned with funds to purchase the ladder truck. It was also noted there would need to be a vote of the town in order to spend any additional funds.

Tina Peabody made a motion to move the question, seconded by Eric Meth.

The article was called to a vote (ballot) Yes – 43 No – 14 Article passed

Motion by Rick Gaudette that we cannot revisit this matter; second by Jennifer Gaudette. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

There being no further business to transact, there was a motion by Jennifer Gaudette and a second by Rick Gaudette to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed by voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol F. Wills

Town Clerk