

**TOWN OF FRANCONIA
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
PUBLIC HEARING FOR PURCHASE OF FIRE TRUCK AND HIGHWAY TRUCK
THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 2022 AT 6PM AT TOWN HALL**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Jill Brewer, Eric Meth, Dan Walker

OTHERS PRESENT: Larry Plate, Dawn Steele, Monica Laflamme, Chief Rick Gaudette, Cray Ball, Jeremy Hall, Steve Plant, Jan Cole, Bill Cole, Mary Grote, Peter Grote, Robert Blechl, Trevor Presby, Carol Wills.

The hearing was called to order at 6pm.

Town Administrator Cowles read article 1, the warrant article for the highway truck:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate up to \$210,000 to purchase a new truck for the highway department and to fund this appropriation by authorizing the withdrawal of \$95,000 from the Highway Truck Capital Reserve Fund previously established for this purpose and \$115,000 from the unassigned balance.

There was no discussion and no comments from the public. Town Administrator Cowles read Article 2, the warrant article for the Fire Truck.

To see if the town will vote to authorize the selectmen to purchase a fire truck in the amount of \$676,438 and to authorize the withdrawal of \$400,000 from the Fire Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve Fund to be used as a down payment. After a pre-payment discount of \$22,224, the net amount of \$248,035 will be financed over a six-year lease purchase agreement. The lease will commence on May 1, 2022.

Town Administrator Cowles said payments would begin on April 1, 2024 in the amount of \$58,219.59 and continue each year on April 1st through 2028 and that the lease agreement contains an escape clause.

Jan Cole asked if the acceptance certificate issue had been resolved with town counsel and Town Administrator Cowles said yes, town counsel approves signing the acceptance certificate at the beginning of the lease. Chief Gaudette said there will be periodic inspections done of the truck while it is being built.

Dawn Steele commented that she fully supports the purchase of the fire truck and feels that the department has done its due diligence in researching and preparing for the purchase.

Mary Grote asked what the balance of the unassigned fund balance would be after the fire truck purchase. Town Administrator Cowles said she believes it will be about 1.1 million.

With no further discussion, the hearing was adjourned at 6:12pm on a motion from Chairman Brewer and a second from Selectman Meth.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenny Monahan
Administrative Secretary