

**TOWN OF FRANCONIA**  
**BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S REGULAR MEETING**  
**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2022 AT 5:30PM AT TOWN HALL**

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

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Kim Cowles, Jenny Monahan, Victoria Staunches, Virginia Mike, Dawn Steele, Lynn Terres, Patricia Garvin, Peter & Mary Grote, Monica Laflamme, Gene & Mandy Young, Karen Foss, Janice Cole, Carol Walker, Mike & Tina Betley, Dr. Virginia Jeffryes, Ann Foss, Duffi Pratt, Aaron Johnson, William Grote.

**The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm**

**APPOINTMENTS/WORK SESSIONS**

**5:30pm – Capital Improvements Plan Committee, Chairperson Karen Foss:** For Highway Department, the Dodge 5500 purchase has been postponed for a few months at least as moving to a different vehicle that is more appropriate for what it is used for is being researched. Sidewalks funding will continue at \$21,000. Road Improvements will continue at \$75,000. Bridge Maintenance will be funded at \$40,000 as approved by town meeting vote last year and will continue for another four years.

For Buildings & Grounds, Karen said that the F-350 had been considered for early replacement this year due to it having many mechanical issues but that has been postponed. A new Hustler mower will be purchased for \$14,500 which will hopefully be offset by a trade-in or outright sale of the 36" Wright mower and a Gravelly that is no longer used but the town still possesses. Buildings Maintenance funding will continue at \$30,000.

Karen said the Police Department requested to replace the Dodge Charger with another Charger and they are moving forward with that request. She said the condition of the current Charger is causing the newer Tahoe to accumulate more mileage than it ordinarily would as officers prefer not to drive the Charger.

For Life Squad, Karen said the ambulance will soon need replacing. Last year the Life Squad generated a surplus and voters decided to put some of the surplus towards the ambulance CRF.

The Fire Department has requested to purchase a new combination Rescue Pumper Truck and would trade in two vehicles towards that purchase. Karen said this is currently under consideration but difficulty getting quotes delayed the process so a warrant article was not created for this year.

Funding for Recreation will continue in the same amounts.

The library has entered into a contract to replace their slate roof for \$163,000 and have requested their funding continue at \$5,000. Their CRF will have approximately \$70,000 in it to put towards the roof with the rest coming from private donation.

The Transfer Station is requesting that their Skid Steer is replaced a year early while it's still in good condition and the trade-in value will be higher. This will be a warrant article this year.

Karen said the CIP will continue working for the next couple of months.

Chief Gaudette commented that the Sutphen Pumper may not pass inspection next year due to rust and he feels it is an emergency situation to prepare for the purchase of a new truck for the Fire Department as lead times are extended and a vehicle may not be available until November of 2023. A lengthy discussion between members of the CIP committee and Chief Gaudette ensued. The selectmen discussed the possibility of holding a Special Town Meeting for the purchase of the new fire truck and a new highway truck. This will be researched and revisited at a later date.

**6:00pm – Steve Plant, Treasurers Report:** Steve said that stale checks from previous years have been cleaned up and show on the Treasurer's report as Unclassified Deposits. He said he has submitted his documents to the auditors and expects to meet with them while they are here this week. He was able to balance to the Trial Balance. Steve said he will update the board after the audit if changes are made.

#### **TO SIGN/APPROVE**

The February 7, 2022 transaction report was reviewed and signed by the selectmen.

The January 24, 2022 minutes were approved as amended on a motion from Chairman Brewer and a second from Selectman Walker.

A Raffle Permit Application for the Secret Sock Society was approved by the selectmen.

#### **TO DISCUSS/REVIEW:**

**Correspondence:** None

**Personnel Policy Rescind:** Selectman Walker made a motion to rescind and suspend the updated Personnel Policy that was posted to the website until a time when legal counsel has provided their opinion and revisions have been made. Chairman Brewer seconded the motion with all voting in favor.

**Motion passes.**

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Broadband Initiative:** Selectman Meth said on February 3rd there was a meeting with Carol Miller of the National Collaborative for Digital Equity (NCDE) along with Doug Weisman. He said Carol will begin composing letters for a scope of work, creating a timeline and writing RFI's (Request for Information).

**Chamber of Commerce:** Selectman Walker said Kevin Johnson has taken on the Membership Director position for the Chamber.

**Conservation Commission:** Chairman Brewer said the CC next meets February 16<sup>th</sup> at 4pm in the Water Dept. room.

**Energy Commission:** Selectman Meth said the EC has been working on the solar array presentation they will make to the public at the budget hearing.

**Planning Board:** Selectman Meth said PB meets tomorrow February 8<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at town hall.

**CIP:** The CIP update was given during their appointment with the board.

**ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION:**

Chairman Brewer commented that Town Administrator Cowles contract goes through December 2022 and includes \$35,000 for the first year with a \$5,000 increase in the second year as well as COLA increases. She said Town Administrator Cowles is working much more than 20 hours per week in the Town Administrator role the position is a full-time position. Chairman Brewer suggested meeting with Town Administrator Cowles to discuss. There was a brief discussion about working towards taking over the tasks Municipal Resources Inc. has been handling.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Public comment was given by Trevor Presby, Dawn Steele and Mike Betley.

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 6:31pm on a motion from Chairman Brewer and a second from Selectman Meth with all voting in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jenny Monahan  
Administrative Secretary