

**MINUTES  
FRANCONIA BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING  
Monday, February 8, 2016**

A meeting of the Franconia Board of Selectmen was held at 7 pm on Monday, February 8, 2016 at the Lafayette Regional School Library. Regular members in attendance were Bob Montagno, Bernie Costa, Eric Meth, Sally Small and Herbie Bartlett

Guests of the Board: John Monaghan, Jeff Phillips, Scott Leslie, Kim Cowles, Paul Schmucker

Others in attendance: Open to the Public

**SELECTMEN'S TIME:**

**2015 Budget Hearing – Open to the Public**

**FOR CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL:**

**APPOINTMENTS:**

**TO DISCUSS/REVIEW:**

**Budget Hearing Open to public comment –**

**Chairman Bob Montagno welcomed everyone to the public hearing. He described the process of the hearing and welcomed public input in regards to the budget and warrant articles.**

**Concerns & requests of the Franconia residents are as follows:**

- **More transparency.**
- **Paper copies of the charitable organization requests available at town meeting.**
- **Salaries to be posted online.**
- **Consider reducing fuel budget costs.**
- **Re-examine the telephone and internet budget (2017)**
- **Recreation should be as self funding as possible.**
- **Would like to know the number of participants in recreation program.**
- **Check into alternate health plans for 2017.**
- **Written policy in regards to who is eligible for health benefits and medicare per person.**
- **Would like policies put online.**
- **They want to pay their taxes online.**
- **Purchase of new equipment. The public requested proposed cost vs. actual costs.**
- **Keith Batchelder of 31 Plantation Road wanted to say that he appreciated the Boards work in regards to the proposed budgets.**
- **Several residents stressed the importance of recreation and schools, etc in keeping a vital**

**town which attracts new residents and visitors.**

- **More policies for town operations.**
- **Request to activate the Finance Advisory Committee.**
- **Unpaid taxes – were discussed and Bob Montagno assured the town that we have an ongoing process to deal with it. Those in arrears are published in the town report.**

**The Select Board will have the paper copies of the charitable request letters available. We will post the salaries on line and add detail to the department budgets so that we are more transparent. The board apologized for not having paper copies of the warrant available.**

**The Recreation Committee recommends the recreation budget then the Tri-Town Select Boards adjusts and sets the budget. The Select Boards voted unanimously to approve.**

**John Monaghan spoke in regards to the Police budget. He will be reducing the Specials/Part time officers to \$1500, new gear vests will be reduced to \$1000-\$1200 and reduce the body camera's to \$1000.**

**Russ Cumbee read warrant article #19 and it was discussed.**

The Select Board adjourned the meeting at 9:26pm

<b>FOR YOUR INFORMATION:</b>
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Respectfully submitted,

Herbie Bartlett  
Executive Secretary