

**FRANCONIA BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MEETING MINUTES  
Wednesday, February 8, 2017**

A work session of the Franconia Board of Selectmen was held at 4:08 pm on Wednesday, February 8, 2017 at the Franconia Town Hall. Regular members in attendance were John Lachapelle, Eric Meth, Holly Burbank and Herbie Bartlett.

Others in attendance: Peter Grote

**Budget Discussion** -\$1,629,178. We were overspent by \$874.57. Holly discussed with Jamie from the DRA in regards to doing a warrant article for this amount.

**Eric made a motion to adjust the legal expense line item from \$15K to \$12K, John seconded with all voting in favor.**

Nothing was changed on any of the budgets. A question was raised on the Fire Department \$13,500 for the Ladder Truck. Rick came in prior to the box truck crashing and there was an amount of money that needed to be spent on the equipment to outfit the ladder truck. That will go as a line item. As a warrant article would it fall into the same thing as the ladder truck for under capital reserve.

Holly recommends that it is raised under taxation. \$5400 is part of this line. Line added to the line for ladder truck to keep track of it. \$13,500 under for vehicles and maintenance equipment. Inspections - they do fire inspections. John has a legal opinion from the town attorney that we should be charging the business people for this. Has to have a public hearing...it was never acted on.

Holly will keep on her radar to revisit wages for inspection.

Holly did not combine forest fire and the fire department. Will revisit with Rick he may not want to combine.

Planning and Zoning was redone.

Police Budget - Holiday Pay...included in this.

General Government Buildings & Grounds - Corey is in their now is why it went up.

Workers Comp - went up but went up significantly because we had a \$10K credit last year.

In 2016 there was a credit of \$10K for Workman's Comp due to a municipal association court case. Refunds were given. \$12,599.00 to pay to Primex this year. Last year we would have paid \$27,315 if not for the credit.

Keep \$13,500 in the line item and hear from Jamie of the unanticipated funds we over spent.

## Warrant Articles -

**#1 Voting**

**#2 Numbers on the spread sheet**

**#3 Capital reserve funds - numbers came from Trustees of the Trust Fund (Legal \$30K reassessment fee of \$3940) \$101,376 and we are at \$181,012 for this year.**

**YES -**

**#4 Put money into expendable trust funds - highway, buildings etc... Do you recommend this appropriation was last year...YES**

**#5 Rink \$2K YES**

**#6 Dow - YES**

**#7 Recreation Van - YES**

**#8 Abbie Greenleaf \$83,499 - YES**

**#9 Tri Town Transfer Station \$316,463 proposed - \$281,250 spent last year \$99,561 Franconia's portion. Insurance and Salaries - big jump. Also the hydraulic pump. Also the compactor. YES**

**#10 - Town Clerk Health Insurance - Cost of her premium - YES She works 35 hours a week. \$2K less than what the town would pay. YES ( Have a policy for being eligible for health insurance). Holly will be working on personnel policy.**

**#11 - Lafayette Rec expendable Trust - monies for the checking at Mascoma Franconia division. Put it into an expendable trust fund. Selectmen agents to expend. The money will be transferred and tracked there. Part of it is for the Dow Fund . John thinks a portion to roll bank to the running of the program. Bernie Waugh talked about a revolving fund and Holly will research this. John defers to recommending. Speak to Kim about this the word projects bothers John. To enhance Lafayette Programs events and activities. It restricts it if they don't say project...Holly hesitates to take it out...John defers...may have to do an email decision. Holly will ask Kim. ( )**

**#12 Street Light Conversion - Was this a petitioned article - No. DRA asked this. YES**

**#13 - Discontinue the fire department Trust fund and do a Heavy Equipment Fund. As of December 31<sup>st</sup> reports of Trustees of the Trust Funds.**

**#14 Contingent on #13 all of #3 will go into the Heavy Equipment**

**#15 Northern Pass Defence Fund \$30K.**

**#16 Mt Wash Airport Commission Annual - Thad Presby brought in a letter dated January 13<sup>th</sup>. 2010 the Article passed adopt 2010 amendment of their bi-laws. A couple years ago a town meeting \$54K cut out of budget at town meeting. That got cut and it has never been put back in. They are trying to reorganize this. Yesterday a report from them with a letter hoping we put it back into the budget and warrant. Holly put it on there...or it can be taking off. Other towns involved and Holly doesn't know if it is being put on their warrants \$1644.00. What is the benefit to the town? John will review it. Holly will need a consensus.**

**#17 - Veterans Tax Credit - \$500 per year. \$15K goes to the existing veterans in the system. The wording was right in the DRA website. The house bill the towns could decide could grant a lower exemption. Holly will look that up. 90 days a drop in the bucket and include peace corps who served the 72-28B. Can the town choose to do a lower rate?**

## House bill 430 -

**#18 - Solar Energy by petition** - not a lot we can do. Steve Chardon solar exemption \$140K just the solar. Dave no assessed value on it. Hasn't caught up with it yet. \$140K less value to the town. Some do get paid for their power. ????

**#19 - Removable charitable contributions from the line item** - Non profit word like chamber it isn't charitable. NCC falls under this. Tri-County CAP.

**#20 - Boys and Girls Club** -same as last year...hadn't shown what they had done for the town of Franconia. They purchased a van this year and can transport Franconia kids to the functions. They didn't serve our kids.

**#21 - #31 All petitioned articles** - Selectmen recommend these you had done this last year. WE can change it. What was approved last year?  
All approved in one article.

**Adaptive sports \$750**

**Ammonnoosuc \$4k**

**Casa \$500**

**Center for New Beginning \$1K**

**Childrens Center \$2K**

**Grafton Seniors \$1500**

**Home health and Hospice \$3200**

**Support Center Burch House \$520**

**WMH \$1292.**

**Tri Country Transit \$2K**

**Humane Society \$500**

**All the same.**

**11, 16, 17 review those articles.**

Define projects for Rec

John - Airport/Boys & Girls Club - not everyone can afford it and locations cannot participate. It is focused on a special group of people to have this opportunity available to them. Many towns support and it is good.

Veterans credit - lower exemption

Solar Energy does board recommend.

Highlights page to hand out - What should we add 2016 issues 2017 issues...WComp and Health insurance went down. Recreational is down. Holly will work Saturday and Sunday.

Why is health insurance higher? There are some items we have no control over like heating fuel up and liability insurance. Items that went up and we have to bite the bullet. The markets Greg uses at the Transfer State Items that have increased for other reasons that we will have to be ready to answer. Department Heads need to be at the Budget Hearing on Monday night. Holly will ask Karen.

Holly has a summary of all transactions out of quick books. Next year will be different. Holly wants back up for each line. Equipment will need a quote for back up. It will save a lot of time of spinning around.

Holly thinks we are as far as we can go tonight. We have gotten a lot accomplished.

**Ammonoosuc Conservation Trust** - Board to sign the letter if we were aware of hazard for the Lawrence - Kim doesn't believe there are any hazards. It was signed by the board.

**Transaction Report for Week February 2<sup>nd</sup>. January 27<sup>th</sup>. Irving Check. The Board re-signed per Tina's request.**

**Peter will send out letters for who are running for a Candidates. Carol believes the Town should host this. Carol will notify. The Board decided to host this.**

**Delage Farm Road Bridge** - it is not a money article so does not have to be discussed on Monday. We need to know who owns what. We have been plowing it for 50 years. We will have to revisit this. It will have to wait. Laura Spector Morgan said if it is being a class six or a private road you will not need an article if class V road it can be discontinued. Road goes into the property. Holly will ask Sally about Ron Taksars Book. Let's hope it is a class VI road we could notify the owner within 14 days. From Route 116 on this side is driveway and always has been driveway per John. All the way to the house and plow to the house and turn around.

We may or may not have time to put on the warrant. The implication is one more year of liability.

**Batchelder Report** - Peter Grote requested to put the Batchelder report in the town report. Selectman Lachapelle recommended that it be a separate hand out at town meeting.

With no further discussion, the Board adjourned on a unanimous voice vote at 5:37 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Herbie Bartlett  
Executive Secretary