

MINUTES
FRANCONIA BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
Monday, January 11, 2016

A meeting of the Franconia Board of Selectmen was held at 3:00 pm on Monday January 11, 2016 at the Franconia Town Hall. Regular members in attendance were Bob Montagno, Eric Meth, Bernie Costa, Sally Small and Herbie Bartlett

Guests of the Board: Kim Cowles, Dick Bielefield, Margo Connors, John Strasser, Deb Stever, Ned Cutler and Zak Mei.

Others in attendance: Dawn Steele, John Hynes, Anne Foss, Mary & Peter Grote, Karen Foss, Haley Ireland & Meghan McPhaul.

SELECTMEN'S TIME:

BOS Minutes 1/7/2016: The January 7, 2016 BOS meeting minutes were tabled until Thursday January 14th.

FOR CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL:

Transaction Lists for 12/31/2015 & 1/14/16
Thank you Letter to Barry Bliss

APPOINTMENTS:

3:00 – Kim Cowles – Kim met with the three towns to review the 2016 Recreation Budget. The Recreation Committee decided to give Kim a 5% wage increase and Kris a 3%. Bob Montagno pointed out that there was no cost of living increase with the government. The Town of Franconia has decided on a 2% merit increase. Bob did research that showed Kim is not being compensated equally with other towns of the same size. The computer support for Chris Harris from Profile Technologies is split 60-40 with Recreation and the Parks. Kim uses her outdated computer and own laptop.

Line item for van will be offset by income. The three boards voted to increase the fuel line to \$1300 and to break out that line so Kim's mileage reimbursement is shown. Repair expense to be left at the \$1000 since the van has is 72K miles on it. Kim gets paid mileage for the recreation department. Kim never transports children in her personal vehicle. Kim is covered by her own insurance.

Winter Sports

Overspent on the uniforms because the basketball uniforms were worn out and there was money in the overall recreation budget to replace them this year. The uniforms usually last 5-6 years so they should be all set for awhile. Kim wasn't sure why we hadn't spent the \$200 on referees but she will ask Kris Kappler about the referees?

Kim explained that she will probably have to replace three panels of the boards on the rink and they are about \$200 each so she wanted to keep the equipment maintenance line the same even though very little

was spent 2015. Bob Montagno asked about the Furnace Maintenance line and Sally explained it was for the warming hut.

The major rink maintenance, the surface, is covered by the capital expense line.

They will try to do some swim lessons over at the Bethlehem pool and fun swim at the Gale River Motel.

Margo Connors asked if Mark Taylor, who helps train the summer counselors, could open it up to others for the training for certifications. Kim mentioned that Jean Serino at Evergreen can give life saving training.

The transportation line in the summer program is for the field trip bus rental but also includes fuel for the van when used for the adventure program. The boards decided to have the fuel that is used in the van for the adventure be broken out and put under vehicle expense. Since the Boards decided to increase the fuel amount in the vehicle expense line item by \$300, they voted to decrease the transportation line in summer program by \$300 to keep the bottom line the same.

Sally explained that the Franconia Selectmen voted to increase the town's portion of the weekly employee retirement from \$17 to \$20 which was why that line increased but it still represented the 60% share with the other \$405 going into the Parks budget.

The plane on the playground will have to be replaced using Capital Reserve Funds. The new Van fund is an Expendable Trust Fund. The Rink Surface Fund and the Dow Fund are both Capital Reserve Funds. Ned Cutler asked if the Van was part of Franconia's CIP for the Van. Kim explained that the Van was bought mainly from fund raising. Kim was asked if she had tried for grant money and she said she had not but that we certainly could look into that. The current balance in the Dow Savings accounts in the Mascoma bank is around \$23K. The expendable trust fund for the van is at \$1,000. The Dow Field Capital Reserve fund is a little over \$5,000 and the Rink Maintenance Fund has around \$8,400.

The Dow Fund savings account at the Mascoma Bank is made up of donations/fundraising and used for the summer events on the Dow field and recreation purchases are not part of the line item. All the yearly expenses are paid out of the general fund and then reimbursed at the end of the year. The bulk of the money comes from the fund raisers.

Kim asked if there had been any progress with the tri town agreement she had presented to the three towns. Ned Cutler and Deb Stever from Easton were still concerned that not enough information was included in the agreement and their main concern was with the insurance liability and how that would affect the town of Easton. Kim asked what information did they want in regards to it? John Hines a committee member from Easton said that the substance of the recreation program was on the budget sheet and didn't need to be in the agreement. Ned asked if there were any other towns who have had a combined program and Kim said that Lincoln and Woodstock were combined.

Sally explained that all the insurance (liability, workers comp and unemployment comp) were covered by Franconia since we administered the program and paid the employees.

The question of how is it covered at the transfer station was asked and Ned said we already had an agreement for the Transfer Station and Sally said that the insurance was all covered by Franconia.

It was decided to check with the Municipal Association to see how other towns handle the issue. Sally said she would talk to Primex as to whether or not the other towns would have to be on as a binder. She told the boards that once she had the budgets, warrant and town report done she would contact Primex in regards to the insurance. It was agreed that each board should do their own checking since all could and call the Municipal Association.

Ned moved to accept the amended budget, Bob seconded the motion with all voting in favor.

3:30 – Greg Wells - Is in the hospital with pneumonia. Sally presented his budget.

Hauling recycled materials is costing more each time it gets hauled. We are getting nothing for these items. The recycling is not what we anticipated. We went down \$500 on propane under utilities. He has a cell phone and he has a landline.

Ned Cutler would like to see a history of maintenance on the baler. Go back the last six years. Is it covered under CIP? It was but the three boards made the decision to use the special revenue fund.

With the maintenance category which was 2,200 last year was dropped to 2,000 for this year but Bob felt rather than break it for each piece of equipment it should be just one line and should be \$1500 for next year. The propane furnace is from the old fire station furnace and Greg has problems with it and since the history for that furnace is only one year the boards decided to leave it at the 2,000.

In the proposed capital improvements, the 2014 baler line should be taken out of the budget. Greg decided not to buy the scale in 2015. The storage container he did purchase cost \$3700 not \$3000.

2016 wages included a 2% increase on department head and then 2% on employees. Nate Hartford left and Corey Rush became full time. Chipper is our part timer and can only work a certain amount of time so Greg felt he could reduce the part time to \$15,600. Raises were based on performance. Corey is now certified. Margo Connors felt that Corey should have more of an increase now that he is full time. The boards decided to raise Corey to \$14/hour and Sally will adjust the figures in the wage line to reflect the increase.

Ned Cutler made a motion to raise Corey's pay to \$14/hour and Margo Connors seconded the motion with all voting in favor.

Greg didn't ask for anything for capital improvements.

The income is the problem. We over budgeted for income for last year. The recycled material is not what is used to be.

The PAYT bags offset the tipping and solid waste as well as the general operating expenses. Ned Cutler suggested we raise the cost per bag by 10% to help generate more bag revenue. The boards agreed to raise the price of the bags as of April 1st. A package of large bags with cost \$22.00 and the small bags \$19.50.

We will have to advertise the increase in the cost of PAYT bags prior to the effective date of April 1, 2016. Sally will email this budget to all towns once the changes have been made.

John Strasser made a motion to amend the budget changing Corey's wages to \$14/hr and adding \$4K for pay as you go bags, Bernie seconded the motion with all voting in favor.

TO DISCUSS/REVIEW:

Deer Pass – Is a major issue in regards to plowing and safety service vehicles. The town is responsible for the non-driveway. Signs will be put up. We don't know if John Monaghan spoke to Cort Roussel concerning the people who rent the chalet at the end of Deer Pass Road where the major problem of the parking exists.

Meeting adjourned at 4:45pm.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

There may be a possibility of a closed session meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Herbie Bartlett, Executive Secretary