

**Town of Franconia  
Board of Selectmen  
Regular Meeting & Tri-Town Meeting  
Monday, January 12, 2026 at 4:00PM  
at Franconia Town Hall**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Regular Meeting**

Board Members Present: Jill Brewer, Eric Meth, Dan Walker  
Others in Attendance: Libby Staples, Jenny Monahan, Katie Raymond, Jan Cole, Larry Plate

The regular meeting was called to order at 4:00PM.

**Appointments/Work Sessions**

**Trevor Presby – Presby Shop** – postponed.

**Public Comment**

Jan Cole mentioned that she has paid higher electric rates with Franconia Community Power than Eversource has been charging and is going to change back to Eversource. Selectman Meth acknowledged that to be true and said the Community Power Coalition had some sort of issues that resulted in higher rates than anticipated. He said a more detailed explanation could be received at the Energy Commission meeting.

Larry Plate asked if the minutes from January 5<sup>th</sup> were available.

**To Sign/Approve**

The January 9<sup>th</sup> thru January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026 Transaction List was approved.

**To Discuss/Review**

**Warrant Article Amounts – The Frost Place and Abbie Greenleaf Library** – Town Administrator Staples said she spoke with Stacy Holmes from Friends of the Frost Place and they have raised \$90,000 of the \$130,000 grant match for a total estimated project cost of \$260,000. Town Administrator Staples said there are about \$10,000 of donations for The Frost Place that could also be used. The Friends of the Frost Place asked for a warrant article of \$30,000 to close the gap. The board agreed to this amount.

For the library, the board agreed to a warrant article for \$50,000 towards their repair project.

The General Assistance budget was also revisited and Town Administrator Staples recommended funding the budget at \$8,000 and increasing the ETF contribution by \$2,000, rather than the previously discussed amounts of \$6,000 for the budget and \$2,000 for the ETF. The board agreed to \$8,000 for the line item and \$2,000 increase to ETF funding.

The Patriotic Purposes budget was briefly discussed and confirmed to stay at \$11,000 and reducing the

appropriation to the Chamber of Commerce from \$12,000 to \$9,000. Jan Cole commented that feels that Lafayette Recreation should still fund some of Old Home Day as they have fundraised for it in the past and have about \$100,000 in their ETF.

### **Committee Reports**

Selectman Meth said the Planning Board meets tomorrow at 6PM at town hall and the Energy Commission meets on the 13<sup>th</sup> at 4:30PM at town hall.

### **Tri-Town Meeting**

Sugar Hill Board Members Present – Richard Biellefield, Chris Ellms, Rusty Talbot (and Town Administrator Jennifer Gaudette)

Easton Board Members Present – Toni Woodruff, Bob Thibault, Brian Suthoff

### **Lafayette Recreation Budget Review -**

- Discussed 2026 proposed rec department budget; overall budget increase of \$11,000 from \$133,626 to \$144,793.
- Raised income across multiple lines with a total increase of \$10,200; anticipating higher program attendance this year.
- Summer Programs total increase of \$4,400 due to higher supplies costs, increase to Pool and Facilities fee, Field Trips and Adventure Camp for anticipated increased attendance.
- Moved \$5,000 to Summer Rec Counselor wages for Adventure Camp staff which was separate line last year.
- Increased Quickbooks payroll expenses.

### **Transfer Station Budget Review -**

- Forecasted income decreased across all lines as did not meet 2025 forecast.
- Retirement match contribution increased from 5% to 7% to align with New Hampshire retirement.
- New RSA requires municipalities to pay a tonnage-based surcharge with quarterly reimbursement; reimbursement timing/process is unknown, so budget includes funding to cover approximately one quarter and will be reassessed next year.
- Materials and supplies increased \$1,500, including seven Jersey barriers to protect employees, vehicles, and residents.
- Building maintenance was underspent due to a canceled double project; line remains at \$3,000 for next year.
- PAYT bag line set at \$26,000 for 200 boxes (large) and 150 boxes (small); supplier minimum may require the full order, exploring a half order at \$13,000; one-year supply with existing surplus.
- Staffing shifts from 3 full-time to 2 full-time + 2 part-time this year.
- Currently 2 full-time + 1 part-time; seeking one more part-time to restore Thursday openings.
- Model reduces benefits expense by \$15,000 and wages by \$14,000.
- 2026 Proposed is \$396,418, overall increase of \$5,500.

**Additional Discussion** – Selectman Suthoff proposed having a meeting with Jace Wirth, Cannon Mountain’s General Manager with one representative from each select board to brainstorm collaboration and propose benefits for locals similar to what Bretton Woods does with reduces passes, etc.

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 5:00PM.

Respectfully,

Jenny Monahan  
Executive Assistant

DRAFT