

**Town of Franconia
Board of Selectmen's Regular Meeting
Monday, January 22nd, 2024
at 3:30PM at Town Hall**

Board Members Present: Jill Brewer, Dan Walker

Others in Attendance: Libby Staples, Jenny Monahan, Dawn Steele, Peter & Mary Grote, Karen Foss, Jan Cole, Lynn Terres

The meeting was called to order at 3:34PM.

Appointments/Work Sessions

Non-Public Session - RSA 91-A:3, II(b)

4:30PM – Tri-Town Meeting – Recreation and Transfer Station Budget Review

Public Comment

Dawn Steele suggested the town look into switching propane providers for better pricing. Dawn Steele commented on the proposed zoning amendments and the posting requirements. Dawn also said Jim Walker said that notice of the zoning amendments was not given in accordance with the RSA.

Peter Grote commented that the ZBA is not following correct legal procedures.

Mary Grote commented that the planning board is not doing things correctly and the hearing scheduled for tonight should be canceled. And the room it is being held in is too small.

Dawn Steele read an email she received from Jim Walker about the RSA for proposed zoning changes being simple to comprehend.

Dawn Steele said the ZBA would benefit from additional training.

Town Administrator Staples will inquire with town counsel in regard to the posting of the zoning changes.

To Sign/Approve

The minutes of January 2nd, 2024 were approved as amended.

A septic application for map 16 lot 1, 15 Meadow Crest Drive was approved by the board. The January 19th, 2024 to January 25th, 2024 transaction list was approved by the board.

Chairman Brewer made a motion to enter non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II(b) at 3:59PM, seconded by Selectman Walker.

The board left non-public session at 4:13PM and prepared for the arrival of the tri-town board members.

4:30PM – Tri-Town Meeting – Recreation and Transfer Station Budget Review: Sugar Hill Selectmen Richard Bielefield, Margo Connors and Chris Ellms joined the meeting with Sugar Hill Administrative Assistant Jennifer Gaudette also in attendance. Easton Selectmen Zak Mei and Bob Thibault joined the meeting.

Administrative Assistant Jennifer Gaudette asked about the June to December 2023 billing to Sugar Hill and Easton. She said the billing was based on the budget and not on the actuals and how this may be rectified. After some discussion it was suggested that this should be given as a credit towards 2024 first billing.

The boards then reviewed changes to the transfer station and recreation budgets since their last review.

Selectman Walker spoke to capital purchases. He said the price for the two roll-off containers for the transfer station will be \$19,062. The refurbished baler that was previously quoted is no longer available and the price of a new horizontal baler is quoted at \$134,875. These will be warrant articles for the town's respective contribution percentages.

The recreation budget was discussed. Supplies increased this year due to aging equipment needing to be replaced. Summer rec counselor wages are increased to retain experienced employees. Vehicle maintenance was underspent as there was no vehicle to maintain, the town rented a vehicle for the summer rec period.

A recreation vehicle was discussed. A small bus rather than a van is recommended by Primex for increased safety and insurability. Selectman Walker said it will be a gently used bus and was quoted at approximately \$65,000 based on the stock available at the time. This will also be a 2024 warrant article with the expense offset by capital reserve funds.

The boards discussed their respective warrant articles for the capital purchases.

Administrative Assistant Gaudette inquired about the 823-8123 dispatch number and that Sugar Hill would like to phase that number out this year and have PD and Fire Department calls forward directly to county dispatch.

With no further discussion the meeting was adjourned at 5:19PM on a motion from Selectman Walker and a second from Selectman Thibault with all voting in favor.

Respectfully,

Jenny Monahan
Executive Assistant