

TOWN OF FRANCONIA
BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, JUNE 27th, 2022 AT 5:30PM AT TOWN HALL

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Dan Walker, Jill Brewer, Eric Meth

OTHERS PRESENT: Kim Cowles, Jenny Monahan, Jeremy Hall, Mary & Peter Grote, Larry Plate, Lynn Terres, Dawn Steele, Mike & Tina Betley, Kevin Johnson

The meeting was called to order at 5:34pm

APPOINTMENTS/WORK SESSIONS

5:30pm Jeremy Hall – Highway Department – Budget Review and 10-Wheeler Repairs: The board reviewed the highway department budget with Jeremy and Town Administrator Cowles. Jeremy said the state is holding the current diesel price until November 1st and then he expects it to increase significantly. Gasoline increased by \$1.05, but the department has only one truck that uses gasoline. The fuel line will need to be increased for next year.

Over \$3,000 of work has been done in-house on the 10-Wheeler. It needs the tires replaced as well, which will be an additional \$3,200. Jeremy said this will get us a couple more years out of the truck before it is traded and it is currently being used to haul sand.

Town Administrator Cowles said the expense could come out of the highway budget or the CRF, but the year is only half over and it is possible other repairs may need to be funded this year.

The Wages – Overtime line has been exceeded due to weekend and after-hours snow removal hours. Town Administrator Cowles said that line item used to be \$12,000 but it was reduced to \$6,500 for this year.

Additional Discussion: Town Administrator Cowles said she was contacted by HEB Engineering about new grants that are coming available that may be applied for to address the culvert on Wells Road. The town submitted a letter of interest. It would cost \$2,500 to apply. Town Administrator Cowles will check to see if the grant involves matching funds.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment was taken from Dawn Steele, Larry Plate and Kevin Johnson. There was a lengthy discussion with Water Department Commissioner Kevin Johnson about their request for ARPA funds from the town. The selectmen asked Jenny to add this topic to the next meeting agenda.

TO SIGN/APPROVE

The June 27th, 2022 transaction report was reviewed and signed by the selectmen.

The minutes of May 2nd, 2022 were approved as amended.

The PA-28 Inventory of Taxable Property from the Dept. of Revenue Administration was signed by the selectmen.

A Current Use application for map 26 lot 21 and map 27 lot 3 was reviewed and approved by the board.

The selectmen signed the Record of Appointment for Michael Betley to be an alternate Trustee of the Trust Funds.

The board signed two supplemental tax warrants for new mobile units at Fox Hill Cooperative.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE

Town Administrator Cowles read a letter from Chief Rick Gaudette and Chief Paul Schmucker recommending that the Fire Department and Life Squad are merged and have one appointed coordinator to oversee all personnel for both fire and EMS. For the remainder of 2022 both chiefs will continue to serve and work with the appointed coordinator. A hiring committee will be formed to include the chiefs, assistant chiefs and town administrator.

Town Administrator Cowles said job descriptions have been developed and are ready to be published. These will be part-time positions and there will be 14 shifts to fill. Hiring should begin mid-July.

Selectman Walker said he had the draft of the rental agreement for the chamber to rent the office space in the welcome center. Copies were given to the other selectmen so they can review the agreement and discuss at the next meeting.

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 6:55pm on a motion from Chairman Brewer and a second from Selectman Walker with all voting in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jenny Monahan
Administrative Secretary