

TOWN OF FRANCONIA
BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING
MARCH 15, 2021 AT 6PM VIA ZOOM

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Kim Cowles, Jenny Monahan, various online attendees.

The meeting was called to order at 5:00pm.

A second budget hearing was held to add two fund transfers to Article 16; a transfer of a \$25,000 anonymous donation to the library maintenance fund and a transfer of \$2,385 to the heritage museum.

Janice Cole suggested some changes to the wording of various articles in the warrant and some corrections. There was ample discussion about Article 4 - Appropriate to Capital Reserve Funds and Article 17 – Transfer Surplus Funds to Life Squad CRF. Janice Cole felt that as Article 17 references Article 4 in stating *“If this article passes, it will replace the amounts noted in Article 4”*, and the articles are significantly distanced in the warrant, it may be difficult to relate the two articles in discussion at town meeting. It was decided to check with Town Moderator Jim Walker to see what his opinion is.

Janice Cole inquired about the MS-636 Estimated Revenues from last year as compared to this year and the Appropriations and the Warrant Articles figures in the Budget Summary of the MS-636. Town Administrator Cowles invited Janice to meet with her tomorrow at town hall to discuss her questions. Karen Foss said she would like to attend as well.

Janice also asked why Article 17 is in the Individual Warrant Articles instead of Special Warrant Articles. Town Administrator Cowles said that was what the Dept. of Revenue Administration instructed her to do.

Jayne O'Connor asked about Article 21 Cemetery – Deposits of Funds, and whether or not the amount of the deposit should be included in the article. After a brief discussion, it was determined that a specific amount did not need to be included in the article.

Karen Foss asked about the article numbers on page 7 of the MS-636 and where those revenues are posted elsewhere in the budget. Town Administrator Cowles said that column is propagated automatically.

Karen Foss asked about why the Recreation Department and Tri-Town Transfer Station are treated differently in the budget and the warrant articles. Town Administrator Cowles said she was unsure and found it odd as well.

Dawn Steele asked about the format of the MS-636 Revenues page in 2018 showing Estimated Revenues for the year prior in addition to the proposed budget year. Town Administrator Cowles said this was the Dept. of Revenue Administration's format and it must have been changed for 2019.

Town Administrator Cowles said the Water Department Commissioners have asked if they can use the main hall at town hall to conduct employment interviews. It was discussed that there would only be five people in the room at a time and they would be distanced and masked. Permission was granted for this request.

With no further discussion, the hearing was adjourned at 5:50pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jenny Monahan
Administrative Secretary

These minutes of the Town of Franconia Select Board have been recorded by its Secretary. Though believed to be accurate and correct they are subject to additions, deletions and corrections by the Select Board at its next meeting when the Board votes its final approval of the minutes. They are being made available at this time to conform to the requirements of New Hampshire RSA 91-A:2.