DRAFT

**FRANCONIA, EASTON AND SUGAR HILL TRI-TOWN BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING**

**MONDAY, May 1, 2023 AT 4:30PM**

**AT THE CAROLINA CRAPO BUILDING IN SUGAR HILL**

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

Sugar Hill: Margo Connors, Richard Bielefield, Chris Ellms

Easton: Toni Woodruff, Zak Mei

OTHERS PRESENT: Sharon Penney, Jennifer Gaudette, Karen Foss, Dawn Steele, Barry Normandeau

The meeting was called to order at 4:33PM

The boards met to discuss the NCES Solid Waste Contract that expired on April 30, 2023 and currently has an extension until May 8, 2023. The boards have no obligation to withdraw from Pemi Baker Solid Waste district as they do not have to comply with Casella’s contract with Pemi. Franconia TA Sharon Penney has spoken with Sharon Gauthier, Executive Director. Androscoggin Valley Regional Refuse Disposal (Mt. Carberry) and there is an open-ended contract ready for Franconia, Easton, and Sugar Hill to have solid waste transported to Mt. Carberry. Mt. Carberry is $72.00 a ton across the board, MSW, Bulky, all goes together. Demolition is the same price and this will offer flexibility and perhaps less trips. The town will realize their own tipping fee. Currently the town is sending out 12 Ton/week. NCES fees run from 72.00 to 77.57 with a potential closing date of 2027.

MT. CARBERRY has a municipality ownership with 11 core towns. It is situated on 1500 acres, clay with liners and has a natural barrier, is very well run and has been in operation since 1990. Carberry is also an asbestos accepting landfill. It is a difference of transporting 45 miles where currently it is 11 miles. The board members are concerned with where waste will be going in the next 25-30 years and the Tri Towns will be left out if a change is not made now.

BARRY NORMANDEAU, owner of Normandeau Trucking was in the area and stopped at the meeting to introduce himself and explain a very simple contract to transport the waste to Mt. Carberry. Changes to the contract can be made as needed. It is a one size fits all and will create les traffic. The contract can apply to other town projects as well. Tri Town owns one container and would need to lease one container. The transport contract can be terminated after a 90-day window. They would be available even on a Sunday if the transfer station ran into a problem. Normandeau operates 24/7 365 days a week.

Selectman Brewer made a motion to move forward with the Mt. Carberry and Normandeau Trucking Agreement and do not renew contracts with NCES, seconded by Selectman Bielefield. The motion passed unanimously with all board members voting in the affirmative.

Sugar Hill Selectperson Margo Connors called NRRA which covers four states and they do many things including recycling incentives. Previous years Tri town Transfer has participated in getting composters. They have grants available and that is what was used last year to purchase a container. Margo felt it might be a good idea to have them look at the Tri Town Transfer Station and share any changes that might help with the overall operation. Margo also reported that the Caledonian Record will be doing a story on composting and reporting on Meadowstone Farm and the Tri Town Transfer Station now accepting compost. Margo also spoke with Tim Blake the manager to find out what can be done to help him in his position. They currently need better internet, a new computer, a propane heater replaced. Concern with bear season, may need to electrify the compost collection bin. It was noted that once again recyclables are not making money and just breaking even. Margo also conveyed the message that no Select Board members ever attend the Pemi Baker Solid Waste District Meetings. Question on if the Tri Town area needs a representative that does not have a conflicting position as our current representative works for a neighboring town transfer station.

The group agreed that Toni Woodruff, Easton, Jill Brewer Franconia, and Margo Connors for Sugar Hill would meet to stay abreast of issues at the transfer station and do a monthly check in with Tim.

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 5:40 pm

 Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Gaudette

Administrative Assistant

Town of Sugar Hill