

TOWN OF FRANCONIA
BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 16, 2020 AT 3PM AT TOWN HALL

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Eric Meth, Jill Brewer, Jeff Blodgett.

OTHERS PRESENT: Kim Cowles, Jenny Monahan, Mary Grote, Dawn Steele, Lynn Terres, Karen Foss.

The meeting was called to order at 3:02pm.

The November 9, 2020 meeting minutes were approved as amended.

Executive Budget Review: Town Administrator Cowles reviewed the Executive Budget with the Selectmen. She noted that that we should have a small surplus left in wages at end of year. She also said the Audit Line will be increased by \$200 as the cost is going up by that much.

Planning & Zoning: For this budget it was noted that the ZBA Secretary Wages line may need to be increased as they meet much more frequently than they did in prior years.

Legal Expense: This budget has been exceeded by \$3,000 to date due to a 91A request that legal counsel is handling.

APPOINTMENTS:

3:00 –Chief Cashin – PD Budget Review & Face Covering Ordinance: Chief Cashin said the PD was not able to take in as much income as usual because the pandemic has caused events to be cancelled so there is less opportunity for Detail. In Wages – Administration, this line is being requested to increase by \$2,000 as it was reduced for budget cuts. For Wages – Regular Time, this will be requested at \$239,924 (an increase of \$30,000) in order to provide wages for the 4th full time officer for the whole year. Part-Time and Overtime Wages are being requested in the same amounts. The Telephone/Internet line is over by \$425 currently, which Jenny will investigate. The Dues, Education & Training line was reduced to meet the budget cut, but he said he will need that line restored to \$3450 for next year. Contracted Services will be requested at \$6,900. Equipment (New, Maint., Repairs) is being requested at \$2,400 as it was in previous years before the line was cut to meet the budget cut. Misc. (Supplies, Postage, Ads) is requested at \$3,000 to restore what was cut. The Fuel line is being requested at \$7,500 which would restore \$2,000 that was cut from the budget. The Vehicles Maintenance & Supplies is over because it was cut from the budget cut and the new cruiser required more funds than was approved in the warrant article. Chief Cashin said the department is not taking any pay increases this year to help with their budget.

Face Covering Ordinance: Chief Cashin talked with the board about the proposed ordinance and concerns he has about enforcing it and noticing it. Chief would like to talk to John Devivo at Cannon Mountain. This was tabled and will be revisited at the next meeting.

TO SIGN/APPROVE:

The November 9, 2020 meeting minutes were approved as written.

The November 16, 2020 transaction list was signed by the Selectmen.

TO DISCUSS/REVIEW:

Town Administrator Update: Kim said that the town will likely need a Tax Anticipation Note as the General Fund balance is about \$788,000 and we have yet to pay the county tax and there is still a month of school payments to pay. We are also still waiting for the tax rate to be released by the Dept. of Revenue Administration so we can set the tax rate for the

town.

CORRESPONDENCE: Town Administrator Cowles read a letter from Bernardette Costa regarding the proposed mask ordinance.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Cable Consortium: Selectman Meth said there was a Zoom meeting on the 9th about bringing broadband internet to the area. Carol Miller, the state's Director of Broadband Technology and Michelle Moren-Grey of North Country Council presented and representatives from local towns were in attendance.

Chamber of Commerce: Kevin Johnson gave an update on the Chamber. He said they have been working with Kim to determine what their tenancy in the Warming Hut would cost.

Conservation Commission: Chairman Brewer said the CC will meet on the 17th at 3:00pm.

Energy Commission: The Energy Commission will have Megan Schleck of Raising Green do a presentation at their meeting on Tuesday the 17th.

Planning Board: Selectmen Meth said the PB met on the 10th and discussed the need for the Master Plan to be updated.

CIP: Department head interviews are complete. The committee will meet again with Scott for additional information on roads.

OTHER BUSINESS: Chairman Brewer said that as the town didn't do the annual nominations of board and committee chairs and vice-chairs in the spring due to the pandemic, Town Administrator Cowles has asked all boards and committees to do that now. Chairman Brewer asked if the other selectmen are interested in being chair and suggested considering this and discussing at the next meeting.

Short Term Rentals – Kim provided the Short Term Rental Regulations for the board's review. After a brief discussion, Chairman Brewer made a motion to approve the Short Term Rental Regulations. Selectman Meth seconded the motion. All were in favor. **Motion passes.**

PUBLIC INPUT:

Kevin Johnson spoke in opposition of the proposed mask ordinance.

Dawn Steele commented on the proposed mask ordinance.

Dawn Steele thanked the board for approving the Short Term Rental Agreement.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jenny Monahan
Administrative Secretary

