

Town of Franconia
Board of Selectmen's Regular Meeting
Monday, November 6th, 2023
at 6PM at Franconia Town Hall

Board Members Present: Eric Meth, Dan Walker

Board Members Absent: Jill Brewer

Others in Attendance: Libby Staples, Jenny Monahan, Peter & Mary Grote, Karen Foss, Dawn Steele, Jan Cole, Mike Betley, Virginia Mike, Monica Laflamme, Steve Plant, Rick Gaudette

The meeting was called to order at 6:00PM

Appointments/Work Sessions

Fire Chief Rick Gaudette – Rescue Tools: Chief Gaudette said he would like to purchase rescue tools for the fire truck that is on order. There will be a price increase on the tools at the beginning of the year so he would like to order them now rather than wait for the truck to arrive.

*Selectman Walker made a motion to expend \$40,425 plus shipping out of the Fire Safety Equipment Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund. Selectman Meth seconds, **motion passes.***

Steve Plant – Recommendation from Capital Improvements Plan Committee: Steve started with the Transfer Station. He said the Transfer Station hasn't been funded in several years but the committee decided to put a nominal amount in the fund as there may be some equipment purchases coming up.

Funding for the Police Department is recommended at the same level as previous years which is \$14,437.

The Highway Trucks CRF is recommended at \$150,248 and the Heavy Equipment CRF is recommended at \$7,000. The total funding for these two CRF's is an increase over previous years as the fleet has changed and pricing has gone up. Highway Department Infrastructure is proposed to be the same as previous years with \$40,000 for bridge construction and \$21,000 for sidewalks ETF and \$75,000 for highway improvements ETF.

The Buildings & Grounds recommendation is to fund the equipment CRF at \$13,038 and vehicle CRF at \$18,760. This is an increase over last year due to increased market pricing. The town buildings ETF is recommended at \$30,000, same as previous years.

EMS ambulance and equipment is not being funded this year. There is approximately \$300,000 in those funds currently.

The EMS Fire/Heavy Equipment CRF is recommended at \$53,046, an increase over last year due to increased market pricing. Fire Safety Equipment is recommended at \$37,490, a slight increase over last year.

The Recreation ETF for Rink Surface Maintenance is recommended at \$2,081 and the bus CRF is recommended at \$5,202 and Dow Field CRF at \$1,561.

The Library ETF is recommended at \$5,630, Heritage Museum ETF at \$1,082 and the Frost Place ETF at \$884.

Steve said the total recommendation for funding for 2024 is \$481,459, a \$50,000 increase over 2023.

For the Transfer Station, Steve said the committee recommends purchasing two closed-top, roll-off containers for a total of \$19,062, of which Franconia's portion would be \$10,866 and come from the Transfer Station Equipment CRF. They recommend a new baler for \$86,297, of which Franconia's portion is approximately \$49,000 which would come from the Transfer Station Equipment CRF.

For the Highway Department, they recommend a new 6-wheeler truck is purchased for \$149,410 using funds from the Highway Truck CRF.

For the Fire Department, a mobile radio for the new rescue truck is recommended for \$8,759 from the Fire Department Safety Equipment ETF is recommended. Steve said the rescue tools discussed previously in the meeting are also recommended by the CIP.

For recreation, the purchase of a used bus is recommended, which has been quoted at \$69,977, with Franconia's portion being \$38,847, with \$26,698 coming from the CRF and the additional \$12,049 coming from the UFB.

They recommend the \$34,000 from the sale of the 10-wheeler is put in the Highway Truck CRF.

Steve said the committee thanks the department heads for their participation and the committee for their work.

Public Comment

Mike Betley asked about the process for the CIP to determine the annual contribution amount. Virginia Mike asked if hunting is allowed on town owned property. Dawn Steele commented on the pending agenda item of John Agostinelli requesting appointment to the Planning Board. There followed a lengthy discussion about the process for appointing people to boards, resulting in the board tabling the agenda item.

To Sign/Approve

The minutes of October 23, 2023 were approved as amended.

The November 3rd to November 9th transaction list was reviewed and signed by the selectmen.

Planning Board appointment – tabled.

Correspondence

Town Administrator Staples said she received an email from Adam Pinard asking about purchasing map 28 lot 17-1 from the town. This needs to be researched.

Town Administrator Staples said she would like to start budget review on November 27th and continue each week with a total operating budget review on December 18th.

Committee Reports

Broadband Initiative: Next meeting is November 16th.

Chamber of Commerce: The annual meeting and Northern Star Award presentation will be at Indian Head Resort on this Thursday, the 9th at 5PM.

Energy Commission: Selectman Meth said the minutes approved by the board tonight will be used to join the power coalition discussed on October 23rd.

Planning Board: Next meets next Tuesday the 14th and Tara Bamford will make a presentation via Zoom on the town's zoning.

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 7PM on a motion from Selectman Walker and second from Selectman Meth.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenny Monahan
Executive Assistant