

**Franconia, Easton & Sugar Hill  
ANNUAL TRI-TOWN SELECT  
BOARDS MEETING**

**January 10, 2022 AT THE CAROLINE CRAPO BUILDING IN SUGAR HILL**

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**Franconia Board Members Present: Jill Brewer, Eric Meth, Dan Walker**

**Sugar Hill Board Members Present: Richard Bielefield, Margaret Connors, Chris**

**ElmsEaston Board Members Present: Toni Woodruff, Bob Thibault, Zak Mei**

**Others Present: Jennifer Gaudette, Kim Cowles, Tim Blake, Karen Foss,**

**The meeting was called to order at 4:00pm.**

Transfer Station Manager Tim Blake and Kim Cowles reviewed the transfer station budget with the boards. They will be increasing fees for electronic disposal. Recycling is more favorable with mixed paper paying \$55/ton. Tire disposal is also increased by \$1.00. The budget was reviewed line by line. Health insurance premiums down 8.1%. Increase is do to staffing change and a single now two-person. All workers need mandated certifications which are now done remotely. There was question on why there was a contingency line. Solid waste hauling fees are down and tipping fees up. Materials and supplies include baling wire, strapping and big boxes. The bobcat is running well and that with two compactors and two balers make up the equipment. If any replacements are needed, they would apply for State Grants and also all three towns have CRF for the Transfer Station. Tim will look into a uniform contract like highway utilizes. Tim would like a chain link fence on both sides of the yard. Keeps people out and the trash in. They have added cameras for safety and security. People have been breaking in to steal batteries, copper and clothing. In addition, some maintenance on the area that continues to get muddy. Will gets some ledge pack and have highway assist in spreading. Wages are looking at 5.55 – 5.9% which is 2022 COLA. Margo Connors inquired if the towns should be looking at another location if Casella is closed down. Tim said shipping costs to Mt. Carberry would be high. There are currently 9 dumping locations in NH. It was mentioned that Meadowstone Farm will take food disposal and Tim said more people are utilizing the compost area at the transfer station.

Kim Cowles reviewed the Recreation budget with the boards. Summer recreation was very successful and being able to utilize three different venues helped spread out the kids. They offered a four-day program with the fifth day to clean and organize for the next week. There were no field trips to area attractions but took three trips and rented a bus from Berry Transportation that Kim drove, so there was a good rate. Bethlehem's pool and swimming instructors were used this year but Kim is hoping to have our own instructors for next year as some counselors are interested in getting their instructor certification. This will cut down on the time transporting the kids back and forth to Bethlehem. The new recreation/information/rink building was discussed and they will send out RFP for construction this spring and hope to build this year. Kim has adjusted her hours between recreation and administrative office and will be down to 10 hours for recreation. The boards thanked Kim for her work on both budgets. She will get final numbers out to the towns.

Dan Walker asked the two other boards if they would be interested in looking at regionalization for fire and EMS service in the future. Concerned with the high costs of buying equipment when there is a decline in volunteers. Sugar Hill and Easton are currently contracted with Littleton Fire for ambulance contracts.

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 5:15 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Gaudette  
Administrative Assistant, Town of Sugar Hill