

DRAFT

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

MONDAY, APRIL 3, 2023 AT 4:30PM

AT THE CAROLINE CRAPO BUILDING IN SUGAR HILL

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: **Franconia:** Jill Brewer, Dan Walker (Eric Meth via telephone)
Sugar Hill: Margo Connors, Richard Biellefield, Chris Ellms
Easton: Toni Woodruff, Zak Mei, Bob Thibault

OTHERS PRESENT: Sharon Penney, Jennifer Gaudette, Jenny Monahan, Erik Rasmussen, Tim Blake, Katie Raymond, Jan Cole, Adam Boyer, Karen Foss, Dawn Steele

The meeting was called to order at 4:33PM

Chairman Connors remarked that she thinks the boards should discuss what the tri-towns should do about future waste disposal to be prepared for the closing of North Country Environmental Services (NCES) in Bethlehem. She said Sugar Hill legal counsel advised that they can only get out of the Pemi-Baker contract via town meeting vote. She believes the contract with Casella can be ended with 1-3 months notice. Chairman Connors and Selectman Meth have both inquired with Mt. Carberry Landfill in Berlin; it is Selectman Meth's understanding that Mt. Carberry has to accept waste from the tri-towns. Chairman Connors said she was quoted \$72 per ton.

Town Administrator Penney reviewed the amendment to the contract with NCES and said there seem to be some gray areas, such as adjusting their fees annually in accordance with the Corporate Price Index and that the contract states the inclusion of an energy and environmental fee each month which will be calculated as a percentage of the invoice total. She also expressed concerns with sections of the amendment's language being vague.

Erik Rasmussen said NCES will be open until 2027. Erik also said it is his understanding that Mt. Carberry has an annual cap they must adhere to, so may not be able to accept new clients at any given time.

The boards discussed that it would be best to be acting offensively rather than waiting until NCES closure is imminent and be vying for a position at Mt. Carberry with other towns. Possibilities for trucking the waste were also discussed, as well as what would be required for turn around times with the existing amount of containers. No decisions were made and this discussion will be continued at the next tri-town meeting which the boards scheduled for June 12th at 4:30PM.

The doubling of Casella's hauling rate was discussed and current pricing at the transfer station. After this review, the boards were in agreement that pricing at the transfer station will need to be increased.

Selectman Walker made a motion to increase prices at the transfer station by 50%, rounding up to the next whole dollar to include PAYT bags and all item disposal prices, seconded by Selectman Mei. The motion passed unanimously.

The boards also discussed the proposed contract with JP Pest Services to control the rat issue at the transfer station. The contract includes \$930 for corrective services and \$102 a month maintenance.

Selectman Walker made a motion to accept the proposal from JP Pest Services. Chairman Brewer seconded the motion, motion passes unanimously.

Town Administrator Penney introduced new Recreation Department Director Katie Raymond. She said there has been some confusion with certain funds and how they can be used. She also suggested a review of the Tri-Town Agreement for clarification purposes. Sugar Hill and Easton boards encouraged Franconia to begin that review and report back with their recommendations. This will be on the April 17th agenda for Franconia's selectmen.

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 5:41PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jenny Monahan
Administrative Secretary