

At 6:10 pm the Board's meeting was called to order in the basement meeting room at the Fremont Town Hall by Chairman Hunter. Present were Selectmen Annmarie Scribner, Greta St Germain and Brett Hunter; Town Administrator Heidi Carlson; and Larry Dobson.

Selectmen read through mail folders and the bills for this week.

Larry Dobson said he had a couple of questions to discuss with the Board. He said he had asked the same question of the School Board; due to the many concerns expressed during the budget season regarding the hard times. He asked the Board to consider taking a cut in their salary; and putting the funds into the direct assistance budget. He thought this is symbolic that the Selectmen are also doing their part and shows some solidarity with the taxpayers.

The second question was whether or not the Town had an Economic Development Committee. The Selectmen indicated that we did not. Dobson suggested it might be a way to keep taxes down if we tried to attract some commercial development. He suggested forming an ad hoc committee to look at this.

Hunter said that the Planning Board has discussed interfacing with Epping in relation to the town's largest area which is adjacent to the Epping line, and the area was viewed on a map in the meeting room. There was discussion about the infrastructure improvements that would be necessary prior to development in this area.

There was some general discussion about the process and where to start. It was pointed out that all of the Town's land use boards are short of members, and that finding additional volunteers today is also difficult. Dobson was directed to the Planning Board as a starting place as well, as zoning changes would also be part of the discussion, and that seems at this time to be the best connection to the process.

Selectmen said they would support an effort getting underway. Dobson left the meeting at 6:25 pm.

At 6:23 pm Charlie Forsythe came in to the Board's meeting.

St Germain moved to enter non-public session pursuant to NH RSA 91-A:3 II (c). Scribner seconded and the roll call vote was unanimously approved 3-0.

At 6:29 pm motion was made by St Germain and seconded by Scribner to return to public session. The roll call vote was unanimously approved 3-0. The Board granted a 90 day extension with a payment to be made in the next few days.

Mr Forsythe left the meeting at 6:30 pm.

At 6:30 pm motion was made by Scribner to enter non-public session to discuss personnel and legal items in accord with NH RSA 91-A:3 II (c) and (e). The roll call vote was unanimously approved 3-0.

At 6:45 pm motion was made by Scribner and seconded by St Germain to return to public session. The roll call vote was unanimously approved 3-0. The Board decided that they were not prepared to reallocate any additional funds to the Town Clerk's budget. The Board decided to make a conditional offer to Brian Lanseigne for the cemetery laborer position. The Board decided not to consider a hardship interest reduction request for a taxpayer that was retroactively making the request, after all taxes for past years had been paid.

St Germain presented a copy of the email sent to her by Mike Nygren requesting a lot of information relative to police wages, hours worked and scheduling. The Board discussed this and agreed that requests

for information should be from the full Budget Committee. St Germain asked Carlson to speak with Chief Janvrin about this request.

St Germain will email Nygren to have it be voted on by the Committee if it is the information they would like. This led to discussion about questions coming from individual members and how to handle requests for information.

At 7:00 pm there were no Department Heads present.

Selectmen discussed the request of Larry Dobson regarding reducing the Selectmen's stipend. The Board agreed that everyone needs to pitch in, but stated the Board does a lot of work during the year and doing the best to save as a whole. Carlson indicated that there may have been one increase in the Selectmen's stipend in her 17 years in Fremont. The Board stated that they are not going to make that change at the present time.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Selectmen reviewed the minutes for 28 April 2011. Motion was made by Hunter to accept them as amended. Scribner seconded and the vote was unanimously approved 3-0.
2. A check was received from Comcast for first quarter 2011 franchise fee payments in the amount of \$16,028.61 and has been remitted to the Treasurer for deposit to the Cable Revolving Fund.
3. Selectmen reviewed a letter to Comcast regarding cessation of franchise fees pursuant to the 2011 Town Meeting vote. The Board reviewed the contract and noted that there are other obligations that have not been met by Comcast and those will also be addressed. The Board also noted that the Town has other financial obligation in the contract that were to be funded by franchise fees. Cessation of the collection of franchise fees could obligate the taxpayers to these items.

The Board felt they must honor the Town Meeting vote even though the "\$3.19" specified is the franchise fee of one particular subscriber in Town. The amount on each individual bill is a percentage based on your level of cable service, so every cable bill is different.

The Board felt that had to discontinue it despite what the contract says and that they will also need to address the other contract items that have not been done, and request that Comcast not do the recabling of the areas at the Raymond/Epping and Sandown Town Lines that will require additional funding (\$48,000 by contract) to complete. There will not likely be enough money in the revolving fund to complete all of that, and the Selectmen's primary focus with the franchise fee money existing in the revolving fund is to wire the Town Hall and Ellis School for public access.

The Board directed Carlson, in addition to mailing the letters as specified in the contract, to contact by phone the contacts listed, and report back to the Board tomorrow on this action.

4. Copies of the updated Investment Policy had been circulated earlier in the week by email for review, and hard copies were distributed this evening. The changes as discussed last week were reviewed. Selectmen will read through this for one final proof and hope to sign a final version next week.
5. Selectmen reviewed the final draft of the Information Sensitivity Policy. The Board adopted the policy and signed several copies.

There was discussion about putting together a package of information and checklist for new elected officials as well, who may not be subject to all of the Town's Personnel Policies and Practices.

6. Selectmen reviewed and approved an Elderly Exemption for 2011 for Barbara Bean at 235 Main Street on Parcel 03-148 as it has been reviewed to meet the criteria.

7. Selectmen signed the agreement outline with Mr Hayes last week regarding deeding of parcel 02-010 back to him. Mr Hayes will be asked to review the terms and sign the agreement. Once that had been completed, the Board will sign the deed.

8. The Board was updated regarding purchase of video equipment. Two more companies who provide equipment will be contacted for a proposal. The Board agreed that work would start at the Town Hall, followed by Ellis School and then the Fremont Public Library. The amount of work done will depend on pricing and the final amount in the cable revolving fund.

9. Selectmen discussed the proposed rate increase presented last week by the Road Agent. There was lengthy discussion about the data gathered by the Highway Study Committee and what the cost / benefit was to owning Town equipment versus continuing to rent a backhoe.

St Germain explained much of the Highway Study Committee's work, but indicated that a lot more got into the process, and thus no formal "recommendation" was made about what the Town should do in terms of buying its own equipment.

Hunter asked for St Germain to present the data collected by the Committee in terms of owning Town equipment. St Germain felt that the data had showed that it was financially beneficial for the Town to own their own equipment.

After further discussion, the Board decided that they were ready to move forward to looking at the purchase of a town-owned backhoe. St Germain will bring the financial data back

10. Carlson advised the Board that the Road Agent is planning to stripe stop lines on several town roads, including South Road, to further address the concern expressed two weeks ago. In addition to the STOP sign, there is a STOP AHEAD sign as you approach Sandown Road.

The Board asked if the location of those items is functional (ie: sign placement or brush cutting) and will put this on a list to revisit next week. Carlson will get in touch with the Road Agent and Police Chief to follow-up again.

11. The next Highway Study Committee meeting will be posted for June 6, 2011 at 6:00 pm.

12. Selectmen reviewed Memorial Day Parade information. The Board stated that the residents who have asked to participate in their roles as Miss Junior NH, must dress patriotic and honor the purpose of the parade, but can wear their sash and crown.

It was decided that Hunter will again do the Board's opening comments at the Ceremony; Scribner will do the individual introductions; and St Germain will do the closing comments.

13. Selectmen signed a corrected page of 04/29/2011 warrant. The title page incorrectly said Excavation Warrant and it was a Yield Tax Warrant. This will be returned to the Tax Collector.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Selectmen reviewed the accounts payable manifest \$7,098.56 for the current week dated 06 May 2011. Motion was made to approve the manifest by St Germain. Scribner seconded and the vote was unanimously approved 3-0.
2. Selectmen reviewed folder of incoming correspondence.
3. Selectmen signed outgoing correspondence to Robin & Edward Patria, Linda Fish, and Robert Hayes.
4. Selectmen reviewed updated proposals for the North Road Stone Wall repair work. They include Harris Rock Wall, which did not change from \$15,975.00; and S Tomasz General Mason which increased by \$1,597.00 to \$27,197. The Board discussed having engineering oversight as the work progresses to be sure that the provisions of the Sanford drawing are met. Therefore, the Board is highly recommending the Harris proposal that would allow for engineering oversight by Sanford who did the additional drainage work. This information will be forwarded to Attorney Bauer.
5. The Conservation Commission has received a grant for \$10,000 from a Trust of the Will of William P Wharton. This grant money will be deposited by the Treasurer into a grant fund for use in the purchase of the identified property, at such time as sufficient funds are on hand.
6. The 2010 Census population data is showing Fremont at 4,283.
7. Selectmen reviewed April monthly financial reports from the Treasurer.
8. Selectmen signed a 2010 -2011 Yield Tax Warrant in the amount of \$565.25 for parcels 06-054 and 06-055 owned by Bonita Freeman.
9. Selectmen signed a 2010 -2011 Excavation Tax Warrant in the amount of \$245.02 for parcel 02-151.002 owned by PJP Co Inc.
10. Selectmen talked about 2011 goals and target dates and decided to keep an ongoing project list to be visited each week, and to carry forward topics that need to be finalized. A book was started to use for this purpose and this evening's follow-up items were added.
11. Selectmen again discussed designing a new website. St Germain has suggested other Board members look at sites designed by Mainstay (Town of Brentwood, NH LGC) as she feels they are well-designed and user-friendly. Board members were asked to look at a few of their sites. St Germain will contact them to follow-up on the original proposal they brought forward.

At 8:45 pm Diane Rossi came in to the Board's meeting.

12. Selectmen discussed the proposed Assessing Contract from MRI in response to the recent RFP process. The contract has been reviewed by DRA and found to be satisfactory. Carlson updated the Board on the contract verbiage and an item that was missing which has been added back in pursuant to a conversation with principal Joe Lessard. Selectmen signed and initialed the contract where indicated.

Selectmen also signed letters to the other three companies who submitted RFPs for general assessing services. This included Granite Hill Municipal Services, Certified NH Assessing Services, and Cross Country Appraisal Group LLC.

At 8:55 pm motion was made by St Germain to enter non-public session to discuss a tax hardship matter. Scribner seconded and the roll call vote was unanimously approved 3-0.

At 9:20 pm motion was made by Scribner and seconded by St Germain to return to public session. The roll call vote was unanimously approved 3-0.

The Board discussed taking the next year to find a solution to the arrearages and asked Rossi to keep in touch with the Board.

Rossi left the meeting at 9:30 pm.

The Board continued working on the Personnel Policy.

NEXT WEEK

The next regular Board meeting will be held on Thursday May 12, 2011.

With no further business to come before the Board, motion was made by Scribner and seconded by Hunter to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 pm. The vote was unanimously approved 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Carlson
Town Administrator