

At 5:05 pm the Board's meeting was called to order in the basement meeting room of the Fremont Town Hall. Present were Selectmen Greta St Germain, Brett Hunter, and Annmarie Scribner (5:10 pm); and Town Administrator Heidi Carlson. All rose for the Pledge of Allegiance.

At 5:15 pm motion was made by Hunter and seconded by St Germain to enter non-public session pursuant to NH RSA 91-A:3 II (c) to discuss a matter, which if discussed in public may adversely affect an individual's reputation. The roll call vote was unanimously approved 3-0; Scribner – aye; Hunter – aye; St Germain – aye.

At 5:25 pm motion was made by Hunter and seconded by St Germain to return to public session.

Motion was made by Hunter to seal these minutes indefinitely. St Germain seconded and the roll call vote was unanimously approved 3-0; Scribner – aye; Hunter – aye; St Germain – aye. No decisions were made.

Selectmen reviewed the folder of incoming correspondence and bills for payment.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Selectmen reviewed the minutes for 04 October 2012. Hunter moved to approve the minutes. St Germain seconded and the vote was approved 3-0.

2. Carlson reported to the Board that an informational meeting was held on Tuesday October 9th regarding the Post Office realignment. Based on survey information received, it is likely that the counter hours of the Fremont Post Office will be 8:30 am to 3:00 pm with lunch from 11:30 am to noon. The lobby will be open for mail retrieval the same hours as it is currently (8:00 am to 5:00 pm); and there is a possibility that the lobby will have access 24/7 via card swipe or key pad.

3. Selectmen discussed the new employees who had to be added to the payroll system for Grassdrag details and the necessary paperwork that needs to be completed.

4. Selectmen reviewed the current expenses and realignment of Highway Department 2013 budget request as presented by Mark Pitkin. In the vote last week to use the 2012 default budget, no allowance was made for the backhoe expenses, which were new to the Town in 2012. Selectmen approved money funding the backhoe maintenance and fuel lines, and that \$1,000 had been allocated to drainage supplies. The Board did not support the increase in part-time labor to \$8,000, and reduced that line from the Road Agent's request back to the 2012 default level of \$5,120. The Board said they were not comfortable changing a job to that degree.

The lines were revised with the same bottom line recommendation of \$392,291 and copies will be redistributed to members and to the Budget Committee next week.

5. Selectmen discussed use of the Town's unreserved fund balance. The amount shown in the 2011 Audit Report is \$690,556. Selectmen discussed using funds to keep the tax rate as low as possible for 2012 and will revisit the exact numbers as the tax-rate setting draws near.

6. Selectmen reviewed a letter from Mike Weymouth requesting use of Bill Rollins Consulting to continue the Gristmill engineering services. Selectmen approved this request contingent on the same approval being granted by the Planning Board.

7. Selectmen signed a letter to Dan Olson regarding the possibility of issuing a temporary trailer permit and the necessary conditions and timeline.
8. Carlson updated the Board on the amount of insurance money available to finish the repairs at the Safety Complex. Presently, the repair work will be completed, and if there are sufficient funds nearing year end, the “dish” around the boiler room will also be completed.
9. Carlson advised that the Tax Collector Audit took place today and yesterday and that Plodzik’s final report and the recommittal will be forthcoming.

At 7:20 Deputy Fire Chiefs Joe Nichols and Kevin Zukas met with the Selectmen to discuss the Fire Rescue budget, as Chief Butler was not available this evening. Copies of the rationale were redistributed, and discussion began on the budget.

There was lengthy discussion on the history of the LOSAP and Points programs. There was discussion about past history of per point value in recent years. Nichols said call volume was up this year and he thought it would be \$8 or \$9 per point draw from the Points Program. The point year ends 10/31/2012 and hard numbers for the 2012 year will also help in making budget determinations. The Selectmen asked for this information to be provided as soon as it is available.

LOSAP participation requires three years on the department, 50% participation in training and meetings; and 25% participation in toned calls. Nichols said there are 19 members who qualify; 9 who are at the \$3,000 level (FF2 and EMT-B); 2 at \$2,500 (First Responder and FF2); 6 at \$1,500 (could be either an EMT-B or a firefighter); and 2 at \$1,000. He said a few more members will be eligible in 2013.

There is an allowance for a couple more people who might make it in 2013 but did not quite make it in 2012.

Levels of payment for certification are:

First Responder \$1,000

EMT-B \$1,500

Firefighter I \$1,000

Firefighter II \$1,500

The maximum payout is \$3,000 per person, and the member roster is capped. Nichols said that this increase is a positive thing for the Town, and shows more participation and a larger membership.

Selectmen said they do not want to see waivers granted without some real scrutiny so that it is fair and people are held to the same level of accountability and participation.

Selectmen asked members for Department support at Deliberative Session and to be able to explain the plan and answer questions.

Selectmen also wanted to look at the job description of Fire Chief to see what duties are included as it pertains to additional stipends paid out.

There was discussion about spending money that is appropriated on a regular basis.

The cost of Firefighter gear is estimated at \$2,200 per set (jacket, pants, boots, gloves, helmet); and a Class A uniform at \$500.

Selectmen discussed changing line item names to clarify what is vehicle maintenance versus what is equipment maintenance. Carlson will make these updates on the spreadsheets.

In response to questions about the number of sets of gear (both fire and EMS) to be purchased, how many jump bags, and what is needed for equipment, the rational needs to be updated. The Board also asked that items completed in 2012 be removed and show more defined estimates or actual cost of items to be purchased or completed in 2013 be included.

There was discussion about the purchase of a new fire truck, and Nichols said the Committee was preparing to convene again. He said they may try and consolidate and put two trucks into one. E3 and T5 would be taken out of service; and having one in place of two that is new will reduce maintenance costs.

There was discussion about a warrant article for replacement SCBA's.

Nichols and Zukas left the meeting at approximately 8:45 pm.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Selectmen reviewed and approved the payroll manifest \$34,256.76 and accounts payable manifest \$61,711.03 for the current week dated 12 October 2012 after a motion from Hunter and a second from St Germain.
2. Selectmen signed outgoing correspondence to the Trustees of Trust Funds for 2012 release of cemetery perpetual care funds.
3. Selectmen reviewed and approved the Cooperage Forest Manifest #2012-017 CFE in the amount of \$1,408.89 to cover a light installation at Spaulding Road.
4. There was discussion about electioneering at Bulky Day, and it must take place outside the gates and not obstruct traffic or become a safety consideration.
5. The dedication of the Smith Land will take place on Saturday October 13, 2012 beginning at 10:00 am at the end of Andreski Drive. A hike will also take place.
6. Selectmen signed appointment forms for Inspectors of Election Elizabeth Stanley, Roberta Stevens, Marlyn Bernier, and Carolyn Carr through October 31, 2014 as presented by the Town Clerk.
8. Selectmen reviewed a letter of interest from Dennis Buteau for the Supervisor of Checklist position. This will be forwarded to the other two Supervisors, who are charged with making the appointment.
9. Within the mail folder, the Board received a resignation letter from Town Clerk Lori Holmes effective 10/30/2012. Selectmen accepted this letter and began discussing plans to find a Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk as soon as possible. Carlson was asked to place the position on the Town's website, post it, and contact necessary State agencies to begin understanding what is needed in transition.
10. Selectmen reviewed the Treasurer's Report for August, which balanced with the Town's QuickBooks register.

The next regular Board meeting will be held on Thursday October 18, 2012. The Grassdrag follow-up meeting will be held that evening at 7:30 pm.

With no further business to come before the Board motion was made by St Germain and seconded by Hunter to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 pm. The vote was unanimously approved 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Carlson
Town Administrator