

Approved 10/25/2012

At 6:05 pm the Board's meeting was called to order in the basement meeting room at the Fremont Town Hall. Present were Selectmen Greta St Germain and Brett Hunter; and Town Administrator Heidi Carlson. All rose for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Selectmen reviewed the mail folder, bills paid this week, and invoices for future payment.

Bob Stackpole, Leon Holmes Jr, Richard Rand, and Bill Knee came in to the meeting at 6:25 pm.

At 6:30 pm Selectmen met with Cemetery Trustees Bob Stackpole, Leon Holmes Jr, and Dick Rand. They came to discuss the cemetery budget recommendation. Carlson distributed copies of a current budget expenditure sheet. Meredith Bolduc came in to the meeting at this time.

They are meeting with a professional next week to assist them with the layout of the next section of the Leavitt Cemetery. Following the layout assistance, they can put together a proposal to go out to bid and get pricing on the work. They still hope to spend the 2012 budget before the end of the year, and if not, to get an RFP out and encumber the work if it can't be done in full for 2012.

Selectmen discussed current expenditures and reviewed line items in follow-up to Trustee concerns about getting things done next year. Holmes explained that there was still work to do on the wall at the southerly side of Village Cemetery, and it would be difficult to put a price on it until they get into it and decide what has to be done to complete it.

After review of each line item, and further discussion, the Board changed their recommendation to coincide with the Department request of \$9,900. Motion was made by St Germain to recommend \$9,900 for Cemeteries. Hunter seconded and the vote was unanimously approved 2-0.

Bill Knee, Conservation Commission Chair, met with the Board to discuss the dues paid annually to ERLAC, which is the Exeter River Local Advisory Committee. There have been some billing errors in recent years, forcing the dues to be paid out of the Conservation budget residual fund instead of the operating budget. Knee asked for these funds to be restored in the Selectmen's recommendation.

Motion was made by St Germain and seconded by Hunter to recommend ERLAC at \$150 as requested, for a total recommendation on the Conservation Commission budget of \$924. Hunter seconded and the vote was unanimously approved 2-0.

Bill Knee left the meeting at 6:50 pm.

Meredith Bolduc then discussed the Planning Board recommended budget. She expressed concern about the recommendation for several of the line items based on expenses to date and the four pending applications that she is currently processing. She also discussed how some of the budget will be spent for 2012 through year end.

After discussion and altering line items, Hunter moved to recommend \$38,466 for Planning & Zoning. St Germain seconded and the vote was unanimously approved 2-0.

Bolduc shared with Selectmen updates from the last Planning Board meeting including the Seacoast United wetland restoration plan and Seacoast Farms. The Seacoast Farms injunction is on hold pending a complete application package for the Planning Board to review on the Site Plan updates.

Bolduc left the meeting at 7:05 pm.

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Selectmen reviewed the Fire Rescue Department budget and discussed the additional information provided for the Budget Committee meeting. Line items were re-worked and there was discussion about a warrant article for SCBA's and the desire to keep the budget near default level but allow for the increase in LOSAP.

After review and changes, the Board came to a total recommendation of \$169,449 for Fire Rescue for 2013. This will include purchasing a few items this year, and the Department has several items of new equipment on order.

At 7:30 pm Selectmen opened the Grassdrag follow-up meeting. Present were Abutters Lee DiRenzio, Gary and Tanny Cloutier, Scott and Brenda Barthelemy, Albert Peterson, and NH Snowmobile Association representatives Evelyn Ferrell and Roger Wright.

Wright stated that there were approximately 3,900 attendees on Friday; 18,860 on Saturday; and 9,500 on Sunday. He said overall the event went very well from their perspective. He said he had his hat off to safety services, they did a great job.

He thought the VIP party worked well to alleviate the problems previously held at the campground. He said the music shut down at approximately 12:16 am. Mr DiRenzio said that there was music playing somewhere until 2:00 am, and while he was up anyway, he thought it may have bothered other neighbors.

Wright said the band usually shuts down at midnight and Wright said that he would look in to where the music was coming from at the later hour.

Gary Cloutier said that at midnight on Thursday he was awakened by the beeping of construction equipment noise, followed by a vibratory roller being used. He questioned this being done at midnight. Wright said he will have his staff look at a different time to do it, as late at night is not acceptable to the neighbors.

Tanny Cloutier asked about the balance of items being cleaned up; citing a good deal of equipment, trailers, stakes, and vendor booths that are left on site. Wright thought most work was done, but said that their efforts had been hampered last weekend by rain and that they were planned to finish up shortly.

Concerns for next years event: Timing and efficiency of cleanup efforts, road grading/construction hours of operation, and late night noise.

The helicopter use generated few concerns, so the changes made were effective for 2012. It was noted that the Boy Scouts came in on Monday and came back on Saturday to clean up and pick up trash, etc and that they had also done a good job.

There was discussion that the law generally provides that reasonable noise be observed before 7:00 am and after 11:00 pm. The Town of Fremont does have a noise ordinance, and abutters were also advised they can call on the police for such disturbances at very late hours.

There was brief discussion about the State and Local electrical inspections. Wright said the Fire Marshal's concerns were about generator cables running on the ground and two GFI's that were exposed and had to be switched out; Pre-Event took care of the issue, and will be advised for next year of expectations.

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There was also discussion that the Police Department needs to make their contact number available to residents in hand, mailbox delivery did not work as they don't get Saturday delivery. Generally an officer visits the house to provide it to all abutters.

The abutters and NH SA representatives left the meeting at 7:55 pm.

Jeremy Lennon did not come in for his 8:00 pm appointment.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Selectmen deferred the approval of minutes for 11 October 2012. Motion was made by Hunter and seconded by St Germain to approve the minutes of 16 October 2012. The vote was unanimously approved 2-0.
2. The new hours at the Fremont Post Office will be 8:00 am to 4:30 pm with lunch from 11:30 am 2:00 pm. This will begin in January 2013.
3. Selectmen discussed the Town Clerk position and decided to try and contract with MRI for daytime hours on Monday and Tuesday from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm; and with a private Town Clerk clerical assistant on Wednesday and Thursday evenings from 5:30 to 8:30 pm.

Carlson discussed with Board information shared by Lori Holmes relative to the position this week, and some of the tasks that need to be done in terms of setting up new people to do the Clerk tasks, and her willingness to work with someone who might be appointed by the Selectmen prior to her last day. Holmes did also offer to assist the Town beyond her resignation date of 10/30/12 on a negotiated fee basis. The Board did not accept that offer at this time.

4. Selectmen discussed the preliminary tax rate information received from DRA, and considered the use of additional unreserved fund balance to try and keep the tax rate increase down as much as possible. A speaker-phone call was placed to Chairman Scribner, who participated in the discussion. The Board decided to use \$400,000 of unreserved fund balance toward reduction of the tax rate. The rate could be set as early as Monday next week.
5. Selectmen revisited the Town Clerk's budget and decided to add a line for training in the amount of \$5,000 to assist in the transition of a new Town Clerk and Deputy. This will amend the Board's recommendation for Town Clerk 4140 by \$5,000 to a total recommendation of \$41,791.

Carlson discussed the NH LGC PLT return of contribution to be paid for the July 1, 2013 renewal which will reduce the Town's insurance budget needs in 2013. Carlson proposed to reduce the request by approximately \$6,000 and will bring an updated request for Board consideration next week.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Selectmen reviewed the accounts payable manifest \$19,745 for the current week dated 19 October 2012. Motion was made by St Germain to approve the manifest. Hunter seconded and the vote was approved 2-0.
2. Selectmen reviewed the folder of incoming correspondence and bills for payment.
3. Board members reviewed Change Order # 1 from Groen Builders in the amount of \$2,610 to cover additional work that Mark Pitkin had discussed previously regarding height of the blocks and height of

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the roof line. After some discussion and the basis that Pitkin had figured this cost into the overall cost of the building, the Change Order was approved and signed.

4. Carlson advised that the Supervisors of Checklist had appointed Dennis Buteau to fill the remaining vacancy for Supervisor of Checklist. He has completed the Town's payroll paperwork and will begin working with the Supervisors immediately.

5. Carlson distributed copies of budget spreadsheets for Warrant Articles (4902) as submitted to date, as well as Capital Reserves (4915); and Town Expendable Trust Funds (4916). These will be discussed further when additional rationale is available for each article. Warrant articles includes Mosquito Control, reconstruction of a portion of Whittier Drive, the fire truck, a police cruiser, the withdrawal of monies from the Special Revenue account for OHRV equipment, and Fire Department SCBA's.

6. The Personnel Administration budget (4155) was distributed and discussed. This will wait for the full Board to review and discuss further.

A call was placed to Annmarie Scribner to discuss the tax rate and the amount of unreserved fund balance to be used. After discussion, the Board voted to use \$400,000 of unreserved fund balance to offset the 2012 tax rate.

Members also discussed the Fire Rescue budget recommendation with Scribner briefly.

The Police Department budget will be reviewed next week by the Budget Committee at 7:00 pm.

Interim Chief Wood will be in to see the Selectmen next week for a review of the budgets, Proposed Policy regarding traffic details, increase in the detail pay rate, and information regarding the new prosecutor. A policy regarding traffic details as submitted by Wood was distributed to Board members for review.

The next regular Board meeting will be held on Thursday October 25, 2012.

With no further business to come before the Board, motion was made by St Germain to adjourn at 9:45 pm. Hunter seconded and the vote was unanimously approved 2-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Carlson
Town Administrator