

At 6:00 pm the Board's meeting was called to order in the basement meeting room at the Fremont Town Hall. Present were Selectmen Annmarie Scribner and Brett Hunter; Town Administrator Heidi Carlson; and Interim Police Chief Denny Wood. All rose for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Wood met with the Board to discuss the Police Department recommended budget in follow-up to the Budget Committee meeting last night.

At 6:05 pm Felicia Augevich came in to the meeting.

There was discussion about the changes in the Selectmen's recommendation in the budget. Wood shared a quote he had received from the vendor who provides for two new mobile computers, which was reduced from the 2013 proposal in an effort to purchase it with residual money from 2012.

Wood asked to keep the first aid training budget line at \$1,006 to keep people trained and asked to have \$756 put back in to that line item. He indicated this is a total of four hours per officer x \$251.47 (average hourly wage) is \$1,006 to keep officers trained in CPR and AED.

At 6:08 pm Charlie Fenton came in to the meeting.

Wood discussed purchasing of some other investigation equipment (two cameras) that can be purchased from 2012 residual funds. There was also discussion about vehicle maintenance and Wood said he understands the Board's rationale and states that he can live with the other reductions to the budget as proposed by the Selectmen.

At 6:15 Hunter moved to enter non—public session pursuant to NH RSA 91-A:3 II (b) to discuss the hiring of an individual as a public employee. St Germain seconded and the roll call vote was unanimously approved 2-0; Scribner – aye; Hunter – aye.

Chief Wood left the building at 6:25 pm.

At 6:25 pm motion was made by Hunter to return to public session. Scribner seconded and the roll call vote was unanimously approved 2-0; Scribner – aye; Hunter – aye.

Motion was made by Hunter to authorize Interim Chief Wood to hire Kurtis Boissonneault to fill the part-time vacancy in the Police Department at a rate of pay \$15.30 per hour with a probationary period through April 30, 2012. Scribner seconded and the vote was unanimously approved 2-0.

Augevich and Fenton returned to the meeting at this time. Augevich asked for a few minutes of the Board's time and asked about sign placement. The Board confirmed that it was permissible within the Town right-of-way adjacent to Andreski Drive.

Charlie Fenton introduced himself to the Selectmen and said that he was new to town and looking to get involved in the community. He stayed for most of the rest of the meeting.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

2. In follow-up to a recent discussion at the Budget Committee level, Carlson discussed with the Board the default budget for the Town Clerk's Office with regard to the clerical assistant position. Selectmen discussed the Budget Committee concerns and decided that they did want to keep the money in the budget

due to the time and funding needed to train the new Town Clerk, as well as cover the office. They would prefer the line was changed to contracted services.

Carlson advised that the Town Clerk fill-in schedule is posted on the website, went in the printed newsletter, and is available at all Town buildings (posted and extra copies).

3. Selectmen discussed follow-up from Hurricane Sandy which had brought storm conditions and damage throughout Monday and Tuesday. Fremont was lucky in that there was not too much tree damage, but there are still some power outages. No shelter was opened, and only one request had come in to the Selectmen's Office for showers. The Board discussed their desire to allow residents to use the Safety Complex at least during business hours for showers if needed (and to get water). The Board also discussed having a procedural list for major disasters and keeping communication open between all major departments; as well as between Department Heads and Board Members (likely reporting to the Chair on a daily basis).

4. Selectmen reviewed and signed a contract from MRI for clerical services in the Town Clerk's Office. For the present time, this will cover services one day a week for the month of November.

5. Selectmen reviewed a quote from the Town's technical consultant, DayStar, to purchase two desktop replacement computers. One is for the Building Inspector's Office (currently only has a docked laptop). The quote was signed by the Board.

6. There was discussion about work Carlson has done to line up workers to assist with elections, including set up and take down of materials and equipment. Carlson has been in contact with Moderator Mike Rydeen about what items still need to be completed.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Selectmen reviewed the accounts payable manifest \$21,758.11 for the current week dated 02 November 2012. Hunter moved to approve the manifest. Scribner seconded and the vote was unanimously approved 2-0.

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

3. Selectmen signed outgoing correspondence to Lori Holmes in thanks for her years in the Town Clerk's Office. Holmes worked her last day in the Town Clerk's office on Tuesday October 30<sup>th</sup>.

4. Selectmen reviewed and approved a budget line item transfer for Solid Waste Disposal.

5. Selectmen reviewed and signed a Deputy Town Clerk Pro Tem appointment for Renee King for November 6, 2012.

Greta St Germain and Christine Goudin came in to the meeting at 7:35 pm. St Germain signed all letters and forms approved this evening.

Goudin came in to the meeting to discuss with the Board her current progress. She said the second issue tax bills are all printed and ready to be mailed tomorrow. She said that she would have office hours on Saturday December 1<sup>st</sup> from 9:00 am 1:00 pm; and on Monday December 3<sup>rd</sup> from 6:30 to 8:30 pm.

Selectmen discussed the need for messages to be checked a couple of times per week so that resident's questions get answered on a timely basis. There was discussion about a program such as Log-Me-In

being a way for her to check into the tax computer on a more frequent basis and also call into the voicemail system.

The Board thanked Goudin for her time and she left the meeting at approximately 7:55 pm.

6. Selectmen discussed the changes to the tax rate and asked Carlson to do some comparisons in the numbers, including revenue. The Town had received a default budget, and the increases in the tax rate were bigger than anticipated.

7. Selectmen reviewed the final budgets that are needed to go to the Budget Committee. This included a review of General Government Buildings (4194). Carlson reviewed the rationale, and the only change the Board made was recommending \$500 less in one of the supply lines. Motion was made by Hunter and seconded by St Germain to recommend \$69,385. The vote was unanimously approved 3-0.

Selectmen then went article by article through the 11/03/2012 draft of the Warrant Articles for all items following election of officers and the zoning article. The Animals at Large Ordinance will be added to the next draft of the Warrant. The Board focused on absolute needs for the Town and was mindful throughout the review, of the tax impacts of the dollars requested for appropriation.

Selectmen discussed the purchase of a new fire truck. The price has increased to \$471,385 based on a change the Committee made to the motor in the truck. Selectmen discussed an outright purchase and said that the tax rate could not afford that big hit at one time. There was further discussion about the need versus the cost. Members knew that increasing repair costs and age of the fleet made the purchase very important for the Department. Motion was made by St Germain and seconded by Hunter to recommend Article A (fire truck purchase) as written. The vote was approved 3-0.

Article B is the operating budget, and the final number is yet to be determined, as it is based on the Budget Committee's recommendation.

Article C does not involve money, to change the purpose of the existing Emergency Management Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund. Motion was made by St Germain to recommend this article. Hunter seconded and the vote was approved 3-0.

Article D proposes \$25,000 to be placed in the Bridge Capital Reserve Fund. Selectmen discussed the projects, which are in the NH Bridge Aid funding list for 2020-2021. The Board decided to change the amount to \$15,000 to save for this project. Motion was made to recommend this article by Hunter and seconded by Scribner. The vote was approved 3-0.

Article E proposes \$12,500 for the Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund. Motion was made by Hunter and seconded by St Germain to recommend this article. The vote was approved 3-0.

Article F proposes \$10,000 for the Town Hall Renovations Capital Reserve Fund. After some discussion, the Board decided to strike this article from the warrant at this time.

Article G proposes \$15,000 for the Property Reassessment Capital Reserve Fund. After some discussion, the Board decided to strike this article from the warrant at this time.

Article H proposes \$50,000 for the Fire Truck Capital Reserve Fund. Motion was made by Hunter and seconded by Scribner to recommend this article because the Department still needs another vehicle in the near future. The vote was approved 3-0.

Article I proposes \$10,000 for the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund. After some discussion, the Board decided to strike this article from the warrant at this time.

Article J proposes \$50,000 for the Highway Building Capital Reserve Fund. After some discussion, motion was made by Hunter and seconded by St Germain to reduce this to \$25,000 and for the Board to recommend \$25,000.

Article K proposes \$10,000 for the Historic Museum Capital Reserve Fund. After some discussion, motion was made by Hunter and seconded by St Germain to remove this article from the warrant at this time. The vote was approved 3-0.

Article L proposes \$47,088 for the purchase of SCBA's for the Fire Rescue Department. Motion was made by St Germain and seconded by Scribner to recommend this article. The vote was approved 3-0.

Article M proposes \$33,039 for a new police cruiser. Motion was made by Scribner and seconded by Hunter to recommend this article. The vote was approved 3-0.

Article N proposes \$6,385 for OHRV equipment funded from the OHRV Special Revenue Fund. After some discussion, the Board discussed removing \$1,450 from the Police Department operating budget and place it in this warrant article, to cover additional equipment and reduce the operating budget (and the Town's obligation); as this is completely funded with user fines and fees. Motion was made by St Germain and seconded by Hunter to increase this article, and reduce the Police Department operating budget by the sum of \$1,450. The vote was approved 3-0.

Article O proposes \$100,000 for reconstruction of Whittier Drive. There was considerable discussion about the need to keep up with road repairs and our infrastructure. Given the current economic conditions, after much debate, motion was made by Hunter and seconded by Scribner to remove this article from the warrant. The vote was 2-1 with St Germain opposed.

Article P includes \$49,550 for the continuation of the mosquito control program. The Board had voted to recommend this article several weeks ago.

Article Q includes \$10,000 for the 250<sup>th</sup> Celebration Expendable Trust Fund. The Board decided to reduce this to \$5,000. Motion was made by Hunter and seconded by St Germain to recommend \$5,000 for this fund. The vote was approved 3-0.

Article R asks for \$5,000 in support of a new social service agency, Family Promise of Greater Rockingham County. The Board has seen a presentation from the group and said it is a good cause, but felt the dollar amount was excessive given the other social service agency requests. Motion was made by Hunter and seconded by St Germain to change the amount and recommend \$1,000 in this article. The vote was approved 3-0.

Article S proposes to combine the position of Town Clerk and Tax Collector. Motion was made by Hunter and seconded by St Germain to recommend this article. The vote was approved 3-0.

Article T proposes to add the new Smith property to the Town Forest. Motion was made by Hunter and seconded by St Germain to recommend this article. The vote was approved 3-0.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

1. Selectmen reviewed the minutes for 25 October 2012. Motion was made by Hunter to approve them as written. St Germain seconded and the vote was unanimously approved 2-0.

Carlson prepared an appointment form based on the previous discussion, and it was signed by all Board members.

Charlie Fenton left the meeting at 8:30 pm.

The next regular Board meeting will be held on Thursday November 8, 2012.

With no further business to legally be brought before the Board, motion was made by Hunter and seconded by St Germain to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 pm. The vote was unanimously approved 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Carlson  
Town Administrator