

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, Brett Hunter, and Greta St Germain; Town Administrator Heidi Carlson; and Interim Police Chief H D Wood. All rose for the Pledge of Allegiance.

At 6:01 pm motion was made by Hunter and seconded by St Germain to enter non-public session pursuant to NH RSA 91-A:3 II (a) to discuss employee matters relating to ongoing investigations. The roll call vote was unanimously approved 3-0; Scribner – aye; St Germain – aye; Hunter – aye.

At 6:40 pm motion was made by Hunter and seconded by St Germain to return to public session. The roll call vote was unanimously approved 3-0; Scribner – aye; St Germain – aye; Hunter – aye.

Motion was made by Hunter and seconded by St Germain to seal the minutes of the non-public session until such time as divulgence of the information would not be detrimental. The roll call vote was unanimously approved 3-0; Scribner – aye; St Germain – aye; Hunter – aye.

At 6:40 pm Matthew Thomas met with the Selectmen to ask them to reconsider their decision to reduce the amount of money requested in support of the 250th Committee. He said the Committee met last week and felt strongly that they needed at least \$7,500 if not the whole \$10,000 requested, to support their being able to reserve bands and other entertainment and needs (portable toilets, lighting, other logistics) for the event. They feel that they need to know by March 2013 what they have to work with to be able to make the necessary commitments.

Chair Scribner explained that the Board had made these difficult decisions that affected nearly all Town Departments and further explained the increases in the 2012 tax rate having been offset by use of fund balance.

Thomas said that they have raised about \$6,000 but have reinvested much of it in purchase of other fundraising items to sell.

He asked the Board if they felt they could do something additional, that the Committee would appreciate it. There was understanding by all about the importance of the Committee's work as well as the Town's desire to keep taxes affordable.

Thomas left the meeting at 6:55 pm and Andy Kohlhofer met with the Board to provide an update on current School Board matters. The School met Adequately Yearly Progress (AYP) in reading. There is a new program in reading, expected to increase those scores as well. The School overall ranking has moved up several positions as well. He discussed improvement in other areas as well.

The School is moving forward with curriculum mapping, which will take a couple of years to fully implement. They are also getting involved in Stem (a special Science Program); which has shown success in getting kids interested in science early.

They are working on a good evaluation system that is more comprehensive, working throughout the school year.

The school is down 15 staff members in recent years; and down 100 students in population. This is information the Budget Committee is also looking to review.

The School Board is looking at the effects of the Affordable Care Act on the budget. They are completing negotiations on the Teacher's Contract. Disciplinary issues are down over the past year. A new furnace has been installed, hoped to help reduce costs and maintenance.

They are also working on accreditation. Their goal is to be the #1 school in the State, and they are going to keep working on that.

Kohlhofer left the meeting at 7:05 pm.

In reviewing the payroll and bills paid this week, Selectmen discussed that part-time seasonal help is only to be used for that purpose, and once the budgeted appropriation is exhausted, that the position ends. Selectmen said that we can't have help working if there is no funding in the budget line item.

Hunter advised the Board that Unitil has an arborist who is willing to do a presentation on the benefits of tree trimming in the Town's right-of-way.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Selectmen reviewed the minutes for 29 November 2012. Motion was made to approve them as written by Hunter. St Germain seconded and the vote was unanimously approved 3-0.
2. Copies of the updated Purchasing Policy were distributed. Hunter moved to approve the updated document. St Germain seconded and the vote was unanimously approved 3-0.
3. Copies of the Investment Policy were distributed and it will be brought up again next week for annual review and re-approval.
4. Fairpoint has advised Mark Piktin that the wires will be moved off the pole in about 3 weeks, following that, the pole will be able to be removed from Rogers Road.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Selectmen reviewed the current bi-weekly payroll manifest of \$23,030.65 and \$3,764.37 for Police holiday pay; and accounts payable manifest \$414,554.60 for the current week dated 07 December 2012. All three manifests were approved and signed.
2. Selectmen reviewed the folder of incoming correspondence and bills for payment.
3. Selectmen drafted and signed outgoing correspondence to the Emergency Management Director Joyce Booker-Janvrin regarding sheltering.
4. Selectmen reviewed and Chair Scribner signed the Delta dental insurance renewal for 2013.
5. Selectmen reviewed a letter from Dan Tatem regarding additional funds requested for engineering on the Cooperage Forest. The Board asked for a review of the file as the last requested increase was anticipated to be the last one.
6. The November 30, 2012 budget reports were distributed to Board members, and they will be distributed at the Budget Committee meeting next week.
7. Selectmen reviewed and approved a budget line item transfer request for Cemeteries.
8. Selectmen review and signed DRA Equalization Ratio study completed by MRI for the 2012 tax year.

9. Selectmen congratulated the Fremont Conservation Commission, who received the John Hoar Award from the Rockingham County Woodland Owner's Association on December 5, 2012. The award is presented annually to the person or family who has demonstrated outstanding desire to implement and continue good forest practices and has worked for the improvement of forestry and conservation in general.

10. Hunter brought forward a copy of the development proposal for parcel 03-056, including the open space concept, as well as the traditional development layout. The Board discussed the options and differences between them, including that there is far less roadway to maintain in the open space concept. Hunter said the Planning Board was just in the very beginning stages of the design review phase as submitted by the developer.

11. Hunter circulated for the Board's review, a copy of a Selectmen's Policy and Procedure document relative to how meetings are planned, organized, and run. All will review and it will be discussed at a future meeting.

12. Selectmen received a copy of the Certificate presented to Leon Holmes Jr this week at a luncheon in Derry celebrating all of the NH Highway personnel who had become Master Road Scholars in the past year. Selectmen congratulate Holmes on this accomplishment!

NEXT WEEK

The next regular Board meeting will be held on Thursday December 13, 2012.

With no further business to come before the Board, motion was made by Hunter and seconded by St Germain to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 pm. The vote was unanimously approved 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Carlson
Town Administrator