

Approved 03/06/2014

1. CALL TO ORDER at 6:05 pm in the basement meeting room of the Fremont Town Hall. Present were Selectmen Leon Holmes Sr and Gene Cordes; and Selectmen's Clerk Jeanne Nygren. Selectman Brett Hunter arrived at 6:45 pm.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Selectman Cordes read aloud the announcement from the Town and School Moderators regarding Candidates Night for 2014 on March 4th in the Ellis School gym beginning at 6:00 pm. Informational letters have been emailed or sent to all of the candidates. Candidate RSVP's are needed by February 27th to Town Moderator Michael Rydeen.

III. LIAISON REPORTS

Hunter reported that Hillside Auto is under new ownership and there is no planned site review. A site walk for the Lourette property at 197 Sandown Road (Site Plan Review for an outdoor recreation business) is planned for March 8th. Lourette has agreed to increase the buffer to 150 feet for the commercial use portion of the property.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Selectmen reviewed the draft minutes of the 13 February 2014 meeting. A motion was made by Cordes to approve them as written, seconded by Hunter. The vote was unanimously approved 3-0.

V. SCHEDULED AGENDA ITEMS

6:30 pm Kathie Richard – Seacoast United Foundation did not appear for the scheduled appointment, but had sent an informational email outlining that Seacoast United would be hosting a Soccer-Thon in April. She stated that the organization would be in compliance with the approved Site Plan Review.

Joe Nichols came in at 7:10 pm to report that after inspection by the Fire Department tonight, there is 18 inches of snow on the Ellis School roof. The State Fire Marshall has issued a warning on all roofs due to heavy snow load. Nichols spoke with Scott Brown, the Superintendent, and the School Principal and they did not feel there is an issue. They do have a team ready to shovel if needed. Nichols stated the drains seem to be draining properly.

At 7:20 pm Police Chief Jon Twiss came into the meeting to present NH Highway Safety Committee grant applications for enforcement patrol (\$5,341.51) and for a new radar unit (\$2,559.00). These grants are reimbursed at a 50% rate. The Town will show the expense for the total amount and be reimbursed 50% upon completion and submission of paperwork and necessary grant documentation. Twiss stated that officer's hours are 100% reimbursable in 4 hour patrols for distracted drivers and motor vehicle speed. The grant period runs from October 2014 thru September 2015, so it would be included in the 2015 budget proposal.

If they receive a grant, they need to record data on stops, hours, summons, etc. The equipment reimbursement is at 50% for radar units. He is hoping to purchase one unit at \$2559.00 and the State pays half, as our current equipment is old. After using these units they then become the Town's property. Twiss is looking for authorization to apply for the funds. Cordes made a recommendation to accept the funds for enforcement patrol grants if approved per their application and Hunter seconded. The vote was unanimous 3-0. Cordes then recommended accepting funds for the new radar unit if approved per their application and Hunter seconded. The vote was unanimous 3-0.

The vacant part-time patrol position has been advertised. The job ad and job description are in the mail folder. It is on the Town's website and will be included in the March Newsletter.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

1. A budget report through 02/14/2014 was distributed for review.
2. The Summer Camp Director and Assistant Director positions have been included in the March Newsletter and will be posted on the website.
3. The Board read a formal request from Bob Meade to waive the \$65 electrical inspection/permit fee and \$45 renovation fee for the Fremont Pizzeria following the fire. The Town has customarily waived permit fees after a fire for property owners. A motion was made by Holmes Sr to waiver the \$110.00 total of these fees for the Fremont Pizzeria due to the fire. Cordes seconded and the vote was unanimous 3-0.
4. Cordes read the ISO survey results and follow-up letter from Bob Meade regarding upgrading our code enforcement office. A letter needs to be sent by March 4th advising them we want to regain our PL4 and other status and will take the necessary steps. In another month we will tell them the steps and ask Meade to go ahead with this. Cordes motion to have Meade contact the ISO regarding updating the PL4 and CO4 status and seconded by Holmes Sr. The vote was unanimous 3-0.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

1. After review of the accounts payable manifest in the amount of \$526,565.22 for the current week dated 21 February 2014, a motion was made to approve it by Holmes Sr, and seconded by Cordes. The vote was approved 3-0.
2. The Board reviewed bills and invoices for payment and approval was stamped by Hunter.
3. The Board reviewed the folder of incoming correspondence.

It is noted for the record that due to the snow storm on Thursday 13 February 2014, both of this evenings public hearings had been postponed to tonight. This was posted in the original hearing notice, and posted at the Town Hall and on the Town's website last week when the hearings were moved due to the storm.

At 7:30 pm Selectmen Hunter opened the Public Hearing and read the notice of public hearing:

TOWN OF FREMONT PUBLIC HEARING

The Fremont Selectmen will hold a Public Hearing at 7:30 pm on February 13, 2014 at the Fremont Town Hall (basement meeting room) in accordance with NH RSA 40:14 regarding a petition submitted for the Town Meeting Warrant relative to rescission of SB 2 in accord with RSA 40:13. In case of inclement weather, this hearing will be held at 7:30 pm on February 20, 2014.

The public is encouraged to attend.

Posted at Town Buildings and on Town Website: 13 January 2014
Published: 03 February 2014 Manchester Union Leader
Published: February 2014 Town Newsletter

The posted sign-in sheet listed residents present: Jack Mullen, Rita MacPherson, Joe Nichols, Bryan Bielecki, Jon Twiss, Kevin O'Callaghan, Joel Lennon and Keith Stanton.

The following email was received at the Town Hall from resident David Tait, who was unable to attend this evening:

"I am concerned to read that there is an effort underway to rescind SB2. I was also surprised to see that the Board of Selectmen recommended it. From my perspective, SB2 has been working out quite well. I was planning to attend tonight's meeting but it turns out my wife has to work so I will be stuck at home. I am sending this email in an effort to make my voice heard.

Generally, speaking, returning to a town meeting and vote seems like a step in the wrong direction. It's like going backwards in time to a different era. Town meetings lasting many hours may work well for retirees, but they are very difficult for working families. It's not uncommon for people to work on weekends. It's also difficult for both husband and wife to attend when there are children or other responsibilities at home. Since SB2 passed, I have found the information published prior to a vote to be extremely helpful. I appreciate being able to do my research and decision making beforehand, and arriving at the voting booth ready to vote. It takes 15 or 20 minutes from start to finish. Sincerely hope that SB2 remains in effect. I appreciate that there are differing opinions on this issue, and I hope you will consider mine as you move forward. Thank you."

Nichols spoke in favor of rescinding SB2 and felt that voters don't understand what they are voting in many instances.

Mullen stated he doesn't feel SB 2 should be rescinded and brought up past bonds suggesting the Fire Department look into a less expensive fire truck and his concerns for the tax payers who are already overburdened with taxes.

Stanton stated he feels SB2 will take away people's voting rights that at least with SB2 voting you can get an absentee ballot where at Deliberative Session you can't.

Chief Twiss spoke on the need for vehicles for the Police Department as their fleet is in bad shape. With no further discussion, a motion was made by Hunter to close the Public Hearing at 8:05 pm. Cordes seconded and the vote was unanimously approved 3-0. The Board thanked everyone present. All members of the public aside from Twiss left the meeting at this time.

At 8:10 pm a Public Hearing on rescinding the OHRV Special Revenue Fund was opened by Selectman Hunter and he read the following notice:

TOWN OF FREMONT PUBLIC HEARING

The Fremont Selectmen will hold a Public Hearing at 7:45 pm on February 13, 2014 at the Fremont Town Hall (basement meeting room) in accordance with NH RSA 31:95-c & d regarding rescission of a Special Revenue Fund, created in 2001, for OHRV and Town Ordinance Fines.

The 2014 Town Meeting Warrant will consider rescinding this article in favor of creating a Revolving Fund for the same purpose. These votes do not affect the tax rate, and will self-fund the necessary equipment for the Town to provide proactive OHRV patrol, thus helping to reduce the Police Department budget operating costs for maintenance and upkeep.

In case of inclement weather, this hearing will be held at 7:45 pm on February 20, 2014.

The public is encouraged to attend.

Posted at Town Buildings and on Town Website: 15 January 2014
Published: 03 February 2014 Manchester Union Leader
Published: February 2014 Town Newsletter

Chief Twiss spoke on the purpose of this hearing to rescind the Special Revenue Fund and create a Revolving Fund for the same purpose.

With no further discussion, a motion to close the Public Hearing was made by Cordes at 8:15 pm. Hunter seconded and the vote was unanimously approved 3-0.

NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED

4. Selectmen reviewed the March Newsletter. Cordes motioned to approve the final draft, seconded by Hunter. The vote was unanimous 3-0.

5. Selectmen reviewed a bond reduction prepared by Dan Tatem of Stantec Consultants, for the Catapano Subdivision. The Planning Board reviewed and accepted the engineering recommendation, as did Road Agent Mark Pitkin. The Bond reduction to \$285,811.39 is for Spaulding Road (extension for the Catapano subdivision). A motion was made by Holmes to concur with the Planning Board's recommendation. Cordes seconded and the vote was unanimously approved 3-0.

6. Selectmen reviewed a letter and cost estimate from Stantec Consultants relative to Martin Road and whether to close the road during the future bridge replacement project. Stantec is recommending closure of the road during construction in an effort to save several weeks during construction, as well as save \$75,000 to \$100,000 in construction costs. Road Agent Mark Pitkin agrees with the engineer's recommendations and to make arrangements to close the road for approximately two months during construction. Cordes motioned to close the Martin Road Bridge on a low flow construction season at the future date designated during reconstruction. Hunter seconded and the vote was unanimous 3-0. Stantec needs to have this information now to be able to move ahead on a certain path toward the design engineering.

The next regular Board meeting will be held on Thursday, February 28, 2014 at 6:00 pm.

IX: ADJOURNMENT- At 8:40 pm motion was made by Cordes to adjourn the meeting. Hunter seconded and the vote was unanimously approved 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Nygren
Selectmen's Clerk