

I. CALL TO ORDER at 6:00 pm in the basement meeting room at the Fremont Town Hall. Present were Selectmen Gene Cordes, Leon Holmes Sr, and Brett Hunter; Town Administrator Heidi Carlson.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Offices of Town Clerk and Selectmen are closed Wednesday through Friday next week for the holiday. Many town employees are taking Friday as a vacation day.

The Wreaths Across America Ceremony took place on Saturday December 13th at the Town Hall. Cordes and Holmes Sr were at the event and said it is a growing event in Fremont. During the event, speaker Mark Therrien thanked all of the past and present military service members, and also thanked our local police and fire fighters who put themselves in harms way for the sake of public safety. Cordes wanted our local public safety members to know this. In a future year this would be an event that the FCTV might wish to cover for broadcast.

III. LIAISON REPORTS

12/17/2014 Budget Committee – Cordes attended the meeting. The final school budget recommended was approximately 11.7 million dollars. The Town budget was recommended at the Selectmen’s level less \$1,722 in Conservation Commission. This total recommendation is \$2,548,921. There are some residual Warrant Article issues to be addressed at their next meeting, scheduled for January 7, 2015 at 7:00 pm.

12/17/2014 Planning Board – Hunter said there was only one appointment last night and the Board had a brief meeting.

12/17/2014 SRRDD 53-B meeting – Carlson said that she and new representative Fran Armstrong had attended the meeting in Rye. The Joinder Agreements were collected from towns remaining in the district. The finalized District contracts with Waste Management and Covanta were distributed for towns. The 53B Chairperson will sign these contracts on behalf of the District. This will put into effect the new tipping rate for Fremont as of January 1, 2015. The next meeting of the District will be at 6:30 pm on Wednesday January 28, 2015 in Rye.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Action on the minutes of 11 December 2014 was deferred.

V. SCHEDULED AGENDA ITEMS

At 6:20 pm Corey Carter and Bruce White met with the Selectmen to introduce Corey to the Board. Corey is interested in serving as a cable TV volunteer, and has been meeting this evening with White to review the Town’s current equipment and upcoming goals.

Carter discussed his background and interest in FCTV. There is not a formal committee as yet, but the goal is to work on a set of guidelines and charge for a committee. White and Carter are planning to begin getting together to work on a set of guidelines.

Selectmen thanked Carter and White for their interest, and they left the meeting at 6:35 pm.

6:45 pm Public Input - none

7:00 pm Department Heads

Fire Chief Richard Butler met with the Board. He signed and turned in a copy of his evaluation, which was accepted and also signed by the Board for the file. He submitted a list of some items that need to be fixed at the Safety Complex which will be addressed as soon as possible.

Ellen Douglas came in to the meeting at 7:05 pm.

Butler submitted an updated town allocation spreadsheet for the towns participating in the Seacoast Chief Fire Officers Association for the Seacoast Technical Assistance Response Team (START). Fremont's dues for this service (which includes the Haz Mat Response Team) will increase by \$433.39 for 2015. This will be accommodated somehow in the Fire Rescue Budget instead of trying to change the requested appropriation at this point.

Chief Butler said he was still waiting on a couple of invoices and asked about the radio purchase. Selectmen said that they were going to finalize that at the last meeting of the year once the final budget information shapes up. A purchase order will be issued so long as there are sufficient funds available.

At 7:15 pm Ellen Douglas and John Roderick met with the Selectmen to express their interest in becoming Fremont representatives to the Exeter Squamscott Rivers Committee. The Town of Fremont can have three representatives, and currently has none. Both offered some background information and had submitted their nomination paperwork for Board review.

After some discussion, Cordes moved to recommend Ellen Douglas and John Roderick to the NH DES as representatives from Fremont to the Exeter Squamscott River Committee. Holmes Sr seconded and the vote was unanimously approved 3-0. It was explained that the Selectmen make a recommendation, and the official appointment will come from the NH DES Rivers Program.

Both were thanked for their interest in the Committee. Douglas left the meeting at approximately 7:30 pm.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

1. Selectmen reviewed a contract and pricing structure agreement with Sansoucy for appeals consulting on PSNH, NHEC and FairPoint for the 2012 and subsequent appeal years. There was discussion about the terms of the contract, which can be terminated by the Town at any time. Motion was made by Cordes to sign the contract with Sansoucy as outlined. Hunter seconded and the vote was unanimously approved 3-0.
2. Based on the meeting last week, motion was made to sign the appointment form for Fran Armstrong as Representative to SRRDD 53B Solid Waste District through March 2015. Holmes Sr seconded and the vote was unanimously approved 3-0.
3. Carlson provided an update on the Safety Complex generator repair options.
4. The reference checks had not yet been completed on the HVAC design engineering proposals so the Board deferred action until next week and said this needed to be done as soon as possible. The Board is planning to encumber the funds necessary for this work.
5. The Library roof repairs scheduled to take place on Thursday December 18, 2014 were postponed until Friday due to the early morning rain.

6. Selectmen again reviewed the 2015 Warrant and some follow-up questions from the Budget Committee. Discussion items included:

- a. Martin Road Bridge Construction Article – no letter received from the State of NH DOT so this is on hold.
- b. Discussion of options regarding the Recreation Revolving Fund vs a Town Expendable Trust Fund. Information has been received from the NHLGC staff attorneys that indicates donations cannot be put into a revolving fund. After further discussion and review of the statutes, it was decided to create a Town Expendable Trust Fund for the purpose of holding the annual Miss Fremont Pageant.
- c. Articles were renumbered within the Warrant for its final format. The operating budget was moved up to Article 5, and the Fire Truck purchase to Article 6. The remaining items were numbered from there.
- d. Cordes moved not to reconsider the Warrant Article to put money into the Fire Truck Capital Reserve Fund. Hunter seconded and the vote was approved 3-0.
- e. Selectmen discussed the operating budget. The Board dislikes the idea that the Conservation Commission is not funded and feels this is not good for the group of volunteers who work so hard on conservation matters for the Community. Despite this, the Board felt that they should recommend the same amount as the Budget committee versus NOT recommending the budget article, for the confusion that causes.

Cordes moved to recommend the Budget Committee recommended budget of \$2,548,921 in the operating budget article, now numbered Article 5. Hunter seconded and the vote was approved 3-0.

Lengthy discussion ensued about the Town's need for a fire truck and to continue planning for the future. This will be the fourth year of asking for a sorely needed fire truck. There were differing opinions about whether to leave the \$50,000 Capital Reserve Article in the warrant, because there continues to be a need for both, but some feel that asking for both articles will result in both failing again this year. The Town needs to continue saving for the next piece of apparatus, and \$50,000 is barely enough to cover the costs over time.

The Board feels that the fire truck is a priority but that having additional items in the warrant also related to a fire truck may tend to make people not vote for either.

Holmes Sr moved to withdraw Warrant Article 12 related to the Fire Truck Capital Reserve Fund. Cordes seconded for the purpose of discussion. The vote was approved 2-1. While the Board feels it is necessary to continue to save, the vote was a statement that **the fire truck is needed this year.**

The Board voted to pay out the \$500 encumbered contract to Peter Bolduc who is doing the Town's boundary line perambulations. This was encumbered in 2013 for the work that was underway.

7. Selectmen reviewed again the contract from KTM to finish the library roof. Cordes moved to have Hunter sign the contract on behalf of the Board and encumber \$17,750 to complete this work. The vote was unanimously approved 3-0.

8. Selectmen again discussed the earlier quote for repair of the Safety Complex voicemail system. The replacement part at that time was new, but is no longer available. An updated quote this week was received for a used part to fix the system in the amount of \$1,575. Motion made by Cordes to accept the proposal from Williams Communications to install a used PCS Digital 4 port voice mail system for \$1,575 and have Hunter sign the proposal on behalf of the Town. Holmes Sr seconded and the vote was unanimously approved.

9. Selectmen reviewed an email from Jenn Brown regarding the Ellis School crosswalk. It contained another memorandum of understanding regarding the maintenance of the crosswalk, if installed. There was discussion about the fact that there is ample parking elsewhere on the school lot, and concern about the maintenance of the area and safety of people crossing Route 107. Selectmen debated the need for it, and thought that more use of the side lot would be a better use of space and safer.

Cordes moved to make the request to the NH DOT to consider a cross walk on Route 107 between Ellis School and the Fremont Pizzeria, with the conditions that the State of NH install and maintain the crosswalk and all necessary markings, and that the Fremont School District and Fremont Pizzeria ownership handle all maintenance of the areas on either side of the crosswalk in all seasons. Hunter seconded for the purpose of further discussion. There continued to be debate and discussion about the need for it, and using the other parking lot already on school property. The vote was 2-1. Carlson will begin working on a letter as soon as some of the budget and warrant issues are complete.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

1. Selectmen reviewed the payroll manifest \$23,140.05 and accounts payable manifest \$31,958.49 for the current week dated 19 December 2014.

2. Selectmen reviewed and approved bills and invoices for payment next week.

3. Selectmen reviewed the folder of incoming correspondence; review and sign outgoing correspondence to Peter Chapel of Health Trust requesting the return of contributions due to be issued to the Town as an invoice credit in 2015.

4. There was lengthy discussion about the Beede Spaulding bond reduction and waiver request submitted by Beals Associates. The request is to reduce the construction surety to \$59,825. The request has been reviewed and approved by the Town's Engineer, Planning Board and Road Agent. In response to concerns expressed last week, Carlson spoke with the Road Agent, who said he has approved the request based on the thoroughness and completeness of the work done to date stating that the funds left can complete the work needed. The Board had concern about reducing this bond to less than the required 20% maintenance bond, but it is noted that this is the construction bond on Spaulding Road Extension, and not the two year required maintenance bond, which must be placed in cash at such time as the road is accepted by the Town. Selectman Hunter reviewed at length the Town's Subdivisoin Regulations regarding this reduction.

The Board discussed the reduction from the 20% required for a maintenance bond, but since this is a construction bond, the Board agreed to reduce it per the recommendation of the Planning Board, Road Agent, and Town Engineer. There was considerable unrest about the fact that the engineer has agreed to reduce it beyond the 20% required by the Town's Regulations and that the Town Engineer has changed his opinion about 20% being a good number to work with when it comes to a maintenance bond. The Selectmen will revisit this at such time as the road is completed and the Developer asks the Town to accept it. The road maintenance bond will be set at that time.

Motion was made by Cordes and seconded by Hunter to reduce the construction surety for Spaulding Road Extension being done by Frank Catapano to \$59,825 from the current surety of \$285,811.39. The vote was approved 3-0.

5. Land Use Change Taxes assessed by MRI and presented to the Board for finalization and signature:
- a. parcel 02-001.006 in the amount of \$8,500
 - b. parcel 03-056.022 in the amount of \$7,500

Motion was made by Cordes to access both land use change tax penalties, and sign the bill and Warrant for each. Hunter seconded and the vote was approved 3-0.

6. There was discussion about approval of the manifest and bills for next week. Motion was made by Cordes to authorize the Town Administrator and one Selectman to approve the accounts payable manifest next week. Hunter seconded and the vote was approved 3-0. The invoices will be approved by the Selectman who comes in as well. The manifest will be signed at the meeting of December 30th.

7. Carlson passed on information from the Road Agent about needed backhoe repairs which will begin on Monday.

8. Selectmen reviewed the quote from access AV in the amount of \$27,510 and a memo from Kevin Woods outlining the following rationale: *“While the final bid is about \$4,000 more then our original estimate, this is due to some items I added to the final design. I also upgraded the camera control (Pan/tilt/zoom/and focus) to the same unit we are using in Raymond. It has better control and more settings allowing the operator to better control the cameras. The other place where there was an increase is in the installation costs. I will work with Access AV to see if we can reduce that with some help from Bruce and I. If the Fremont Selectmen approve this award we will schedule the installation at the same time frame as the Master Control installation around January 8th.”*

With this information, and the completion of the RFP process, motion was made by Cordes to accept the quote from Access AV for the FCTV Meeting Room Equipment and Installation dated 12/08/2014. Hunter seconded and the vote was approved 3-0.

VIII. NON-PUBLIC SESSION NH RSA 91-A

The next regular Board meeting will be a work session, to be held on Tuesday December 30, 2014 at 6:00 pm.

IX. ADJOURNMENT – At 9:05 pm motion was made by Holmes Sr to adjourn the meeting. Hunter seconded and the vote was unanimously approved 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Carlson
Town Administrator