

I. CALL TO ORDER at 6:05 pm in the Selectmen's Office at the Fremont Town Hall. The main hall was setting up for the public budget hearing and the School Board was meeting in the basement meeting room. Present for the Selectmen's Meeting were Selectmen Gene Cordes, Leon Holmes Sr and Brett Hunter; Town Administrator Heidi Carlson; and members of the public Sharon Girardi, Bruce White came in at times during the meeting.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Public Budget Hearing will be held this evening in the main hall beginning at 7:00 pm.

2015 DELIBERATIVE SESSIONS

TOWN: Monday February 2, 2015 at 7:00 pm Snowdate: Wednesday February 4, 2015 at 7:00 pm.

SCHOOL: Saturday January 31, 2015 at 9:00 am. Snowdate: Tuesday February 3, 2015 at 7:00 pm.

Both Deliberative Sessions will be held at Pettengill Hall in the Ellis School, 432 Main Street in Fremont.

TOWN & SCHOOL ELECTIONS: The filing period for Town and School District Offices begins on Wednesday, January 21, 2015 and runs through Friday, January 30, 2015. You can sign up during any Town Clerk Office hours. On Friday January 30, 2015 the Town Clerk and School District Clerks will be available from 3:00 to 5:00 pm for sign-ups only, at the Fremont Town Hall.

TOWN POSITIONS OPEN in 2015

Selectman: 1 for 3 years

Trustee of Trust Funds: 1 for 3 years

Library Trustee: 1 for 3 years

Library Trustee: 1 for 1 year

Road Agent: 1 for 3 years

Budget Committee: 2 for 3 years

Budget Committee: 1 for 2 years

Cemetery Trustee: 1 for 3 years

SCHOOL DISTRICT POSITIONS OPEN in 2015

School Board Member: 2 for 3 years

School District Treasurer: 1 for 1 year

School District Clerk: 1 for 1 year

School District Moderator: 1 for 1 year

Additionally any interested School District Candidate can contact School District Clerk Patricia Coulombe by email at dantric4@yahoo.com to make other arrangements to sign up within the candidate declaration period. You must be a Fremont resident and a registered voter to declare your candidacy for Town or School District Office. You can register to vote with the Town Clerk during regular office hours and also with the Supervisors of the Checklist who will meet January 20, 2015 from 7:00 – 7:30 pm at the Fremont Public Library for new registrants and for any changes voters wish to make to their voter registration forms.

One additional Budget Committee position is open (for a two year term) to fill a vacancy created as of today, when Tyra Vargas resigned from the Committee, effective immediately. It is likely the position will remain vacant until elections as the Committee will not likely meet again until April, following tonight's public hearing.

To complete the Declaration of Candidacy form, voters should see the Town Clerk during regular office hours, or contact the School District Clerk for School filings only. Other election questions can be directed to the Town Clerk's Office at 895 8693.

The last day to register to vote to be able to participate in the Deliberative Sessions is TUESDAY January 20, 2015 with the Supervisors of the Checklist. They will meet at the Fremont Public Library from 7:00 to 7:30 pm. The last day to register to vote prior to Town and School Voting on March 10th is Saturday February 28, 2015 from 11:00 to 11:30 am at the Fremont Public Library. You can register on election day, but not on the days between March 1 and March 9th.

III. SCHEDULED AGENDA ITEMS

1. One petition Warrant Article was received by the deadline. The article had 58 signatures on it, and read: *Shall the Town of Fremont NH vote to rescind the authority granted to the Fremont Conservation Commission and the Fremont Board of Selectmen, at the 2006 Fremont Annual Town Meeting, (Article #5) to "raise & spend up to one million dollars (\$1,000,000) to purchase land and other property interests," so that the Town is no longer liable for this "indebtedness" and the financial liability that the town incurred when it was passed in 2006?*

The article was sent to Town Counsel for review on Friday when it was received. Her comments included: *"RSA 33:8-f addresses the requirements for a vote to rescind an authorized but unissued bond or note. Specifically, the vote to rescind: (1) cannot take place less than five years after the vote to authorize the bond or note; (2) must pass by the same majority required, at the time of the rescission vote, to adopt a bond or note; and (3) need not be acted upon prior to other business."*

The petition warrant article would need to pass by a 3/5 vote and not a simple majority as stated in the petition. This is put on at the end of the article after recommendations by the Budget Committee and Board of Selectmen.

The Board reviewed and discussed the article at length and the parameters under which the original article was voted. Cordes said he was still supportive of this bond authorization for the same reasons as he supported it in 2006, including that it was put in place to preserve open space and the rural character of Fremont. It has been in place for nine years and only \$65,000 has been drawn against it in that time period, for assistance in purchasing the Smith Land addition to the Glen Oakes Town Forest. There is a Board of Selectmen and Conservation Commission process required, along with a Public Hearing prior to any funds being borrowed against the authorization, and it would be a public process engaging the community.

Motion was made by Cordes to not recommend Warrant Article 17. Holmes Sr seconded it for the purpose of further discussion.

Selectmen further discussed it and indicated that the bond authority would help to preserve land from development, which protects water quality, preserves contiguous land to that already protected by the Town, and maintain rural character. There was discussion about the cost of developed land versus that of undeveloped land and how it affects the tax rate. A new home built in Fremont today may generate between \$5,000 and \$7,000 in taxes; and the cost of town and school services could far exceed that number, when looking solely at the cost per pupil of education costs, as only one example.

Following further debate, the vote to not recommend Warrant Article 17 as presented by petition, was approved unanimously 3-0.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

1. Selectmen reviewed the final draft of the 2015 Warrant and Budget forms for use at tonight's Public Budget Hearing. The default budget had a typographical error in it of \$300 and the corrected number on the forms is \$2,494,498.
2. Selectmen reviewed and finalized information to be presented in a rationale/explanation page for the Fire Truck Warrant Article. This was prepared for the meeting this evening.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

1. Selectmen reviewed and approved an Intent to Cut for property owned by the Southeast Land Trust, parcels 04-090, 04-091, ad 04-092. Motion was made by Cordes to approve the Intent. Holmes Sr seconded and the vote was unanimously approved 3-0.
2. Selectmen reviewed bills and invoices for payment.
3. Selectmen reviewed correspondence received to date. This included Comcast rate changes, and a Field Request Form from the PTA for the June 5, 2015 Field Day.

VIII. NON-PUBLIC SESSION NH RSA 91-A - none

The next regular Board meeting will be a work session, to be held on Thursday January 15, 2015 at 6:00 pm.

IX. ADJOURNMENT - At 6:58 pm motion was made to adjourn this meeting by Cordes. Holmes Sr seconded and the vote was unanimously approved 3-0. Selectmen and Carlson then moved to the main hall to attend the Public Budget hearing from 7:00 pm until approximately 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Carlson
Town Administrator