

The Board's meeting was called to order at 6:03 pm in the main floor meeting room at the Fremont Town Hall. Present were Selectmen Gene Cordes, Neal Janvrin and Roger Barham; Town Administrator Heidi Carlson and members of the public Joshua Yokela and Gordon Muench.

Selectmen reviewed remaining Warrant Articles for consideration and recommendation. Carlson highlighted the materials the Board had, which have been prepared in bulk for this evening's Public Budget Hearing. This included an introductory cover sheet explaining the Town's form and process for the Public hearing, an updated Town Meeting Warrant (dated DRAFT 01/09/2019); all of the summary and State budget forms (revenues and expenses, MS 737 and MS 7D), copies of the detailed Town budget spreadsheet (2017-2019) and a tax rate estimate summary page.

The Board reviewed the remaining Articles needing their recommendation. Only one new petition was received, and it is listed below as Article 24 (previously submitted and then submitted by petition at the Board's request).

Article 10. Operating budget – the Board had not officially updated their recommendation on the anticipated updated operating budget of the Budget Committee after removal of the \$7,499 from the Highway Department budget. The Budget Committee will review this and vote at their meeting following at 6:30 pm. Motion was made by Barham and seconded by Janvrin to recommend Article 1 with an operating budget number of \$3,103,730. The vote was approved 3-0.

Article 24. Petition: Town Clerk compensation changed to fees (submitted by Nicole Cloutier) – Janvrin referred to the Town's decision several years ago to go to a salary position and that he felt it would be stepping back to return to this method. Cordes stated that this would take effect in 2020 and that is the same time the position would next be due for reelection. Janvrin moved to not recommend this article. Barham seconded and the vote was approved 3-0.

Article 27. Petition: Town Clerk compensation changed to fees and salary combination (submitted by Joshua Yokela) – Selectmen again referred to the Town's previous vote on the position and voted salary. Cordes stated that he understood the frustration and had watched the issue through the past few months at the Budget Committee level. There was reference made to the amount of training, and how to garner interest in elected positions, as well as the costs involved with training and support of the position. A motion was made by Janvrin and seconded by Barham to not recommend Article 27. The vote was approved 3-0.

Selectmen will announce these votes as part of the Public Hearing as they will not be on the prepared copies of the Warrant being used for review at the meeting.

At 6:12 pm motion was made by Janvrin to continue this meeting to 7:00 pm when the Board will reconvene with the Budget Committee at the Public Hearing in the Basement Meeting Room. Barham seconded and the vote was approve 3-0.

At 6:30 pm Cordes joined the Budget committee meeting, coming to session in the basement. Janvrin and Barham came down and joined the meeting for 6:50 pm as members of the audience.

Selectmen were in attendance throughout the duration of the Public Hearing. At approximately 9:25 pm there was discussion as part of the Public Hearing relative to removing a proposed Article from the Warrant. Town Historian Matthew Thomas stated that he felt with the other more pressing needs facing voters this year, that he would like the Board to consider removing Warrant Article 21 for additional funding added to the Historic Museum Capital Reserve Fund.

Carlson explained the logistics of the Town Meeting Warrant in that it is the Selectmen's jurisdiction, and that they could decide now or tomorrow night, to remove the Article. In the interest of keeping the process as part of the budget discussion, a motion was made by Janvrin to remove Warrant Article 21 for \$15,000 in funding added to the Museum Capital Reserve Fund. Barham seconded and the vote was approved 3-0.

Selectmen had no other business to conduct, and at 9:50 pm after the adjournment of the Public Budget Hearing, Janvrin made a motion to adjourn the Selectmen's Meeting. Barham seconded and the vote was approved 3-0.

The Selectmen will hold their next regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday evening January 10, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Carlson
Town Administrator