

APPROVED January 26, 2011

The meeting came to order at 7:00 pm in the main floor of the Town Hall. Present were Budget Committee members Andy Kohlhofer, Charles Kimball, Michael Nygren, Greta St Germain, Patricia Martel, and Laurie Allore.

Minutes of January 5, 2011 were reviewed and amended. Kohlhofer motioned to accept the minutes as amended. St Germain seconded and the vote was unanimous 6-0 to accept.

The Town Warrant Articles were reviewed. Allore noticed a discrepancy in Article 2 which will go back to the Town Administrator for correction. Additional adjustments needed correction as well. Kimball asked for more clarification concerning the Fire Truck Warrant article. He asked that the Warrant Article be rewritten for the public to understand.

The Public audience included: Nancy Lathrop, Jill Levelle, Debra Alman, Abigail Dobson, Sherri Ficker, Greg Fraize, Eric Abney and Deb Genthner.

Article 3 was discussed relative to the master operating budget number. Kohlhofer moved to recommend Article 3. St Germain seconded and the vote was 6-0.

Article 4 was discussed relative to the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund. The balance in this fund of approximately \$42,000 was mentioned. There was discussion about the future purchase of a Town-owned backhoe. Kohlhofer motioned to recommend Article 4. Martel seconded and the vote was 5-1.

The backhoe topic was further discussed and the topic of the renovations to the Town shed and building an additional pole barn to house sand and salt. St Germain spoke to this article.

Article 13 was reviewed regarding renovations to the Highway Shed into a maintenance garage. The \$112,000 also includes the materials needed to construct the pole barn to store salt and sand. Kohlhofer asked to have the article re-written to say "not to exceed \$112,000." This will be sent back to the Town Administrator.

Article 14 was reviewed as the Committee's earlier vote on a recommendation had ended in a tie. Martel moved to not recommend Article 14. Through conversation the Board was confused in their voting process so the Committee re-voted. St Germain moved to recommend Article 14. This was seconded by Kimball. The vote was 4-2 to recommend.

Article 21 was discussed relative to the provisions of the Statute. Kohlhofer asked to have the Article re-written to allow a bid process. Martel pulled up the NH Statute on her personal email device and read the statute. It includes a provision to hold two public hearings for selling land and property, as well as get concurrence from the Planning Board and Conservation Commission. The Committee accepted the rationale per NH Statute and will do a final vote on Tuesday evening with further input from the Town Administrator.

Article 22 was discussed. St Germain shared that the return lines have been run and are nearly ready to connection and broadcasting. This fund needs to be established to authorize the Town to receive the additional funds held by Comcast. Kohlhofer spoke to the limitations set on what can be broadcasted per the Selectmen's policy. He said he would like to see all town events broadcast. Kohlhofer moved to not recommend the Article as written, feeling they need more clarity concerning the amount of \$ 3.19. The motion was seconded by Nygren. The vote failed 6-0.

At approximately 8:10 pm School Board Representative Ida Keane came in to the meeting. The Committee then resumed reviewing the School District budget. Martel passed out updates in a spreadsheet of Budget Committee recommended reductions. Kohlhofer spoke to the current decrease in town valuation.

At 8:45 pm Recording Secretary Nygren left the meeting not feeling well. St Germain continued recording by notes and recorder.

Step increases were not recommended by the Committee. All salary increases were reduced, and calculations were made by member Martel. Kohlhofer discussed the previous request for level funding that the Budget Committee tallied to \$10,300.

St Germain discussed the Fremont ratio for Town 19% vs. School 81%. Reference was made then to statewide averages of 60/40 or 70/30. Our school is extremely high in comparison.

Martel as discussed not allowing a rental increase for the SAU Office. Keene spoke to the re-negotiated rental office space that was discounted.

Kohlhofer expressed the desperate need for outside development within the Town; additionally the State has increased its mandates from 7% in 1978 to over 20 % currently. Further discussion about the Town's revenue concerns went on.

Martel mentioned 1200 SPED Transportation which shows unencumbered money of \$150,000. Trending was reviewed.

Tuition - Private and Other shows unencumbered funds \$145,410. Keene questioned that amount for its accuracy.

Martel recommended an additional 50,000 reduction from that line allowing \$10,000 over last year. Based on past budgets and trended spending the 3 lines in question were brought back to level funding.

Kohlhofer confirmed that the Budget Committee voted to not recommend any Teachers contract with the Evergreen clause.

The Committee discussed Tuesday's schedule to meet at 6:30 pm prior to the Town Budget Public Hearing to complete the School Budget and vote on amended Warrant Articles.

Kohlhofer made a motion the recess this session until 6:30 pm on Tuesday January 11, 2011. Nygren seconded and the vote was approved 7-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Greta St Germain
Jeanne Nygren

At 6:30 pm on Tuesday January 11, 2011 the recessed Committee meeting of January 10, 2011 returned to order in the main floor meeting room at the Fremont Town Hall. Present were Budget Committee members Michael Nygren, Andrew Kohlhofer, Charles Kimball, Laurie Allore, Patricia Martel, Ida Keane and Greta St Germain; and public Theresa Blades.

Selectmen Brett Hunter and Annmarie Scribner met briefly for about 10 minutes in the Selectmen's Office to review Warrant Articles. Pending the full Board being together, the Selectmen took no actions at this time and moved out to the main hall. Carlson moved to the main hall to take the Committee's minutes and answer some residual questions about the Town budget and Warrant Articles.

The Budget Committee considered Article 13. Carlson presented additional information indicating that the article does not need to say "not to exceed" because by law the amount raised is a ceiling. It was also explained that if less than the \$112,000 is needed, that a lower amount can be removed from the Capital Reserve Fund as was done at the tax rate setting in 2010 for the recertification article.

The Committee clarified that Articles 16 and 17 were incorrectly listed in the Warrant as "not recommended." Committee members indicated that both Articles were recommended by the votes shown.

Carlson also provided additional information on Article 21 regarding sale of tax-deeded property. It was clarified that the Board of Selectmen is looking to liquidate the tax deeded properties. RSA 41:14 provides for a detailed process, including two public hearings, notice to former owners, and review and concurrence by other Town Boards.

The Budget Committee then returned to discussions from their meeting of last evening regarding the School District budget. There was discussion about the Teachers Contract and an offset of approximately \$72,000 in savings from changing health insurance to School Care.

Keane distributed copies of the finalized Teacher's Contract that the School Board received at their meeting last night. The document "Agreement between the Fremont School Board and the Fremont Education Association 2011-2013" was placed on file in the minutes as well.

Members were provided copies of an updated spreadsheet prepared by Martel for use in reviewing line item changes recommended by the Budget Committee. (Copies in hard copy with the Minutes).

St Germain proposed to cut one additional paraprofessional for a savings of \$18,464 to include salary and benefits from the paraprofessional SPED line item. There was discussion about the students and number of hours each student needs for their individual plan.

Keane stated that reviewing the plans and each student's needs is how Dawn Lewis generates her staff list. Keane asked for the matrix to be presented so the School Board and Budget Committee can see how the hours are being used. Keane said that there are other duties that those people perform for the school as well.

Martel said that there have been 19 paraprofessionals for the past three years. There were a couple that were grant-funded. St Germain noted that enrollment at Ellis Elementary is down. Keane stated that high school is actually up by three students.

St Germain proposed to reduce Function 2330 Special Education Administration - Staff Workshops by \$2,500 to make the total appropriation \$4,000. This was based on the history of use and that there are some funds leftover in the current year.

It was then proposed under Function 2600 Operation of Plant - Custodial Supplies to reduce it by \$3,000 to \$19,000. They have projected to spend \$16,000 this year and there is \$22,000 budgeted.

The next reduction proposed was in line 2220 Salary Librarian. The proposal was to reduce it by \$1,230.

Line item 2220 5640 - Library books is currently projecting \$1,619 to be spent this year as of 12/14/10 including encumbrances. It was suggested to reduce it down to \$2,000.

Keane asked that they not reduce the book line because the Librarian had been out with a stroke and has just recently returned to work and is likely playing catch-up because she has been out.

There was discussion about contract items and funding or not recommending them. Keane expressed her concern about not funding contractual items.

At approximately 7:00 pm members of the public Neal Janvrin, Jon Benson, Larry and Brian Dobson, Sharon Girardi and Peg Pinkham entered the meeting.

There was discussion about Substitute pay. It is projected to spend \$4,000 (subs professional days). Nygren said that at \$75 per day it was about 6.5 people per day absent. At \$100 per day it was about 5. He said this was high as an overall average for absenteeism. Keane said that they are for teachers, paras, as well as other staff.

Joyce Booker Janvrin came into the meeting at 7:10 pm.

It was suggested to reduce line item 1100-5122 General Substitutes by \$7,500. It was noted that the budget request has doubled. It is projected that the balance in the fund will be \$12,000. Reducing it \$7,500 to \$9,352 instead of \$16,852 was the final proposal.

After discussing these changes, the Committee began to make recommendations on each of the function lines within the School District Budget.

Martel moved to recommend a Budget Committee figure for Function 1100 of \$5,617,899. Kohlhofer seconded and the vote was approved 6-1 with Keane voting in the negative.

Martel moved to recommend a Budget Committee figure for Function 1200 of \$1,251,001. Kohlhofer seconded and the vote was approved 6-1 with Keane voting in the negative.

Martel moved to recommend a Budget Committee figure for Function 1270 of \$3. Kohlhofer seconded and the vote was approved 6-1 with Keane voting in the negative.

Martel moved to recommend a Budget Committee figure for Function 1400 of \$51,409.99. Allore seconded and the vote was approved 6-1 with Keane voting in the negative.

Martel moved to recommend a Budget Committee figure for Function 2110 of \$1. Kohlhofer seconded and the vote was approved 7-0.

Martel moved to recommend a Budget Committee figure for Function 2120 of \$92,954.99. St Germain seconded and the vote was approved 6-1 with Keane voting in the negative.

Martel moved to recommend a Budget Committee figure for Function 2130 of \$116,875.16. St Germain seconded and the vote was approved 6-1 with Keane voting in the negative.

Martel moved to recommend a Budget Committee figure for Function 2140 of \$107,911.02. Allore seconded and the vote was approved 6-1 with Keane voting in the negative.

Martel moved to recommend a Budget Committee figure for Function 2152 of \$246,317.03. Allore seconded and the vote was approved 6-1 with Keane voting in the negative.

Martel moved to recommend a Budget Committee figure for Function 2153 of \$3,600. Keane seconded and the vote was approved 7-0.

Martel moved to recommend a Budget Committee figure for Function 2162 of \$12,001. Allore seconded and the vote was approved 6-1 with Keane voting in the negative.

Martel moved to recommend a Budget Committee figure for Function 2163 of \$176,467.96. St Germain seconded and the vote was approved 6-1 with Keane voting in the negative.

Martel moved to recommend a Budget Committee figure for Function 2169 of \$1. St Germain seconded and the vote was approved 7-0.

Martel moved to recommend a Budget Committee figure for Function 2210 of \$43,342.50. Kohlhofer seconded and the vote was approved 6-1 with Keane voting in the negative.

Martel moved to recommend a Budget Committee figure for Function 2220 of \$51,711. Allore seconded and the vote was approved 6-1 with Keane voting in the negative.

Road Agent Mark Pitkin came into the meeting at 7:23 pm.

Martel moved to recommend a Budget Committee figure for Function 2223 of \$801. Allore seconded and the vote was approved 7-0.

Martel moved to recommend a Budget Committee figure for Function 2225 of \$134,149.25. St Germain seconded and the vote was approved 6-1 with Keane voting in the negative.

Martel moved to recommend a Budget Committee figure for Function 2310 of \$61,519. St Germain seconded and the vote was approved 6-1 with Keane voting in the negative.

Martel moved to recommend a Budget Committee figure for Function 2320 of \$256,175.48. Allore seconded and the vote was approved 6-1 with Keane voting in the negative.

Martel moved to recommend a Budget Committee figure for Function 2330 of \$116,530.14. Kohlhofer seconded and the vote was approved 6-1 with Keane voting in the negative.

Martel moved to recommend a Budget Committee figure for Function 2400 of \$274,752.38. St Germain seconded and the vote was approved 6-1 with Keane voting in the negative.

Martel moved to recommend a Budget Committee figure for Function 2600 of \$399,394.16. Kohlhofer seconded and the vote was approved 6-1 with Keane voting in the negative.

Fire Chief Richard Butler came into the meeting at 7:26 pm.

Martel moved to recommend a Budget Committee figure for Function 2721 of \$329,760. Keane seconded and the vote was approved 7-0.

Martel moved to recommend a Budget Committee figure for Function 2722 of \$215,000. Allore seconded and the vote was approved 6-1 with Keane voting in the negative.

Martel moved to recommend a Budget Committee figure for Function 2724 of \$329,760. Keane seconded and the vote was approved 7-0.

Martel moved to recommend a Budget Committee figure for Function 2725 of \$6,000. Keane seconded and the vote was approved 7-0.

Martel moved to recommend a Budget Committee figure for Function 5100 of \$314,500. Keane seconded and the vote was approved 7-0.

Martel moved to recommend a Budget Committee figure for Function 3100 of \$164,699. Keane seconded and the vote was approved 7-0.

Martel moved to recommend a Budget Committee figure for Function 5300 of \$201,751. Keane seconded and the vote was approved 7-0.

Keane moved to put back in the Budget Committee recommendation for Line 1100 General Education \$90,000 for Sanborn tuition. She stated that if it was not needed that the School Board could encumber it and return it to the Town as had been done this year. As a contractual item, she felt the funding needed to be there.

In discussion, the \$90,000 was removed on the premise that the Sanborn contract would not pass. Martel asked for the latest financial report with the encumbrance and projected expenditure. The most recent one showed a balance of \$143,000.

Keane stated that the CBA amount has already been encumbered to return to the Town this year, and will be returned if not needed; and not spent on something else.

At 7:32 pm Kohlhofer moved to recess the remainder of this meeting until after the conclusion of the Town's Public Budget Hearing, to take up the remaining school budget discussions. St Germain seconded and the vote was approved 7-0.

(Minutes for the January 11, 2011 Town Public Hearing are in a separate document).

At 10:05 pm at the conclusion of the Town's Public Budget Hearing, the original meeting (recessed from January 10, 2010) returned to session.

Discussion went back to Keane's motion on the table to return \$90,000 back to the HS Tuition line. Kohlhofer seconded the motion. The motion failed 6-1 with Keane voting for it.

There was continued discussion about the school contracts and how they are handled and budgeted.

Keane said that the School District's default budget was reduced last night by Keane because it had new equipment in it.

There was discussion about the School District submitting a budget based on what was budgeted in previous years and not on what was actually needed or spent the previous year.

There was discussion about the financial consequences of contracts and the verbiage and that the Town and District do not have an unlimited budget to do things. What can do the best we can with the resources we have and make things work for the District and fit the taxpayers.

The next regular meeting of the Committee will be held on Thursday January 13, 2011 at 7:00 pm. The School District Public Budget Hearing will begin at 7:30 pm. The Budget Committee will review School District Petitions in the time prior to the Public Hearing.

With no further business to come before the Committee, motion was made by Kohlhofer and seconded by St Germain to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 pm. The vote was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Carlson
Town Administrator