

FREMONT BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING

**Fremont Town Hall
295 Main Street
Fremont, NH 03044
August 17, 2011
7 P.M.**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Charles Kimball called the August 17, 2011 meeting to order at 7:05 PM on the main floor of Fremont Town Hall.

Present were Budget Committee Members Charles Kimball, Gene Cordes, Patricia Martel, Jeanne Nygren, Mike Nygren, Greta St. Germain, Town Administrator Heidi Carlson, and Recording Secretary Susan Perry.

II. INTRODUCTION OF SUSAN PERRY

Susan Perry was introduced as new Recording Secretary.

III. COMMITTEE REORGANIZATION

There was discussion about having someone speak for the Committee.

Mr. Nygren suggested having individuals focus on different parts of the budget and having more fruitful meetings every other week rather than every week. He pointed out that this did not work well last year since someone left the Committee and focus was lost. Mr. Cordes agreed with the idea of efficient use of time by being familiar with information before meetings in order to be ready to discuss information rather than seeing it for the first time.

Ms. St. Germain noted that the Budget Committee couldn't suggest to Department Heads what budgets should be. She felt that the Chair should understand the whole budget and should speak for the Board.

Mr. Cordes said that a side effect of sub-committees was that there was ownership and that this should be aspired to.

Ms. Martel felt that there should be focus and adherence to the agenda.

Greta St. Germain made a motion to nominate Gene Cordes as Budget Committee Chair. Patricia Martel seconded the motion. Motion passed 6:0.

Greta St. Germain made a motion to nominate Mike Nygren as Budget Committee Vice Chair. Gene Cordes seconded the motion. Motion passed 5:0:1 (abstention from Mike Nygren)

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: APRIL 13, 2011

Jeanne Nygren made a motion to approve the minutes of April 13, 2011. Greta St. Germain seconded the motion. Motion passed 6:0.

V. SCHOOL

A. REVIEW OF SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET REPORTS (JUNE UNAUDITED REPORT DISTRIBUTED TO MEMBERS)

Mr. Nygren said that this year's moneys are the same as last year's for the school, therefore, they would have to see what the School Department did and how they proposed spending the same amount of money for this year.

Ms. St. Germain felt that the School District budget would be fiscally responsible this year.

Ms. Martel noted that Bonnie Sandstrom has been noting where line item transfers came from (descriptions of transfers). Mr. Kimball said that was what he wanted. Mr. Nygren suggested having more description of unanticipated costs. Mr. Cordes wondered if they could have a date when that was done (e.g. April or August).

Mr. Cordes said he would request that the School Board send the Budget Committee the 2011-12 budget allocations. He will express that the Budget Committee members are pleased with the descriptions in the budget but would also prefer to have negative and positive numbers regarding transfers. The members agreed.

VI. TOWN

A. REVIEW OF QUARTERLY REPORT (INCLUDING TRENDING THROUGH JULY)

Ms. Carlson spoke about printing issues she had with the Cash vs. Accrual program but noted it was now up to date.

Mr. Nygren spoke about discrepancies in recorded police patrol hours and wages. There was discussion that included there being a third payroll twice a year and budget reporting system differences between Departments.

Mr. Cordes suggested that Budget Committee budget questions should be streamlined so as to not create a lot of work for people getting the information for them.

Mr. Nygren had emailed Police Chief Janvrin between April and August (when the Budget Committee did not meet) because he thought the budget line was over the trend. Ms. St. Germain thought that Mr. Nygren should have alerted the whole Committee about the request. Mr. Nygren agreed and said he would do that in the future.

Mr. Nygren said he would forward the Jan- April 2011 IMC to Ms. Carlson.

There was discussion about the benefit of having Department Heads present budgets to the Budget Committee if they would like to.

There was discussion about not seeing Department budgets until Selectmen recommendations come in. Mr. Nygren suggested that the Budget Committee get Department budgets at the same time as the Selectmen do even if they would not have Selectmen input yet. He felt that the line items would still be the same and this would give more time for the Budget Committee members to look at Department budgets and review

what their requests are. He noted that Selectmen could recommend that Departments should come in under budget but cannot tell them what to do.

It was agreed to request Departments to send their budgets to the Budget Committee as soon as they are available.

VII. SET DATES FOR NEXT SCHEDULED MEETINGS

Public Budget Hearing: Tuesday, January 10, 2011

Deliberative Sessions: Both to be scheduled between February 4-11, 2012

Mr. Cordes will ask the School Board for their budget no later than Friday November 4, 2011.

The Board set the following meeting dates:

September 14

September 28

October 12 (Mr. Kimball will not be able to attend)

October 26

November 9 (TBD – if need to finish up Town budget work)

November 16 (with School Board)

November 30 (with School Board)

December (2 or 3 meetings – TBD)

There was discussion about not having duplicate budget presentations.

Ms. Carlson noted that she got an email from Sharon Girardi about the School Board giving back approximately \$120,000 back to the community.

Ms. Carlson distributed copies of MS 24 (School Department's revised revenues for 2011-12) to Committee members. A copy was already sent to the Selectmen.

There was general discussion about tax rate.

Mr. Cordes suggesting trying to get Town budgets and Selectmen recommendations soon/within the next few weeks.

VIII. OTHER: N/A

IX. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:35 PM, Mike Nygren made a motion to adjourn. Jeanne Nygren seconded the motion. Motion passed 6:0.

Respectfully Submitted,
Susan Perry,
Recording Secretary