

Fremont Town Hall
295 Main Street
Fremont, NH 03044
October 12, 2011
7 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairman Mike Nygren called the October 12, 2011 meeting to order at 7:03 PM on the main floor of Fremont Town Hall.

Present were Budget Committee Members Gene Cordes (arriving at 7:05), Greg Fraize, Patricia Martel, Jeanne Nygren, Mike Nygren, Greta St. Germain, Town Administrator Heidi Carlson, School Board Representative Sharon Girardi, and Recording Secretary Susan Perry.

II. REVIEW/APPROVAL OF MINUTES: SEPTEMBER 28, 2011

Jeanne Nygren made a motion to approve the minutes for the meeting of September 28, 2011 as written. Sharon Girardi seconded the motion. Motion passed 5:1 (abstention from Greg Fraize).

III. TOWN BUDGETS REVIEW

The Board reviewed Town budgets with Selectmen's recommendations.

1. 4140 TOWN CLERK

Items of discussion included the nature of the Deputy Town Clerk position (the stipend for it, the position's practicality, the idea of streamlining the position to offer more services and the amount of hours that should be reasonable for the position).

Ms. St. Germain noted that the Selectmen had wanted to combine the position to Town Clerk/Tax Collector but it had failed. The Selectmen were trying to eliminate two people from having four positions (pays) and to use the Deputy just for the purpose of filling in. Mr. Cordes' view was that when these two positions (Tax Collector and Clerk) combine in some communities, the Department can sometimes expand, become salaried, etc.

Jeanne Nygren moved for the Budget Committee to recommend \$50,171 for the budget of 4140 TOWN CLERK for FY 2012. Patricia Martel seconded the motion. Motion passed: 4 aye (Greta St. Germain, Gene Cordes, Greg Fraize and Sharon Girardi); 3 (Jeanne Nygren, Mike Nygren, Patricia Martel).

2. 4150 TAX COLLECTOR

Ms. St. Germain noted that Kathy had asked for additional hours for her Deputy to handle busy times. There was discussion about the \$500 stipend for the Deputy Tax Collector at clerical assistant hours and how people might not want to work for that amount of money per year. Mr. Cordes mentioned that a deputy position was usually considered a contribution to the community rather than for significant pay. Ms. St. Germain read RSA 41:35 about the Tax Collector being required to work at least two hours per month.

Jeanne Nygren recommended the Board of Selectmen's budget recommendation of \$25,700 in 4150 TAX COLLECTOR for FY 2012. Patricia Martel seconded the motion. Motion passed 7:0.

3. 4194 GENERAL GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS

There was an increase of \$1.20/gallon in the Fuel Oil line. The estimate of \$7,000 to be put out to bid would be for a new air handler, condenser, and labor. She said that the Meetinghouse Maintenance cost was for painting the building and was an estimate based on the number she got last year when it was bid out, plus inflation. Another company was chosen to do the Website for less money using "Virtual Town Hall".

Per Mr. Nygren's suggestion, Ms. Carlson said she would write in the rationale for Maintenance Wages that wage increases were based on merit.

Jeanne Nygren moved for the Budget Committee to recommend \$92,500 for the budget of 4194 GENERAL GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS for FY 2012. Sharon Girardi seconded the motion. Motion passed 6 aye: 1 nay (Mike Nygren)

4. 4220 FIRE RESCUE

The Committee members reviewed the updated rationale for the Fire Rescue budget proposal. Instead of purchasing a copier, the Selectmen's recommendation was to purchase a scan/fax machine and or use the copiers at the Town Hall or Police Station. Mr. Cordes felt that it was not cost effective for people to drive around to make copies and he mentioned the issue of security at the Police Department. Instead of purchasing a Smartphone, the Selectmen would offer to pay \$20/month toward cell phone charges for the Fire Chief.

Ms. St. Germain said that it was important to make sure personnel had appropriate protective gear and uniforms.

Mike Nygren moved for the Budget Committee to recommend \$168,463 for the budget of 4220 FIRE RESCUE for FY 2012. Patricia Martel seconded the motion. Motion passed 7:0.

5. 4323 SOLID WASTE COLLECTION

Ms. Carlson mentioned that she had asked that the Waste Management contract extend from March 2013 to December 2013 to get on a calendar year cycle. There is a 5% increase each year in the current contract, and then there is also a fuel adjustment.

Mike Nygren moved for the Budget Committee to recommend \$248,234 for the budget of 4323 SOLID WASTE COLLECTION for FY 2012. Patricia Martel seconded the motion. Motion passed 7:0.

6. 4324 SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL

Patricia Martel moved for the Budget Committee to recommend \$116,560 for the budget of 4324 SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL for FY 2012. Mike Nygren seconded the motion. Motion passed 7:0.

7. 4414 ANIMAL CONTROL

Topics of discussion included the nature of the Animal Control Patrol position (having a trained police officer as Animal Control Officer, reasonable wages and duties). Ms. Carlson said she would get the numbers of (dog) summonses and arrests for the next meeting.

Mike Nygren moved for the Budget Committee to table a vote on the budget of 4414 ANIMAL CONTROL for FY 2012 until the next meeting pending receipt of information. Sharon Girardi seconded the motion. Motion passed 7:0.

8. 4415 HEALTH

Mike Nygren moved for the Budget Committee to recommend \$750 for the budget of 4415 HEALTH for FY 2012. Jeanne Nygren seconded the motion. Motion passed 7:0.

IV. OTHER

Budgets left do review include: Selectmen, Police, Elections/Reg., Fire, Highway, Bridges, ACO, Parks and Rec., and Library. Other items to address include: proposal for fire truck, planning for bridges, and mosquito proposal (Warrant Articles).

There was discussion about renting equipment each year vs. leasing. A Highway study had concluded that it was more cost effective for the Town to own equipment, but then a question was if the Road Agent's salary should be increased for being on call all the time. Mr. Cordes requested a copy of the report on the Highway study. Consensus was to have the Police Chief and Highway Department Head attend the next Budget Committee meeting. Mr. Cordes suggested the Road Agent be prepared to talk about the one-ton truck, the value of having the new truck, etc.

Ms. Nygren requested an updated sheet of plow routes for the upcoming year.

V. SCHOOL

Ms. Girardi noted that the School Board had tabled approval of the financials since there were discrepancies with balances in some line items. She mentioned that the School Board requested an extension from November 9 to November 16 to have their budget ready for the Budget Committee. The Budget Committee agreed to the extension.

The Board reviewed scheduling for January – February 2012. There was discussion regarding having the public hearing on the budgets on Tuesday, January 10, which is also one of the proposed Election Days. The Committee decided to keep the January 10 date for both public hearings, with a snow date of January 11. School Deliberative Session will be held on Saturday, February 4, 2012 at 9 am with a snow date of February 11 at 9 am. The Town Deliberative Session will be held on Monday, February 6, 2012 at 7 pm with a snow date of February 7, 2012 at 7 pm.

VI. NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING: WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2011 at 7 PM

VII. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:12 PM, Sharon Girardi made a motion to adjourn. Mike Nygren seconded the motion. Motion passed 7:0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Perry
Recording Secretary