

**FREMONT BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Fremont Town Hall  
295 Main Street  
Fremont, NH 03044  
November 16, 2011  
7 P.M.**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Gene Cordes called the November 16, 2011 meeting to order at 7:00 PM on the main floor of Fremont Town Hall.

Present were Budget Committee Members Gene Cordes, Greg Fraize, Jeanne Nygren, Greta St. Germain, School Board Representative Sharon Girardi, and Recording Secretary Susan Perry. Members of the Public included: Fremont School District Financial Administrator Bonnie Sandstrom, Ellis School Principal John Safina, Abby Dobson (teacher/citizen), Fire Chief Richard Butler and Deputy Fire Chief Joe Nichols.

**II. FIRE TRUCK PROPOSAL**

There was a presentation and discussion about the projected outlook regarding fire equipment. This included review of a list of vehicles currently out of service or in need of repair:

- Tank 5: 7600 Gallon Tanker (Replacement scheduled 2010)
- Tank 1: 1000 Gallon Forestry/Tanker (Replacement, 2012 a committee started to review replacement options)
- Engine 3: 1000 Gallon Engine (Replacement scheduled 2010)
- Forestry 1: 500 Gallon Forestry (Taken out of service in 2009)
- Tank 4: 2500 Gallon Tanker (Replacement scheduled 2014)
- Engine 1: 1000 Gallon Engine (Replacement scheduled 2022)
- Rescue 1: Suburban Rescue (Replacement scheduled 2015)
- Utility 1: Utility Body Pickup
- Scott SCBA (Self Contained Breathing Apparatus)
- Safety Complex Generator
- Safety Complex Parking Lot
- Gear Extractor
- Vehicle Maintenance

The proposed fire truck (on Warrant Article) would replace Tank 5 and Engine 3. The new truck would hold 3,000 gallons of water so they would still need Tank 4.

Mr. Butler had not heard back about the grant for the SCBA. There was discussion about the cost to clean fire gear in house vs. offsite. There was review of work done to try to repair leaks, etc. in tankers/trucks, as well as the operation of the generator. An Apparatus Proposal from KME (Kovatch Mobile Equipment Corp.) Fire Apparatus was distributed to Budget Committee members for review. It was noted that it was for the same tanker as was proposed last year but the cost went up about \$5,000. Mr. Butler mentioned the benefit of putting money away each year for Capital Reserve (now there is a little over \$100,000 in Capital Reserve). With a lease purchase, Capital Reserve funds could not be used for payments (only as a down payment). Ms. Nygren clarified that

the purchase had to pass as a Warrant; if it did not pass, \$470,000 would go into the budget. Mr. Nichols said they were sending mailers out to inform people of this purchase. Mr. Cordes said that the Budget Committee would review price and financing information when available.

### **III. DISTRIBUTION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET**

The School District Budget Books for FY13 were distributed to the Budget Committee members. Ms. Girardi gave a brief overview, noting that the Ellis budget was separated from the high school budget so one would not negatively impact the other. The Ellis School budget was level-funded and the only increase was with the high school tuition cost (@\$167,000), over which the District had no control. She explained that the high school tuition cost was driven by a Department of Education tuition rate formula, per contract (paid per student). A guaranteed maximum per-pupil rate of \$15,235.91 was given (for July 1, 2012) by Sanborn Regional High School on November 1, 2011 for budgeting purposes but the actual rate would be determined in April 2012. The enrollment number that was budgeted for was 227 students (about 64 students going into high school). Ms. Sandstrom explained that the District tries to get the most accurate numbers of students entering high school (from Charter School, home schooling, etc.).

Ms. Girardi read an email by School Board Chair Ida Keane that gave a synopsis of the budget process this year, noting the helpful idea Principal John Safina had in separating the budgets of Ellis School and the high school. Mr. Safina said that Ellis had taken hits in years past in order to level fund/meet high school demands. He noted that the Department of Education Website shows that Ellis' per pupil expense had gone down over the past few years. He said that the District streamlined positions and had a new administrative structure. There was a refined look at needs (Special Education, Regular Education, Principal, Vice Principal). Teachers gave actual requests based on priority so when cuts were made, items of lower priority were cut. Mr. Safina gave examples of streamlining for savings, including the reading program. Mr. Safina talked about some budgetary items over which the District has no control: high school tuition, enrollment, what the State said about retirement, and Special Education placements. Mr. Cordes noted that the debt service that the District has is also non-negotiable. Ms. Sandstrom replied that the District had two loans: one to be paid up in 2014 and the other in 2015.

Mr. Cordes and Ms. St. Germain expressed that this was a good way to get teachers involved by making goals and priorities for the District. They respected the work that was done on the budget .

Ms. Girardi gave a quick lesson on how to read the budget book. Ms. Sandstrom said that she added if lines are contractual or mandated.

Ms. Nygren asked how many years were left in the Sanborn Regional High School contract. Mr. Safina replied that the contract would be up in 2026. Ms. Nygren mentioned that the Fremont School District budget wouldn't be able to be level-funded each year if there are tuition increases.

The Budget Committee will review School District budget line items at the November 30 meeting. Ms. Sandstrom would get a list of unanticipated expenses from last year, as Ms. Nygren requested. Ms. Girardi would try to answer any emailed questions the best she could.

### **IV. ACO BUDGET OVEREXPENDITURE RSA 32**

There was clarity on ACO Budget Overexpenditure.

### **V. REVIEW/APPROVAL OF MINUTES: NOVEMBER 9, 2011**

*Jeanne Nygren made a motion to approve the minutes for the meeting of November 9, 2011 as written. Sharon Girardi seconded the motion. Motion passed 3:0:2 abstentions from Greta St. Germain and Greg Fraize.*

#### **VI. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RESIGNATION FROM MEMBER MIKE NYGREN**

*Jeanne Nygren made a motion to use the letter Sharon Girardi drafted to acknowledge the resignation from Member Mike Nygren. Greg Fraize seconded the motion. Motion passed 5:0.*

There would be a discussion of Vice Chair election at the next meeting when attendance would hopefully be larger.

#### **V. OTHER**

Ms. St. Germain asked about projected student enrollment. Ms. Girardi said that it appeared that some students who went to the charter school had been on a waiting list, gave it a try and some children came back to Ellis School. She said she would share enrollment information when she gets that. Ms. Girardi noted that the new Special Education Coordinator (Sarah Krebs) has been going through all regulations and has made appropriate changes as required (e.g. revamping the preschool program which should have no more than 12 students per class). Ms. Krebs was also looking into Medicaid Reimbursement and discharged plans in place for IEPs.

Ms. Nygren asked why the third grade was the only grade with four classes and Ms. Girardi replied that the third grade this year was unique with Identified children.

#### **VI. NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING: WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2011 at 7 PM**

#### **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

*At 8:30 PM, Sharon Girardi made a motion to adjourn. Jeanne Nygren seconded the motion. Motion passed 5:0.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Perry  
Recording Secretary