

FREMONT BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING

Fremont Town Hall
295 Main Street
Fremont, NH 03044
December 28, 2011
7 P.M.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Gene Cordes called the December 28, 2011 meeting to order at 7:02 PM on the main floor of Fremont Town Hall.

Present were: Budget Committee Members Gene Cordes, Charles Kimball, Greg Fraize, Greta St. Germain (arriving at 7:09 pm), Jeanne Nygren, and Pat Martel, School Board Representative Sharon Girardi, Town Administrator Heidi Carlson (via cell phone as needed) and Recording Secretary Susan Perry.

II. REVIEW/APPROVE MINUTES: NOVEMBER 16 and 30, DECEMBER 14 and 21

Sharon Girardi made a motion to amend the minutes of November 16, 2011 to read "15,235.91" on page 2 instead of (\$15,000). Jeanne Nygren seconded the motion. Motion passed 5:0:1 (P. Martel abstention).

Sharon Girardi made a motion to approve the amended minutes of November 16, 2011. Jeanne Nygren seconded the motion. Motion passed 5:0:1 (P. Martel abstention).

Sharon Girardi made a motion to approve the amended minutes of November 30, 2011. Charles Kimball seconded the motion. Motion passed 7:0.

Sharon Girardi made a motion to approve the minutes of December 14, 2011 as presented. Greg Fraize seconded the motion. Motion passed 6:0:1 (J. Nygren abstention).

The Committee determined that the written account of the December 21, 2011 non-meeting was sufficient.

Ms. Girardi reported that the teachers' contract was not ratified. She mentioned that the School Board would be finalizing their Warrant Articles on Tuesday, January 3, 2011.

III. BUDGETS

4211 POLICE DEPARTMENT SPECIAL DETAILS

The Police Department requested \$55,000 in this line but the Board of Selectmen recommended \$43,000 (it was trended down because of what was spent the last year).

Charles Kimball moved for the Budget Committee to recommend \$45,000 for the budget of line 4211 Police Department Special Details (which is the default budget). Sharon Girardi seconded the motion. Motion passed 6:1 (nay: G. St. Germain)

4445 SOCIAL SERVICE AGENCIES (VENDOR PAYMENTS)

Sharon Girardi made a motion for the Budget Committee to recommend \$25,813 for the budget of line 4445 Social Service Agencies/Vendor Payments. Jeanne Nygren seconded the motion. Motion passed 7:0.

IV. WARRANT ARTICLES

WA 5: FIRE TRUCK

Jeanne Nygren moved for the Budget Committee to recommend Warrant Article 5: Fire Truck as written. Charles Kimball seconded the motion. Motion passed 7:0.

WA 6: OPERATING BUDGET (could not vote tonight)

WA 7: BRIDGE CAPITAL RESERVE (\$25,000)

Charles Kimball made a motion for the Budget Committee to recommend Warrant Article 7: Bridget Capital Reserve (\$25,000) as written. Jeanne Nygren seconded the motion. Motion passed 7:0.

WA 8: POLICE CRUISER CAPITAL RESERVE (\$12,500)

Charles Kimball motioned for the Budget Committee to recommend Warrant Article 8: Police Cruiser Capital Reserve (\$12,500) as written. Jeanne Nygren seconded the motion. Motion passed 7:0.

WA 9: TOWN HALL RENOVATIONS CAPITAL RESERVE (\$10,000)

Charles Kimball made a motion for the Budget Committee to recommend Warrant Article 9: Town Hall Renovations Capital Reserve (\$10,000) as written. Pat Martel seconded the motion. Motion passed 7:0.

WA 10: PROPERTY REASSESSMENT CAPITAL RESERVE (\$15,000)

Jeanne Nygren made a motion for the Budget Committee to recommend Warrant Article 10: Property Reassessment Capital Reserve (\$15,000) as written. Charlie Kimball seconded the motion. Motion passed 7:0.

WA 11: FIRE TRUCK CAPITAL RESERVE (\$50,000)

It was clarified that \$25,000 was added to the Fire Truck Capital Reserve Fund last year (taking \$100,000 out failed). The term "Fire Truck" was used when the fund was created but meant fire equipment/apparatus.

Charles Kimball made a motion for the Budget Committee to recommend Warrant Article 11: Fire Truck Capital Reserve (\$50,000) as written. Sharon Girardi seconded the motion. Motion passed 6:1 (nay: P. Martel).

WA 12: HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT CAPITAL RESERVE (\$50,000)

Charles Kimball made a motion for the Budget Committee to recommend Warrant Article 12: Highway Equipment Capital Reserve (\$50,000) as written. Jeanne Nygren seconded the motion. Motion passed 7:0.

WA 13: PURCHASE POLICE VEHICLE WITH FUNDS WITHDRAWN FROM CRF (\$15,000)

There was discussion about the number of vehicles the Police Department had and usage.

Patricia Martel made a motion for the Budget Committee not to recommend Warrant Article 13: Purchase Police Vehicle with Funds withdrawn from CRF (\$15,000). Jeanne Nygren seconded the motion. Motion passed 6:0:1 (abstention from G. St. Germain).

WA 14: PURCHASE OHRV EQUIPMENT WITH FUNDS WITHDRAWN FROM SPECIAL REVENUE FUND (\$6,385)

Charles Kimball made a motion for the Budget Committee to recommend Warrant Article 14: Purchase OHRV Equipment With Funds Withdrawn From Special Revenue Fund (\$6,385) as written. Jeanne Nygren seconded the motion. Motion passed 6:1 (nay: P. Martel).

WA 18: ADOPTION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST ORDINANCE

Ms. St. Germain explained that the Board of Selectmen had adopted an ethics policy that should have been adopted by the Town of Fremont as an ordinance. This is being put to the voters to hold elected officers to higher standards regarding what is expected of them (e.g. not swaying votes, taking gifts, etc.) There was discussion about pros/cons and possible scenarios/gray areas involving elected officials acting in other roles such as landowners, voters, etc.

Sharon Girardi made a motion for the Budget Committee to recommend Warrant Article 18: Adoption of Conflict of Interest Ordinance as written. Jeanne Nygren seconded the motion. Motion passed: 5 aye: 2 nay (C. Kimball; G. Cordes).

WA 19: COMBINATION OF TAX COLLECTOR/TOWN CLERK

There was discussion including: decrease in Town Clerk hours have while the salary remained the same; less work coming out of the office with less revenue over the past several years; and combining positions for good business sense (nothing personal) and better customer service for citizens. Statute said that the Town Clerk was an elected position (sets own hours) but it was noted that the voters set the salary.

Jeanne Nygren made a motion for the Budget Committee to recommend Warrant Article 19: Combination of Tax Collector/Town Clerk as written. Greg Fraize seconded the motion. Motion passed 7:0.

WA 20: SELECTMEN NAMED AGENTS OF THE HIGHWAY BUILDING CAPITAL RESERVE FUND.

Jeanne Nygren made a motion for the Budget Committee to recommend Warrant Article 20: Selectmen Named Agents of the Highway Building Capital Reserve Fund. Sharon Girardi seconded the motion. Motion passed 7:0.

V. SCHOOL DISTRICT OPERATING BUDGET

There was a discussion about: calculators (cost, usage, necessity due to curriculum); Athletic Coaches (budget based on the number of kids signed up for athletic programs and the number of programs run during the year – this is a yearly automatic renewal since there is no language in the contract saying otherwise); unmandated funds; and paying social security as well as State Pension fund/retirement.

Ms. St. Germain commended the School Department with presenting a level-funded budget for Ellis School (increase only in the high school tuition).

Greta St. Germain made a motion for the Budget Committee to recommend \$11,049,721 for the School District budget. Greg Fraize seconded the motion. Motion passed: 5 aye: 2 nay (J. Nygren; C. Kimball).

VI. SCHOOL DISTRICT WARRANT ARTICLES: to review at next meeting

VII. NEXT SCHEDULED MEETINGS: JANUARY 4, 2012

Public Hearing: January 11 at 7 pm (meet at 6 pm)

School Public Hearing: January 12 at 6 pm

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:07 PM, Sharon Girardi made a motion to adjourn. Patricia Martel seconded the motion. Motion passed 7:0.

Respectfully Submitted,
Susan Perry,
Recording Secretary