

FREMONT BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING

Fremont Town Hall
295 Main Street
Fremont, NH 03044
October 31, 2012
7:00 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Gene Cordes called the October 31, 2012 meeting to order at 7:02 pm on the main floor of Fremont Town Hall.

Present were: Budget Committee Members Gene Cordes, Griffin Cordes, Greg Fraize, Greta St. Germain, Charles Kimball, Patricia Martel, Joe Miccile, and Mike Nygren, Town Administrator Heidi Carlson and Recording Secretary Susan Perry.

II. APPOINTMENT: DENNY WOOD, POLICE DEPARTMENT FOLLOW-UP (7-8pm)

Police Chief Denny Wood and the Budget Committee reviewed the Police Department budget that was recommended by the Board of Selectmen, who tried to keep it level-funded.

There was discussion about the increase in the new officer training line and it was noted that they anticipated hiring at least one new officer. One part time officer had recently left the Department and this line covered the part time officer training, new vest, field training, etc. Chief Wood noted that this line might decrease since the person they were looking to hire was a full time certified officer who would need minimal training. There was a discussion about if it would be cost effective to offer (10%) overtime to the current officers rather than hiring a new replacement officer. Turnover rate was discussed, noting that sometimes it was circumstantial and relative to officers' career opportunities of officers. Also, in the past reasons were due to salary amount. It was noted that part-time staff could not commit more time since they had full time jobs elsewhere. Chief Wood said he could get an answer about when the overtime rate would become cost-effective, but he also wondered if another officer left, where would they stop at the number of officers in Fremont (by offering overtime and without hiring more staff). Chief Wood noted that many of the applicants for the vacated position were "green" and only one was a full time certified officer. Agencies were more likely to hire full-time officers over par-time ones. Mr. Nygren suggested finding out how many hours could be used to break even or better (using overtime vs. hiring a new person) for only 24 hours of potential overtime.

Mr. Miccile asked if there was a required number of officers on duty and Mr. Wood said not per se. They tried to keep a cruiser on the road around the clock. Wage surveys compared with agencies with the same population and staff as Fremont.

Two new computers would replace the inoperative one; the current computers had been grant-funded up to now.

Chief Wood explained that a low profile vehicle is two-toned with no lights on the roof whereas an unmarked car is a normal looking car. The paint conversion would help with safety aspects as well as being a first step to accreditation and funding.

Gene Cordes had concern about having the Deputy Chief oversee vehicle maintenance. He felt that it was not a good use of his pay rate. Mr. Nygren agreed. There was discussion about this. Chief Wood's rationale was that, though the Deputy Chief was at the top of the pay scale, garages were open during the daytime and there was a need to have a person on daytime schedules. He said that it was difficult
Committee approved on November 14, 2012

October 31, 2012

to schedule times when others were rotating through shifts. Chief Wood reasoned that the Deputy Chief was authorized for expenditures and he made decisions regarding vehicles (cost, repairs to be done). Chief Wood mentioned that if they got a new cruiser, putting four hours for maintenance might be obsolete.

First Aid Training cost was based on what was spent last year and should suffice. CPR certification was done every two years and it would need to be done next year.

Ms St. Germain noted that the Selectmen tried to level fund the budget and hoped that, with the leftover money, they could spend-up anything they could take off this year's budget ("rob Peter this year to pay Paul next year"). The In-service line was based on last year's spending.

Griffin Cordes asked if anything stood out and Chief Wood said that he had not met with the Board of Selectmen after they made recommendations and he would like to do so and come back to the Budget Committee next week. Mr. Kimball wanted to have Chief Wood be able to answer if he could handle the recommended cuts or not for safety's sake. Mr. Kimball felt that safety was the most important part of the Police Department's job, for the sake of officers and citizens.

III. REVIEW & APPROVE MINUTES FOR MEETING OF OCTOBER 24, 2012

Mr. Miccile noted that the Gator cost in question was in the 2012 budget.

Pat Martel motioned to amend the meeting minutes of October 24, 2012. Charles Kimball seconded the motion. Motion passed 8:0.

Mike Nygren motioned to approve the meeting minutes of October 24, 2012 as amended. Greg Fraize seconded the motion. Motion passed 8:0.

IV. SCHOOL

The School Board meetings were canceled this week due to the storm. Mr. Fraize would notify the Budget Committee when they are rescheduled.

V. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

- A. 4155 PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION (w/ Selectmen's recommendation): For information only
- B. 4220 FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT (w/Selectmen's recommendation)

The Points Plan was level-funded. The LOSAP Plan recommended amount of \$49,000 was a hard number of who was eligible.

Under "new and repl. fire equipment, the Selectmen placed \$1; they took out two new CBAs and put in a Warrant Article for 8 CBAs. The idea is to at least outfit one truck with the same CBAs. Mr. Miccile was concerned about not getting any if the Warrant Article did not pass.

There had been talk about putting an engine in the truck and then some equipment cost might include CBAs (there would be an updated price soon). Mr. Kimball noted that the necessary truck engine would not be manufactured after this year so it would be beneficial to purchase it now.

Replying to Gene Cordes, Ms. Carlson said that about 2/3 of the Fire Rescue Budget (around \$99,000) was for personnel costs.

Griffin Cordes asked if there should be more than \$1.00 in the New & Replacement Fire Equipment line where it might only take one incident for gear to be replaced. Ms. St. Germain replied that the \$1 leaves the line open. Mr. Miccile noted that if the Warrant Article for a vehicle passes, there might be money to move around (e.g. maintenance line would be less).

Pat Martel recommended the Board of Selectmen's budget recommendation of \$169,449 in 4220 FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT. Joe Miccile seconded the motion. Motion passed 5 aye: 2 nay (Griffin Cordes, G. Fraize): 1 abstention (C. Kimball)

C. WARRANT ARTICLES/DRAFT WARRANT

The Budget Committee members would review the Warrant Articles (including a new one for Family Promise of Greater Rockingham County, Inc., an organization that helps house homeless people temporarily) for next week's meeting.

D. UPDATED SUMMARY SPREADSHEET/OCTOBER BUDGET REPORT

The totals spreadsheet showed October 31 spending and budget recommendations to date. Committee members could email Ms. Carlson if they found any mistakes.

VI. NEXT MEETING DATE: WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 7, 2012

VII. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:51 pm, Greg Fraize made a motion to adjourn. Charles Kimball seconded the motion. Motion passed 8:0.

Respectfully Submitted,
Susan Perry,
Recording Secretary