

FREMONT BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING

Fremont Town Hall
295 Main Street
Fremont, NH 03044
November 6, 2013
7:00 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Charles Kimball called the November 6, 2013 Budget Committee meeting to order at 7:00 pm on the main floor of Fremont Town Hall.

Present were: Budget Committee Members Charles Kimball, Pat Martel, Mike Nygren, Gene Cordes, and Greg Fraize; Town Administrator Heidi Carlson, and Recording Secretary Susan Perry. Members of the public included Sharon Girardi, Jessica Girardi, and Tyra Vargas.

II. CANDIDATE INTRODUCTION

Tyra Vargas, whose family just moved to Fremont, introduced herself as an interested Budget Committee candidate.

Greg Fraize motioned to appoint Tyra Vargas to the Budget Committee until March 2014. Pat Martel seconded the motion. Motion passed 5:0.

Ms. Vargas was sworn in and joined the Committee.

III. COMPLETE TOWN BUDGET REVIEWS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

4140 TOWN CLERK/TAX COLLECTOR

The Board of Selectmen made no changes to the Town Clerk budget. Mr. Nygren asked if a stipend was necessary if the Deputy Clerk and Tax Collector held the same position as opposed to just having an hourly wage. Ms. Girardi replied yes, that otherwise it was just a clerical position. The Deputy's function was to replace the Clerk/Tax Collector when absent. Mr. Nygren mentioned that the State was doing a study about being open on Saturdays or not. At a salary of \$14/hr. for 15 hrs./wk., Mr. Nygren felt that it was unfair that a new person would make more than those who have worked in Town for years. Ms. Girardi noted that the Selectmen cut the \$14/hr. wage to \$12/hr and put the rest of the money in stipends. She felt that everyone did different jobs and that she did not want turnover in the Clerk's office due to all the necessary training. Mr. Nygren had concerns about the cost of budgeting to be open on Saturdays. Ms. Girardi said that opening on Saturdays was to accommodate the public. Ms. Carlson noted that no increases were added to the operating budget for extra utility usage on Saturdays. Mr. Nygren was concerned about the Town opening more (41 hours) when, in years past, work was done within a 31-hour week. The training line was for wages to train Mr. Nygren was also concerned about safety issues as per policy about one person being in buildings alone. It was noted that RSA/Article 41 states that Selectmen could control the environment of their Town (includes buildings) and could close buildings and set hours if they felt it was costing them money to implement hours. Ms. Carlson said she would find out if money could be appropriated/allocated for positions that no longer exist if the Town goes with the default budget.

Mike Nygren motioned to reduce line 4140030 TC Clerical/Contr. Svcs (\$9,161) by \$1,800 to result in \$7,361. Pat Martel seconded the motion. Motion failed: 1 aye (M. Nygren) : 5 nay

Pat Martel motioned to reduce line 4140030 TC Clerical/Contr. Svcs to \$7,488 (taking out Saturdays and leaving the training). Mike Nygren seconded the motion. Motion passed 3 aye: 2 nay: 1 abstention (T. Vargas).

Gene Cordes recommended \$60,108 in 4140 TOWN CLERK/TAX COLLECTOR. Pat Martel seconded the motion. Motion passed 3:2:1. (T. Vargas abstention).

4155 PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION

Greg Fraize recommended the Board of Selectmen's budget recommendation of \$251,107 in 4155 PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION. Gene Cordes seconded the motion. Motion passed 6:0.

4194 GENERAL GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS

Ms. Carlson noted that servers were being worked on now and the Town Hall roof was out to bid (they hoped to use a bit of this year's money for the roof project). A job description would need to be made for maintenance.

Charles Kimball motioned to reduce line 4194380 SC FIRE SIREN ELECTRIC to \$1. Mike Nygren seconded the motion. Motion passed 6:0.

Gene Cordes recommended \$85,409 in 4194 GENERAL GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS. Greg Fraize seconded the motion. Motion passed 6:0.

4195 CEMETERIES

The Trustee's made a plan for the development of Leavitt Road Cemetery (to expand/develop about 160 feet of road).

Pat Martel recommended the Board of Selectmen's budget recommendation of \$9,900 in 4195 CEMETERIES. Greg Fraize seconded the motion. Motion passed 6:0.

4210 POLICE

Changes to the Police budget included: \$90 reduction in the computer program line (conversion of the IMC system); reduction in investigation wages (removal of second P/T position); and \$25,000 addition to the Cruiser/L/P line. There would be a Warrant Article for Selectmen to be agents of payments on the cruiser lease. Pay raises were not included in this budget. The Selectmen would reallocate depending on what budgets pass; raises would get filtered into the budget then. The Postage line was reduced to \$350; the Firearms Range line was reduced to \$1.00, and the OHRV Equipment line was reduced to \$1.00.

Charles Kimball recommended \$439,392 in 4210 POLICE DEPARTMENT. Gene Cordes seconded the motion. Motion passed 6:0.

4323 SOLID WASTE COLLECTION

There was a reduction in the trash contract, which included dumpsters for bulky day. The 5-year contract had a flat 3% increase per year and was better than the previous contract.

Gene Cordes recommended the Board of Selectmen's budget recommendation of \$206,951 in 4323 SOLID WASTE COLLECTION. Greg Fraize seconded the motion. Motion passed 6:0.

4324 SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL

Gene Cordes recommended the Board of Selectmen's budget recommendation of \$116,115 in 4324 SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL. Pat Martel seconded the motion. Motion passed 6:0.

4445 VENDOR PAYMENTS

Charles Kimball motioned to reduce the Red Cross line to \$1. Pat Martel seconded the motion. Motion failed 3:3.

Pat Martel motioned to designate \$1800 to R. McFarland Children Center. There was no second.

Charles Kimball motioned to level fund the Red Cross line at \$1,375 and reduce R. McFarland to \$2,100. Pat Martel seconded the motion. Motion passed 5:1.

Gene Cordes recommended \$27,594 in 4445 VENDOR PAYMENTS. Mike Nygren seconded the motion. Motion passed 5:1.

4520 PARKS & RECREATION

4400 was reallocated to put into the 250th Celebration line 4520620. There was a request to add to this line. Mr. Cordes felt that this was last-minute and suggested leaving it as-is and bringing details later.

Greg motioned to raise the budget bottom line by \$400 (totaling \$40,786). Pat Martel seconded the motion. Motion failed 1 aye: 4 nay: 1 abstention

4299 OTHER: Wage increase of 2% for permanent Town staff (FT & PT)

This wage increase of 2% would cover 11 permanent (full and part-time) workers.

Mike Nygren motioned to increase the raise to 4% (\$8,000) in line 4299 Other: 2014 2% Wage Increase. Tyra Vargas seconded the motion. Motion passed 6:0.

WARRANT ARTICLES: to review for an upcoming meeting.

School Budget books would be ready for distribution on November 8, 2013. Greg Fraize offered to deliver books to Budget Committee members if they preferred.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF OCTOBER 23, 2013

Greg Fraize motioned to approve the minutes of October 23, 2013 as presented. Pat Martel seconded the motion. Motion passed 4:0:2 (abstentions from T. Vargas and G. Cordes)

V. NEXT MEETING DATE: WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 13, 2013

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Gene Cordes motioned to adjourn at 9:05 PM. Pat Martel seconded the motion. Motion passed 6:0.

Respectfully submitted by,

Susan Perry

Budget Committee Secretary