

FREMONT BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING

Fremont Town Hall
 295 Main Street
 Fremont, NH 03044
December 18, 2013
 7:00 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Charles Kimball called the December 18, 2013 Budget Committee meeting to order at 7:02 pm on the main floor of Fremont Town Hall.

Present were: Budget Committee Chair Charles Kimball and members Gene Cordes, Greg Fraize, Pat Martel, Mike Nygren, and Tyra Vargas, Heidi Carlson, and Recording Secretary Susan Perry. Members of the public included Sarah Lamirande, Carla Smith, School Superintendent Betsey Cox-Buteau, School Financial Administrator Susan Penny, and Jon Benson and Elizabeth Rosa from Parks & Recreation.

II. TOWN WARRANT

Ms. Carlson would find out what number of calls would pertain to Warrant Article 4, 2.1.

Gene Cordes made a motion to recommend Warrant Article 5 as presented. Greg Fraize seconded the motion. Motion passed 6:0.

Pat Martel made a motion to recommend Warrant Article 6 as presented. Gene Cordes seconded the motion. Motion passed 6:0.

Greg Fraize made a motion to recommend Warrant Article 7 as presented. Mike Nygren seconded the motion. Motion passed 6:0.

Gene Cordes made a motion to recommend Warrant Article 8 as presented. Greg Fraize seconded the motion. Motion passed 5:1 (nay, M. Nygren)

Gene Cordes made a motion to recommend Warrant Article 9 as presented. Greg Fraize seconded the motion. Motion passed 5:1 (nay, M. Nygren)

Greg Fraize made a motion to recommend Warrant Article 10 as presented. Gene Cordes seconded the motion. Motion passed 6:0.

Gene Cordes made a motion to recommend Warrant Article 11 as presented. Greg Fraize seconded the motion. Motion passed 5:1 (nay, M. Nygren)

Greg Fraize made a motion to recommend Warrant Article 12 as presented. Gene Cordes seconded the motion. Motion passed 4:2 (nay, M. Nygren and P. Martel)

Greg Fraize made a motion to recommend Warrant Article 13 as presented. Gene Cordes seconded the motion. Motion passed 4:2 (nay, M. Nygren and P. Martel)

Greg Fraize made a motion to recommend Warrant Article 14 as presented. Gene Cordes seconded the motion. Motion passed 6:0.

Greg Fraize made a motion to recommend Warrant Article 15 as presented. Gene Cordes seconded the motion. Motion passed 4:2 (nay, M. Nygren and P. Martel)

Greg Fraize made a motion to recommend Warrant Article 16 as presented. Gene Cordes seconded the motion. Motion passed 3:2:1 (nay, M. Nygren and P. Martel; abstention, T. Vargas).

Greg Fraize made a motion to recommend Warrant Article 17 as presented. Gene Cordes seconded the motion. Motion passed 5:1 (nay, M. Nygren)

Greg Fraize made a motion to recommend Warrant Article 18 as presented. Gene Cordes seconded the motion. Motion passed 4:2 (nay, M. Nygren and C. Kimball)

Greg Fraize made a motion to recommend Warrant Article 19 as presented. Gene Cordes seconded the motion. Motion passed 6:0.

Greg Fraize made a motion to recommend Warrant Article 20 as presented. Gene Cordes seconded the motion. Motion passed 6:0.

Gene Cordes made a motion to recommend Warrant Article 21 as presented. Greg Fraize seconded the motion. Motion passed 6:0.

Greg Fraize made a motion to recommend Warrant Article 22 as presented. Gene Cordes seconded the motion. Motion passed 4:2 (nay, M. Nygren and P. Martel).

Articles 19 and 20 had no tax impact. Article 16 should have the word “continue” omitted.

III. PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION BUDGET 4520

Elizabeth Rosa and Jon Benson asked the Budget Committee to reconsider \$43,559 for the Parks and Recreation budget with the understanding that in addition to field maintenance, they anticipated raising income for the Summer Program Assistant Manager and the 250th Anniversary events (games, sales, bouncy house, etc.). It was mentioned that some of the P & R budget went to the Police (e.g. to support the Santa parade). Ms. Rosa said that the P & R budget has decreased and the required maintenance has suffered. Mr. Cordes remarked that the Town was frugal with money and liked to take care of what it owned. He agreed that taking care of the fields that were used by children and residents now would avoid higher cost later. Ms. Rosa said that more people were being made aware of Town events and there has been increasing numbers of participants. She mentioned that individuals have been privately taking care of the fields because there was not enough in the budget to do so.

Mr. Nygren spoke about the importance of being responsible in all areas (not overspending e.g. in field trips). Mr. Benson noted that some things could not always be anticipated such as vandalism, and money sometimes needed to be reallocated.

Ms. Martel mentioned that arguments could still be made during Deliberative Session if voters wanted to add money.

Gene Cordes made a motion to reconsider their previous recommendation for the Parks & Recreation budget (4520). Greg Fraize seconded the motion. Motion failed 2:4 (aye: C. Cordes and G. Fraize).

IV. MINUTES: NOVEMBER 13, DECEMBER 4, DECEMBER 11

Pat Martel made a motion to amend the minutes of December 11, 2013 by replacing the list on p. 1 with a list totaling \$65,483.88 and by omitting the first sentence in the last paragraph on the bottom of page 1. Greg Fraize seconded the motion. Motion passed 6:0.

Pat Martel made a motion to approve the minutes of December 11, 2013 as amended. Greg Fraize seconded the motion. Motion passed 6:0.

The Board did not vote on the minutes of November 13 and December 4, 2013.

V. PUBLIC INPUT/SCHOOL BUDGET DISCUSSION

Sarah Lamirande gave a personal account of the importance of having the part-time nurse at Ellis School, explaining that her son had Type 1 Diabetes and needed assistance at any moment. She noted that if there were only one nurse and the nurse was helping a student, there would be no one to take care of other students. Also, because of the split schedule, having one nurse would not cover all school hours (e.g. during lunchtime). She was concerned that one nurse would not be enough to cover situations at school. Substitute nurses did not have the expertise of knowing about the students' needs. She was concerned about the serious nature of her son's situation and what would happen if his levels were low and there was no nurse on-hand to help him.

Dr. Cox-Buteau provided information on the nurse's caseload of students with specific needs. She noted that the nurse attends meetings about students' plans.

Carla Smith said this was her third year as Ellis' full-time nurse. She spoke about the importance of having the coverage of a part-time nurse. In addition to the above reasons, she noted that she sometimes needed to make assessments about students' medications or situations. It was difficult to get a trained nurse as a substitute last minute. She said it was important to have a nurse on-hand for children like Ms. Lamirande's son in case things got serious. Mr. Cordes realized that if a nurse's assistance was in a student's (504) plan, it was required.

There was discussion about the increasing numbers of students with allergies (mostly food-related in younger grades).

Ms. Penny would look into revenue from Medicaid help, as suggested by Ms. Martel.

Greg Fraize made a motion to reopen the discussion about the half-time nurse position totaling \$24,219. Gene Cordes seconded the motion. Motion passed 6:0.

There was discussion about transferring money within the school budget to keep the half-time nurse.

Dr. Cox-Buteau explained that there was a reallocation of existing funds so that supplies were now listed in the appropriate lines. The accounting/budget work was standardized this year. For example, the workbook line was named inappropriately. This was corrected and the consumables and software amounts were removed from the line. If the \$12,000 in the workbook line was cut, workbooks could not be bought for the programs that were being used and were helping scores improve. Now, the \$10,000 in the textbook like was correct.

Dr. Cox-Buteau had just signed a 3-year contract with the District, with the option of 2 years.

There was a discussion about class size, which seemed low at Ellis at around 11-15 students per teacher. Mr. Cordes asked if the ratio could be improved. Dr. Cox-Buteau would look at this. She did note that when there was a drop in class size at Ellis, test performance improved. With the last in, first out practice, it did not make sense to cut the social studies teacher if the idea was to reduce a kindergarten teacher because of kindergarten class sizes.

The Budget Committee would finalize budgets at the January 8 meeting.

Pat Martel made a motion to table the final vote on whether to put back the part-time nurse position or not. Mike Nygren seconded the motion. Motion passed 6:0.

Mr. Fraize noted that the School Board voted to approve CBAs, highlights of which included: insurance concessions and a cap on the number of teachers that could be out of school, and the elimination of the Evergreen Clause.

There was a decision to ask Greg Fraize to go back to the School Board to find \$24,219 elsewhere in the budget.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Gene Cordes made a motion to adjourn at 9:20 PM. Pat Martel seconded the motion. Motion passed 6:0.

Respectfully submitted by,

Susan Perry, Budget Committee Secretary