

FREMONT BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING

Fremont Town Hall
295 Main Street
Fremont, NH 03044
January 15, 2014
7:00 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER (Budget Committee Meeting)

Chair Charles Kimball called the January 15, 2014 Budget Committee meeting to order at 7:03 pm on the main floor of Fremont Town Hall.

Present were: Budget Committee Chair Charles Kimball and members Gene Cordes, Greg Fraize, Pat Martel (arriving at 7:55 PM), Mike Nygren, and Tyra Vargas, Town Administrator Heidi Carlson, and Recording Secretary Susan Perry. Members of the public included Ida Keane, Tammy Kitt, Andy Kohlhofer, School Superintendent Betsey Cox-Buteau, School Financial Administrator Susan Penny, Fire Chief Richard Butler, Deputy Fire Chief Joe Nichols, Police Chief Jon Twiss, Rennee King (ACO), Matthew Thomas, Len Holmes Sr., Cheryl Rowell, and Matthew Thomas.

II. APPROVAL OF TOWN WARRANT ARTICLE 22 (petition received last week regarding the rescission of SB2)

The Board of Selectmen previously voted to accept Warrant Article 22 3:0.

The Board of Selectmen previously reconsidered Warrant Article 5 regarding the fire truck and the vote was 3:0.

Gene Cordes made a motion to recommend Town Warrant Article 22. Greg Fraize seconded the motion. Motion passed 4:1 (nay, M. Nygren)

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: JANUARY 8, 2014

Gene Cordes made a motion to approve the minutes of January 8, 2014 as amended (typographic error). Greg Fraize seconded the motion. Motion passed 5:0.

IV. PUBLIC HEARING: 7:11 pm

Town Warrant Articles were reviewed.

Warrant Article 1: Election of Town Officers

Warrant Article 2: Consider a zoning ordinance change

Warrant Article 3: Consider a zoning ordinance change

Warrant Article 4: Consider adoption of an ordinance regulating horses, farm animals and poultry

This was part of RSA and would help the Animal Control Officer deal with issues with chickens, etc. running “at large” and causing issues. Renee King asked if the Budget Committee had any questions since their approval vote was not unanimous. The Committee members had no questions.

Warrant Article 5: Purchase a new fire truck

Deputy Chief Joe Nichols explained the necessity of a new fire truck, explaining the issues with the two old fire trucks. The tanker was out of service. Total call volume included EMS calls (approx. 100 actual fire calls per year).

Warrant Article 6: Operating budget

Mr. Kohlhofer asked about the increase in Police Department budget. Chief Twiss explained changes in the budget: necessary cruiser replacement (lease a few vehicles), training money was not adequate for state requirements so there was an increase, creation of a new position of Detective Lieutenant (replacement of the Deputy Chief’s position), pay matrix.

Ida Keane asked if the Highway Department had money to repair Beede Road and North Road. It was mentioned that a portion of Beede Road was a State-maintained road.

Mr. Kohlhofer asked why the highway department had overspent the past few years Ms. Carlson said it was due to the winter season (plow, snow, ice cost).

Mr. Kohlhofer asked when the bonds expire. Ms. Carlson replied that the library bond expires in 2021; Glen Oaks bond expires in 2025; safety complex bond expires in 2017.

Warrant Article 7: Appoint Selectmen as Agents of a Capital Reserve Fund previously established

The rationale for this was that some police cruisers were inoperable and it would be beneficial to appoint the Selectmen as agents of the police cruiser capital reserve fund.

Warrant Article 8: Contribution to the Bridge Capital Reserve Fund.

Bridge construction projects would include Martin Road and shovel-ready projects. Mr. Kohlhofer asked if there were plans to fix problems with Sandown Bridge. The Committee was unaware of this.

Warrant Article 9: Contribution to the Town Hall renovations capital reserve fund

Necessary work at Town hall would include a heating system. Mr. Thomas asked if there was room to put an addition on back of the building; Mr. Cordes was unsure but stated that there was a septic field there. The idea of applying for L-chip money was suggested, as it was an historical building.

Warrant Article 10: Contribution to the revaluation capital reserve fund

Warrant Article 11: Contribution to the fire truck capital reserve fundWarrant Article 12: Contribution to the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund

Currently, most equipment was leased.

Warrant Article 13: Contribution to the expendable town trust fund for building repairs and maintenance.Warrant Article 14: Purchase new breathing air equipment for the Fremont fire department

This article was to purchase 8 SCBAs, as a continuation of a two-year project that began last year. Ms. Carlson explained that the first batch last year was purchased on a grant and they were all the same age. Styles changed enough that they did not want to buy just two at a time. Life expectancy of the units was considered.

Warrant Article 15: Funding improvements to Whittier Drive

Mr. Holmes mentioned that this was a road in definite need of improvement. Part of the road was 22 years old. Mr. Cordes said it was important to stay on top of road maintenance.

Warrant Article 16: Funding the mosquito control program

Spraying for mosquitoes occurred when there was a positive test.

Warrant Article 17: Contribution to the Town expendable trust fund for the 250th celebration of Fremont

Mr. Kimball mentioned that he would have to prepare the fields before and after events and he felt it was too much work for him (he voted nay).

Ms. Carlson mentioned that fundraising was being done, including a Fremont-Poplin flag that was on sale. A majority of the celebrations would need to be paid for with fundraising. Mr. Matthews spoke about how the Committee has been planning since 2010 to raise money for the celebration to keep the cost down.

Warrant Article 18: Consider rescinding the previously established special revenue fund for OHRV and Town ordinance fines (to be converted to a revolving fund for the same purpose).Warrant Article 19: Create a revolving fund for OHRV and Town ordinance fines

The DRA (Department of Revenue Administration) recommended the two-article sequence.

Warrant Article 20: Create a revolving fund for police special details

In calendar year 2014, wages were listed in the budget but, moving forward, wages would come out of this fund. There was discussion about how wages were budgeted. Chief Twiss mentioned that most Towns use a fund to pay for cruisers.

Warrant Article 21: Contribution to the emergency management equipment capital reserve fund

This would include replacement of a generator at the safety complex and the school.

Warrant Article 22: Consider rescinding the provisions of NH RSA 40:13, SB2

Selectmen recommended this 3:0

Budget Committee recommended this 4:1.

Two questions were:

- Was the year 2007 (adoption year) a clerical change – (it should have read 2008)
- Was the petition valid/could it be amended for a date change at Deliberative Session

RECESS: 8:16-8:22 PM

School District Warrant Articles were reviewed.

Warrant Article 1 OfficersWarrant Article 2: CBA: School Board & Fremont Education Association

The CBA included being able to shop for less expensive healthcare and no Evergreen Clause (no automatic Step increases for teachers unless it was negotiated in a new contract).

Warrant Article 3: Special Meeting if W.A. 2 is defeatedWarrant Article 4: CBA: School Board & Ellis School Support Staff (AFT – Local #6223)Warrant Article 5: Special Meeting if W. A. 4 is defeatedWarrant Article 6: Operating Budget

The recommended number should be \$11,856,986.00. This typographic error would be fixed. The default would be \$11,939,108.00.

(Purple paper) Correction: Line 53 should read: Special Ed Out-Of-District Tuition: \$24,219.00. (Instead of cutting the PT nurse, the SB offered this line, which included a placeholder student).

The difference in the Budget Committee and School Board budgets was \$195,202.71.

Ms. Rowell asked if there was a suggestion of cutting a teacher salary. Mr. Cordes said it was suggested that an average teacher salary be cut, not specifically where that should occur.

Warrant Article 7: Raise/Appropriate \$10,000 to Expendable Trust FundWarrant Article 8: RSA 198:20-b, Accepting Unanticipated Money

There was \$450,000 worth of grants that the District could have applied for if not for the rule about not spending unanticipated funds. This included a grant to help fund a generator.

This would not touch the bottom line. There was no need for a public hearing/to circumvent the budgeting process. If it was over \$5,000, a public hearing was necessary. A past issue was that grant money was causing the Town to spend from other funds.

Ms. Keane asked if the tally votes should be on the School Warrant Articles. The DRA recommended not putting tally votes but the Town adopted tally votes. The District would check School policy and can add the tally votes if warranted.

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED AT 8:43 PM

The Committee members signed paperwork/cover pages. They reviewed a draft of the 2013 Annual Report of the Budget Committee, made changes and submitted a final report for the Annual Town Report and a draft of the annual report.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Gene Cordes made a motion to adjourn at 9:00 PM. Greg Fraize seconded the motion. Motion passed 6:0.

Respectfully submitted by,

Susan Perry,

Budget Committee Secretary