

**FREMONT BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Fremont Town Hall**  
**295 Main Street**  
**Fremont, NH 03044**  
**August 20, 2014**  
**7:00 PM**

**I CALL TO ORDER**

*Chair Mike Nygren called the August 20, 2014 Budget Committee meeting to order at 7:02 PM on the main floor of Fremont Town Hall.*

Present were: Mary Anderson, Heidi Carlson, Gene Cordes, Greg Fraize, Neal Janvrin, Mark Kidd, Pat Martel (arriving at 7:15 pm), Mike Nygren, and Tyra Vargas.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF APRIL 16, 2014**

*Neal Janvrin made a motion to approve the minutes of April 16, 2014 as written. Greg Fraize seconded the motion. Motion passed 7:0 (P. Martel was not yet at the meeting).*

**III. CURRENT TOWN BUDGET REPORT**

It was pointed out that there was a typographic error in the Selectmen's salary line that appeared to be over-expended. Ms. Carlson would fix the error.

Ms. Carlson explained that line 4210700 PD Cruiser L/P & Equipment included the lease payment and equipment strictly to fix the cruiser. The \$25,000 down-payment was made; the balance would be financed.

Mr. Janvrin felt that line 4211309 – PD Court Pay seemed low. Ms. Carlson would inquire about that.

Mr. Kidd thought that there was not a lot of money remaining in the hot top line. Ms. Carlson said that a major amount of work has yet to be done. No bills were in yet for the work on Shirkin Road. Roadside mowing will start August 25, 2014. The State was doing the work on Beede Road (drainage, etc.)

Ms. Carlson explained that preventative mosquito spraying was done around Labor Day if identified. The bulk of that line was preventative treatment for wetlands, etc. This was contractual. Spraying was a small part of the entire program.

Mr. Janvrin asked if there was thought about the Town having it's own gas tanks for fuel. Ms. Carlson replied that there had been discussion about this but there was a safety issue. Mr. Nygren said that there had been no response from the companies that were contacted.

**IV. CURRENT SCHOOL BUDGET REPORT**

Mr. Fraize mentioned that School Financial Administrator Susan Penny had been going through revenue and an audited version would be due in November 2014. He said as of now, the District was on track to send back about \$150,000-\$200,000 to the Town from last year's number. Revenue reports were available every two weeks online. Transfers and reasoning were in agenda packets.

Mr. Fraize said that the school budget was set to go to the Budget Committee on November 7, 2104 and would be presented to the School Board on October 14, 2014.

There was discussion about lessening the amount of Budget Committee meetings by individually emailing any questions members might have to Department Heads, Ms. Carlson, or the Selectmen. So as not to constitute a meeting, only questions and answers should be emailed and not discussed. Committee Secretary Susan Perry would file copies of emails for public record and backup. This would benefit Board members in that they would not have to wait until the next meeting to get budget question answers. All Budget Committee members would be copied on questions and answers, as well as Ms. Carlson and Ms.

Perry. Individuals could ask the Committee members if he/she would like to have a Department Head attend a meeting (for further information). There was discussion of having an official email distribution list.

Mr. Nygren requested that the Budget Committee get budgets at the same time as did the Selectmen.

Mr. Cordes said that the Selectmen would be working on the schedule tomorrow night; they were targeting to present budgets in mid-September. Ms. Carlson would print the budgets she already had and Mr. Nygren would distribute copies to members next Wednesday.

Ms. Anderson mentioned that she had never worked with a budget that could be adjusted during the year. She noted on p. 15/19 of Ms. Penny's report, that there was a difference between the adopted budget vs. the reported payments. She figured that \$209,621.87 was transferred/spent elsewhere then. She was concerned that the FY13-14 school audit would not be done until November 2014. She felt that it was a bad business practice and that the audit should be done before school started. The tax rate was set on September 1. Mr. Fraize said that there was no set deadline/policy as to when the audit had to be done. Ms. Anderson did not know of another school that did not close out before the school year started; usually audits were done in the summer since it reflected the tax rate. Mr. Cordes said this was prudent and in the interest of the taxpayers. Mr. Fraize suggested that perhaps Ms. Penny might need more help. Ms. Carlson noted that the Town used the same auditor as the School and they had not had their audit back yet either. Mr. Nygren wondered if it could be the auditor's staff. Ms. Vargas thought perhaps Ms. Penny was cleaning up lines (from the prior Administration).

Ms. Anderson was concerned about the \$76,000 worth of furniture and why almost \$200,000 worth of tuition due to over-estimating students was not returned to the Town. Mr. Fraize said they needed to take into account GMR and that requests were made for necessary improvements (e.g. nurse's equipment, for safety reasons). He said that statements were made that if the school needed things, they should use the money. He said that at the April 8, 2104 School Board meeting, @ \$330,000 (extra money from GMR) was moved to a contingency line for emergencies. It could be returned at the end of the year or could be used if needed. On April 28, money was moved out of this line to fund necessary items, as documented in reports.

Ms. Vargas asked if the Superintendent had met with Sanborn about the tuition contract. Mr. Fraize said that there have been discussions and they hope to have information soon. There was discussion as to Fremont paying a lot for high school tuition as a result of the original contract.

*Mary Anderson made a motion to request the following questions of the School Board:*

- \* *On page 15 of 19 of the 8/14/14 school budget report: Where did the \$209,621.87 go under the Budget Adjustment Column?*
- \* *Line 257: Explain the \$57,500 Adjustment.*
- \* *Line 27: Information on the \$70,125.67 worth of furniture? There was concern that the District bought furniture that was not budgeted for.*
- \* *The Budget Committee would like to know if they can receive a copy of all Budget Transfers.*
- \* *Line 221: The Budget Committee wanted to know why the legal line was over so much.*
- \* *There was a request for a overview of the school budget process.*
- \* *The Budget Committee would like to have the Audited budget completed by Aug 31, so that the money could be applied to that year's tax figures. They felt that November of the next year is too long.*

*Pat Martel seconded the motion. Motion passed 8:0*

The Budget Committee wanted the School Board to know that they were not trying to be difficult. They were elected officials who represented the tax-payers and they were trying to do right by the Town (get good value with money spent for kids' education.)

## **V. NEXT MEETING DATES: SEPTEMBER 17 AND 24, 2014**

## **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

*At 8:07 PM, Mark Kidd made a motion to adjourn. Gene Cordes seconded the motion. Motion passed 8:0. Respectfully submitted by, Susan Perry, Budget Committee Secretary*