

FREMONT BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING
Fremont Town Hall
295 Main Street
Fremont, NH 03044
September 17, 2014
7:00 PM

I CALL TO ORDER

Chair *Mike Nygren* called the *September 17 2014 Budget Committee meeting to order at 7:02 PM on the main floor of Fremont Town Hall.*

Present were: Budget Committee members *Mary Anderson, Gene Cordes, Greg Fraize, Mark Kidd, Pat Martel and Mike Nygren,* and Town Administrator *Heidi Carlson.*

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF AUGUST 21, 2014

Greg Fraize made a motion to approve the minutes of August 21, 2014 as written. Mark Kidd seconded the motion. Motion passed 6:0.

III. REVIEW TOWN BUDGET SUBMISSIONS (WITH SELECTMEN'S RECOMMENDATIONS)

A. 4140 TOWN CLERK

Mary Anderson recommended the Board of Selectmen's budget recommendation of \$60,073 in line 4140 TOWN CLERK. Greg Fraize seconded the motion. Motion passed 6:0.

B. 4141 ELECTION & REGISTRATION

There would be one election next year. Ms. Carlson would fix an amount in the FY2014 Appropriations column to read \$114.33.

Mary Anderson recommended the Board of Selectmen's budget recommendation of \$6,572 in the line 4141 ELECTION & REGISTRATION. Greg Fraize seconded the motion. Motion passed 6:0.

C. 4151 FINANCIAL ADMIN/OTHER

Mary Anderson recommended the Board of Selectmen's budget recommendation of \$20,174 in the line 4151 FINANCIAL ADMIN/OTHER. Greg Fraize seconded the motion. Motion passed 6:0.

D. 4153 LEGAL EXPENSES

Greg Fraize recommended the Board of Selectmen's budget recommendation of \$20,000 in the line 4153 LEGAL EXPENSES. Gene Cordes seconded the motion. Motion passed 6:0.

E. 4191 PLANNING & ZONING

The postage cost was based on the number of cases/usage (there was an increase in ZBA hearings). The Circuit rider planner was a (non-required) resource to help write ordinances etc. and to have somewhat of an expert at Planning Board meetings.

Mary Anderson recommended the Board of Selectmen's budget recommendation of \$38,600 in the line 4191 PLANNING & ZONING. Greg Fraize seconded the motion. Motion passed 6:0.

F. 4195 CEMETERIES

There was an increase in mower repair. There was an estimate of \$4,000 to repair the South wall (stones). There was discussion about water at the Village. The pump was repaired this summer but

electricity to the line was bad and needed to have a new conduit run to it. There was suggestion of using trust funds (there was \$92,000 in perpetual care, including principal and interest).

Mary Anderson recommended the Board of Selectmen's budget recommendation of \$14,150 in the line 4195 CEMETERIES. Greg Fraize seconded the motion. Motion passed 6:0.

G. 4197 ADVERTISING & REGIONAL ASSOCIATION

Mary Anderson recommended the Board of Selectmen's budget recommendation of \$7,755 in the line 4197 ADVERTISING & REGIONAL ASSOCIATION. Greg Fraize seconded the motion. Motion passed 6:0.

H. 4199 TOWN REPORT

There was a reduction of about 500 Town Reports printed last year (there was more online readership).

Mary Anderson recommended the Board of Selectmen's budget recommendation of \$2,350 in the line 4199 TOWN REPORT. Greg Fraize seconded the motion. Motion passed 6:0.

I. 4215 AMBULANCE

The 5-yr Raymond Ambulance contract will expire in April 2016; there was a bi-annual \$500 increase.

Greg Fraize recommended the Board of Selectmen's budget recommendation of \$7,500 in the line 4215 AMBULANCE. Mary Anderson seconded the motion. Motion passed 6:0.

J. 4240 BUILDING INSPECTION

The Building Inspector's schedule was 26 hours/week with 50 "floating" hours (a fill-in also works and the total was 1300 hours); the budget number was the same.

There was discussion about permit fees for driveway permits. Mr. Cordes noted that the total budget was less than \$34,000 and fees were more than that. Ms. Anderson asked why the revenue decreased by \$5,000 and Ms. Carlson replied that she was conservative in creating the tax rate.

Mary Anderson recommended the Board of Selectmen's budget recommendation of \$33,826 in the line 4240 BUILDING INSPECTION. Greg Fraize seconded the motion. Motion passed 6:0.

K. 4323/4324 SOLID WASTE COLLECTION/DISPOSAL

The new trash contract increased 3% per year. Recycling revenue included two bulk recycling days.

Mary Anderson recommended the Board of Selectmen's budget recommendation of \$213,160 in the line 4323 SOLID WASTE COLLECTION (2015 calendar year contract price) and 4324 SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL. Greg Fraize seconded the motion. Motion passed 6:0.

L. 4414 ANIMAL CONTROL

Mary Anderson recommended the Board of Selectmen's budget recommendation of \$9,796 in the line 4414 ANIMAL CONTROL. Greg Fraize seconded the motion. Motion passed 6:0.

M. 4415 HEALTH

Mary Anderson recommended the Board of Selectmen's budget recommendation of \$750 in the line 4415 HEALTH. Gene Cordes seconded the motion. Motion passed 6:0.

N. 4442 DIRECT ASSISTANCE

Mary Anderson recommended the Board of Selectmen's budget recommendation of \$14,850 in the line 4442 DIRECT ASSISTANCE. Greg Fraize seconded the motion. Motion passed 6:0.

O. 4583 PATRIOTIC PURPOSES (note: USA flags were made in the USA)

Greg Fraize recommended the Board of Selectmen's budget recommendation of \$2,185 in the line 4583 PATRIOTIC PURPOSES. Gene Cordes seconded the motion. Motion passed 6:0.

P. 4711/4721 DEBT SERVICE PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST

There was discussion about the interest payments on long-term bonds: Safety Complex (\$7,132.50); Library (\$16,975 less \$2,127 in refunding for a total of \$14,848); Glen Oakes Land (\$19,690 less \$2,084 in refunding for a total of \$17,606). There was still an authorized unissued bond of about \$940,000. There was concern that no one at the (District) meeting realized that the provision did not expire; to get rid of it now, a Warrant Article would be necessary.

Greg Fraize recommended the Board of Selectmen's budget recommendation of \$174,587 in the lines 4711/4721 DEBT SERVICE PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST. Gene Cordes seconded the motion. Motion passed 6:0.

Q. 4723 INTEREST ON TAX ANTICIPATION NOTES

Mary Anderson recommended the Board of Selectmen's budget recommendation of \$2,000 in the line 4723 INTEREST ON TAX ANTICIPATION NOTES. Greg Fraize seconded the motion. Motion passed 6:0.

IV. SCHOOL FOLLOW-UP

There was review of the Budget Committee Questions from August 20, 2014. The previous School Financial Administrator used gross budgeting in FY14 (included grants in the general fund) but this is no longer being practiced with the FY15 budget. Function 22 was created as a budget for grants.

There was a budget transfer book with over 400 pages available at the SAU and anyone could look through it. Ms. Anderson was concerned that adjustments were made to the budget during the year. She was still concerned about the lateness of the audit and she felt that if there was a change in personnel, the audit should have been done sooner rather than later. Ms. Carlson noted that, with a change in personnel, it can be difficult to get work done on time. She said that the District did not have a finalized audit a few years ago and they turned in numbers based on a fund balance and used that at tax time. Ms. Penny would be sending the number to the State soon. \$467,000 was going against the tax rate for this year (a combination of 2 years' extra plus \$114 this year). Ms. Anderson stressed that the audit should be done by September 1st since it did affect the tax rate. Ms. Anderson was concerned that the tuition money was seen as a surplus and should have been returned to reduce taxes. Mr. Fraize mentioned that main repairs at Ellis needed to be done.

To share with the School Board:

1: The BudCom wanted to stress to the SAU that they do not agree with the statement that the Audit report does not effect the tax rate. They were not looking for a reply - they just wanted their feelings to be known.

2: Mr. Fraize relayed to the BudCom that the \$57,500 Adjustment was related to a personal matter.

Mark Kidd felt that per <http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rsa/html/vi/91-a/91-a-mrg.htm>

1-a. Records of any payment made to an employee of any public body or agency listed in RSA 91-A:1-a, VI(a)-(d), or to the employee's agent or designee, upon the resignation, discharge, or retirement of the employee, paid in addition to regular salary and accrued vacation, sick, or other leave, shall immediately be made available without alteration for public inspection. All records of payments shall be available for public inspection notwithstanding that the matter may have been considered or acted upon in nonpublic session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3.

They should be able to know exactly what the money was for.

V. NEXT MEETING DATES: SEPTEMBER 24 AND OCTOBER 1 (TENTATIVE)

Ms. Anderson noted that for legal liability concern, background checks were necessary for people renting property (e.g. Parks & Recreation).

VI. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:35 PM, Gene Cordes made a motion to adjourn. Greg Fraize seconded the motion. Motion passed 6:0.

Respectfully submitted by, Susan Perry, Budget Committee Secretary