

FREMONT BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING
Fremont Town Hall
295 Main Street
Fremont, NH 03044
September 24, 2014
7:00 PM

I CALL TO ORDER

Chair Mike Nygren called the September 24, 2014 Budget Committee meeting to order at 7:03 PM on the main floor of Fremont Town Hall.

Present were: Budget Committee members Mary Anderson, Gene Cordes, Neal Janvrin, Mark Kidd, and Mike Nygren, and Town Administrator Heidi Carlson.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 17, 2014

Gene Cordes made a motion to approve the minutes of September 17, 2014 as amended. Mary Anderson seconded the motion. Motion passed 4:0:1 (abstention from N. Janvrin).

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

A. 4130 EXECUTIVE – SELECTMEN'S OFFICE

The BOS Recommendation for TA Salary FY15 should read \$57,596 (not \$56,467), which made the Selectmen's Recommended Subtotal \$96,511.

There would be one less newsletter mailed per year and there was a new lease on the copy machine (less cumulatively over the year). Selectmen would look at salary totals for everyone at the end of the budget cycle. Ms. Anderson felt that people were the most important resources (in the Town's work).

Mary Anderson recommended the \$96,511 in line 4130 EXECUTIVE – SELECTMEN'S OFFICE, with the intent that the Selectmen would revisit salary lines within the next few weeks. Mark Kidd seconded the motion. Motion passed 4:0:1 (abstention from M. Nygren).

B. 4196 INSURANCE

Mary Anderson recommended the Board of Selectmen's budget recommendation of \$35,519 in line 4196 INSURANCE. Gene Cordes seconded the motion. Motion passed 5:0.

C. 4316 STREETLIGHTS

4312705 SEALCOAT & CRACK SEAL:

Mr. Nygren noted that the 2013 Default was not zero and that the \$1 amount was not presented to the Budget Committee for the 2014 budget. He said that money was not spent in seal coating for four years so the highway budget was reduced by \$30,000 and the money was appropriated for the fire truck without putting out a Warrant Article.

Mr. Cordes mentioned that the Road Agent would not be seeking-re-election and that it made sense to revise a job description before people run for the position so that the position was not structured to the individual involved.

Ms. Anderson asked if the Selectmen could change numbers within a Department and within budgets. She felt that budgets should remain the same throughout the year (and numbers not be moved) to see how well budgeting was being done. Mr. Cordes agreed that when actual expenses were shown by type, even if over-expended, it helped future planning. He said if a need arose during the year, a Department would need to justify why money was moved and a record should be kept of transfers.

There were 34 streetlights.

Mary Anderson recommended the Board of Selectmen's budget recommendation of \$4,985 in line 4316 STREET LIGHTING. Gene Cordes seconded the motion. Motion passed 5:0.

D. 4550 LIBRARY

The highest priority on the library roof work was being done. The roof was 13 years old and had some issues and needed to be replaced.

Library personnel included: one person at 30 hrs/week; one person at 24 hrs./week; one person at 20-22 hours/week; and one aid at 18 hours/week. There were no raises last year and there was no request this year. At least 2 people worked at the library for safety purposes.

Ms. Anderson requested the number of people who visit the library and the circulation number.

Mary Anderson recommended the Board of Selectmen's budget recommendation of \$106,425 in line 4550 LIBRARY. Gene Cordes seconded the motion. Motion passed 5:0.

E. 4610 CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The CC Fund accumulated year to year. At the end of the last fiscal year, there was \$43,000 left in the CC Fund. The treasurer had custody for this money and the Commission voted to spend the money without oversight. Ms. Anderson was concerned about this (and no one else in Town could do this). Mr. Cordes did not want people to think that they were underappreciated or undervalued. Ms. Anderson agreed but said that she wanted the current land use money to be used appropriately.

Mary Anderson recommended \$1.00 in line 4610 CONSERVATION COMMISSION. Mike Nygren seconded the motion. Motion passed 4:1 (nay, G. Cordes).

**IV. OTHER
POLICE BUDGET**

The increase in patrol wages included the matrix. The Chief asked for three officers (Ms. Carlson filtered out three officers for half a year and put that in the request). Mr. Nygren suggested seeing the Police Chief's wages separated from patrols in the budget. Due to public safety, the Budget Committee members were not privy to confidential information. Ms. Anderson said that the full-time position was equivalent to 6 full-time and one half time officer so that Fremont did not differ much from other similar towns. There was discussion about Districts and taxes/growth in business/Town industry. Mr. Nygren noted that, with low business growth in Fremont, expense weighed on homeowners. Based on the information, the Selectmen recommended one more full-time officer (seen as not "adding hours" but replacing part-time shifts with a full-time person). The Chief covered a patrol at least one day/week.

There was discussion about the nature of part-time and full-time officers (what they can do, quality of reporting, different shifts, overlapping of hours, etc.) Mr. Janvrin felt that a 5 8-hr day schedule was better than a 4 10-hr day schedule. He wondered if there was overlapping at critical times or off hours, etc.?

Mr. Kidd asked if the Police had current statistics/breakdown of how the Department ranked in the state. Mr. Nygren wondered about the difference in pay for a new Police Officer (for patrol, with training, etc.).

OTHER:

The Committee members were reminded to keep email correspondence simple and without opinion. Sue Penny would be asked to come to a Budget Committee meeting in no sooner than three weeks.

V. NEXT MEETING DATE: OCTOBER 8, 2014

The School budget would start to be reviewed in November.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:33 PM, Neal Janvrin made a motion to adjourn. Gene Cordes seconded the motion. Motion passed 5:0.

Respectfully submitted by, Susan Perry, Budget Committee Secretary

Committee approved on October 8, 2014

September 24, 2014