

FREMONT BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING
Fremont Town Hall
295 Main Street
Fremont, NH 03044
JANUARY 7, 2015
7:00 PM

I CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Pat Martel called the January 7, 2015 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, Neal Janvrin, Greg Fraize, Mark Kidd, and Pat Martel, Town Administrator Heidi Carlson and School Superintendent Betsey Cox-Buteau.

II. SCHOOL WARRANT ARTICLES

Mr. Fraize noted there was a reduction in the teacher contract amount in the second year by \$18k due to an accounting error. He said the Support Staff ratified their contract. He had emailed what the changes were and what the final contract looked like.

ARTICLE 2: FEA CBA

Greg Fraize made a motion to recommend School District Warrant Article 2 as presented. Mary Anderson seconded the motion. Motion passed 6:0.

ARTICLE 3: FEA CBA - SPECIAL MEETING

Mary Anderson made a motion to recommend School District Warrant Article 3 as presented. Greg Fraize seconded the motion. Motion passed 5:1 (nay, P. Martel)

ARTICLE 4: ESSS CBA

Greg Fraize made a motion to recommend School District Warrant Article 4 as presented. Mark Kidd seconded the motion. Motion passed 6:0.

It was noted that only 3 people on the School Board could meet at the last meeting when Warrant Articles 4 and 5 were voted on, and this was why records show the votes to recommend as "3:0" and not "5:0". It was suggested that the School Board explain this to voters before the Deliberative Session next week.

ARTICLE 5: ESSS CBA SPECIAL MEETING

Greg Fraize made a motion to recommend School District Warrant Article 5 as presented. Mary Anderson seconded the motion. Motion passed 5:1 (nay, P. Martel)

ARTICLE 6: SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET

The Budget Committee agreed to keep the previous vote at 7:1 to recommend School District Warrant Article 6 (School District Budget @ \$11,701,213).

ARTICLE 7: \$10,000 INTO ELLIS BUILDING/GROUNDS MAINTENANCE EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND

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

Ms. Anderson wondered if passed, if the money (dealing with Articles 7 and 8) would come out of the \$455,000 surplus (for tuition) or another expected fund balance at the end of the year. Dr. Cox-Buteau said that it was too early to predict if there would be another fund balance. Ms. Anderson was concerned that the \$455,000 would be reduced to around \$250,000 and that would have a tax impact. Mr. Cordes said that the

District did not fund the FY15-16 Operating Budget at the GMR price, so a contingency fund was utilized in order not to raise it year after year. Ms. Anderson was concerned because revenues were down for next year and there would be more of a tax increase if the \$455,000 were not returned to offset taxes. She did not favor the School Board spending money from surplus at the end of the year on unapproved items, though she understood that the Board could do that.

ARTICLE 8: \$100,000 INTO EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND FOR OUT OF DISTRICT TUITION EXPENSES

Mary Anderson made a motion to recommend Warrant Article 8 as presented. Greg Fraize seconded the motion. Motion passed 6:0.

There will be a School Board meeting next Tuesday, January 13, 2015, at 6PM, which will recess for the Deliberative Session at 7PM. Ida Keane will take the place of Greg Fraize in his absence.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mary Anderson made a motion to approve the minutes of December 17, 2014 as written. Gene Cordes seconded the motion. Motion passed 5:0:1 (G. Fraize was absent).

Gene Cordes made a motion to amend the minutes of December 17, 2014 (III. Town Budget: \$17,022 should read "\$1,722" that the Budget Committee did not recommend and the Selectmen had put in "\$1,723" (not \$17,023). Mary Anderson seconded the motion. Motion passed 5:0:1.

IV. TOWN WARRANT ARTICLES

There were updates to how the Town Warrant Articles were numbered/listed.

WARRANT ARTICLE 6: FIRE TRUCK

Neal Janvrin made a motion to amend the vote previously taken on Warrant Article A (now 6) (Purchase of a New Fire Truck) to read "\$470,455". Neal Janvrin seconded the motion. Motion passed 5:0:1 (abstention from Greg Fraize who was absent at the previous meeting).

Greg Fraize amended his vote to be in favor.

Pat Martel made a motion to amend the vote on Warrant Article 6 to be "6:0". Greg Fraize seconded the motion. Motion passed 6:0.

Ms. Carlson clarified that if Warrant Article 14 were voted down, the Road Agent Salary would remain the same (the Article was to just change money already in the operating budget, not appropriate more money).

Ms. Anderson noted that the Budget Committee had not voted on certain Town Budgets that had changes (only on the total numbers).

WARRANT ARTICLE 8: To allow for the creation of Town trust funds for acceptance of donations to the Town of Fremont. No tax impact.

There was discussion about the best way to fund the Miss Fremont Pageant (accepting donations). This Warrant would apply to any acceptance of donations. If this article passed, a Miss Fremont Town trust fund could be established. If there was a \$2,000 donation, the Selectmen could hold a public hearing to accept \$2,000 of unanticipated revenue and spend it on the Miss Fremont pageant. Ms. Anderson said that they wanted to be able to have a fund where money could be kept for scholarships, etc. Currently, \$2,000 for Miss Fremont was being kept through the expendable trust fund for the 250th. The issue was that both donated and appropriated money could not be put in one fund.

Gene Cordes made a motion to recommend Town Warrant Article 8. Neal Janvrin seconded the motion. Motion passed 6:0.

WARRANT ARTICLE 14: Change the Salary for the Elected Position of Road Agent

Mary Anderson made a motion to recommend Town Warrant Article 14. Greg Fraize seconded the motion. Motion passed 6:0.

A sheet of tax rate impacts was provided to the Committee. The total estimated tax rate was \$4.85, of which \$0.77 was a one-time amount for the Fire Truck. The numbers were put in the Warrant Article narrative to inform voters.

Gene Cordes made a motion to amend the Budget Committee's recommended number (previously \$96,511) to \$99,739 for Line 4130 EXECUTIVE – SELECTMEN, for the annual increases in salary. Mary Anderson seconded the motion. Motion passed 6:0.

Gene Cordes made a motion to amend the Budget Committee's recommended number (previously \$60,073) to \$60,188 for Line 4140 TOWN CLERK TAX COLLECTOR. Mary Anderson seconded the motion. Motion passed 6:0.

Pat Martel made a motion to amend the Budget Committee's recommended number (previously \$275,800) to \$275,414 for Line 4155 PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION. Mary Anderson seconded the motion. Motion passed 6:0.

Gene Cordes made a motion to amend the Budget Committee's recommended number (previously \$38,600) to \$39,331 for Line 4191 PLANNING AND ZONING. Greg Fraize seconded the motion. Motion passed 6:0.

Gene Cordes made a motion to amend the Budget Committee's recommended number (previously \$91,669) to \$91,778 for Line 4194 GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS. Greg Fraize seconded the motion. Motion passed 6:0.

Gene Cordes made a motion to amend the Budget Committee's recommended number (previously \$486,492) to \$486,972 for Line 4210 POLICE DEPARTMENT. Mary Anderson seconded the motion. Motion passed 6:0.

Gene Cordes made a motion to amend the Budget Committee's recommended number (previously \$33,826) to \$34,771 for Line 4240 BUILDING INSPECTION. Mary Anderson seconded the motion. Motion passed 6:0.

Gene Cordes made a motion to amend the Budget Committee's recommended number (previously \$398,767) to \$402,470 for Line 4312 HIGHWAYS & STREETS. Mary Anderson seconded the motion. Motion passed 6:0.

Pat Martel made a motion to amend the Budget Committee's recommended number (previously \$9,796) to \$9,920 for Line 4414 ANIMAL CONTROL. Gene Cordes seconded the motion. Motion passed 6:0.

Mary Anderson made a motion to recommend the Budget Committee's recommendation of \$ 26,154 for Line 4445 VENDOR PAYMENTS. Greg Fraize seconded the motion. Motion passed 6:0.

Ms. Carlson said that the Department of Revenue was changing formats for forms. There was discussion on how to do the documents to be informative for voters.

There was discussion about the Sanborn tuition spreadsheet that was emailed by the SAU. Ms. Anderson was concerned about the capital cost increase. Mr. Cordes noted that enrollment was dropping. Ms. Anderson wanted to find out how tuition calculations were done. Mr. Fraize said that Ms. Penney had asked Sanborn for this information but was referred to the DOE Website for calculations. Ms. Anderson wondered how the Sanborn did the tuition calculations and wanted to see copies of their MS-25, which was public information. She felt that \$16,000/year was a lot for tuition and that Sanborn set the tuition, not the State. She also wondered how much Fremont was paying for the Sanborn SAU. Mr. Fraize said that work was ongoing regarding the tuition and working with Sanborn and that he would relate this information to the School Board.

Mary Anderson made a motion requesting the School Board to obtain detailed information from the Sanborn Regional High School's School District on how their high school tuition calculations were done, with supportive documentation. Gene Cordes seconded the motion. Motion passed 6:0.

V. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:10 PM, Neal Janvrin made a motion to adjourn. Mark Kidd seconded the motion. Motion passed 6:0.

Respectfully submitted by, Susan Perry, Budget Committee Secretary