

FREMONT BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING

Fremont Town Hall

295 Main Street

Fremont, NH 03044

September 14, 2016

7:00 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Mary Anderson called the September 14, 2016 Budget Committee meeting to order at 7:00 PM in the basement room of Fremont Town Hall.

Present were: Budget Committee Chair Mary Anderson, Vice Chair Mark Kidd, members Mike Nygren, Gene Cordes, Mary Jo Holmes, Pat Martel, and Joe Miccile, School Board representative Jennifer Brown, and Heidi Carlson.

II. APPROVE MINUTES FROM AUGUST 17, 2016

Mary Jo Holmes made a motion to approve as amended the minutes of August 17, 2016. Jenifer Brown seconded the motion. Motion passed 7:0:1 (abstention from J. Miccile).

III. REMINDER: NHMA BUDGET WORKSHOP ON SEPTEMBER 20, 2016

Ms. Anderson, Ms. Martel and Ms. Holmes have registered for the NHMA Budget Workshop on September 20, 2016 and they will bring information back to the Committee.

IV. SCHOOL BUDGET UPDATES/INFORMATION

There is a surplus of \$172,030.41 in the 2016-17 budget. Ms. Brown stated that the School Board did not have a formal vote to sequester, noting that it is early in the year and they wanted to wait to see what the student body looks like/that nothing exorbitant happens before returning money to the taxpayers. Ms. Anderson expressed disappointment since the school budget was increased last year; she hoped the School Board will make every effort to sequester it. Ms. Brown said that the Board had no intention to use the money, but did not want to make it untouchable in case there is a new student placement or significant instance; she said the money will stay in the budget. Ms. Anderson clarified that the money should not be transferred at all; Ms. Brown agreed.

Ms. Brown mentioned that there was a change in (health insurance) membership and a savings of about \$45,000, however, the district is not yet fully staffed so the full membership will change. Ms. Holmes asked if there was any savings due to the fact that some higher-paid employees left the district and were replaced with lower-paid staff. Ms. Brown said she would check with Susan Penny but that there was some savings, but that there were also some position adjustments (e.g. the librarian position became a library/tech. position with an assistant.)

Additionally, a third grade teacher was necessary to be hired since the third grade class sizes were 23 and 22, which exceeded the policy's class size limit of 17 (K-4). Some families moved into town and increased the third grade class size. An idea the district will consider in the future is the combination of two grades if required. Ms. Brown distributed the enrollment information sheet to the Committee members. The enrollment in June was 456; it was 433 as of September 1st. Last year's large 8th grade class has moved on to the high school. Ms. Brown said that the district is where it was expected to be enrollment-wise. She noted that the district reduced teachers last year but did not add to the staff this year. She said a big part of the budget last year was out-placement for which catastrophic aid would not be awarded until this year; Ms. Anderson clarified that catastrophic aid is awarded the second year and is not unanticipated revenue. The revenue will be seen in next year's budget for the past year (about 80-90% of the full cost).

Ms. Brown noted that the School Board will review the school budget at their November 7th 7 PM meeting, after the public forum on the budget at 6PM. The budget books will be ready for the Budget Committee by November 9th. Mr. Nygren mentioned that, once the remaining vacant staffing positions are filled, there might be a health insurance shortfall.

V. TOWN BUDGET UPDATES/INFORMATION

Mr. Cordes gave the following town updates: roadwork done on Sandown and Whittier Roads; signing on to Primex insurance (no change endorsements within 12-month policy cycle) – rates are up due to some loss history but the town is covered this year; improvements being made to the basement of the Town Hall; new fire truck now in Fremont – training and stocking being done now, then it will be shown to the public. He anticipated talk about a full-time position in the police budget, as well as a 2% pay raise for non-uniform personnel.

VI. TOWN BUDGET REVIEW WITH SELECTMEN'S RECOMMENDATIONS**4141 ELECTION & REGISTRATION**

The difference between the department request of \$7,157 and the Board of Selectmen recommendation of \$7,233 is the 2% raise increase. There will be one election next year as opposed to four this year.

Mary Jo Holmes recommended the Board of Selectmen's budget recommendation of \$7,233 in line 4141 ELECTION & REGISTRATION. Pat Martel seconded the motion. Motion passed 8:0.

4151 FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION – OTHER

Changes include training and mileage (bank trips by the treasurer).

Pat Martel recommended the Board of Selectmen's budget recommendation of \$21,174 in line 4151 FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION – OTHER. Joe Miccile seconded the motion. Motion passed 8:0.

4195 CEMETERIES

The budget includes a stipend for a Cemetery Sexton, which is a new position. Mr. Cordes noted that there has been oversight of cemetery care, including the administrative aspect and he said it is best to have a budgeted person (paid hourly) to do this work. Ms. Anderson felt that the lawns need care (loam). Ms. Carlson mentioned that an issue is having an inadequate number of staff.

Mary Jo Holmes recommended the Board of Selectmen's budget recommendation of \$17,450 in line 4195 CEMETERIES. Joe Miccile seconded the motion. Motion passed 8:0.

4196 INSURANCE

The increase was explained earlier in the meeting.

Jennifer Brown recommended the Board of Selectmen's budget recommendation of \$61,996 in line 4196 INSURANCE. Pat Martel seconded the motion. Motion passed 8:0.

4215 AMBULANCE

There is an annual increase to the ambulance budget of \$500.

Mary Jo Holmes recommended the Board of Selectmen's budget recommendation of \$8,500 in line 4215 AMBULANCE. Mike Nygren seconded the motion. Motion passed 8:0.

4220 FIRE RESCUE

The "special detail" line covers the fire department's overseeing of the annual snowmobile grass event. The communications line includes the new truck radio. There was a cut back on the LOSAP line (it is budgeted on everyone who is eligible, but there are also other criteria – Ms. Carlson will bring this information to the Committee). The Committee suggested having the Fire Chief attend the next meeting to answer questions, including the expectation of how long the new truck will be in service.

4290 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Pat Martel recommended the Board of Selectmen's budget recommendation of \$4,000 in line 4290 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT. Jennifer Brown seconded the motion. Motion passed 8:0.

4414 ANIMAL CONTROL

The difference between the department request and the Selectmen's recommendation is the 2% raise.

Mark Kidd recommended the Board of Selectmen's budget recommendation of \$10,213 in line 4414 ANIMAL CONTROL. Joe Miccile seconded the motion. Motion passed 5:0.

4415 HEALTH

Pat Martel recommended the Board of Selectmen's budget recommendation of \$750 in line 4415 HEALTH. Mary Jo Holmes seconded the motion. Motion passed 8:0.

VII. OTHER NEW BUDGETS TO BE DISTRIBUTED FOR REVIEW

- 4152 REAPPRAISAL OF PROPERTY
- 4153 LEGAL SERVICES
- 4191 PLANNING & ZONING
- 4323 SOLID WASTE COLLECTION
- 4324 SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL
- 4442 DIRECT ASSISTANCE
- 4583 PATRIOTIC PURPOSES
- 4711/4721 DEBT SERVICE PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST
- 4723 INTEREST ON TAX ANTICIPATION NOTES

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

Committee members will bring in their school budget books from last year to reuse this year.

Budget Committee meetings will be held upstairs for consistency and recordings will be delayed a day or so.

Ms. Anderson mentioned that there is a recording on Channel 22 regarding nonpublic vs. public meetings in case anyone was interested.

The Police Chief will be asked to attend a future meeting, and perhaps the Road Agent.

IX. NEXT MEETING DATE: SEPTEMBER 21, 2016

X. ADJOURNMENT

Gene Cordes made a motion to adjourn at 8:20 PM. Jennifer Brown seconded the motion. Motion passed 8:0.

Respectfully submitted by,

Susan Perry, Secretary