

FREMONT BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING
Fremont Town Hall
295 Main Street
Fremont, NH 03044
October 26, 2016
7:00 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Mark Kidd called the October 26, 2016 Budget Committee meeting to order at 7:00 PM on the first floor of Fremont Town Hall.

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

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: OCTOBER 19, 2016 - TABLED

Mike Nygren made a motion to table the minutes of October 19, 2016 until the next meeting. Jennifer Brown seconded the motion. Motion passed 6:0.

III. SCHOOL BUDGET UPDATES/INFORMATION/BUDGET REPORT

Ms. Brown reviewed the following school information from the last School Board meeting:

- For safety reasons, a school use map of building space cannot be provided so the Superintendent drafted a document of room numbers, types of classrooms, and minimum classroom standards; this was distributed to Budget Committee members.
- The food service line is not in deficit
- Extra ("ghost") students are not being added to the budget. There are no eighth graders at the charter school this year.
- Ms. Penny has asked the auditors to move up the date of the next audit
- \$10,000 of the building trust fund will fund the a/c (TRANE) unit; there will be \$30,000 remaining in the fund and it is recommended that at least \$25,000 be kept there in case of system failure, etc.
- The School Board decided to keep the SAU at Ellis for another year and not put a cost/line item in the FY18 budget. There will be a committee to look at long-term SAU location solutions. There was discussion about discontent regarding the SAU being in the building, building space issues, lack of conference room, hopes of having dedicated space for a Spanish teacher and for the STEM program. Ms. Brown would find out where the SAU was before the Blackrocks location.
- Plans for the oil tank issue need to go to the State. The Superintendent suggested asking the Budget Committee for insight in the decision to either convert from oil to propane (@ \$65,000) or for burner repair (@ \$100,000): would the Committee prefer taking money out of the surplus of about \$500,000, or put the cost into the FY18 budget (making it increase by about \$100,000). Propane is more expensive but more efficient. Mr. Cordes noted that the Town Hall has been converting to propane and confirmed that it is more efficient and there is a difference in BTUs. There is no tax credit to convert.
- There is no fund balance holdover.

IV. TOWN BUDGET UPDATES/INFORMATION: THIRD QUARTER BUDGET REPORT

There was minimal discussion about the third quarter budget report. A Warrant Article was added by the Road Agent to consider work on North Road; an engineer's preliminary report was distributed to Committee members.

V. TOWN BUDGET REVIEW WITH SELECTMEN'S RECOMMENDATIONS**4140 TOWN CLERK TAX COLLECTOR**

There was discussion about the increase in the Town Clerk/Tax Collector Clerical line #4140030, and whether it correlated with 3 extra hours for training for clerical help or for 3 extra work hours. Historical data of motor vehicle registrations, marriage licenses, etc. between 2012-2016 was reviewed.

Mike Nygren made a motion to reduce the Selectmen's number of \$9,735 in line 4140030 to \$7,638. Pat Martel seconded the motion. Motion failed 3:3.

Mark Kidd made a motion to table the Town Clerk/Tax Collector budget 4140 until the next meeting where there should be more members present. Gene Cordes seconded the motion. Motion passed 6:0.

4194 GENERAL GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS

Pat Martel recommended the Board of Selectmen's recommendation of \$75,837 in 4194 GENERAL GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS. Mike Nygren seconded the motion. Motion passed 6:0.

4130 EXECUTIVE - TABLED

The largest change is the additional ten hours in the Selectmen's office. Ms. Carlson explained that they are looking for temporary coverage in the office, noting that Mrs. Nygren has been helping her with minute-taking, etc. because she is putting in many hours of work per week. With staff changes and losing Mrs. Bolduc last year, duties have fallen on Ms. Carlson to complete. There is an increase in the computer supplies line for an upgrade in QuickBooks. The newsletter line has decreased since more electronic means are being used (website, etc.) and since she has not had much time to do more than the main newsletter focusing on getting out information on the Warrant Articles. The Selectmen have not yet recommended this budget so it was tabled until the next meeting.

4155 PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION - TABLED

There is an increase in NH Retirement. The employee share is 11.55. Most of this budget is contractual. Additional Budget Detail on the full-time officer proposal was distributed. The Selectmen have not yet recommended this budget so it was tabled until the next meeting.

WARRANT ARTICLES

There is a pending Warrant Article for the historic museum capital reserve fund (\$12,000) and for the radio communications capital reserve fund. Mr. Kidd suggestion looking at lease options for radios; Mr. Cordes replied that the Selectmen can consider this. Ms. Carlson will add tax rate impact to the police officer Warrant Article.

Mark Kidd made a motion to table the vote on the Warrant Articles until the next meeting. Mike Nygren seconded the motion. Motion passed 6:0.

VI. OTHER NEW BUDGETS TO BE DISTRIBUTED FOR REVIEW & OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Carlson noted that the tentative public hearing is Wednesday, January 11, 2017 at 7PM, with the snow date of January 12th. She will confirm this with School Superintendent Cox-Buteau. Petitions are due January 10th.

VIII. NEXT MEETING DATE: NOVEMBER 2, 2016

IX. ADJOURN

Mike Nygren made a motion to adjourn at 8:15PM. Gene Cordes seconded the motion. Motion passed 6:0.

Respectfully submitted by, Susan Perry, Secretary