

FREMONT BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING
Fremont Town Hall
295 Main Street
Fremont, NH 03044
September 21, 2016
7:00 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Mary Anderson called the September 21, 2016 Budget Committee meeting to order at 7:00 PM on the first floor 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 (arriving at 7:05 PM), and Heidi Carlson.

II. APPROVE MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 14, 2016

Mary Jo Holmes made a motion to table the minutes of September 14, 2016 until Jennifer Brown arrived. Mike Nygren seconded the motion. Motion passed 7:0.

Ms. Brown arrived at 7:05 PM.

There was review of the minutes. Ms. Brown clarified that last year the Computer teacher position had been eliminated and a new combined Librarian/Tech. Teacher position was made, with an aide (this is different from the IT Director position). Ms. Brown also clarified that there was a reduction in staffing last year and a third grade teacher had to be added due to enrollment this year; this was not on top of (in addition to) Ellis' existing staff.

Gene Cordes made a motion to approve the minutes of September 14, 2016. Mary Jo Holmes seconded the motion. Motion passed, 8:0.

III. UPDATE ON NHMA BUDGET WORKSHOP HELD ON SEPTEMBER 20, 2016 (ANDERSON, MARTEL, HOLMES)

Ms. Anderson, Ms. Martel and Ms. Holmes have attended the NHMA Budget Workshop on September 20, 2016 and they will provide copies of the new budget manual.

Ms. Anderson said that it was just announced that the NH retirement contribution will be increasing 10% for school, fire and police statewide. Towns cannot back out of the NHRS.

IV. FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT (4220) 7:10 PM

Follow-up on apparatus inventory/age/repairs
Cost of mobile for new truck and replacement portable radios

Fire Chief Rick Butler and Deputy Chief Joe Nichols reviewed the inventory of fire equipment, including engines, etc. The life expectancy of vehicles is 20-25 years. Tank 3 will be taken out of service this year after training is done on the new one. Chief Butler explained that the older engines need to be retired because they cannot get replacement parts and compliancy/standards change over the years.

There was discussion about putting money into the capital reserve each year to replace tank 4 in 3-5 years. The cost of a tank remains about \$473,000. There is little value in old engines. Deputy Chief Nichols noted that Fremont's fire equipment have certain specifications that fit the town's demographics.

There was discussion about the outdated radios that cannot be fixed. The cost is \$3,500 per portable. It is beneficial to have one radio per fire fighter because numbers are assigned to each one and they are trackable. The importance of being able to communicate between departments was emphasized. It was best not to wait too long between cycles to replace radios. The State found money to give the Fremont Fire Department 36 radios in 2006 but parts were no longer available. There was discussion about building up the communications capital reserve fund again. The Committee felt this was a safety issue.

Jennifer Brown recommended the department request budget of \$186,419.00 in line 4220 FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT (differing from the Selectmen's recommendation of \$173,919 by placing \$12,500 into the communications line, making it \$17,500). Mike Nygren seconded the motion. Motion passed 8:0.

V, SCHOOL BUDGET UPDATES/INFORMATION

Ms. Brown confirmed that school policy for class sizes is: K-4, strive for 12-17 students/class; 5-8, strive for 18-24 students/class. Next week, Ms. Penny will have responses to prior questions regarding salary line savings and catastrophic aid. Ms. Brown mentioned that Ellis School was having water pressure issues but was being worked on.

VI. TOWN BUDGET REVIEW WITH SELECTMEN'S RECOMMENDATIONS

4152 REVALUATION OF PROPERTY

The increase in the Appraisal Services correlated with the conversion to different assessing whereby revaluations will be done via quarterly reviews by neighborhoods (1/4 of the town). A statistical update is done in the 5th year. This spreads the cost over 5 years; money can be put in capital reserve each year. This way, more services and updates can be accessed by the assessors. There was an increase in the GIS Map Program due to the cost increase of the Vision software. The online map service is valuable to people.

Mary Jo Holmes recommended the Board of Selectmen's budget recommendation of \$51,046 in line 4152 REAPPRAISAL OF PROPERTY. Gene Cordes seconded the motion. Motion passed 8:0.

4153 LEGAL EXPENSES

Pat Martel recommended the Board of Selectmen's budget recommendation of \$20,000 in line 4153 JUDICIAL & LEGAL EXPENSE. Joe Miccile seconded the motion. Motion passed 8:0.

4191 PLANNING & ZONING

\$1,000.00 was moved from the Planning & Zoning Clerical Wages line to the Conservation Commission Clerical Wages line. There was discussion about clerical coverage, noting that the hours have averaged 22-24 hours/week. The Professional Services line served to finish the CIP (road improvement program). There have not been many subdivisions.

Mary Jo Holmes recommended the Board of Selectmen's budget recommendation of \$40,867 in line 4191 PLANNING & ZONING. Joe Miccile seconded the motion. Motion passed 8:0.

4323 SOLID WASTE COLLECTION

There is a flat 3% increase in the pickup contract (\$50,000 was saved the first year of the contract. Tipping fees decreased \$12/ton. The annual increase on tonnage is 1% through June 30, 2017; it might increase after July 1, 2017. There is no tipping fee on recyclables.

Jennifer Brown recommended the Board of Selectmen's budget recommendation of \$226,142 in line 4323 SOLID WASTE COLLECTION. Joe Miccile seconded the motion. Motion passed 8:0.

4324 SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL

Jennifer Brown recommended the Board of Selectmen's budget recommendation of \$102,785 in line 4324 SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL. Joe Miccile seconded the motion. Motion passed 8:0.

4312 HIGHWAY: TABLED

4316 STREET LIGHTS

Mary Jo Holmes recommended the Board of Selectmen's budget recommendation of \$5,400 in line 4316 STREET LIGHTS. Joe Miccile seconded the motion. Motion passed 8:0.

VII. OTHER NEW BUDGETS TO BE DISTRIBUTED FOR REVIEW

4550 PARKS & RECREATION
4610 CONSERVATION COMMISSION WITH BACKUP DETAIL ON OTHER ACCOUNTS

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

The Library Trustees will attend the meeting next week, as well as the Police Chief. Other topics for next week will include Parks & Recreation and Advertising & Regional Assoc. The CIP progress will be revisited.

IX. NEXT MEETING DATE: SEPTEMBER 28, 2016

X. ADJOURNMENT

Gene Cordes made a motion to adjourn at 8:30 PM. Mike Nygren seconded the motion. Motion passed 8:0.

Respectfully submitted by,
Susan Perry, Secretary