

FREMONT BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING
Fremont Town Hall
295 Main Street
Fremont, NH 03044
October 5, 2016
7:00 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Mary Anderson called the October 5, 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, and Heidi Carlson.

II. APPOINTMENTS

7 PM HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT 4312 – LEON HOLMES JR

Leon Holmes Jr reviewed the Highway Department (4312). Highlights included:

- The winter salt line is based on the average usage for past years (2012-2015)
- Winter equipment hire line: cut by \$20,000 because the same amount was put in capital reserve last year.
- Savings in Summer Equipment Hire line due to having own equipment e.g. back hoe
- Cost of living increase in full-time wages line
- Part-time wages summer: difference is having one year-round part-time position as opposed to the two part-time seasonal positions (summer and winter) that the department currently has. There was discussion about possibly reducing the plowing cost as a result of this.
- Part-time wages winter: only on-call
- Increase in the training line in anticipation of safety workshops for new employee
- \$3,000 increase in the general supplies line for guard rails
- New equipment line: use capital reserve when needed
- Increase of \$1,000 in the hot/cold patch line because there is a lot of patching to do
- Uncertainty of fuel cost; make sure there is enough (diesel)
- Sweeper maintenance line is reduced by \$200 as the new street sweeper requires less maintenance
- Increase in sealcoat and crack seal line due to projects planned for next year (3 roads)
- The hot top and reconstruction materials line is to finish the course of what was done this year, not to exceed \$192,536.
- The roadside mowing line is for a rental three weeks/year

Mr. Holmes noted that money was saved last winter, and an \$85,000 Warrant Article was passed, so a lot was done this year in the default budget (including two miles of road). Ms. Anderson noted that there could be the risk of having a bad winter. Mr. Cordes noted that, though a lot of work was accomplished, there was more to do (e.g. North Road).

Mr. Holmes will write up a Warrant Article for \$100,000 to do about a mile of North Road for drainage, replacement culverts and paving.

It was noted the budget has a 33% increase over 2015 so the Committee looked for places to reduce somewhat. The average cost in the winter equipment line over the 3 previous years is \$125,000. Ms. Anderson noted that, with SB2, it is necessary to budget ahead (vs. in March). Discussed was the possibility that the part-time person could plow.

Mark Kidd made a motion to reduce the winter equipment hire line in the Highway Department budget (4312) from \$132,400 to \$125,000. Pat Martel seconded the motion. Motion passed 6:1:1 (nay G. Cordes; abstention MJ Holmes).

Ms. Brown was concerned about the possibility of having a bad winter and going over the budget; she suggested not cutting the summer line in case funds need to come out of that line. Mr. Cordes mentioned the possibility of paying for overtime, as it is difficult to schedule storms.

Jennifer Brown made a motion to approve \$551,997 for the Highway Department budget 4312. Joe Miccile seconded the motion. Motion passed 6:1:1 (M. Kidd nay; MJ Holmes abstention).

III. APPROVE MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 28, 2016

Gene Cordes made a motion to approve the minutes as amended of September 28, 2016. Joe Miccile seconded the motion. Motion passed, 8:0.

IV. SCHOOL BUDGET UPDATES/INFORMATION

The next School Board meeting is next Tuesday night.

V. TOWN BUDGET UPDATES/INFORMATION

The CIP is a big part of the budgeting process and reflects the needs of different departments, Ms. Anderson said. It is supposed to be a planning tool. She said it is an opportune time to bond some work; she had concern with the floating land bond. She spoke about the benefit of a capital improvement town-wide fund for all town buildings so that if things happen, it could be accessed (vs. just the capital reserve fund for Town Hall). Ms. Carlson mentioned that the town also has an expendable trust fund that has \$20,000 currently and money can be added to that for town buildings.

Mr. Cordes suggested that the Budget Committee look at the CIP during the off-season planning time, not during the budget sessions.

VI. TOWN BUDGET REVIEW WITH SELECTMEN'S RECOMMENDATIONS

4197 ADVERTISING & REGIONAL ASSOCIATION

Mary Jo Holmes recommended the Board of Selectmen's recommendation of \$8,251.00 in line 4197 ADVERTISING & REGIONAL ASSOC. Jennifer Brown seconded the motion. Motion passed 8:0.

4199 OTHER GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Pat Martel recommended the Board of Selectmen's recommendation of \$2,400.00 in line 4199 OTHER GENERAL GOVERNMENT. Mark Kidd seconded the motion. Motion passed 8:0.

4240 BUILDING INSPECTION

The Board of Selectmen put in a 2% increase in the building inspection wages (\$2,419) and removed Driveway Inspections (the Road Agent is doing this as part of the job).

There was discussion about Building Inspector hours and work load of town employees in general.

Jennifer Brown recommended the Board of Selectmen's recommendation of \$37,604.00 in line 4240 BUILDING INSPECTION. Joe Miccile seconded the motion. Motion passed 7:1 (nay, M. Nygren).

4442 DIRECT ASSISTANCE

Mary Jo Holmes recommended the Board of Selectmen's recommendation of \$15,800.00 in line 4442 DIRECT ASSISTANCE. Joe Miccile seconded the motion. Motion passed 8:0.

4583 PATRIOTIC PURPOSES

Pat Martel recommended the Board of Selectmen's recommendation of \$2,735.00 in line 4583 PATRIOTIC PURPOSES. Joe Miccile seconded the motion. Motion passed 8:0.

4610 CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The \$1,000 in the clerical line is taken from Planning & Zoning. There was discussion about amounts in funds e.g. \$2,247 in the budget residual and \$104,000 in the current land use fund, as well as the \$935,000 floating bond that stays on

indefinitely until it is rescinded or used. A Warrant Article is necessary to rescind it (it has been 10 years). Ms. Anderson suggested that the Selectmen discuss rescinding the bond.

Mark Kidd recommended the Board of Selectmen's recommendation of \$3,872.00 in line 4610 CONSERVATION COMMISSION. Jennifer Brown seconded the motion. Motion passed 8:0.

4711-4721 DEBT SERVICE

Mary Jo Holmes recommended the Board of Selectmen's recommendation of \$163,191.00 in 4711-4721 DEBT SERVICE. Pat Martel seconded the motion. Motion passed 8:0.

4723 INTEREST ON TAX ANTICIPATION NOTES

Jennifer Brown recommended the Board of Selectmen's recommendation of \$1,500 in 4723 INTEREST ON TAX ANTICIPATION NOTES. Pat Martel seconded the motion. Motion passed 8:0.

4210 POLICE DEPARTMENT - FOLLOW UP

Information from Chief Twiss regarding the number and nature of police calls was reviewed.

Mr. Cordes will inquire about the following questions and the Committee will revisit the police budget at the next meeting on October 18, 2016:

1. This year's budget had 48 part-time hours per week; the Chief is asking for 30 p/t hours/week (FY18) – why/does this take into account a new full-time officer position? (One new full-time officer = how much reduction in part-time?)
2. Consideration of one new officer warrant article as opposed to two.

VII. OTHER NEW BUDGETS TO BE DISTRIBUTED FOR REVIEW

DRAFT WARRANT ARTICLES TO DATE

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Nygren reviewed comparisons of towns' expense/tax rate information and he suggested the School Board also get this information. He noted that only Danville has a bigger tax burden than Fremont. He asked where people want to spend money on the town. Ms. Brown agreed but also mentioned the importance of considering public safety (e.g. new police officer). Ms. Anderson said Fremont is doing without and has to look at everything, but cannot pay for everything.

IX. NEXT MEETING DATE: OCTOBER 19, 2016

X. ADJOURNMENT

Gene Cordes made a motion to adjourn at 8:50 PM. Pat Martel seconded the motion. Motion passed 8:0.

Respectfully submitted by,
Susan Perry, Secretary