

FREMONT BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING
Fremont Town Hall
295 Main Street
Fremont, NH 03044
October 19, 2016
7:00 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Mary Anderson called the October 19, 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, and Joe Miccile, School Board representative Jennifer Brown, and Heidi Carlson.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: OCTOBER 5, 2016

Jennifer Brown made a motion to approve as written the minutes of October 5, 2016. Gene Cordes seconded the motion. Motion passed 7:0.

III. SCHOOL BUDGET UPDATES/INFORMATION/BUDGET REPORT

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

- The School Board approved a transfer of \$441,132.51 for sequestration/to hold aside (extra savings included: GMR v. Actual, changes in the student body, and savings in the para-professional lines).
- There were discrepancies with the high school tuition bill; the bill was encumbered but not paid until the dispute was settled. There was a savings of \$55,904.40 which was encumbered by the FY16 budget and will be unanticipated revenue in June 2017. Ms. Anderson said that about \$500,000 could come off the tax rate next year (about \$1.25) There was discussion about the loss of students and Ms. Brown said that "placeholders" are put in the budget to cover the cost of any students coming into the district through the year. Ms. Anderson noted that the trust fund has \$100,000 available and therefore perhaps placeholders would not be necessary to budget for this year.
- The water problem at Ellis cost \$6,600 (cost of new water tank and pump). A way to increase the efficiency of the bathrooms outside of the cafeteria is to install more efficient toilets (for a cost of \$4,000). Ms. Brown noted that the long-range facilities plan listed the oil tank to be replaced in 2018 but it has failed 2 years earlier.
- There will need to be consideration of replacing the old fixtures in the boys and girls bathrooms (cost of \$40,000)
- There will need to be consideration of relocating the SAU office. The Budget Committee will have a representative at the subcommittee on this and a schedule of meetings will be drafted. Work will need to begin soon. Ms. Brown will send a layout to Ms. Anderson of the school and what space is used for. Ms. Anderson suggested paring down the size of the SAU, feeling that with a drop in enrollment, there should be space. There was discussion about the pros and cons of using the portables for the relocation and also how to make room for school programs such as Title I (for which the State gives Ellis funding) and STEM. Mr. Micille mentioned the benefit of renting a property in town so that money returns to the taxpayers.
- The School Superintendent gave her letter of intent to retire at the end of this school year so there will be a search committee and the School Board will work with NHSBA for no-cost assistance. Ms. Holmes also suggested working with the NH Superintendents' Association. There was discussion school size and needing only a part-time Superintendent.
- The 9th bus was not budgeted for; the 8 busses are full now.
- A part-time custodian was nominated; there will be a nomination for a para-professional at the next meeting; and a temporary worker is being used for the Financial Assistant position that was vacated at the beginning of the school year.
- Ms. Anderson said that she received a letter from someone about a school personnel issue which Ms. Brown will share with the Superintendent.
- The deficit in the food service line should wash itself out at the end of the year.

IV. TOWN BUDGET UPDATES/INFORMATION: THIRD QUARTER BUDGET REPORT – TABLED UNTIL THE NEXT MEETING**V. TOWN BUDGET REVIEW WITH SELECTMEN'S RECOMMENDATIONS**

4210 POLICE DEPARTMENT

There was feedback provided by Chief Twiss on the two questions posed at the last meeting:

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?)
 - a. If there is a fourth full time officer, part time hours would reduce to 30 hours/week; if there is a fifth full time officer, part time hours would reduce to 24 hours/week.
2. Consideration of one new officer warrant article as opposed to two.
 - a. After reconsideration, the Selectmen voted to have an individual warrant article for a new full time officer.

There was discussion about the possibility of having enough staff to absorb lost hours (new officer training line) if there is a new officer and reduction of part-time hours –as well as concern about not having enough in case something happens and training is needed.

Mark Kidd recommended the Board of Selectmen’s recommendation of \$512,837.00 in 4210 POLICE DEPARTMENT. Jennifer Brown seconded the motion. Motion passed 6:1

4445 SOCIAL SERVICE AGENCIES

Jennifer Brown recommended the Board of Selectmen’s recommendation of \$29,397.00 in 4445 SOCIAL SERVICE AGENCIES. Joe Miccile seconded the motion. Motion passed 7:0.

4520 PARKS & RECREATION

There was concern about the 17% increase in the budget. Mr. Cordes noted that there is need to do maintenance. There is a request to resume before and after care, the cost of which comes back as revenue. The Selectmen had moved \$3,000 from building and grounds to the mowing and labor line. The want is to hire someone for about 20 weeks (\$300 hours @ \$15/hr.) There is an increase in the fertilizer line - it was increased this year to do 3 applications; one application is necessary next year.

Mary Jo Holmes recommended the Board of Selectmen’s recommendation of \$53,910.00 in 4520 PARKS & RECREATION. Jennifer Brown seconded the motion. Motion passed 4:3

4902700 (WARRANT ARTICLE) MOSQUITO CONTROL

Jennifer Brown made a motion to approve the Warrant Article for Mosquito Control for \$49,550.00. Mary Jo Holmes seconded the motion. Motion passed 7:0.

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

- 4194 GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS
- 4130 EXECUTIVE – SELECTMEN’S OFFICE
- 4155 PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION
- TOWN CLERK/TAX COLLECTOR
- WARRANT ARTICLES

Copies of the NHMA publication “State Aid to Municipalities History & Trends” were distributed as information. The tax rate is 29.88 which is an increase of \$0.88: the town is down by \$0.48; the county is up \$0.01; and the school is up \$1.35.

Suggestions to inform voters were discussed, including FCTV public service announcements/presentations and Fremont Community page Q & A about the warrant articles.

The town’s current fund balance is \$560,720; the recommended minimum is 5% of the total amount raised by taxes; the maximum is 17%. The school’s retained fund balance is \$248,824 (non-cumulative).

VIII. NEXT MEETING DATE: OCTOBER 26, 2016

IX. ADJOURN

Jennifer Brown made a motion to adjourn at 8:40 PM. Mark Kidd seconded the motion. Motion passed 7:0.

Respectfully submitted by, Susan Perry, Secretary