

**FREMONT BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Fremont Public Library**  
**7 Jackie Bernier Drive**  
**Fremont, NH 03044**

January 11, 2017

**Budget Committee Meeting at 6:30 PM**  
**PUBLIC HEARING at 7 PM**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Mary Anderson called the January 11, 2017 Budget Committee meeting to order at 6:30 PM on the first floor of Fremont Town Hall. Present were: Budget Committee Chair Mary Anderson, Mark Kidd, Gene Cordes, Mary Jo Holmes, Mike Nygren, Pat Martel, and Joe Miccile, Secretary Susan Perry, School Board representative Jennifer Brown, School Superintendent Betsey Cox-Buteau, Financial Administrator Susan Penny, School Board Chair Greg Fraize, and School Board members Brittany Thompson, Susan Levine and Angela O'Connell; Selectmen Roger Barham and Neal Janvrin, Town Administrator Heidi Carlson, FCTV Camera Operator Bruce White. Also present at various times were: Road Agent Leon Holmes, Jr, Town Administrator Heidi Carlson, Renee King, Leon Holmes Sr, Bill Knee, Suzanne Wicks, Police Chief Jon Twiss, Police Sgt. Peter Morelli, Fire Chief Richard Butler, and Librarian Eric Abney.

*Jennifer Brown made a motion to approve the minutes of December 14, 2016. Joe Miccile seconded the motion. Motion passed 8:0.*

The Committee addressed the issue of placing the full-time Financial Assistant position in the default budget or not, as it was not budgeted previously. Ms. Penny explained that the district tried to make the position part-time but it was unsuccessful and the Board voted to make the position full-time. Having the part-time superintendent position, there will be some transfer of duties to the Financial Assistant. There will be a reallocation of/savings from other positions (e.g. that were hired at a lower rate) so that there will be no new money spent. The Financial Assistant contract has already been signed so it is a contractual obligation. Ms. Anderson had concern that the Town did not get to vote on this. Ms. Penny noted that in the past when the Superintendent was part-time, the Financial Assistant was full-time. Ms. Anderson mentioned that she had received a phone call regarding a movement to abolish the SAU office. Ms. Penny and Ms. Brown noted that information has been publicized throughout this process as things have happened. All parties agreed that this was a difference of opinion.

*Pat Martel made a motion to approve School District Warrant Article 4 (operating budget) the way it is currently written (\$12,572,927 with a default budget of \$12,554,143). Joe Miccile seconded the motion. Motion passed 7:1:0.*

*Jennifer Brown made a motion to recess at 6:45 PM. Gene Cordes seconded the motion. Motion passed 8:0.*

**RECESS: 6:45 PM – 7:00 PM**

**PUBLIC HEARING**

The public hearing commenced at 7:00 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

It was announced that there are re-broadcastings of December Sanborn Budget Committee meetings on FCTV and that the filing period for open Town positions will take place between January 25 and February 3, 2017.

There was a review of the Town Warrant Articles. Each article was read by Budget Committee members. Roger Barham explained changes made to article 2: the Planning Board did not recommend it due to issues about item 3 that eliminates transportation-oriented activities and related services from the Corporate Commercial II.6.1 Purposes (there had been concern from abutters of the property being used for a concrete plant. Article 3 complies with State regulations and there was a grammar correction made in article 4.

There was review of the 2017 Operating Budget (Article 5) lines. Notable items include:

- Increase in Reappraisal of Property: increase due to the Town conversion to doing cyclical quarterly updates (vs. mass evaluation) – this helps with daily assessing and more up-to-date access.
- Personnel Administration: increase due to mandated increase in NH retirement.
- General Govt. Buildings: decrease due to heating improvements from the prior year
- Cemeteries: increase in the Cemetery Sexton line to oversee the cemetery staff in the summer and administrative work on deeds and mapping.
- Insurance: increase due to a change in property insurance carrier
- Ambulance Services: contractual increase
- Police Department: difference between the Department request and Budget Committee recommendation is that the new officer will be put on a warrant.
- Fire Rescue Department: main difference between the Selectmen recommendation and Budget Committee recommendation is the need for communication equipment (reallocation of savings).
- Building Inspection: decrease in hours of building inspector
- Highway Department: increase for road paving, crack sealing, guard rails; there is also combination of seasonal help into one 32-hour/week year-round position
- Solid Waste Collection: contractual increase
- Solid Waste Disposal: flat 3% increase
- Direct Assistance: based on actual usage
- Vendor Payments to Social Service Agencies: new Red Cross request
- Parks & Recreation: increase due to additional hours for extra necessary work, change in sprinkler heads to a more commercial type, building repair, overdue maintenance, fence repair, dugout repair, and additional lighting to deal with vandalism.
- Library: 2% increase in wages; building maintenance
- Patriotic Purposes: replacement of deteriorating flags on Main Street

Warrant Articles 6 and 7 were read.

Greg Fraize asked if the bookmobile service cost of \$2,160 would it be part of the default next year if the article passes this year. There was discussion.

*On behalf of the Board of Selectmen, Roger Barham made a motion to add the following language to Warrant Article 8: "If approved, this funding will remain as part of the default budget in future years." Neal Javrin seconded the motion. Motion passed 3:0.*

*On behalf of the Budget Committee, Jennifer Brown made a motion to approve the extended language to Warrant Article 8. Joe Miccile seconded the motion. Motion passed 8:0.*

Articles 9-11 were read.

It was noted that the amount in article 12 (highway paving/improvements to North Road) should read \$4,070 instead of \$3,350.

Articles 13 – 18 were read. Ms. Carlson explained that article 18 dealt with the reinstatement of the cable franchise fee (@ 2% month on the TV portion of cable bills) in order to continue to operate Fremont Cable TV programming. If it does not pass, there is only enough money left to continue for a year.

It was noted that the estimated tax rate increase is \$0.60 (total estimate is \$4.49) if everything passes; Ms. Anderson urged residents to vote to get the services that are necessary in Town.

*At 8:10 PM, Mike Nygren made a motion to recess. Gene Cordes seconded the motion. Motion passed 8:0.*

**RECESS: 8:10 PM – 8:16 PM**

*At 8:16 PM, a motion was made and seconded to return to session. Motion passed 8:0.*

Ms. Anderson read the beginning of the 2017 School Warrant sheet (Deliberative Session and Voting).

Warrant Article 2 (CBA) was read and Susan Levine noted the following benefits of the CBA:

- Gaining additional instructional time (5 minutes to the school day)
- Adding 2 additional days to the teaching year (teacher conference day and professional development day)
- Modifying duties (streamlined bus and lunch coverage)
- Adding 5 additional meetings in year one and 13 in year two (allowing for more collaboration)
- Adding a mentoring program and band/chorus stipends
- Concessions in health insurance plans will offset these items and yield savings
- These will help attract and retain teachers and align better with Sanborn
- If not approved, the health savings will not be realized (cost will remain at a higher level)
- Pay increase: 2.5% in year one; 1.75 in year two: helps bring salaries more current and sets the school up for success

Articles 3 and 4 were read. It was noted that the default budget is \$50,000 less than last year, which is about a \$0.50 reduction in the tax rate for the school.

The MS-27 School Budget Form: Fremont Local School was reviewed. Ms. Anderson noted that the Budget Committee had reviewed all lines of the school budget in the past few months. Suzanne Wicks had concern about the cost of the school newsletters. Dr. Cox-Buteau explained that there is \$2,700 budgeted for the bi-annual newsletters that provide information to the public as to how their tax money is spent in the district. She assured that the newsletters are printed as low-cost as possible. Ms. Brown noted that part of the district's Strategic Plan is to provide good communication to the community and the newsletter is a good way to accomplish this as some residents do not have children or other ways of learning what is going on in the district.

Article 5 was read.

*At 8:45 PM, Gene Cordes made a motion to end the public hearing and adjourn. Mike Nygren seconded the motion. Motion passed 8:0.*

Respectfully submitted by,  
Susan Perry, Secretary