

FREMONT BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING
Ellis School Library, 432 Main Street, Fremont, NH 03044
September 13, 2017
7PM

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Pat Martel called the September 13, 2017 Budget Committee meeting to order at 7:05 PM at the Fremont Public Library. Present were: Budget Committee Vice Chair Pat Martel, Gene Cordes, Mary Jo Holmes, Kathy Miccile, Jennifer Brown and Josh Yokela, Members of the public included School Superintendent Allyn Hutton, School Business Administrator Susan Penny, Town Administrator Heidi Carlson, Committee Secretary Susan Perry, and Buildings and Grounds Supervisor David Perkins (during the tour of the building).

ELLIS SCHOOL TOUR: 7:10-8:00 PM

Ms. Hutton, Ms. Penny, and Mr. Perkins led the Committee members on a tour of the school building to see work that has been done over the summer including areas such as: the boiler room, bathrooms, SAU offices, countertops, and floor tiles.

APPOINTMENTS

Copies of the 2017 Law of Municipal Budgeting documents were distributed for informational purposes. Mr. Yokela mentioned highlighted topics of the NHMA Budget workshop: spending cap/10% rule, no changes in the law this year, revolving funds can be done for general safety, no need to separate bank accounts, zeroing line items, NHPFC.org (a compiled database from all towns); and NHmunicipal.org (a resource).

APPROVE MINUTES FROM MAY 3, 2017 & AUGUST 23, 2017

Pat Martel made a motion to approve the minutes of May 3, 2017 and August 23, 2017 as written. Mary Jo Holmes seconded the motion. Motion passed 6:0.

SCHOOL BUDGET UPDATES/INFORMATION

There was not much movement from the close of the fund balance last year. The final Sanborn number was received this week; Ms. Penny will reconcile. The fund balance will increase a little. The budget process has begun with the Administration. There was discussion about returning fund balances or accumulating them to "flatten out operating expenses." It was clarified that the school does not carry over fund balances; they offset the tax rate. For the Town, fund balance accumulates very little; Boards of Selectmen do not favor keeping balances when they can offset taxes.

TOWN BUDGET UPDATES/INFORMATION

Town budget updates were distributed. There was discussion about what department heads the Committee would like to meet with and they decided on: police (Chief to be at the October 4th meeting), fire, highway and library. There will be a request for another full-time officer as a Warrant Article; the Selectmen have not reviewed this year. Mr. Yokela requested a copy of the FBI police standards that recommends having 2.3 full-time officers; Ms. Carlson will inquire about this. There was brief discussion about possible revamping of the Cemetery Sexton position. The maintenance person was also doing administration work and the request is to hire someone to focus just on administration/recordkeeping. Elections in the 2018 budget include: state primary, state election and town meeting.

The Committee decided to wait to vote on budgets until the next meeting so there will be a full board.

The Town Hall renovations are back on track and should be complete by the end of October 2017. The building was jacked up today and columns were taken out from the basement.

OTHER NEXT MEETING DATE: SEPTEMBER 20, 2017 – Fremont Town Hall, Main Floor Meeting Room

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:40 PM, Gene Cordes made a motion to adjourn. Jennifer Brown seconded the motion. Motion passed 6:0.

Respectfully submitted by,
 Susan Perry, Secretary