

FREMONT BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING
Fremont Town Hall, Fremont, NH 03044
November 15, 2017
7PM

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Mary Anderson called the November 15, 2017 Budget Committee meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:00 PM at the Fremont Town Hall in the new basement meeting room. Present were Budget Committee Chair Mary Anderson, Vice Chair Pat Martel, Gene Cordes, Mary Jo Holmes, Joe Miccile, Kathy Miccile, Josh Yokela, and Jennifer Brown; and Recording Secretary Susan Perry.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: NOVEMBER 8, 2017

Mary Jo Holmes made a motion to approve as amended the minutes of November 8, 2017. Kathy Miccile seconded the motion. Motion passed 7:0:1 (abstention from J. Brown).

SCHOOL BUDGET PRESENTATION

It was clarified in prior minutes of December 16, 2015 that were provided that the math specialist was not recommended in the FY17 budget by a 5:2 vote and that there was no request in the FY18 budget.

There was review of the school budget information that had been requested by the Committee in a condensed budget packet. Spreadsheets were separated thusly:

1. Adopted FY17 and FY18 budget with FY19 proposed budget and FY18 variance
2. FY17 revised, adopted and actual
3. FY17 revised, adopted and variance
4. FY17 adopted, Y-T-D actual and remaining balance.
5. Proposed FY19 budget and default budget (which is \$48,798.06 more than the proposed budget)
6. FY17 Building Improvements/Technology Needs (total \$378,071.66)

Also presented were the FY17 end of year funds:

\$55,904	FY16 Sanborn tuition adjustment
\$27,517	FY17 Unanticipated revenue:
\$529,070	Sanborn budget to invoice, separated into three components:
1.	GMR (used to budget): \$172,030 = different between actual and GMR
2.	Actuals (13 students did not end up going to Sanborn Regional High School): \$280,218
3.	1:1 Para-educator hire needed at Sanborn (2 were budgeted for but only one ended up being necessary): \$76,821
\$98,570	Sanborn end of year adjustments (savings to FY17 budget)
\$93,874	Extra bus budgeted for single start time
\$35,000	Air recovery unit (was tabled)
\$10,754	Repair Plant Building Expenses (was cut back when the oil tank issue occurred)
\$31,319	Health insurance (savings)
\$18,876	Custodial Supplies (cut back due to oil tank issue)
\$26,237	Heating Fuel
\$39,000	Special Education teacher (salary, FICA, NH Retirement savings; new hires and position moved to IDEA grant for partial yr)
\$38,750	Special Education Para-educator (salary, FICA, NH Retirement savings – 1 position not filled and 1 moved to IDEA grant for partial year)
\$8,100	Bus Monitors (were not able to be hired)
\$10,750	Nurse – new hire
\$9,700	<u>Unemployment Premium Holiday (less unemployment claims)</u>
\$1,033,421	TOTAL
\$651,765	Fund Balance Returned (to offset FY18 taxes)
\$378,071.66	<u>FY17 Non-budgeted Expenditures</u>
\$1,029,836.66	TOTAL

The FY19 proposed budget amount is \$12,301,015.38 (.71% increase) + \$172,500 (Food Service Fund) + \$240,000 (Federal Grants Fund) = \$12,713,515.38 (1.42% increase). It was mentioned that the Superintendents of Sanborn High School and Ellis School are in the process of coming to a compromise regarding the unresolved tuition invoices of FY15 and FY16 (about \$75,000 each). The Budget Committee requested more information such as the 78-page report from last year (columns: 3 year prior actual, 2 year prior actual, 1

year prior actual, proposed, and % change). Clarifications included: the current Spanish position is full-time; the Reading Specialist line for last year was lower since the position was filled part-way through the year; there was discussion about the 3.5 FTE custodian positions (based on square footage of the building) and tasks (there was a request for a list of vendors regularly used by the District - Ms. Penny will provide an updated version like the one put in the annual Town reports); teacher evaluators are no longer budgeted since evaluations are done by the full-time Principal and Assistant Principal; \$1 is held in the 1100 function (not the line for the bus monitors, since they are not needed). There was concern about the increase of \$132,000 in the salary line with the decreasing enrollment and there was a request for a list of teachers (FTEs) and positions they are in, what they do (administration also). There was concern about 3% of Ellis school students in out of district placements (14 total). It was noted that efforts are made to place identified students in the least restrictive environment (in their home school, Ellis), and that placements are team decisions.

There was discussion about thoughts of \$400,000 discretionary-type money. Information was dispensed regarding Fremont (2016-17) having the second highest local education tax in NH (\$21.32 per thousand vs. the average \$14). There was concern about enrollment decreasing across the State and that Ellis class sizes are lower than the state average. There was discussion about the initiatives beginning at Ellis for personalized learning that could help by having multi-grade classrooms to accommodate students of all different learning levels; there was concern that this would come with a cost (technology e.g. 1:1 learning with Chromebooks, etc.) There was a request for more information on the future investment of the 1:1 Chromebooks (what the life is, etc.) being used for personalized learning. It was mentioned that small class sizes (due in part to the building's space) may help to retain students over the whole learning spectrum.

Ms. Brown will ask Ms. Penny about the transportation line that includes other buses than the eight. The Committee agreed that the Superintendent, Business Administrator and School Board are doing good work. Bruce White noted that the District has been in disruption for about 5 years and that things can improve now. It was noted that the School Principal has submitted his resignation upon the end of his contract in June; a search will begin soon for a new Principal. It was agreed that stability is important – and that teachers have remained in the District despite all of the turnovers.

TOWN BUDGET UPDATES/INFORMATION

4312 HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Leon Holmes Jr. and Mark Pitkin helped answer questions about the Highway department budget. The Budget Committee's vote on this budget was 3:3:1, so they wanted more feedback to re-vote tonight. There was discussion about the main increase in the operating budget which is the increase of the 32 hour position to a 40 hour position, plus benefits package (in order to retain good help to provide stable work, backup for sick/vacation days of Mr. Holmes, and safety). Mr. Holmes noted that surrounding towns have up to 6 Highway employees and he wanted to have healthy workers (thus, with benefits) in order to be the most productive on the job. It was noted that \$14,000 was transferred from the p/t summer help line to the f/t line (so the salary was up really about \$10,000). There are some p/t wages left if needed for summer and winter help. Mr. Holmes noted that the winter equipment hire line was reduced and that the department got a good deal on a truck which will help but will also cost (there are not as many people willing to do snow removal, etc. as there used to be). It costs \$70/hour to hire a truck with operator and up to 250 hours/year is required for snow removal. Mr. Holmes mentioned that he added a line to the budget at about \$25/hour for flagging (he knows a retired State police officer and Fremont resident to help with flagging). It was mentioned that the School Superintendent commended Mr. Holmes for his help deciding to close school or not during the recent storm.

Mary Jo Holmes made a motion to recommend the Board of Selectmen's recommendation of \$575,079. Jennifer Brown seconded the motion. Motion passed: 5:2:1 (J. Yokela, J. Miccile):1 (abstention from M. Holmes).

4155 PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION

Joe Miccile made a motion to recommend the Board of Selectmen's recommendation of \$362,667. Mary Jo Holmes seconded the motion. Motion passed 7:1 (J. Yokela).

Mr. Cordes will ask Ms. Carlson for a budget update at the next meeting.

WARRANT ARTICLES

ARTICLE G: FUNDING HIGHWAY PAVING AND IMPROVEMENTS TO BEEDE HILL ROAD (\$213,094)

Gene Cordes made a motion to recommend article G: Funding Highway Paving and Improvements to Beede Hill Road (\$213,094). Pat Martel seconded the motion. Motion passed 8:0.

ARTICLE H: FUNDING HIGHWAY PAVING AND IMPROVEMENTS TO RED BROOK ROAD (\$162,710)

Josh Yokela made a motion to recommend article H: Funding Highway Paving and Improvements to Red Brook Road (\$162,710). Jennifer Brown seconded the motion. Motion passed 5:3 (M. Holmes, K. Miccile, M. Anderson)

ARTICLE K: CONTRIBUTION TO THE HISTORIC MUSEUM CAPITAL RESERVE FUND (\$15,000) - **HOLD** to see if Selectmen are agents of this fund.

ARTICLE L: CONTRIBUTION TO THE HIGHWAY WINTER MAINTENANCE EXPENDABLE TOWN TRUST FUND - **HOLD** for Selectmen vote.

ARTICLE O: ONE SKY COMMUNITY SERVICES (\$2,000)

Mary Jo Holmes made a motion to recommend Article O: One Sky Community Services (\$2,000). Gene Cordes seconded the motion. Motion passed 7:1 (J. Yokela)

It is noted that the Selectmen recommended the "all veteran" tax credit article.

NEXT MEETING DATE: NOVEMBER 29, 2017 – at Fremont Town Hall, basement meeting room.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:13 PM, Jennifer Brown made a motion to adjourn. Joe Miccile seconded the motion. Motion passed 8:0.

Respectfully submitted by,
Susan Perry, Secretary