

**FREMONT BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Fremont Town Hall, Fremont, NH 03044**  
**December 13, 2017**  
**7PM**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Mary Anderson called the December 13, 2017 Budget Committee meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:00 PM at the Fremont Town Hall. 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. Also present were: Allyn Hutton, Susan Penny, Greg Fraize and Susan Perry.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES: DECEMBER 6, 2017**

*Jennifer Brown made a motion to approve as amended the minutes of December 6, 2017. Mary Jo Holmes seconded the motion. Motion passed 8:0.*

**SCHOOL BUDGET UPDATES/INFORMATION**

The School Board met last week to discuss the Budget Committee’s request to reduce the proposed budget to \$12 million (the targeted cut would be \$301,000). The Board voted to cut \$307,910.67 to bring the new budget to \$11,993,104.71.

Special Education	\$10,000	Reduce contracted (related) services/administrative hours
Regular Ed – Computer Software	\$5,000	Go Guardian software not needed – computers won’t go home with students
Regular Ed – Computer Equipment	\$15,000	Slow down on purchasing Chomebooks
Regular Ed – Salaries- Retiree	\$90,630	Attrition (at least one retiree is definite – move current staff to fill that position)
Regular Ed – Salaries – Math Specialist	\$87,280.67	Position will be reassigned from within (Board felt the position is important)
Sanborn Tuition Line – Reg Ed	\$100,000	Anticipate lower enrollment/adjustments – use Trust Fund if needed

Reducing the tuition line is a bit of a gamble that not every child that could go to Sanborn will go; otherwise, there will be adjustments made at the end of the year. Ms. Penny had looked at the history of payments made to Sanborn since the beginning of the contract as a basis for the proposed \$100,000 reduction in the tuition line. This would help budget more conservatively and rely on the trust fund if necessary. The current balance in the trust fund is \$200,500. The personnel would be brought down to 31.5 FTEs and there will be some restructuring at grade level teams with current staff. The Sanborn GMR is due Friday, with the actual rate being available in April. To this date, despite correspondence from Fremont, the SAU has not yet received a bill from Sanborn High School. Normally, tuition due dates are: October 15<sup>th</sup>, December 15<sup>th</sup>, March 15<sup>th</sup> and June 15<sup>th</sup>. The balance sheet as of November 30, 2017 had been mailed to Committee members and was reviewed. Ms. Penny gave the following update: the first local district assessment is \$8,937,694.70; there is a reduction of about \$25,000 in revenue. It was reported that the District has been approved for a (50% matching) security infrastructure grant and it will be moving forward.

Mr. Yokela felt that when the \$300,000 reduction was requested of the District, it was addressing a separate issue; he felt that money should have been reduced from Ellis rather than taken out of the Sanborn tuition line (reducing by eliminating overages from Sanborn). There was discussion about the Budget Committee’s decision to request a school budget bottom line of \$12million (factoring the overage from last year and 3% increases) and that effort was made by the School Board to listen to the request and reduce the budget without affecting student education directly. The budget is down 1.8% from last year’s budget that was down as well. Mrs. Hutton clarified that the appropriations would not come from taxpayers and effort is being made to stop asking taxpayers for money for Sanborn tuition that might not be needed. Ms. Anderson noted that three of the six areas of large reductions were addressed by the Budget Committee and it was understood that the Superintendent was new this year and has asked for time to know the budget. It was noted that contracted services may be able to combine in groups vs. individually and that student needs would be met. There was discussion about the substitute line, contracting out psychological services, and OT/PT test evaluations for contracted services: some services have been shifted/broken down differently. It was clarified that the \$5,000 allotment for technology consultant services covers training/GovConnect/etc.

There was a review of the Warrant Articles that were approved by the School Board and will be reviewed by the DOE:

<u>TRUST FUND</u>	<u>CURRENT BALANCE</u>	<u>FY19</u>
Tuition Trust Fund	\$200,500	\$100,000
Maintenance Trust Fund	\$59,000	\$50,000
Technology Trust Fund	\$0	\$25,000
Spec. Educ. Trust Fund	\$0	\$100,000

A “conservative cushion” for the Sanborn tuition expendable trust fund and for the Special Education expendable trust fund (for unanticipated Special education needs in Ellis School) is \$300,000. Each of the articles should be listed as “expendable” trust funds. The Technology expendable trust fund would support hardware and network/server updates (which is nearing end of life). Though some Committee members felt a cap should be added to the article language, it is not necessary to do so.

It was decided to not meet on December 20<sup>th</sup> which is Ms. Anderson’s birthday and instead voted (8-0) to meet on December 27<sup>th</sup> (to see what the Sanborn GMR is, to see if the Fremont SAU received tuition bills yet, and to see if the DRA approved the Warrant Article language). Ms. Brown noted that the School Board had voted to not call another special meeting to entertain further cuts since the reduced budget is what they felt was thoughtful and necessary. The Budget Committee could put forward a different amount and see what happens at Deliberative Session. There was mutual acknowledgement of the collaboration made by both committees in the budget process while taking into account the concerns of all involved, including taxpayers.

**TOWN BUDGETS**

There was discussion about the town-wide Longevity Policy that was emailed from Ms. Carlson: for full-time (40-hours) year-round employees:

<u>Years of Service</u>	<u>Award</u>
5 to 10	\$500
11 to 15	\$1,000
16-20	\$1,500
Over 20	\$2,000

The one- time stipend will be paid annually following the anniversary date and successful evaluation. Part-time employees (at least 20 hours or more a week permanently) shall be paid at 50% of the full time employee’s allotment. This is a way to recognize longevity and thanking personnel for dedication and historical knowledge.

*Mary Jo Holmes made a motion to recommend the Board of Selectmen’s recommendation of \$368,917 (including longevity stipend of \$6,250). Jennifer Brown seconded the motion. Motion passed 8:0.*

*Gene Cordes made a motion to recommend \$2,962,671 in the 4155 Personnel Administration budget line. Mary Jo Holmes seconded the motion. Motion passed 8:0.*

There was review of the current expense revenue report which will be updated.

Mr. Cordes announced the Wreaths of Remembrance Ceremony that will take place on December 16<sup>th</sup> at noon at the Veterans Memorial Monument in front of the Fremont Town Hall. This will be part of a day of nation-wide ceremonies that remember and honor our veterans.

Ms. Anderson thanked everyone for their work this budget season and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

**NEXT MEETING DATE: DECEMBER 13, 2017**

**ADJOURNMENT**

*At 8:30 PM, Mary Jo Holmes made a motion to adjourn. Gene Cordes seconded the motion. Motion passed 8:0.*

Respectfully submitted by,

Susan Perry, Secretary