

The meeting got underway at 6:30 pm at the Fremont Town Hall. Present were members Jack Downing, Steve Harms, Leon Holmes Jr, Mark Pitkin and Greta St Germain.

1. Members reviewed minutes for the past three meetings, including those of 2 August, 30 August, and 27 September 2010. Minutes of 02 August 2010 were approved by a vote of 4-0-1 with Holmes Jr abstaining as he was not at that meeting. Minutes of 30 August 2010 were approved by a vote of 5-0; and minutes of 27 September 2010 were approved by a vote of 4-0-1 with Holmes Jr abstaining as he was not at the meeting.

2. Heidi Carlson had completed a preliminary estimate of the costs of equipment rental versus purchase to include the costs for labor, operation and maintenance. This data was reviewed and discussed. The Committee agrees that it will be more cost-effective in the long run for the Town to own its own equipment. Discussion continued to include the thought that the Committee would like to see the Road Agent salary changed to reflect a change in work duties, and the fact that the Road Agent would be more of an operator and supervisor from the past of a contracted vendor. The Road Agent will need to be more hands on, and the job description would also likely change. It is clear that the new Road Agent does not work at the same capacity as the previous Road Agent did. By changing his salary he would be required to be here more often, and would likely change the structure.

The Committee talked about a potential piece of equipment purchase being proposed in 2012. The Committee feels that the priority in 2011 is on the road work funding and getting some repair and improvement work done.

The Committee discussed purchase of a six wheel dump truck. At some point, all would like to see the Town own its own, realizing this is still several years away due to the economy.

3. Carlson had left copies of the budget proposal for 2011 for all to review. This includes current expenditures and the recommendations made by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee. There was discussion about any changes to Town Officials salaries (including a change for the Road Agent) being placed on a warrant article, which has been recent practice.

Reminders of the following important dates were discussed:

Public Budget Hearing - Tuesday January 11, 2011 at 7:30 pm at the Town Hall

Snow Date: Wednesday January 12, 2011

Deliberative Session – Tuesday February 8, 2011 at 7:00 pm at Ellis School

Snow Date: Wednesday February 9, 2011

Voting – Tuesday March 8, 2011 at the Safety Complex. Polls open 7:00 am to 8:00 pm

Town Reports will be available for pickup on Monday February 28, 2011

St Germain received a phone call from Wayne Robinson declining the invitation to come to Fremont tonight due to another commitment, but will plan to be at the meeting on November 29, 2010. He will share some ideas about how the conversion process (rented equipment to town-owned); as well as overall operations for the Brentwood Highway Department have gone.

4. Pitkin stated that the Highway Snow Plow and Spreader Contracts are completed with most of the Town's vendors.

5. There was discussion about the report of the Committee's activity for inclusion in the Annual Report for 2010. This is due by the first week of January to the Selectmen's Office. Topics thus far for the year in review include studying the options for renting versus purchase of a backhoe, budget restrictions, future construction of a pole barn, the Town's need for road repairs, renovations to the current shed, and setting up a Capital Improvement plan for replacement and needed new equipment. St Germain offered to start a draft for circulation to the members.
6. The next meeting date of Monday November 29, 2010 was confirmed and will be posted.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Notes taken by Greta St Germain and typed by Heidi Carlson.