

**FREMONT BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Fremont Town Hall**  
**295 Main Street**  
**Fremont, NH 03044**  
**April 16, 2014**  
**7:00 PM**

**I CALL TO ORDER**

*Mike Nygren called the April 16, 2014 Budget Committee meeting to order at 7:02 PM on the main floor of Fremont Town Hall.*

Present were: Mike Nygren, Pat Martel, Gene Cordes, Tyra Vargas, Neal Janvrin, Mark Kidd, Mary Anderson, Heidi Carlson and Greg Fraize (arriving at 7:20 PM).

**II. APPOINTMENTS/INTRODUCTIONS**

*Neal Janvrin made a motion to recommend Mike Nygren as Budget Committee Chair. Mike Nygren seconded the motion. Motion passed 7:0.*

*Gene Cordes made a motion to recommend Pat Martel as Budget Committee Vice Chair. Mary Anderson seconded the motion. Motion passed 7:0.*

**III. NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. Carlson would get detailed end-of-year budget reports for the new Budget Committee members. She mentioned that 5 Warrant Articles were passed, including mosquito control, SCBAs, revolving funds, \$5,000 for the 250th Anniversary, the bridge capital reserve and the \$10,000 for Town buildings. She said that tax bills should be ready by mid May. She remarked that this was a tough winter so the Highway Department budget was rough.

Ms. Anderson asked why there was a remaining balance of 100% for Ambulance, which had not been spent. Ms. Carlson would correct some inaccuracies in the Percent Remaining column of the budget report.

Ms. Anderson was concerned about getting budget information from the school the night of Budget Committee meetings. Mr. Nygren said he would ask the Superintendent to submit the information before meetings.

There was discussion about how to schedule Budget Committee meetings and whether the Committee should meet with Department Heads and do its own budget apart from the Selectmen. Mr. Nygren noted that often in the past the Budget Committee agreed with most of the Selectmen's recommendations and could approve a number of budgets in one meeting. He said that the Budget Committee was supposed to make recommendations separate from the Selectmen (rather than see presented figures). In this way, the number of Budget Committee meetings could be reduced. Ms. Carlson stated that she asks Department Heads to submit their budgets by August 1.

The Committee decided to meet again on August 20, 2014 and August 27, 2014 at 7 PM to review any budget information and discuss the schedule moving forward (either every Wednesday or every other Wednesday).

Mr. Fraize, having just come from the joint Board meeting of the Fremont and Sanborn School Boards, said he would ask Susan Penny to send electronic copies of the budget monthly.

Mr. Cordes informed new members that any questions could be sent to Ms. Carlson and cc'd to the other members and Mr. Fraize for the School Board to address. Ms. Carlson explained the Right to Know Law.

Ms. Carlson mentioned that there was an interest in televising bulletins and meetings via Ch. 22 Cable Access to inform people of goings-on in Town.

**IV. OLD BUSINESS****A. REVIEW MINUTES FROM MEETING OF JANUARY 8, 2014**

Mr. Nygren was concerned that the vote that passed regarding a 4% raise for Town employees that were not on a pay schedule, such as the Police Department, was not upheld. Mr. Cordes said that at the Selectmen's meeting two weeks ago, the Selectmen voted a 2% cost of living raise effective the next payroll for employees pursuant to the Budget Committee's recommendation (This does not include Library or uniformed police officers). They left the balance of funds there to revisit as they did evaluations. Mr. Nygren thought this was contrary to the vote that was taken. Mr. Cordes replied that there was not enough money to do the 4% raise when considering the eligible employees and other employee costs such as FICA; and that 2% was even with inflation. He said that there should be a relationship between the 4% raise and evaluations, so they agreed to 2%, after figuring FICA, etc. Ms. Anderson said there was a disparity between the 5% raise for the Police Department and the 2% raise for others. Mr. Cordes said that the Police Department were under-compensated and a matrix had been adopted a few years ago; Mr. Nygren agreed and noted that others were as well. Mr. Nygren was concerned that votes that were taken would not be upheld.

**B. REVIEW E-MAIL RE. W.A. 13 VOTED ON DECEMBER 18, 2013**

Mr. Nygren was concerned that the Budget Committee did not vote to remove W.A. 13 (Capital Reserve Fund) from the ballot and instead be funded by un-expended money from the 2013 Town Budget. Ms. Carlson noted that the Selectmen could remove an Article up until the time the Warrant was posted. Mr. Cordes reasoned that the vote was effective by the Public Hearing process. Mr. Nygren felt that the Budget Committee should have re-opened it, made a motion and re-voted, rather than just removing the Warrant. He said this was procedural.

**C. APPROVAL OF JANUARY 15, 2014 MINUTES**

*Gene Cordes made a motion to approve the minutes of January 15, 2014 as written. Mike Nygren seconded the motion. Motion passed 5:0:3*

**V. OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Fraize gave school updates:

- The 2012-13 audit was presented at the last School Board meeting. Between 2011-12 and 2012-13, about \$270,000 would be returned to the taxpayers and should make the tax rate even for the coming year.
- Sanborn's final GMR was 6.6% (a difference of about \$290,000). Ms. Anderson was concerned that the school could spend that. Mr. Fraize said that there was talk about putting money into a contingency fund. Mr. Nygren noted there were about 12 more years left in the contract with Sanborn Regional High School. Mr. Fraize mentioned that a Joint Committee would be created between Sanborn and Fremont to look at the contract and consider adjustments. The Committee was charged to have information back by October 1, 2014. Mr. Fraize said that some cuts made by the Budget Committee needed to be restored because they were contractual. At the next School Board meeting, Ms. Penny would have a breakdown of where items were coming from and where they were being put in the budget. Two teaching positions were cut, including the one recommended by the Budget Committee. Mr. Fraize said that the Superintendent felt this was adequate based on the kindergarten/first grade enrollment as of now. However, if enrollment increased by the Fall, a position might need to be restored. By law, teachers had to know by April 15 if their contracts were being renewed.

Mr. Cordes expressed concern that it took more than a year for the School Board to receive an audit. Mr. Fraize would ask Ms. Penny to draft an explanation. Ms. Anderson, speaking as a Fremont resident and taxpayer, agreed that this was not acceptable. She mentioned that the cost per pupil was done at the Department of Education and wondered how information was reported to the State when it took 2 years to get the 2011-12 audit.

Ms. Anderson felt that the issue was that voters took into account what was recommended and she mentioned that the Town got nothing. She said that the School Board had a responsibility to have the audit done within 120 days of the close of the year. This, she said, helped with Town budgeting also and that this was affected when outcomes were unknown for two school years. Mr. Cordes agreed that the School Board should be concerned that it took so long and that the Board needed to know where they were standing (in the budget process). Mr. Fraize noted that the School Board was not sitting on anything.

*Gene Cordes made a motion to request from the Superintendent to have an understanding from the timeline when the year was closed and when the 2011-12 audit was completed, and if it was beyond 120 days, he asked for a detailed explanation. Mike Nygren seconded the motion. Motion passed 8:0.*

**VI. NEXT MEETING DATE/S: August 20 and 27, 2014**

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

*At 8:07 PM, Mark Kidd made a motion to adjourn. Gene Cordes seconded the motion. Motion passed 8:0.*

Respectfully submitted by,  
Susan Perry,  
Budget Committee Secretary