

APPROVED 01/28/2010

The Selectmen's meeting came to order at 6:10 pm in the Selectmen's Office at the Fremont Town Hall. Present were Selectmen Donald Gates Jr and Greta St Germain; and Town Administrator Heidi Carlson. Members of the Budget Committee began arriving at approximately 6:10 pm and were in and out of the meeting room.

Selectmen and Budget Committee members were advised that no new petition articles were received by the Selectmen's Office by the 4:00 pm deadline today.

Selectmen reviewed an email from Jeane Samms (NH DRA) for Warrant updates to include that the Board and Budget Committee do need to make recommendations with tally votes recorded, on every warrant article aside from election of officers and the zoning changes.

Selectmen began by reviewing the articles in the 2010 Warrant which did not yet contain a Selectmen's recommendation. This included the following articles, with recommendations made and any discussion:

ARTICLE 4: Shall the Town of Fremont raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling \$2,440,256? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$2,552,072, which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Fremont or by law or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only.

Note: This operating budget warrant article does not include appropriations contained in ANY other warrant articles.

There was discussion about including the Selectmen's recommended number as well, but they felt it would be too confusing. St Germain moved to recommend this article. Gates seconded and the vote was approved 2-0.

ARTICLE 16: To see if the Town will vote to adopt the provisions of NH RSA 36-A:4-a, I (b) to authorize the Conservation Commission to expend funds for contributions to qualified organizations for the purchase of property interests, or facilitating transactions related thereto, where the property interest is to be held by the qualified organization and the Town will retain no interest in the property.

Gates moved to recommend this article. St Germain seconded and the vote was approved 2-0.

ARTICLE 17: To see if the Town will vote to adopt the provisions of NH RSA 72:70 for the property tax exemption on real property equipped with wood heating energy systems, which exemption shall be in an amount equal to one hundred percent (100%) of the assessed value of the wood heating energy systems in accordance with NH RSA 72:69, 72:27, 72:33, 72:34; and 72:34-a.

Gates moved to recommend this article. St Germain seconded and the vote was approved 2-0.

ARTICLE 18: To see if the Town will vote to accept deeded title to Risloves Way (approximately 2,660 feet) as designated on Plans # D-31622 and D-32813 from Allan Rislove, with a maintenance bond to be held by the Town in the amount of \$50,000 in accordance with Fremont Subdivision Regulations.

St Germain moved to recommend this article. Gates seconded and the vote was approved 2-0.

ARTICLE 19: To see if the Town will vote to accept deeded title to Moose Meadow (approximately 1,150 feet) as designated on Plan # D-34369 from Shawn and Kim Senter, with a maintenance bond to be held by the Town in the amount of \$25,000 in accordance with Fremont Subdivision Regulations. The Selectmen recommend this article 2-0. The Budget Committee recommends this article 8-0. (Majority vote required.)

St Germain moved to recommend this article. Gates seconded and the vote was approved 2-0.

ARTICLE 20: To see if the Town will vote to delegate to the Board of Selectmen the authority to acceptance dedicated streets. A public hearing shall be held on the proposed acceptance prior to taking action. This authority shall be pursuant to NH RSA 674:40-a.

Jeane Samms (NH DRA) had provided input on this article to update/correct the article designating the Selectmen with authority to accept roads in accord with NH RSA 674:40-a. The Statute was referenced and the wording updated to what is shown above.

Gates moved to recommend this article. St Germain seconded and the vote was approved 2-0. Previously the Board had voted 3-0 in support of this article.

ARTICLE 21: To see if the Town will vote to appoint the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from the Property Reassessment Capital Reserve Fund previously established in 1995.

Gates moved to recommend this article. St Germain seconded and the vote was approved 2-0.

ARTICLE 22: To see if the Town will vote to appoint the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from the Town Hall Renovations Capital Reserve Fund previously established in 2006.

This article was added new to be used in the event that the current grant-writing endeavors are successful. Thom Roy and the Energy Committee are filing a Notice of Intent related to additional stimulus money that is becoming available for energy initiatives. The thought is that the Town may have a better opportunity to get a grant if there is some Town money also available to help fund the project. Roy is planning to submit an application for the renovations to the Town Hall, including the geothermal heating system.

Gates moved to recommend this article. St Germain seconded and the vote was approved 2-0.

ARTICLE 23: By Petition: To see if the Town will vote to approve the following resolution to be forwarded to our State Representatives, our State Senator, the Speaker of the House and the Senate President.

Resolved: The citizens of New Hampshire should be allowed to vote on an amendment to the New Hampshire Constitution that defines "marriage."

Selectmen discussed this article. No further information had been provided by the Petitioner. The Board felt that it was fine to resolve to allow the citizens to vote on a change to the NH Constitution. The article does not indicate what the definition of marriage should be, so that would also be for debate in the future.

St Germain moved to recommend the article. Gates seconded and the vote was approved 2-0.

ARTICLE 24: By Petition: Are you in favor of combining the position of Tax Collector and Town Clerk in accordance with RSA 41:45-a, thereby creating a new office of Town Clerk-Tax Collector to be held by one individual and to have the term of office be 3 years, with a proposed combined salary of \$40,000.00. If approved an article shall be placed on the ballot at the next annual meeting to choose a Town Clerk-Tax Collector.

St Germain moved to recommend the article. Gates seconded and the vote was approved 2-0.

Selectmen participated in the Public Hearing and Budget Committee meeting from approximately 7:15 pm until it ended at approximately 9:45 pm.

At the end of the evening, Selectmen signed the NH DRA Form MS7D (Default budget form) for 2010, to be posted with the Warrant and 2010 Form MS7.

Copies of the beginning of the "Warrant Edition" of the Newsletter were circulated for members to read. A final review will take place on Thursday night January 14, 2010.

With no further business, the Board adjourned at the conclusion of the Budget Committee meeting at approximately 9:45 pm.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday January 14, 2010.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Carlson
Town Administrator