

Approved 12/31/2020

I. CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 6:32 pm in the basement meeting room at the Fremont Town Hall. Present were Selectmen Gene Cordes, Neal Janvrin, Roger Barham and Town Administrator Heidi Carlson. All rose for the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting tonight is a live broadcast by Bill Millios from FCTV. A Teams virtual meeting alternative was also available. No one joined via Teams.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. All Town services are available virtually, and many things can also be done by appointment. Please review the most up to date information on the home page of the Town website. Please continue to remember social distancing. Please call or email us to get the services you need.

If viewers have questions during this meeting, please send an email to hcarlson@fremont.nh.gov and we will try and get it answered during the course of the evening.

2. All Town Offices will be closed December 24 and 25 for the Christmas holiday and January 1 for New Years Day. During both of these holiday weeks, only FRIDAY trash collections are off. Thursday will be collected on Thursday and Friday will be collected on Saturday.

3. Santa will be escorted around Fremont by the Public Safety Departments this Saturday afternoon December 19th. Look for the lights and listen for the sirens!

4. Trash collections were delayed due to the storm. Thursday pickup will be on Friday and Friday pickup will be on Saturday this week.

5. Wreath's Across America is not officially happening due to Covid-19, but not forgotten. The Memorial Wreath has been placed in front of the War Monument at the Town Hall.

III. LIAISON REPORTS

FCTV Committee 12/14/2020: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Fraize in attendance Bill Millios, Jose Hernandez, Neal Janvrin with Todd O'Malley attending remotely. There was positive feedback concerning the installation of the CASTUS server which is now fully operational. We now have the ability to broadcast two meetings live. Training continues and is part of the purchase package for one year. We now have the ability to live stream meetings on channels 13 and 22. Bill, Jose and Greg will be trained for this option. This will give the areas of town that are on a different cable feed to observe live. There was a discussion concerning the ability to broadcast live from the School with the new equipment, and a test will be scheduled in the near future. It was the feeling of the Committee that there would not be a problem.

There was a discussion about videos be done by the Students at Sanborn Regional High School concerning the Covid-19 Pandemic and the offer to make them available to be run on our system. It received a positive response from the Committee. There was a discussion concerning the Santa Parade and the possibility of taping it for rebroadcast.

The next FCTV Committee meeting will be held Monday January 18, 2021 at 6:00 pm.

Planning Board 12/16/2020: Barham reported on the Planning Board meeting. There were two agenda items:

1. Public Hearing on Parcel 01-082 Scribner Road Open Space Preservation that was approved with conditions.

Approved 12/31/2020

2. Parcel 03-150 at 225 Main Street for a Conditional Use Permit and minor Site Plan Review for plumbing and heating business. This was also conditionally approved.

Budget Committee 12/16/2020: Cordes said they recommended some of the proposed Warrant Articles along with the amended Police Department their final budget line with unanimous votes. Their next meeting is January 6th to wrap up everything for the Public Hearing which will be held on January 13, 2021. This meeting had some members attending virtually and others in person at the Town Hall with everyone wearing masks.

No Ballfield Ramp update from Kenneth Adams as of today.

EMD Highlights for the 12/16/2020 call: Submitted by EMD Mark DeVeber: The primary speakers were Perry Plummer, and LT Torane Hull (USPHS) - CDC liaison.

1. The fixed sites for vaccination will be run by the State manned with National guard. There will be the capability for mobile vaccination sites, but the preferred method is for most of us to funnel through the fixed site.
2. The list that we will be sending into the state should only include Name and email of the first responder. Our members need to have an email that is specific to them to enable them to receive information from VAMS. This list will be used to register personnel for the VAMS portal. VAMS is a closed software system run by the CDC. This is the scheduling system used for vaccination. The takeaway here is that the list we provide will allow for the registration process (VAMS) then VAMS will be reaching out to the individual through email. More to follow on this.
3. It is anticipated that the earliest that vaccinations will be available for First responders in not earlier than December 26, 2020.
4. There is a two-hour call scheduled for tomorrow on this topic.

All of the Town's annual fire alarm systems maintenance was completed this week (Library, Town Hall, Safety Complex).

DES Weekly Drought Update: According to the [U.S. Drought Monitor map](#) released today, drought conditions have slightly expanded. Since last week, there has been minor expansion of "moderate drought" (D1) in Sullivan County. Also, "abnormally dry" conditions have slightly expanded further through Grafton County and contracted in southern Cheshire and Hillsborough Counties. There has been no change to the areas in the southeast experiencing "severe drought" (D2). An updated U.S. Seasonal Drought outlook indicates that the "severe drought" in this area is likely to improve, but persist through the end of March, and ameliorate in all other areas of the state. According to the NH Groundwater Monitoring network, groundwater levels have stopped dropping across the State, and are in fact rising in most areas. However, all well levels remain below normal except for two, a dug well in New London and an overburden well in Barnstead, which have recovered. The snow today is predicted to fall the most right where we need it. Six to twelve inches is expected to accumulate from the southern Lakes Region south (6-12"), with even more snow to be received (10-18+") in lower Merrimack Valley from Concord south and close to the coast.

While conditions are trending in the right direction, it is advised to monitor conditions carefully and continue to promote [indoor water saving tips](#). Also, while precipitation deficits are the greatest in the southeast, long term precipitation deficits remain throughout the entire state. As the three-month precipitation outlook indicates equal chances of above, below, and near normal precipitation, outlooks beyond three-months are not very reliable, and La Nina is likely to bring warmer temperatures; it is

difficult to determine what the winter has in store for the state in terms of precipitation amounts and types. The best way to address uncertainty is to make sure you are prepared. A multi-year drought is very possible. Drought Guidance for Municipalities and Drought Guidance for Community Water Systems is available on the [Drought Management webpage](#). Community water systems should also consider conducting water audits to evaluate and address water losses, complete leak detection surveys, ensure emergency connections are operational, and assess the need for backup sources or emergency connections.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the December 10, 2020 and December 15, 2020 minutes as written was made by Barham and seconded by Janvrin with unanimous approval 3-0.

V. SCHEDULED AGENDA ITEMS - times subject to change based on the flow of the meeting

None

VI. OLD BUSINESS

1. Relative to the request from Bill and Linda Fletch regarding an exception to the Weight Limit Ordinance, Barham feels there is no merit with regards to this. He does not feel it is a hardship to go through Epping and should address his needs with their Board. The engineer hired by the Town of Fremont reported that our roads are not suitable for this purpose, and all of the heavy trucking is coming from Epping businesses. If our residents were to pay for the road upgrades, to bring it to commercial standards, then we could look at bonding to maintain that level of upgrade. Outside of that, given the condition the road is already in, the bonding does nothing.

Cordes feels that using new routes is not prohibitive. Janvrin feels if Rogers and Shirkin Roads were bonded, it then becomes a challenge on how to prove which trucks did the damage. He feels that Epping businesses should be trucked on Epping roads.

No final response letter is ready yet to the Epping resident complaining about traffic on Jenness Road. Carlson was preparing a draft and Barham feels there isn't merit, and the Epping resident is confused with the zoning of the areas involved. Carlson and Barham will work on a draft for Board review.

2. Budgets: Selectmen reviewed the current budget summary expense sheet. Cordes asked if any allowance had yet been made in the expense report for today's storm, and it has not. That will surely overspend the Highway Department budget.

Carlson asked the Board to set a date for the final meeting of the year as we do need to get together for all of the end of year decisions. Tentatively Thursday December 31, 2020 at 4:00 pm was set and all will confirm they can clear their schedules.

Nothing has been received yet from Dan Tatem to update the cost for the Highway 10-year engineering plan, which may still be considered for a Warrant Article.

Carlson noted that the HVAC installation is nearly complete except to issue the final inspection, electrical work save for two follow-up items is also complete.

3. The front entry vestibule was installed on Wednesday and it came out very good.

Approved 12/31/2020

4. Follow-up was received from Town Counsel relative to Keith Stanton's Warrant Article proposal from last week relative to renaming of the Board of Selectmen. Selectmen asked for the response to be forwarded to Stanton as well as the Board's preference for the term "Select Board" if the petitioners want to propose a change.

5. Review process again for next week Payroll / AP: It was confirmed that last week's meeting approved that Carlson and one Selectman or two Selectmen can approve the manifests. Copies can be sent out to the Board by Wednesday morning sometime. Carlson will send an email to them when ready.

6. Earlier this week the Board met to hold a Public Hearing on the Emergency Mask Ordinance. Janvrin had a redraft based on the first meeting, of two different ordinances. One was for a mask requirement only at Town buildings/properties and one that had references to other building such as stores, etc.

Cordes asked Carlson her opinion on risks as a first responder as well as someone who spends a lot of time at the Town Hall. Of the two proposals, Carlson feels the one dealing with Town properties is adequate. She didn't think the Board wanted to supersede the Governor's Orders and does not believe we have the staff to be "mask police" nor do we want to be in this position for a Town-wide Ordinance. In a perfect world we would/could all wear a mask as the best protection against the spread of the virus according to experts. We are short staffed as it is. Carlson stated she believes that everyone wearing a mask will help over the next few difficult months, but doesn't want to have staff engaging in complaints about other facilities and locations in town.

Cordes feels it should be stated the way it needs to be and the Ordinance can be tweaked as needed. Barham feels comfortable to invoke the Ordinance on Town property which the Board is in control of. All stressed that the motivation of this ordinance is the number of meetings going on that can get crowded, and some do not feel safe attending.

This also covers town employees, and also those working in a vehicle without six foot distancing. Carlson is concerned about the penalty stiffness of the fines, but the Board was okay with this process. Carlson felt that this is another step the Town can take to get through this virus. Janvrin moved to adopt the Emergency Mask Ordinance Related to COVID-19 Pandemic with an effective date of January 4, 2021. This will allow for proper time for notification and postings. Barham seconded and the vote was unanimous 3-0.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

1. Consent Agenda Items

- a. Sign return letter to John Owens accepting his resignation dated 12/10/2020.
- b. Accounts Payable Manifest \$688,020.48 (\$600,000 Fremont School District).
- c. PO 2020-031 to encumber \$3,000 for electrical work and site work for the new shed on order for the Leavitt Cemetery. This had been voted by the Cemetery Trustees at their last meeting and there are funds remaining to do this work.
- d. PO 2020-032 and PO 2020-032A to encumber a total of \$7,761.37 as the balance of funds needed to purchase Safety Complex shed and the electrical and site work to install it. A 25% deposit check will be sent to Reeds Ferry with the PO and a letter outlining the status of the order.
- e. FCTV Revolving Fund Manifest 2020-26 in the amount of \$119.70 to Comcast to cover the past six months of the static IP address for the FCTV connection.
- f. Police Department PO 20-3 to Fortin Storage in the amount of \$2,800 for a 20' storage container for use at the range on Danville Road.
- g. PO 2020-033 in the amount of \$1,252.89 to Amazon (using the Town credit card) for the purchase of 3 backpack sprayer fogger backpacks and the associated liquid concentrate and safety masks

Approved 12/31/2020

to be used for disinfecting at each of the three buildings (Complex, Town Hall, Library) where majority of interior work takes place.

h. PO 2020-034 in the amount of \$1,950.00 to Blue Sky Landscaping LLC to do the fall clean-ups at Village and Leavitt Cemeteries (next spring) as they did not get to us before snowfall this year.

After review of all the above Consent Agenda items, a motion to approve and sign was made by Barham. Janvrin seconded and there was unanimous approval 3-0.

2. Review the folder of incoming correspondence included: Email from Town Counsel on the Warrant Article proposal renaming the Board; resident on discussion on the regional project currently under consideration in Kingston (undisclosed distribution center); RPC letter from Jen Rowden on the Regional Project (the Planning Board is monitoring this); resident Beede Hill truck traffic; Janvrin commented on this complaint he was complimenting the Police Department and enforcing this; legal notices for an upcoming Planning Board Public Hearing for a Conditional Use Permit; correspondence from Building Inspector to a Danville road owner regarding commercial property usage.

3. The Board reviewed the January 2021 Newsletter. A motion to approve as amended was made by Janvrin and seconded by Barham with unanimous approval 3-0.

VIII. WORKS IN PROGRESS

1. We are working on year-end preparations. Town Report memo went out on Monday to boards and departments. The Board was asked to consider their Annual Report as well as the cover photo, dedication and appreciation pages.

At 7:37 pm with no further business to come before the Board, Janvrin moved to adjourn the meeting. Barham seconded with unanimous approval 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Nygren
Selectmen's Administrative Assistant