

I. CALL TO ORDER The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm in the basement meeting room at the Fremont Town Hall. In attendance were Selectmen Gene Cordes, Roger Barham and Neal Janvrin; Town Administrator Heidi Carlson and Selectmen's Clerk Kathy Clement. Gordon Muench School Board Member was also in attendance. All rose for the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting is a live broadcast by Greg Fraize of FCTV.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Eversource will be flying aerial patrols of several transmission lines located across the state which are planned for Thursday and Friday this week, weather permitting, from 7 am to 3 pm.

DESCRIPTION OF AIRCRAFT: Black Bell 407, Tail Number N802JR

CONTACT INFO: Eversource NH Projects Information Line: 1-888-926-5334

2. The Land Use Office will be closed Tuesday October 1.

3. The Building Inspector's Office will be CLOSED on Tuesday and Wednesday October 8 & 9 for training.

4. The annual Grassdrag event will be held on the north side of town during Columbus Day weekend.

5. There are no closures at the Town level due to Columbus Day, and trash is on the regular schedule.

6. Fall Bulky Day will be held on Saturday October 19, 2019 from 8:00 am to noon. The information and flyer were added to the Town's website today.

7. Also on October 19th, the Library will have a celebration cookout, and are already advertising for the Second Annual Fremont Scarecrow Contest in October.

8. An Open Space Hike is scheduled for 1:00 pm on Sunday October 20th. Interested hikers should meet at 1:00 pm at the Fremont Public Library.

9. Drug Take Back will occur on Saturday October 26, 2019 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at the Fremont Police Department, 425 Main Street.

10. Fremont Trick or Treat will be Thursday October 31st from 5:00 to 8:00 pm.

III. LIAISON REPORTS

The Board met very briefly at 6:00 pm on Monday September 23, 2019 at 393 North Road to confirm a dead tree at that location was a hazard in conjunction with the homeowner's permission and the Road Agent's coordination with Eversource's tree vendor working in the area.

The Budget Committee met Wednesday September 25, 2019. Cordes reported that the Committee reviewed the Police Department budget for about an hour and Chief Twiss spoke about the need for another officer and had a packet showing costs regarding recruiting, training and other expenses with hiring new officers. There were some questions about turnover. There was a lot of discussion about body cameras, regarding need but more fact finding with the costs, they also went over the new base radio lease agreement. No decision was made on the Police Department budget at this time. The School budget was discussed for about 30 minutes with Sue Penny. The Committee also spoke with the Town Clerk for 15-20 minutes. The Committee reviewed some budgets and made some decisions. The next meeting is October 9, 2019.

Janvrin reported that the 53B Household Hazardous Waste Day in Brentwood on Saturday September 21, 2019 was a great success and very crowded.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Barham made a motion to approve the minutes of September 19, 2019 as written. Janvrin seconded and the vote was 3-0.

Janvrin made a motion to approve the minutes of September 23, 2019 as written. Barham seconded and the vote was 2-0-1 with Cordes abstaining.

V. SCHEDULED AGENDA ITEMS – times subject to change depending on flow of the meeting

6:45 pm Public Input - None

7:00 pm Department Heads – None

VI. OLD BUSINESS

1. Black Rocks Village: NH DOT is waiting for an approvable plan for the decel lane corrections on Route 107, which Jim Hewitt has discussed several times with Dan Tatem of Stantec (on behalf of the Town) and Josh Manning of Lewis Builders. Carlson spoke with DOT's Jim Hewitt who gave a different viewpoint on conversations than those reported by Lewis Builders, stating that the DOT was not done with this issue. Hewitt stated that Dan Tatem knows what needs to be done (in terms of a plan and construction) to fix this issue. There was discussion on what could be done to move this forward as Lewis Builders has said that they are not responsible for the decel lane in the past.

Tatem has a list of the remaining items that need to be done. Some of the costs are \$1,800 to do a plan, and the removal and replacement of the decel lane in the bond is \$10,200 for a total of \$12,000. Cordes questioned if this included the catch basin being relocated out of the center of the travel way. This is not listed in the plan specifically, some more research will need to be done. Carlson has a draft letter to Lewis, which was amended by the Board for signature yet this evening.

If there is time for the work to be done, there is a lot to be taken care of in the next few weeks. Cordes questioned having a consultant engineer overseeing this project, Carlson stated there was not enough money in the bond for this. Cordes asked to have Tatem give them a budget for the design, getting a plan through the State approvals, bidding, construction and oversight. It was also stated that they need to contact Josh Manning to ask if they intend to resolve this and if not, what are the Town's options as this has been an ongoing issue for too long.

2. The Selectmen reviewed outgoing correspondence to Bob Doucette and Carl Erickson. Janvrin made a motion to approve the letter dated September 26, 2019 to Bob Doucette as written. Barham seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous 3-0. The Selectmen would like to make some revisions to the Erickson letter later in the meeting. This was completed and both letters were signed.

3. Brentwood Dam action by NH DES – The Town received the following email late yesterday relative to the Exeter River Dam:

To the Town of Fremont, Brentwood and Other Concerned Citizens,

Starting on the 7th of October, the impoundment upstream of the Exeter River Dam, D029001 will start to lower significantly and eventually go back to its natural state. Currently, the Dam Bureau's Engineering & Construction Section plans to permanently remove the low level gate and penstock from the dam on October 9th and 10th. The removal of these parts will be the initiation of a dam removal project that has yet to be scheduled for the coming years and is based on the Owner's non-compliance of an Administrative Order distributed on September 6, 2018. Let me know if you have any questions.

Regards,

Charlie Krautmann, PE, PG

Dam Safety Engineer, Dam Bureau

NHDES – Water Division

29 Hazen Drive, PO Box 95

Concord, NH 03302-0095

Charles.Krautmann@des.nh.gov

(603) 271-4130

<http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dam/index.htm>

Carlson followed up with Krautmann today to learn that this is the result of no action having been taken by the current dam owner regarding the State's Notices of Deficiency and issues over the past year or two. The matter is now one of enforcement, in the hands of the NH Attorney General. It has become a legal matter now because the owner is not maintaining dam per State specifications. Cordes mentioned that there was some discussion a few years ago and residents along the river had wanted to form a group to have their questions answered and potentially take over ownership. Some residents were very concerned and will want to know what their options are. The Attorney General's Office will now need to be included on any action plan by homeowners, moving forward. Krautmann told Carlson that it is not beyond the point of someone stepping up to take some action. There is still permitting and money issues for moving forward with the removal process could begin as early as next year. Cordes thinks we need to speak to Brentwood and citizens. Carlson stated that the Town Administrator Karen Clement in Brentwood has said in the past their Board was not interested in buying the dam, and that the Brentwood Board of Selectmen would see the letter at their next meeting on Tuesday October 1st.

Leon Holmes Jr arrived at 7:00 pm.

At 7:15 pm Leon Holmes Jr spoke about the vacant part-time seasonal position. Jack Mullen has been helping Holmes for a couple of months starting with the work on Red Brook Road. Holmes Jr spoke highly of the work Jack Mullen has done and that Mullen enjoys working with the Highway Department. Don Bourassa had filled in last winter but only wanted to do so on a temporary basis. He would like to help with whoever fills this position if needed. Mullen and Bourassa work well together and are both willing to work together after Mullen accepts the position. Holmes thinks this is a good solution.

There have not been any applicants to come forward and Holmes would like to hire Mullen for this position. The Selectmen stated they are confident in appointing Jack Mullen. Barham made a motion to appoint Jack Mullen for the part-time seasonal position in the Highway Department. Janvrin seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous 3-0.

Holmes reported the tree on North Road was removed. Northern Tree, contracted by Eversource, have been in the town for 3 days to remove trees that are in the right of way or that could be a hazard to the lines. Holmes stated that on Monday and Tuesday alone having Northern Tree remove the trees saved the Town about \$17,000. He would like to send letters to Northern Tree and Eversource to thank them for their work.

Leon will contact Carlson to schedule a time with Selectmen to review the 2020 Highway Budget.

Mark Pitkin, Elijah Pitkin and Nick Pitkin arrived at 7:20 pm. At 7:30 pm Mark Pitkin gave the Selectmen a packet with information on his proposal to upgrade Class VI Loon Way/Shirkin Road for about 3000' from the Raymond Town line. Mark Pitkin, Marty Stollar & Terry Eustis each own lots and are looking to potentially build on those lots. (Stollar and Eustis had planned to be here tonight but could not make it).

Pitkin said he wanted to talk to the Board about requirements in order to do his research to see if it is feasible to upgrade the road. There was mention of requirements to move forward and Pitkin is aware of these from the Town's Class VI Road Upgrade document. They understand that as a Class VI road that the Town would not do any upkeep on it. The Board is concerned that this could open up some other issues. After some discussion about emergency services and school buses, the Board would like Pitkin to schedule meetings with the Police and Fire Chiefs and address any concerns they may have. He will also need to contact the school regarding any concerns or issues they may have. Leon Holmes said that he supported this and stated that it is a logging road now and it is good to have access for emergency services. After this Pitkin will schedule another meeting with the Selectmen to discuss moving forward. Carlson stated that there are different statues for building on a Class VI road. Pitkin is aware of the requirements. The Selectmen stated that this is a well-known and long-established Class VI road and that the Town was not looking to change that. The Selectmen thanked the Pitkin's for coming. They left at 7:44 pm.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

1. Selectmen reviewed the folder of incoming correspondence. Replies to letters sent to DOT were received from Representatives Dennis Acton and Josh Yokela; Emails regarding the Exeter River Dam; an email from Sara Cloutier of Rock Your Body will be hosting a Trunk or Treat in the parking lot at 25 Spaulding Road and is working with the PD. Notice about a Fremont Eagle Scout project for constructing flag drop boxes and ceremony on how to dispose of the flags to accompany this. Notice that Don Bourassa resigning at the end of this season, he has been here 2 full seasons and would still help. Announcement that Joe Parisi from Fremont Fire Rescue did the Manchester 9/11 stair climb. Letter from Donahue Tucker stating they will not represent the Town regarding the newly proposed Right of Way Ordinance because they are currently representing another client (Ferwerda) with action pending against the Town, and it would be conflict of interest. Representative Yokela also sent an additional response to the Town's DOT letter, saying he thought the Town should upgrade the road to the current standard to handle the trucks from Epping, and stating reluctance to make any changes to the proposed haul road to get to Route 101 as the State wants to retain this in case they want to expand 101 at some point. Carlson met with Pete LaChappelle from WM about the budget for next year. He had some information to update newsletter and website, regarding shortage of landfill space, recycle costs are up quite a bit and general tips to help with recycling. The blended value for the 2019 calendar year has risen from \$105.99 in January to \$123.32 in August (per ton). There is not much of a market for recyclables.

2. Selectmen reviewed a PSNH Petition and Pole License for 12 poles located on Gristmill Road. These are proposed new poles in Phase III of the subdivision. Barham mentioned that new subdivisions must have underground utilities and asked for the plans to be checked to see if it falls under these requirements. The Selectmen will postpone this approval until there is further research into this.

3. Barham made a motion to approve the Accounts Payable manifest of \$61,610.55 for the current week dated September 27, 2019. Janvrin seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous 3-0.

4. Stantec Consulting chose Fremont for a community project and sent about 15 staff members to Fremont yesterday for the afternoon. They removed plantings and landscape stones from the town line signs that must be moved and did a lot of work at the Highway Shed, painting the sand/salt building,

doors and trim, and bollards. The Road Agent worked with them and he said that a lot of work was accomplished in a short amount of time. Everyone was impressed with the hard work from the volunteers.

5. Budget review:

4130 Executive/Selectmen's Office – There was discussion regarding the Town Administrators salary and a need discussed over the past couple of years, to make an adjustment to make it competitive. Many examples were given including the Town of Chester offering \$75,000 for a brand new position. The Board is proposing \$72,000 in 2020 which equates to just over \$70,000 actual as the salary would be budgeted for only $\frac{3}{4}$ of the year. Other wages show a 2% wage increase and there are a few other areas of adjustment for covering upgrades to the QuickBooks program in 2020. Janvrin made a motion to recommend the 4130 Executive budget for \$126,041 and Barham seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous 3-0.

4199 Town Report – The Town Report was put out to bid. Bids were opened last week and Selectmen accepted the low bidder. Janvrin made a motion or recommend the 4199 Town Report budget at \$2,900. Barham seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous 3-0.

4220 Fire Rescue – There was discussion about looking to go from a point plan to a payroll plan and that the administrative work will be a lot. Carlson spoke to the Chief regarding the calculation for the year on the EMS on call which is now updated. Also, Chris Olsen recommended an increase into the Chief compensation line for administration work regarding payroll and paperwork. These changes have been added to the budget rationale and it was redistributed to the Board (and a copy for Chief Butler) today.

4323 Solid Waste Collection and 4324 Solid Waste Disposal – There was discussion on being mindful of the markets and only recycling what is recommended to reduce unwanted tonnage. Also, tipping costs are increasing, and recycled materials are becoming harder to find buyers for. Waste Management expects the markets to come around with recycling, but not with some additional costs still to be seen. Last year expenses were \$232,000 for pick up and hauling and this year the budget is \$243,817. The 2020 budget is \$255,446. Next year it is expected to be about \$255,000 for pickup of mixed solid waste and pickup of recycle. Tipping costs have increased about \$5,000. Now there is a processing fee which is expected to be about \$41,000 this year and \$50,000 next year. This is a new cost in the last two years. The 53B contract runs out next year and may go out to bid. The contract has many moving parts and the Selectmen will review the numbers in the budget. They will review at the next meeting.

Janvrin made a motion to recess at 8:03 pm while a letter is updated and printed for the Selectmen will sign. Barham seconded the motion and the vote was 3-0.

Cordes called the meeting back to order at 8:15 pm.

Barham made a motion to approve the letter to Josh Manning of Lewis Builders dated September 26, 2019. Janvrin seconded the motion and the vote was 3-0.

Barham made a motion to approve letter to Carl Erickson regarding thru trucking dated September 26, 2019. Janvrin seconded and the vote was unanimous 3-0.

VIII. WORKS IN PROGRESS

1. Budget work continues. The Parks & Recreation Commission will meet with the Board next week to review their budget and the pavilion proposal.

2. The Open Space Committee will meet on Monday September 30, 2019 at 6:30 pm for the purpose of discussing and rating parcel 04-007 for potential conservation. The meeting will be held in the Fremont Town Hall, basement meeting room.

3. The Road Evaluation RFP was distributed to the four companies the Town solicited earlier this year for engineering work. It is also posted in Town buildings.

The next regular Board meeting will be held at 6:30 pm on Thursday October 3, 2019 at the Fremont Town Hall in the basement meeting room.

With no further business before the Board Janvrin moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 pm. Barham seconded and the vote was unanimous 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Clement
Selectmen's Clerk