

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; Selectmen's Clerk Kathy Clement; School Board Member Gordon Muench and Buxton Oil Representative John Drabik. All rose for the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Temporary Building Inspector hours are in place: Tuesday and Wednesday from 5:15 to 9:00 pm, Friday 8:00 am to 12 noon and otherwise by appointment. Call early for any needed inspections. During the next two holiday week, hours are Monday and Thursday evenings 5:15 to 9:00 pm instead of Tuesday and Wednesday.
2. The Public Safety Services will escort Santa around Fremont beginning around 2 pm on Saturday December 21st (Sunday December 22 in case of inclement weather). Listen for sirens and watch for lights as he travels the roads of Fremont.
3. All Town Offices are closed on Tuesday and Wednesday December 24 and 25 for the Christmas holiday. Trash and recycling collections are delayed one day during that holiday week.
4. All Town Offices are closed on Wednesday January 1 for New Year's Day. Trash and recycling collections are delayed one day during that holiday week.
5. Several new town email addresses are now in effect. Please check the website for more information, and update your records as soon as possible for the following:

Heidi Carlson hcarlson@fremont.nh.gov
Jeanne Nygren jnygren@fremont.nh.gov
Kathy Clement kclement@fremont.nh.gov
Leanne Miner, Land Use AA landuse@fremont.nh.gov
Building Inspector buildinginspector@fremont.nh.gov
Town Clerk Tax Collector clerkcollector@fremont.nh.gov
Rich Butler, Fire Chief rbutler@fremont.nh.gov
Rachel Edwards, Treasurer treasurer@fremont.nh.gov

The Fire Rescue membership also now has email accounts and we will publish this list as soon as possible.

III. LIAISON REPORTS

On Saturday December 14, 2019 the Wreaths Across America Ceremony was held at the Town Hall. The Selectmen attended and noted the nice presentation made by Jack Mullen. Selectmen said the Program was great and Jack's presentation was highly regarded by all, including the Boy Scouts who also spoke to him at the close of the ceremony and asked many questions. The WAA program is supposed to be a teaching moment, and this was a great learning time for the residents and Scouts in attendance.

The FCTV Committee met Monday December 16, 2019. Janvrin reported that members have run a sound test at the Ellis gym, using speakers that are movable, and they are working to reduce or eliminate the echo for Deliberative Sessions and other meetings held in that venue. Bill Millios has been working on improving the graphics on the broadcasts and is posting the live meeting schedule weekly. The main

computer system has been having some serious issues and they are currently working on an RFP for a new system. Janvrin also mentioned that FCTV is not taxpayer-funded but supported by cable franchise fees.

The Planning Board met Wednesday December 18, 2019 in the Basement Meeting Room. Barham reported the following topics were discussed:

1. Continued Business:
 - a. South Road Age-Restricted Development, South Road, Map 2 Lots 20 & 62:
 - i. The Board approved the Lot Line Adjustment.
 - ii. The Board took jurisdiction of the Application.
 - iii. The Board continued the PH to January 8, 2020.
2. New Business:
 - a. Public Hearing for proposed amendments to the Town Zoning Ordinance:
 - i. The Board held Public Hearings on 5 proposed zoning changes.
 - ii. The Board voted to move the 5 changes to Warrant Articles.
3. Circuit Rider Business:
 - a. Jenn Rowden advised the Board of the status of a proposed Fremont Master Plan Survey:
 - i. This is an extensive online survey for residents.
 - ii. The survey will go live mid-January and will be online for approximately 3 weeks.
 - iii. The intention is to get 300 completed surveys from residents.
 - iv. The survey will be extensively publicized including a postcard mailing.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday January 8, 2020.

The Budget Committee met Wednesday December 18, 2019. Cordes stated that the majority of the discussion was on the School Budget with the Superintendent, Business Manager and School Board members present. It was a productive discussion with consensus about Fiscal Year 2021 which is \$375,000 less than the current operating budget. This was recommended by the Budget Committee. Some noteworthy mentions include elimination of a teaching position which is related to enrollment, tuition at Sanborn is up, though capital costs are down as more students are being moved into the building and the cost will be shared. The Ellis School building has some important capital spending needs coming down the line.

There was some brief discussion regarding the Parks and Recreation budget. The Budget Committee did not yet make a recommendation on this operating budget request.

They also reviewed and recommended some of the Town's Warrant Articles. The next meeting is January 8, 2020 at the Town Hall in the main floor meeting room.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Janvrin made a motion to approve the December 5, 2019 minutes as written. Barham seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous 3-0.

Approved 12/26/2019

Barham made a motion to approve the December 12, 2019 minutes as written. Cordes seconded and the vote was 2-0-1. Janvrin abstained as he did not attend that meeting.

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

6:45 pm Public Input – John Drabik from Buxton Oil checked in on the road study on the north side of Fremont. Carlson explained that the engineers were asked to do traffic count, it was done in late November but we do not have a report yet. We are currently working on the funding before we move forward with further work. Carlson had another resident come to the Town Hall with complaints about the trucks regarding the Jake brakes at night stating it is a huge problem. The resident was not sure which trucks it is, and this was shared with Drabik who said they would talk with their drivers again.

7:00 pm Department Heads - None

VI. OLD BUSINESS

1. Updated expense and revenue report: Carlson noted there will not be a large excess at year end, if at all. The end of year priority list may be limited to the PD base radio payment, the Fire Rescue Points Compensation final payout (11/01 to 12/21), and potentially some engineering money for the study work, or to encumber funds for the roof on the shed at the rear of the Town Hall. Snow storms have been a huge expense and we still have almost two weeks to go to year end.

An encumbrance is also being put together into a contract for the next stage of work at the Leavitt Cemetery which was bid out this summer/fall.

2. Audit 2018 follow-up – Carlson will schedule a date/time for a meeting with Mike Campo to wrap up the 2018 audit. Members need to generate a list of questions for Mike Campo. They would like to schedule this as soon as possible. The afternoon of December 31st was sent out to Campo this evening as a possible date.

The 2019 audit field work scheduled to begin Monday March 2, 2020.

3. Review Warrant to Date – Last week the Selectmen made recommendations on some of the Warrant Articles. Janvrin wanted to be part of the decision recorded on the Warrant and made a motion to amend the Board of Selectmen's Warrant Article recommendation votes to include his recommendation, showing Selectmen recommended 3-0. Janvrin listed out the Warrant Articles already voted to include Articles B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K and P. Barham seconded and the vote was 3-0.

Veteran Credit modification Article L: Carlson reviewed with the Board some information on the tax impact of modifying the existing Optional Veteran's Credit from its current value of \$500 to the new limit set by Statute of \$750. This results in an additional \$55,250 of taxes being shifted to other taxpayers (or approximately \$0.13 tax impact).

Selectmen discussed the tax impact of each of these, as well as the number of Veterans affected and the overall tax impact. After a brief discussion Barham made a motion to recommend an increase in the amount for the Veterans Tax Credit from \$500 to \$750. Janvrin seconded and the vote was 3-0.

Service-Connected Total Veteran Credit modification Article M: Carlson reviewed with the Board information about the amount of this tax credit in dollars, explaining the Statute now allows up to \$4,000

Approved 12/26/2019

for 100% service-connected disabled veterans. This currently affects eight property owners and would in effect double the amount of the credit, increasing the tax burden by \$15,000 or \$0.036. The Board discussed the qualifying events for Veteran's to receive this credit, which is 100% service-connected permanent and total disability.

After further discussion, Janvrin made a motion to recommend an increase in the Service-Connected Total Veteran Credit from \$2,000 to \$4,000. Barham seconded the motion and the vote was 3-0.

Carlson then discussed the elderly and disabled tax exemption amounts and associated criteria. The Board discussed both and reviewed the current criteria for both. This includes Warrant Articles N and O.

After a brief discussion Janvrin made a motion to recommend an increase in the exempted valuation amount to \$70,000 for the 65-74 age level; \$90,000 for the 75-79 age level; and \$110,000 for those over 80. Janvrin moved to recommend an increase in the Elderly (Warrant Article N) Exemptions at those limits. Barham seconded and the vote was approved 3-0.

With regard to the Disabled Exemption being changed from \$50,000 to \$60,000; Janvrin moved to set the amount of the Exemption at \$60,000. Barham seconded and the motion was 3-0. This is Warrant Article O.

4. A final tally on vacation carryover requests will be addressed next week, after the final payroll of the year has been entered and amounts are available.

5. Carlson recapped the Public Hearing in early 2017 regarding Phase II of Spaulding Road, describing this is the last section of that subdivision from where the old cul-de-sac was removed through to the current cul-de-sac at the conservation trail. There was a maintenance bond for \$40,000 that was to be held for two years. The developer has asked for that to be released. The Road Agent and Town Engineer did final inspections on Monday December 16th. There is minor cracking and the Road Agent and Engineer agreed to recommend holding a small amount of the bond until the crack sealing has been complete next year. After some discussion it was agreed that everything was in order to release this bond with some funds held for repairs. Janvrin made a motion release all but \$1,000 (for crack sealing) and all applicable Town fees. Barham seconded the motion and the vote was 3-0. After some more discussion Janvrin made a motion to amend his motion to hold \$2,000 for crack sealing and the Town's fees. Barham seconded the motion the vote was 3-0.

6. Barham made a motion to pay the Supplemental Health Insurance manifest for one additional full-time employee who is eligible. Barham moved to approve the \$2,000 manifest and Janvrin seconded. The vote was approved 3-0.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

1. Selectmen reviewed the folder of incoming correspondence. Enclosed were photos of the Town signs that were recently moved to be in compliance with the State DOT letter; the Public Budget Hearing notice, set for January 15, 2020 at 7:00 pm in the Town Hall Basement Meeting Room with a snow date of January 16. The Board reviewed an email with questions that Carlson sent to the State regarding Martin Road Bridge, there were many questions that could not be answered until the project is at certain point. She was looking for clarification on when the State aid would be available as this aid will be for 80% of the project costs, when the Town submits the proposal to the State that meets their specs (scope and fee) then we get 80% reimbursed. An email regarding the encumbered funds for the Leavitt

Cemetery; Engineering invoices #64989 for \$43 and #64988 for \$7,400 for the Ferwerda lawsuit. Barham made a motion to approve the invoices as written, Janvrin seconded and the vote was 3-0.

2. Barham made a motion to approve the Accounts Payable manifest \$44,303.24 for the current week dated December 20, 2019. Janvrin seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous 3-0.

3. There was some discussion about the FPD Annual Award Ceremony being held as part of a Selectmen's Meeting on January 30, 2020 at the beginning of the meeting. Carlson will contact the Chief and work out the details regarding the time. The Board suggested 6:00 pm to be done in advance of the meeting, and still provide live coverage. This is the Board's final meeting before Deliberative Session and is anticipated to be busy.

4. The Selectmen have independently reviewed the 2019 Audit Questionnaire. Cordes read the questions aloud and the Selectmen answered. Janvrin made a motion for Cordes to sign the audit questionnaire on behalf of the Board. Barham seconded the motion and the vote was 3-0. The Board asked for Carlson to make copies of some applicable policies and provide additional detail regarding budgeted expense and revenue review prior to sending it to Plodzik & Sanderson.

5. As the result of a presumed hit and run accident sometime early this week, pretty significant damage to the end cap and a few of the posts at the new guardrail on the Sandown Road Overflow Bridge. The Road Agent asked the Police Department to do an incident report. Because it was a Hit & Run w/ no suspect information, it will probably need to go through the Town's insurance. Cordes recommends sending pictures to the insurance company and contacting the company that installed the guardrail. Carlson will follow up with this information.

6. A letter from Bruce White was noted, in which he resigns as Chair of the FCTV Committee.

VIII. WORKS IN PROGRESS

Cordes noted that the Budget Committee had questions regarding a Road Race and the funds raised and where they are currently deposited. Carlson reported that there is roughly \$3,500 in the Recreation Revolving Fund for the future pavilion and she will get the details ready for the next Committee meeting.

Work continues on the candidates for Building Inspector and Camp Director.

IX. NON-PUBLIC SESSION pursuant to NH RSA 91-A:3 II (c) and (e)

At 8:07 pm Janvrin moved to enter Non-Public Session pursuant to NH RSA 91-A:3 II (c) & (e) to discuss both a legal and personnel matter. Barham seconded and the roll call vote was unanimous 3-0; Cordes-yes; Janvrin-yes; Barham-yes.

Clement, Muench and Drabik left the meeting at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Clement
Selectmen's Clerk

The Board's non-public session began at approximately 8:15 pm.

The Board had reviewed resumes and held discussion on the Building Inspector and Camp Director potential candidates.

Selectmen discussed the Fire Rescue meeting held on December 9th and the information still needed relative to the pay plan and town counsel comments.

The next regular Board meeting will be held at 6:30 pm on Thursday December 26, 2019 at the Fremont Town Hall in the basement meeting room.

With no further business to come before the board, motion was made by Janvrin to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 pm. Barham seconded and the vote was unanimously approved 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Carlson
Town Administrator