

Approved 08/27/2020

I. CALL TO ORDER The meeting was called to order at 6:30 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. Tonight's meeting is live broadcast by Bill Millios of FCTV.

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.

2. The southern part of the state including nearly all of Rockingham County NH has been upgraded to severe drought as of the map released today. The following was received today from NH DES:

Last week 48% of the state was categorized as experiencing drought and this week 69% of the state is categorized as experiencing drought. Also, for the first time this season, portions of the state been elevated from "moderate drought" (D1) to "severe drought" (D2). Areas experiencing severe drought include Rockingham County, Merrimack County, over half of Strafford County, as well as a small area of Belknap and Hillsborough county. To determine conditions in your region, see the [drought restrictions and conditions map](#).

Relief from drought conditions is not looking promising. The heat and humidity are forecast to return tomorrow. Thunderstorms are also forecast for Friday and through early next week, but not widespread enough to be significant. The 8-14-day precipitation outlook favors above normal precipitation, but the indicator is not strong meaning there is only a slight chance of above normal precipitation. The 8-14-day temperature outlook indicator is also not strong but predicts above normal temperatures in the south and below normal temperatures in the north.

NHDES is urging municipalities in areas experiencing drought to implement municipal-wide lawn watering restrictions as authorized by RSA 41:11-d, which allows municipalities, including village districts, to restrict all or some lawn watering activities on private well owners and community water systems within municipal boundaries. Water supply shortages are more common during severe drought; therefore, lawn watering restrictions should be stricter in areas experiencing severe drought. NHDES is also working with public water suppliers to implement restrictions. To date, 134 community water systems have implemented outdoor water use restrictions. Municipalities are urged to work with local community water systems on implementing coordinated restrictions.

See [Drought Guidance for Municipalities](#) for guidance on adopting a lawn water restriction, public messaging, and providing emergency water supplies to the public.

Please report restrictions to NHDES for posting on the NHDES website using the [Restriction Reporting Form](#). Please also inform residents to report residential well shortages using the [Residential Well Impact Survey form](#). NHDES will track well impacts so as to provide current information on drought impacts in your region.

Stacey Herbold

[Water Conservation Program](#)

[Water Use Registration and Reporting Program](#)

NHDES Drinking Water and Groundwater Bureau

29 Hazen Drive, PO Box 95, Concord, NH 03302-0095

PH: (603) 271-6685 FAX: (603) 271-0656

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3. Please register to vote now if you plan to request an absentee ballot. We are anticipating record numbers of voters for the upcoming September 8 NH Primary and November 3 General Election. You must be registered to vote to request an absentee ballot. Contact the Town Clerk or the Supervisors for more information.

The next Supervisor Session is scheduled for 9:00 am on Friday August 28, 2020 at the Town Hall rear parking lot. Absentee Ballot Request forms can be found on the SUPERVISOR OF CHECKLIST page from the Town's website (www.fremont.nh.gov) for links to the NH Secretary of State page and all voter registration forms and updated information. Contact the Town Clerk for more information.

4. The September Hazardous Waste Day HAS BEEN POSTPONED BY THE 53B District due to issues with vendors coming from outside New England, as well as being able to allow for proper social distancing. They are looking ahead to try and have an event in the Spring of 2021.

5. The Town has set Saturday October 17th for Bulky Day. Volunteers are still needed. Please contact the Selectmen's Office and leave all of your contact information if you can help out.

6. The Town of Fremont has been named a recipient of a *2020 AARP Community Challenge* grant, one of two grantees selected in New Hampshire. The grant will be used construct a ramp with railings that will allow safe and full accessibility to the Town's Memorial Park Ballfields, where many events have been rescheduled due to Covid-19.

III. LIAISON REPORTS

On August 17, 2020 the FCTV Committee met. Present at the meeting were Bill Millios, Jose Hernandez, Neal Janvrin and Todd O'Malley. As a follow up from last month's meeting Greg Fraize has installed Remote Desktop on one of the computers and Bill is in the process for using it during the 30-day free trial period.

There was a discussion concerning the installation of a big screen television in the meeting room. The discussion focused on the benefits of a hard wired or a Wi-Fi set up. It was decided that we would accept the offer from Roger Barham of a moveable stand giving us the ability to move the television to different area of the meeting room. It was also decided that we would go to a hard-wired system. Jose is going to price the television and Bill is going to contact Access AV for any installation concerns. Their next meeting is Monday September 21, 2020.

Barham said this evening he will get the stand to the Town Hall soon.

Barham recapped the August 19, 2020 Planning Board meeting including the following two items:

1. Preliminary consultation with a company (Pine Bucket LLC / Jewett Construction) wanting to expand at the Spaulding Frost commercial development business that has an existing 4 units, but the area in back has 6 units and 3 further back. Want to develop units on the side with option to potentially develop other units. There also was a discussion regarding whether they will need conditional use for storage.
2. Review of the Natural Resource Inventory and maps. RPC made them aware there are State grants available for transportation projects and possibly to look at the Shirkin and Rogers Roads challenges and if there may possibly be grants available to help with this. The immediate problem is the road condition challenge to be addressed in conjunction with Epping and under a regional prospective the grant may be able to look at the whole area to improve the infrastructure to alleviate the problems in the area. It is still widely thought (in Fremont) that a good solution is

a haul road or other alternative through Epping and closer to Route 101 and away from Fremont residences.

From CC Chair Leanne Miner: The Open Space Advisory Group met on August 6 to evaluate a 10-acre lot located on Louise Lane, Parcel 04-017 for the purposes of conservation. Eight (8) people participated in the rating of the property using formal conservation criteria (for example watershed protection, wetland and habitat value). All evaluations exceeded a total conservation score of 50 (average 65), therefore the Group recommended the Conservation Commission continue pursuing this property for conservation.

The Conservation Commission meets next on September 14 to discuss next steps which may include an appraisal. The Commission will plan to meet with the Board of Selectmen for their input before initiating a purchase and sale which would be contingent on a Public Hearing and BOS approval. The Commission has been interested in this parcel given this property's proximity to highly valued wetlands and habitat and the Town Forest.

EMD Update from EMD Mark DeVeber: Fremont received it's allocated PPE and protective barriers this week from the State for the upcoming elections.

Director of the State EOC has acknowledged that the FEMA reimbursement program has provided contradictory information and that this has caused confusion and frustration with communities at all levels. There will be additional guidance from FEMA related to Public Assistance after September 1st. What this means to our community is that some previous guidance provided by FEMA has now changed course. Most recent FEMA Region 1 has revised its guidance on reimbursement for temporary barriers in public facilities. In this case reimbursement for temporary barriers is only eligible for "emergency protective measures." FEMA Region 1 is working on providing guidance on re-opening schools, but in the meantime, the guidance provided from the headquarters on re-opening facilities is: "Reimbursement for the increased operating costs associated with re-opening public facilities to address social distancing (such as purchase and distribution of face masks, installing physical barriers like plexiglass, and sign-marks denoting 6 feet distance, etc.) are only eligible when being used in the performance of an eligible emergency protective measure. The costs associated with re-opening public facilities are not emergency protective measures, so PA would not provide funding for these activities in these circumstances."

FAA President Jamie Thompson reported today that the spring season sports went well, and they began soccer this week. They are using the same guidelines for soccer and have also been granted use of the Ellis School fields to spread out some. An additional treatment of the soccer field will be done tomorrow, and it will be closed again until after Labor Day to allow the grass to germinate. We are troubleshooting some issues with the irrigation coverage. It may be reduced simply due to the drought and lack of water and pressure from the well.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

After review, a motion to approve the minutes of the August 13, 2020 meeting as written was made by Barham and seconded by Janvrin. The vote was unanimous 3-0.

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

At 6:55 pm Scott Marsh from MRI came in to give the Board an update on the final values for the reassessment currently wrapping up. They met with residents in person and by phone with hearings which worked out very well, extending one extra day. There were 102 taxpayers requesting a hearing, totaling about 5% of the parcel count. Marsh said this is consistent with what he is seeing in all of MRI's other current revaluation towns. Results were that 36 parcels with no assessment change, minor changes

made to the balance, resulting in less than 10% change in value. MRI will be sending letters to any taxpayer who had a hearing on any changes as a result of the hearing process. The formal abatement process was explained to the residents.

Marsh also shared a spreadsheet with the Board, showing that overall value from 2019 is up 29%. In response to questions, Marsh said this is the current change in the market from 2015. Carlson added that sales are still trending upward. Marsh said that the Covid-effect is not being seen yet, and in fact sales are still quite plentiful. His summation of the equalization data is that Fremont will be at approximately 92% and in line with State requirements. The DRA will finalize that number in a couple of months.

Marsh summarized that assessments are fair and reasonable and they want to send out the final letters to residents in the next two weeks. They are within statistical guidelines required by the State. A motion to approve the final assessment results Marsh presented was made by Janvrin and seconded by Barham. The vote was unanimous 3-0. Marsh was thanked by the Board and left the meeting at 7:06 pm.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

1. Review of Impact Fee calculation / options / methodology: The Planning Board informational data was redistributed this week by Barham. The process requires BOS input but the Planning Board is not meeting until September 16th with Bruce Mayberry. Board members were asked to re-review all of the information and formulate questions to give to Barham so he can forward to the proper people to reply. The Board will review and make recommendations for approval at another meeting.

2. Employee Travel Policy Review: Town Counsel reviewed with one edit, referring to the State guidelines. Janvrin questioned the employee being able to use earned time during quarantine period. Carlson indicated that if an eligible employee has any Federal sick time remaining they can use that, as well as their own sick/vacation time. It was noted that this is self-inflicted choice because they made the decision to travel. A motion to adopt the Travel Policy as amended by Town Counsel was made by Barham and seconded by Janvrin. The vote was unanimous 3-0. Carlson was asked to distribute this as soon as possible.

3. Black Rocks Village decel land and pavement issues: Barham said that to do everything (decel and pavement bumps) would cost close to \$40,000 which is beyond the escrow. He continues to work with Dan Tatem and NH DOT to further look how they can help repair the decel lane and do as much as possible on other issues as funds allow.

4. Lamprey Health Care / Rockingham Nutrition and Meals on Wheels Transportation program: Carlson reported on a conversation with Lamprey regarding how they are transitioning their vehicles and services to the Rockingham County MOW program. They are working on transitioning contracts and State/Grant funding opportunities so that the service can continue. If Fremont pays LHC for the full amount of the appropriation in 2020, LHC will fund half of that to MOW. We can also decide to split it half and half. MOW has not yet come forward with a budget request for this service for 2021.

5. Budget 2021 – work session

Carlson distributed information looking at a 2% wage increase for nearly all but police personnel. Looking at the Fire Rescue budget, the Board is most comfortable adding 2% to the target lines for personnel (currently carried at \$70,000). There was some discussion about the minimum wage number carried for EMS on-call time as well.

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The overall 2% increase across all non-elected and non-police lines is approximately \$12,000. The Board decided to use 2% for wage increases in the budgets, and will try to hold all other level (or with a decrease) to account for it.

4191 Land Use budget cost changes besides 2% are in the Circuit Rider contract and professional services which are contracted. They are accounting for assistance in the Master Plan and MS4 permit requirements. There is a slight change in the supply line due to the new Adobe subscription. Carlson recalculated the wage line at current hours using a 2% wage increase. Barham then moved to recommend the Land Use budget for \$54,076.00. Janvrin seconded and the vote was unanimous 3-0.

4610 Conservation Commission budget changes were reductions for the project work completed in 2020, with a slight increase in the clerical line to accurately reflect time associated. Janvrin moved to recommend \$3,494 for the Conservation budget. Barham seconded and the vote was unanimous 3-0.

4195 Cemeteries budget of \$25,475 which a motion to recommend was made by Barham and seconded by Janvrin. The vote was unanimous 3-0.

6. Additional complaints have been received this week regarding trucking out of Epping, particularly the heating companies trucking, shaking houses, and travelling at all hours of the day and night. This will be shared with the Town's attorney as well as with the heating companies attorney.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

1. Consent Agenda Items

- a. Payroll Manifest \$33,081.24 dated August 21, 2020.
- b. Accounts Payable Manifest \$950,903.40 dated August 21, 2020
- c. PO 2020-012 for use of the Town Credit card for Amazon purchases in the total amount of \$1,002.82 for the replacement tables for the Safety Complex training room and another pop-up tent for meetings at the rear of the Town Hall. A motion to approve PO 2020-012 as above was made by Janvrin and seconded by Barham with unanimous approval 3-0.

After review of the above consent agenda items a motion to approve was made by Janvrin and seconded by Barham. The vote was unanimous 3-0.

2. Selectmen reviewed the folder of incoming correspondence which includes: WM increase in cost by 3% and increase in pickups; notice from the State of NH on the severe drought; Comcast channel changes; DHHS Health Alert on acute flaccid myelitis syndrome increase; Supervisor of the Checklist meeting notice; email and Facebook posting on concern at North and Beede Roads; email site distance vs speed; update from the engineer on Hooke Road paving invoices.

3. Sign any outgoing correspondence-none.

4. There was further discussion on the complaints from Jack Mullen on the Beede Road sight distance from North Road. The Board asked for a site meeting to be established.

5. The September Newsletter draft was reviewed with amendments. Some additional articles need to be added for Labor Day trash pickups, Bulky Day and other pending events.

6. The monthly (end of August) budget report was circulated for members to review.

7. Carlson received an anonymous letter from a “Main Street neighbor” regarding retired FF and Navy Veteran Charles Kimball, noting Charles accomplishments and updating community members about the negative effects PTSD has on some veterans relative to fireworks going off. All were asked to be mindful of the effects. The resident asked the Board to discuss the Noise Ordinance and reducing hours to 9:00 pm in respect for Kimball. Given the current state of the Ordinance, it is not clear if this is possible, but the resident will be asked to contact the Police in the future, as there are no permissible fireworks in Fremont. It was asked that all be mindful of this type of noise and the effect it may have on Veterans and others.

VIII. WORKS IN PROGRESS

1. From our mosquito control vendor: We still have not had EEE or West Nile Virus positive mosquito pools in Fremont or elsewhere in NH. The mosquito population is declining for most species and there are very few of the vector species for EEE and West Nile.

2. The Town Hall AC was fixed today. The wrong part was originally shipped to him, but the replacement came in today. The part was covered under warranty but the Town has an expedited shipping cost as well as installation.

3. Work is ongoing with the Moderator in terms of election preparation. He is not going to allow clubs to do any vending indoors but will allow some outdoors. He is working on alternate location and staffing for those who do not want to/cannot wear a mask. Masks will be required along with barriers and other PPE for poll worker inside the building. Anyone wishing to help with setup or working can contact the Town Clerk or the Town Administrator to provide their contact information and availability.

4. The AARP grant acceptance paperwork was completed and uploaded last Friday. Kenneth Adams is taking pictures to document progress and Nancy Murray is working on all of the press release information.

At 8:11 pm Janvrin moved to enter non-public session pursuant to NH RSA 91-A:3 II (c) to discuss a personnel matter. Cordes seconded and the roll call vote was unanimously approved 3-0; Cordes-yes; Janvrin-yes; Barham-yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Nygren
Selectmen’s Administrative Assistant

At approximately 8:15 pm the Board began their non-public session.

At 8:45 pm a motion was made by Janvrin to return to public session. Barham seconded and the vote was unanimously approved by roll call vote: Cordes – yes; Janvrin – yes; Barham – yes.

The Board asked for a site meeting on North Road with the abutting landowner. There was a brief review of wages for some departments, including the TA salary.

The next regular Board meeting will be held on Thursday August 27, 2020 at 6:30 pm.

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With no further business which may legally come before the Board, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 pm by Janvrin. Barham seconded and the vote was approved 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Carlson
Town Administrator