

Approved 09/24/2020

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 from FCTV.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The technical (sound) issue from last week's meeting has been resolved. The full meeting from last week can be viewed on Vimeo.

2. 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.

3. All of NH is under a severe drought. Please limit all non-essential water use. The forest fire danger is extremely high, and no outdoor burning is currently allowed. The forecast does not show any significant rain, so we need to be very careful to protect our groundwater.

SHOW YOUR FREMONT SPIRIT with upcoming Fall contests!

4. The Fremont Public Library will be hosting the Third Annual Fremont Scarecrow Festival. Build a scarecrow at your Fremont residence or work. Email a picture of the completed scarecrow to fremontscarecrow@gmail.com along with your name and address. All pictures will be posted on the Library Facebook page. Fremont residents please PM the library or email the above address with your vote for the best scarecrow. Winners will be announced Nov. 8th on the Library Facebook page as well as the Fremont Community Page.

5. The Fremont Parks & Recreation Commission invites the community to participate in a VIRTUAL PUMPKIN DECORATING CONTEST to safely celebrate a socially distant Halloween! **The Commission will make an event on their Facebook page where photos of the decorated pumpkin submissions will be posted. People can vote/comment on the pictures and the photo with the most comments will win. You can only comment once on each photo.** TO ENTER: Email or fb message the following, to the Parks and Recreation Commission with your Name, Age and a Photo of your pumpkin. This contest starts, October 1, 2020, and all submissions are due by October 21, 2020. The winner will be announced on our fb page, on Halloween. For more information "like" the Fremont Parks & Recreation Facebook page or email FremontNHPRD@gmail.com.

6. 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. A suggestion was made by Janvrin to do detours on state roads to have a better flow on traffic, which will be looked into as application has to be filed outlining the new routing and it needs to be approved by the State.

7. If you have not yet completed the 2020 Census, please do so. We want Fremont to be counted! Our participation affects federal funding, highway monies and many other facets of administration. Please fill out your form using their website in 2020.census.gov or call 1 844 330 2020 to do it by phone.

8. From NH DES: *According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, drought has worsened across a significant portion of the state. Currently 72% of the state is experiencing "severe drought" (D2), up from 28% last week, while 28% of the state is experiencing moderate drought (D1). There are no indications of the situation improving in the next 10 days. The weather forecast through Wednesday indicates unlikely*

Approved 09/24/2020

chances of receiving any significant amount of rain and the Weather Service's 6-10 day and 8-14-day precipitation outlooks favor below normal precipitation.

Impacts to residential wells are being experienced across the state. Well drillers are reporting long waits for their services, due to increased demand by residential well owners seeking to remedy water shortage issues and water quality issues related to drought and more people at home putting higher demand on the wells. Water conservation is key, as residents may not be able to get timely service to remedy shortage issues or have the monetary means to improve their wells.

NHDES is urging municipalities to implement municipal-wide lawn watering restrictions as authorized by RSA 41:11-d, which allows municipalities, including village districts, to restrict lawn watering activities on private well owners and community water systems within municipal boundaries. Curbing lawn water usage is imperative to sustaining supplies. NHDES is also working with public water suppliers to implement restrictions.

To date, 159 community water systems serving 320,000 people and six municipalities with a total population of 47,000 have water use restrictions in place. See the [Restriction List and Map](#) for names of systems and municipalities implementing restrictions and a map of drought conditions by municipality.

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.

Drought Update:

According to the [U.S. Drought Monitor](#) released this morning, 72% of the state is categorized as "severe drought" (D2) and 28% of the state is categorized as "moderate drought" (D1).

Tip The [restriction map](#) includes town boundaries and drought categories, making it easy to identify if your municipality is experiencing drought.*

All counties are experiencing 90-day precipitation departures. Departures range from -1.58" in Coos County to -4.25" in Grafton (<https://w1.weather.gov/data/TAR/ESPTAR>).

The majority of the state is experiencing below normal to low groundwater levels. For more information, see the [New Hampshire Groundwater Level Monitoring Report](#) for August 2020. Reports are released monthly.

Forecast and Outlooks:

Dry weather is expected through Wednesday, with the exception of the potential for a few scattered thunderstorms in central and northern NH within the next 24-hrs. Temperatures will be cooler through the weekend and are expected to be below normal early in the week. Frost and freeze is expected in the northern part of the state with potential for spreading to the southern interior early next week. ([NOAA National Weather Service](#)).

The 6-10-day outlook favors below normal precipitation and below normal temperatures. The 8-14 day outlook favors below normal precipitation and above normal temperatures ([National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center](#)).

Approved 09/24/2020

*The [U.S. Monthly Drought Outlook](#) favors drought conditions to remain, but improve in the portion of the state of experiencing “severe drought” (D2). (Note*Since the Monthly Drought Outlook was released on August 31st, precipitation predictions have changed. It is unlikely the outlook is accurate.)*

III. LIAISON REPORTS

Library Update: We are opening Tuesdays and Fridays from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm for 20-minute appointments. Masks are required as well as the same health questions and temp check the Town is using. After the visits we wipe down surfaces and prepare for the next. All books are still quarantined upon return for six days (the newest number we have). This week filled up before we even posted it so we will make a public announcement by next week. Curbside and deliveries continue as those services are still requested. That might be the new normal business model as patrons really dig it.

Conservation Commission September 2020 - After working on the document for almost a full year, the group completed review and comment on the updated Natural Resource Inventory (NRI). This updated version of the NRI includes 15 data-rich maps and information packed text with links to many resources.

The NRI is:

- a resource for land and conservation planning,
- used to support town regulatory decisions,
- necessary for many grant opportunities and.
- a substantial part of the Town’s Master Plan providing data for Town planning purposes.

Safety Committee September 15, 2020 - Quarterly meeting with review of buildings and one WC claim from firefighter training. Building safety inspections will be done in the coming weeks. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday December 7, 2020 at the Fremont Public Library at 10:00 am.

Cemetery Trustees September 15, 2020 - Monthly meeting where Carlson reviewed updates on the potential South Road Cemetery project. Other projects completed include roof at the Village Cemetery Shed. Projects still in progress include All Phase Excavating work at Leavitt this fall, fall cleanup, and continued work on finalizing items for the balance of 2020 budget year. The next meeting is Tuesday October 20, 2020 at 4:00 pm at the Town Hall Basement Meeting Room.

Barham reported on the Planning Board meeting held on September 16, 2020 at the basement meeting room as follows:

- Discussion on school impact fees, Mayberry didn’t attend so hold for another meeting.
- Galloway excavation permit approved until June 2021.
- Preliminary meeting Fremont House of Pizza to put up a storage building which needs a minor site plan review process.

Janvrin asked for the Board recommendation on the purchase of a television monitor, the Committee will review and recommend at next Monday’s FCTV Committee meeting. Jose did research and will present several prices from \$1,797 to \$1,999 on various makes and models. Janvrin asked the Selectmen to make a recommendation now to support the Committee’s decision Monday as Bill plans to buy the TV on Tuesday next week. A motion was made by Barham to authorize the purchase of a television monitor as chosen by the FCTV Committee next Monday, to be paid for from the FCTV Revolving Fund. Janvrin seconded and the vote was unanimous 3-0.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes of the September 10, 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 6:45 pm resident Ellen Douglas introduced herself to the Board members. Cordes thanked her as she is a Fremont resident and that the Board doesn't generally entertain candidates running for public office coming into meetings but is happy to know of her interest in the community.

Carlson passed out print out narratives for the Budget work session as follows:

4210 Police Department budget has been reviewed by the Board over the past couple of weeks. Carlson offered follow-up information on the \$2,700 shown in the computer equipment line, which is a sum covered in the Town's overall monthly managed services contract. It is covered in the Government Buildings computer line. Carlson also noted one longevity stipend of \$500 not needed in the Patrol Wages budget line of \$500 due to changes in personnel. The Board also looked at the fuel line.

Janvrin motioned to remove \$600 from the fuel line 4210501. Barham seconded. The vote was unanimous. With the other changes (-\$3,200) a final recommendation of \$666,586 for function 4210 Police Department was moved by Janvrin and seconded by Barham. The vote was unanimous 3-0.

4151 Financial Administration (Treasurer, Budget Committee, Trustees of Trust Funds, Audit) – reviewed and will be discussed when an audit engagement letter is received to firm up that number.

4220 Fire Rescue will be back next week with follow-up on discussion from last week about amount of on-call EMS wages and the compensation line. Carlson adjusted by 2% per Board discussion, and FFRD is reviewing further.

4153 Legal discussed by the Board thinking that a minimum of \$35,000 is needed based on expenses to date for 2020 and the still pending Ferwerda case and Public Utility appeals. Janvrin moved to recommend \$35,000 for 4153 Legal Expense and Barham seconded. The vote was unanimous 3-0.

4197 Advertising & Regional Association will be revisited next week.

4240 Building Inspector budget has been drafted by Carlson at Miner's request and he can discuss when he comes in for his review in the next week or two.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

1. There are no updates to report on the Black Rocks Village development and deceleration lane.
2. Carlson presented additional information to the Board to follow-up a meeting on Monday with Cory West to discuss the family's plans for the South Road property. The land layouts were reviewed on the map and a discussion held about Current Use, frontage, acreage, and the funds the Town is starting to plan for potential future transfer of land for a South Road Cemetery. It could be acreage across from Currier Cemetery, or an expansion of the existing Currier Cemetery. The family will further review and get back to the Town with their thoughts/plans.
3. There were no updates from Town Counsel regarding Shirkin Road and the heating companies. Selectmen will further address this in non-public session.

Approved 09/24/2020

4. The Road Agent and his contractors reconfigured and repainted the STOP bar at the intersection of North Road and Beede Hill Road on Monday. He has also done additional yellow lines for clarity at the intersection. He is working with abutting landowner McRae to clear additional trees and brush on the west side of the intersection and expects to do more of that work tomorrow.

5. The Fremont Knitters are at it again making winter hats for anyone who may need one. We will soon have a bin on the picnic table behind the Town Hall in good weather, drive up and take one! We will also try and put a couple on the Mask Tree at the front of Town Hall (if the branches can hold them). Please let us know if you need one and can't get out, we will find a way to get it to you!

VII. NEW BUSINESS

1. Selectmen reviewed the folder of incoming correspondence that includes: utility assessments summary document; recruitment notice to join the Paris & Recreation Commission; postings scarecrow festival and pumpkin decorating contests; email from resident on dirt portion of Shirkin Road on road widening; Regional impact in Kingston to notify towns of a proposed warehouse facility, notice on upcoming auctions; engineering services on Ann Lane with scope of work and pricing of \$4,500 approved by the Road Agent. At this time Janvrin reported that the Board of Directors from the Poplin Cooperative has signed a Purchase & Sales Agreement for the Countryside Mobile Home Park.

2. Carlson reviewed upcoming land use applications with the Board to include the Pollinger Variance and Thompson lot line adjustment. Carlson reviewed some generic information on both proposals. The Pollinger Variance has a lot of file history that will be provided as information to the Zoning Board for review. Janvrin did not participate in this discussion. Carlson was asked to present the information in the file on the original permit applications for some of the buildings on the Pollinger lot.

Barham specifically stated that the Planning Board debated the issue of attached versus detached and at the time they drafted and presented the ADU Ordinance, they were unanimous in their support of the caveat that the building be attached (IE: no detached ADU's). He felt that the letter of the Ordinance needed to be followed. Cordes agreed that the situation needs to be cleaned up by following all of the Town's regulations.

The Thompson application is for a lot line adjustment due to a foundation being poured too close to the property line, so the proposal will change lot lines between two lots to rectify that and meet setbacks.

3. FAA President Jamie Thompson made a phone inquiry this week as to the process for holding a meeting at the Town Hall third floor. Cordes feels this meeting may challenge our limits at this time, and to ask about the frequency, schedule and timing of proposed meetings.

Carlson indicated there continue to be questions about opening the Town Hall. For the time being Town buildings remain closed as we do not have the personnel and resources for the sanitation requirements; also with a small staff if anyone gets sick and has to quarantine, that will send all of the staff home and shut down services for up to two weeks.

4. The Board received a request from the Building Inspector to schedule a 6-month review. This will be addressed in non-public session as the Board also has a memo draft circulated for the Inspector.

5. Consent Agenda

- a. Payroll Manifest \$34,393.59 dated 09/18/2020 (includes election work from the Primary and some quarterly stipends)

Approved 09/24/2020

- b. Accounts Payable Manifest \$790,408.53 dated 09/18/2020 (includes \$700,000 to the Fremont School District)
- c. FCTV Revolving Fund Manifest 2020-18 in the amount of \$1,050.62 to cover reimbursement to the Town's General Fund for September 2020 payroll
- d. FCTV Revolving Fund Manifest 2020-19 in the amount of \$349.99 to reimburse Bill Millios for the annual renewal fee for the remote host "LogMeIn" service
- e. Letter to the McLeod's regarding decision on request for registration refund
- f. Collect final signature on Form MS 535 (voted last week)

A motion to approve the Consent Agenda items as read and reviewed was made by Barham and seconded by Janvrin. The vote was unanimous 3-0.

Cordes asked for an update on the Eagle Scout ramp project, and any inspections that may be needed, Carlson had emailed Adams and asked him to check in with the Building Inspector. He has holes dug and sono tubes installed.

Barham asked for a Trick or Treat update. NHMA is hosting a webinar at the end of the month with speakers giving updates and guidance on safety and procedures to assist towns in making decisions regarding this upcoming event. The Board will take this decision up at the end of September when more information is available.

6. The utility value preliminary summary has come in from our Utility Appraiser for the 2020 revaluation. Values are up approximately \$3M over prior years based on the new State Statute and prescribed formulas. The full report will be forthcoming shortly. For now, MRI has the summary and is working on putting new cards together for the utility properties.

VIII. WORKS IN PROGRESS

1. Work continues on the revaluation and data entry for the MS1.

At 7:48 pm Janvrin moved to enter non-public session pursuant to NH RSA 91-A3 II (c) and (e) to discuss a personnel and a legal 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

The Board began their non-public session at approximately 7:50 pm.

At 8:30 pm a motion was made by Janvrin to return to public session. Barham seconded and the roll call vote was unanimously approved 3-0: Cordes-yes; Janvrin-yes; Barham-yes.

Selectmen finalized a memo and signed it to Larry Miner to prepare for a meeting on his review in the coming weeks. The Board has a list of code enforcement issues that also need to be addressed.

Approved 09/24/2020

There was discussion about the budget cycle continuing and the Fire Rescue Department follow-up items. The Board is looking at a 2% wage increase in the wage line for paid compensation, and is comfortable with the amount shown for the EMS on-call coverage line.

The Board will also be looking to schedule a meeting with counsel next Thursday evening.

The Board discussed the need for a replacement shed at the Safety Complex. Carlson will ask Mike Malloy to work on it and if he doesn't have the time, Janvrin said he will do the research and present some options.

Carlson updated the Board on the status of the Fire Rescue trailer that was purchased by their Association without the proper paperwork, never registered, and then given to the Town (the Fire Rescue Department). Nichols has left the registration issues in Carlson's hand to fix and it has been a difficult process that still has several steps to remedy.

Selectmen signed the 2019 Audit Representation letter so that the final copy of the 2019 audit can be released by Plodzik & Sanderson.

The next regular Board meeting will be held on Thursday September 24, 2020 at 6:30 pm.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Carlson
Town Administrator