

Approved 10/08/2020

**I. CALL TO ORDER** at 5:33 pm at the Fremont Safety Complex, 425 Main Street in the back yard. Selectmen Gene Cordes, Neal Janvrin and Roger Barham met with Maintenance Staff member Mike Malloy to discuss the storage shed location and needs.

Malloy showed the Board the existing shed and its contents, and where a new shed can go. He had laid out colored rocks delineating the location of corners of a 12 x 16 and a 12 x 20 shed and how that would sit. There was a discussion about the pricing options he has on the smaller size; and he was asked by the Board to get pricing on 12 x 20. There will also be some discussion with the two Chiefs. Malloy has taken steps to clean up down there, and continues to work on some of the junk items in the shed.

There was discussion on the specifications for the shed including vinyl siding, a roof similar to the Complex, a five foot door, ramp, floor joists 16 oc, and metal storm brackets (hurricane brackets).

Cordes is going to write a memo for distribution to the Chiefs regarding the cleanout of junk and process moving forward. Selectmen were done at the Complex at 5:46 pm and returned to the Town Hall.

At 6:18 pm the Board reconvened 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

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. 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. You affect your neighbor's water so please be considerate.

*NH DES Drought update: According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, drought persists and has intensified in 6.5% of the state. Over the past three days, precipitation received across the state has ranged between 0.25" to 2.5". rain only made a small dent in the majority of the state, as precipitation deficits going back to early spring still range from 4.5" to 8.6". Also, the NH Groundwater Monitoring Report has been released for September and indicates that groundwater levels have dropped since the previous month and all but one of the monitoring wells are below their monthly average. The forecast calls for rain tomorrow, a dry weekend, and showers early next week. Precipitation outlooks beyond early next week lean toward normal and below normal precipitation.*

*As the growing season winds down and cooler temperatures set in, there is only a small window of time left to eliminate non-essential outdoor use in an effort to sustain supplies to meet essential future needs. NHDES is urging municipalities to implement outdoor water use restrictions, including restricting lawn watering. See [Drought Guidance for Municipalities](#) to learn more about implementing restrictions. Also, please report all outdoor water use restrictions and changes to those restrictions using the [NHDES Reporting Form](#) for posting on the NHDES website.*

*To date, 165 community water systems serving 330,000 people and seven municipalities with a total population of 60,700 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.*

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**Drought Update:** According to the [U.S. Drought Monitor](#) released this morning, 11% of the state is categorized as “extreme drought” (D3), 84% of the state is categorized as “severe drought” (D2), and 5% 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 a 30-day, 90-day, 180-day, and 360-day precipitation departures. Ninety-day departures range from -2.51” in Cheshire County to -5.82” in Strafford.

(<https://w1.weather.gov/data/TAR/ESPTAR>).

The groundwater levels in each of the monitoring wells in the New Hampshire Geological Survey’s monitoring network are lower compared to last month and all but one well is below their monthly average. For more information, see the [New Hampshire Groundwater Level Monitoring Report](#) for September 2020. Reports are released monthly.

**Forecast and Outlooks:** The short-term forecast calls for potential showers tomorrow, a dry weekend, and another system approaching early next week bringing potential showers Monday through Wednesday. Temperatures will be seasonal with highs in the mid 50s in the mountains and mid 60s south and lows in the 30s and 40s ([NOAA National Weather Service](#)).

The 6-10-day outlook probabilities favor near normal precipitation in the north and parts of central NH, below normal precipitation in the south and parts of central NH, and normal temperatures across the state.

The 8-14 day outlook tilts toward below normal precipitation and favors above normal temperatures across the state. ([National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center](#)).

According to the [US Seasonal Drought Outlook](#), over the next three months, drought conditions are likely to improve, but persist across the majority of the state.

Janvrin reiterated that no one should be watering lawns or other non-essential uses given the severity of the drought.

3. 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](mailto: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.

4. 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](mailto:FremontNHPRD@gmail.com).

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5. Saturday October 17<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 am to 12 noon is Fall Bulky Day. We are still waiting for the State DOT permit, but current plans include detouring traffic only one way on Route 111A. Be prepared for a change in traffic pattern.

### III. LIAISON REPORTS

Cordes summarized the September 30, 2020 Budget Committee meeting that they met with Chief Twiss to review the 2021 Police Department budget proposal. He also reviewed the Animal Control budget, which was recommended by the Committee. They spent considerable time with Leanne Miner from Land Use who presented the Rockingham Planning and Master Plan work with the focus being on storm water related planning. Their next meeting is scheduled for October 14, 2020.

### IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes of September 24, 2020 as written was made by Janvrin and seconded by Barham with unanimous approval 3-0.

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

At 7:00 pm Road Agent Leon Holmes Jr came to present the Highway Department (4312) budget. Cordes asked what he is anticipating for expenses through year end, and asked about major changes for 2021. Holmes first wanted to thank the Fremont Garden Club that planted lilacs and other bushes to beautify the Highway Shed. Also, he thanked the Fremont Police Department for assisting with traffic control for him to be able to perform the work on Beede Hill recently. He highlighted doing this work to improve site distance and safety at the intersection which has been subject of recent additional complaints.

With the budget, Holmes wanted to come up being level funded budget so on some lines he reduced and some he added to. He said he understood the Board was planning a 2% wage increase. He reviewed the line items individually within the budget. Signs and posts are currently overspent by \$300 and the Board suggested increasing their recommendation to \$1,800.

There was lengthy discussion about potential upcoming expenses to repair one ton truck. Holmes said the truck is 9 years old and is due for inspection. He has one estimate of \$6,400 to make the necessary repairs. There was discussion about whether to replace the vehicle and using some of the approximate \$67,500 currently in the HW Equipment Capital Reserve Fund to purchase a new vehicle. Holmes will do some more research into this. The other problem is the time element as he needs a vehicle for the upcoming winter season. There was debate about the truck and repair versus replace. The majority of the Board felt that Holmes should get another estimate for the repair work needed.

Cordes asked if other equipment may need to be replaced. Holmes said a snowplow, and the cost of a new one is \$8,500. There was some discussion and at the Board's request, Holmes will get three quotes for a replacement plow and come back with these proposals.

In the 2021 budget, Holmes is planning for paving the final overlay on Chester Road and Bean Road. He also mentioned a quote he got for work to repair some areas on Rogers/Leavitt/Shirkin intersection. He currently is working on Ann Lane scoping out to finish road work by next Wednesday, weather cooperating.

Holmes will be presenting a Warrant Article for Mast Tree Estates. Some preliminary information was received from the engineer tonight at 6:15 pm so no one has yet had time to review. The scope of work

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breakdown includes \$123,000 for Deer Run, \$89,000 for Kelsey Drive and \$31,000 for Kirstens Landing. Holmes said he is not prepared to have a total of \$244,086 in a Warrant Article, preferring to keep it consistent with what we have done the past two years, and suggested he may only do Deer Run (the worst of the areas). Everyone will review them more thoroughly.

With some discussion on the changes, a motion to recommend \$623,357 for the 2021 Highway Department budget (4312) was made by Barham and seconded by Janvrin. The vote was unanimous 3-0.

Holmes has been soliciting for part time employment which he has received an application from a qualified person who applied to work and plow on the town one ton which he is qualified. Cordes would like to bring this back next week as the employment required documents needs to be completed.

Holmes was thanked for his time and will likely return next week with the Warrant Article, employment and equipment follow-up items.

At 8:00 pm Nicole Cloutier came to discuss Halloween activities and ballfield gate usage. She put together a survey monkey, looking for resident response. Of the first 100 submissions, it showed that the community didn't want to cancel the celebration and showed that 75% would still participate. Janvrin expressed concerns on a full sanctioning of such activities when the Health Officer recently submitted a power point presentation with CDC guides and recommendations, as well as the risks and levels of risk with the various activities.

Barham said that even with the high risk of this people are going to do what they want to do. NHMA put on a webinar that presented the guidance while showing risks with guidance that the Health Officer also drew from for her presentation, showing the guidelines and risks. Cordes stated we are always concerned about public safety which needs to be thought out. He said no Town events will be held around the Halloween. He also asked people to be overly careful and mindful/respectful of the homes you are going to.

Cloutier asked to be proactive, even if it is not sanctioned by the Town, to pick a night. The Board did not go as far as to sanction a day and asked Cloutier and whatever community members she is working with, to make a plan and advise the Police Department on what they plan to do. Carlson has written a draft press release outlining the Board's position and that in good conscience the Town doesn't recommend it. More information will be posted soon.

Conversation then moved to the ballfield gate, and reference was also made to an email from Cassandra Depierre about the ballfield gate being opened daily for public usage. She said that due to Covid-19 a lot of parents are doing remote learning and if the fields were open children would be able to run around and play during their breaks. With the gate closed that strollers and wheelchairs are unable to access into the fields and she feels it is not fair to be only able to use the walkway. She is looking for a solution to have the gate open and is asking for the code to be able to access the gate. Janvrin sees this as a security issue with gates not being closed properly has had vandalism and we do not have the staff to open and close daily which poses a problem.

Cordes said it is closed for security reasons and what she is asking for is difficult as we don't have the staff available with varying hours and the ability to monitor it. The Board feels due to the lack of any staff who could manage this daily, the only solution is leave it as it is, or to leave it open 24/7 which they do not feel is a good option. Cloutier posed a scenario of being able to be responsible for other people to come up and she be responsible for the gate code lock. There was discussion about this, as the Board has just recently granted the FAA a combination lock option, just for them, so that they know when they are

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responsible for it. Carlson noted that soon after that was put in place, the locks were reconnected wrong and everyone was locked out.

Also, even if Cloutier is willing to assume the park usage with the Board's approval then down the road other people may further request usage of the fields. The Board feels this is something that needs additional planning and consideration and may not be able to take place this year. There was discussion about alternate gate options and security measures. Barham will work with Parks & Recreation Commission member Nancy Murray on a potential gate option. Cloutier was thanked and left the meeting at 8:39 pm.

## VI. OLD BUSINESS

1. Black Rocks Village deceleration lane - Carlson received an email last week she forwarded to the Selectmen stating NH DOT is unable to help and the Town needs to make a decision on which of the two options to proceed with to repair the deceleration lane. Funding is an issue as the escrow is not enough to complete a full set of plans. This continues to be a work in progress.

2. Selectmen discussed Trick or Treat and a press release for publication. The Health Officer's CDC and Webinar information will be posted as soon as possible.

3. Budgets reviewed tonight as follows:

**4151 Financial Administration** - The audit quotation has been received and the submission of a three-year contract needs to be reviewed for \$12,125.00. The total proposal is \$21,400.00 for Financial Administration which includes the audit. The quote that has been received encompasses a three-year contract. Cordes feels if another auditing firm is contacted the cost will be higher being a new client. Janvrin motioned to recommend \$21,400 for 4151 Financial Administration which was seconded by Barham with unanimous approval 3-0. Carlson circulated the engagement letter that will need to be signed and submitted in the future.

**4220 Fire Rescue** - Carlson refreshed the expense report and circulated a packet tonight for the Board's review. Deputy Chief Nichols is reviewing the compensation line as there will be three new members and a return to regular scheduled meetings and trainings. Next week Nichols is scheduled to meet with the Board.

**4323 / 4324 Solid Waste** - The budget is nearly completed, using updated trends for tonnage of trash and recycling. Carlson will reprint for the Board to review at next weeks meeting. In addition to the contract percentage increases, there is an increase in tonnage for MSW and recycling due to more people being home due to Covid-19. The fuel surcharge is a reduction.

4. Eagle Scout Project - The Adams Family has scheduled concrete for next week. Kris Adams is going to pay for it and ask the Town to reimburse her. Additionally, another check for the balance (\$2,300+) to Home Depot was paid by the Town this week.

5. The October Newsletter, updated with the new election worker ad, Veteran article, and Halloween information was reviewed. A motion was made by Janvrin to approve the newsletter as written which was seconded by Barham. The vote was unanimous 3-0.

## VII. NEW BUSINESS

**1. Consent Agenda Items**

- a. Payroll Manifest \$32,321.50 dated 10/02/2020
- b. Accounts Payable Manifest \$143,762.92 (and includes all FY 2020 CRF and ETF payments to the Trustees of Trust Funds)
- c. Supplemental Yield Tax Warrant 2019-2020 in the amount of \$323.15 for parcels 02-156.002 sublots 6, 7, and 8 to correct a recording discrepancy in type of wood cut, as directed by the NH Department of Revenue Administration Timber Appraisers

Janvrin moved to approve the Consent Agenda as read. Barham seconded and the vote was unanimously approved 3-0.

**2. The Police Department new candidate written and physical agility testing will be held this Saturday at the Safety Complex.**

3. Selectmen reviewed the folder of incoming correspondence including: Management letter from our auditors which Carlson will scan and send to Board members; recruiting notice for election workers; Xfinity adjustment to sports channel; abutters copy of a notification from Gove Environmental regarding the NH DES Dredge and Fill Application for the Galloway site; Building Inspector's September report on permits issued; email regarding Trick or Treating; notes from the Land Use Office on the September 27 walk at Gristmill Road; email evaluation on FCTV on equipment sound problems; copy email from Jenn Rowden to Land Use on having a Sober House in Fremont; letter from resident to open fields for convenience to use.

4. Town Hall use Covid-19 checklist – A checklist of procedures was prepared by Selectmen's Office staff and was reviewed by the Selectmen for the use of the Town Hall for committee meetings. The Board felt the list was appropriate. A motion to adopt the Fremont Covid-19 post-meeting checklist was made by Barham and seconded by Janvrin. The vote was unanimously approved 3-0.

5. Carlson asked the Board to consider the meeting schedule for coming months including around the November and December holidays. All are asked to mark your calendar for important meetings upcoming including the Public Budget Hearing on Wednesday January 13, 2021 at Ellis School at 7:00 pm and Deliberative Sessions (same format as 2020) beginning at 9:00 am Saturday January 30, 2020 at Ellis School (School followed by Town) with a snow date of Saturday February 6, 2021. Petition Warrant Articles are due on Tuesday January 12, 2021. Town articles should be submitted to the Selectmen's office by 12 noon; and School District petitions to the SAU Office by 4:00 pm.

Carlson has also prepared the Budget Calendar through the end of current budget cycle for discussion at the next Budget Committee meeting on October 14<sup>th</sup>.

6. Bill Millios submitted a quote from Access AV for the replacement of two components of the control room sound system to solve the intermittent sound problems. The quote is \$2,089 and at billing time will have some shipping cost added. A motion to approve these costs to repair and replacement the sound equipment was made by Janvrin and seconded by Barham. The vote was unanimous 3-0.

**VIII. WORKS IN PROGRESS**

1. Work continues on the MS 1 preparation. The utility valuation report arrived today. Carlson is entering the final cards into the tax billing system.

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At 8:41 pm Janvrin moved to enter into non-public session pursuant to NH RSA 91-A:3 II (c) and (e) to discuss a personal 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

At 8:45 pm the Board's non-public session began.

At 9:35 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.

A motion was made by Barham to seal the minutes of the personnel non-public session indefinitely. Cordes seconded and the roll call vote approved 2-0-1; Cordes-yes; Janvrin-abstain; Barham-yes.

Selectmen will continue their work on the Ordinance to regulate trucking.

The Town will begin the process to request Ellis School for upcoming Public Budget Hearings and the Deliberative Sessions.

The next regular Board meeting will be held on Thursday October 8, 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 9:47 pm. Barham seconded and the vote was unanimously approved 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Carlson  
Town Administrator