

Approved 10/22/2020

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 (arrived at 6:45 pm) 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. 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.
3. The Fremont Public Library's Third Annual Fremont Scarecrow Festival is underway as is the Parks & Recreation Pumpkin Decorating contest. Check the respective FB pages or the Town website for more details.
4. Bulky Day will be held this Saturday from 8:00 am to 12 noon. Please approach the site from the north and leave the gate by turning right onto Route 111A for traffic safety.
5. Ann Lane work is complete aside from shoulder work. The road is open and will be open on Friday while they complete the shoulder work.
6. The weekly drought update from NH DES: Over the past week, the state has received some widespread rain, which has been enough to decrease the severity of drought in some areas and not in others. Over the past five days, parts of the North Country received between 1.5" and 3" of rain and a good portion of that area has been downgraded from "severe drought" (D2) to "moderate drought" (D1). The majority of the southern half of the state received 1" or less of rain and drought intensity remains the same with "extreme drought" (D3) persevering in the southeastern corner. Widespread soaking rain is expected to arrive tomorrow and continue through Saturday morning, followed by dry weather through early next week.

The risk of private well owners experiencing water shortages is significantly higher in areas experiencing "extreme drought" (D3). As the outdoor water use season winds down, it is recommended that messaging related to indoor conservation begin, especially in areas of "extreme drought". Municipalities may also assess the need to set up locations for emergency access to water. See [Drought Guidance for Municipalities](#) for further guidance on emergency sources and indoor savings tips.

Community water systems should continue to track supplies carefully and enforce water restrictions as necessary. It is recommended that messaging related to conserving indoors begin. See [Drought Guidance for Community Water Systems](#). 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, 166 community water systems serving 331,000 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, 22% of the state is categorized as “extreme drought” (D3), 53% of the state is categorized as “severe drought”(D2), and 25% 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 from normal (<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 showers on Friday and Saturday morning and then dry through early next week. ([NOAA National Weather Service](#)).

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

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

III. LIAISON REPORTS

The Budget Committee met on October 14, 2020 where they reviewed the highway and fire department 2021 budgets. The discussion remained on planning projects but having the operating budget reflect in the lines of hot top, paving and engineering to complete the necessary road repairs yearly to try to catch up on other road replacement in the future. On the Mast Tree estate three road repairs and engineering estimate of \$244,000.00 was reviewed; and the budget committee recommend adding the cost into the operating budget as opposed to being a warrant article. The FRD budget was also recommended which was less than last years budget. There next meeting is scheduled for October 28, 2020 at 6:30 to allow more time to spend on budgets.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Janvrin to approve the minutes of the October 8, 2020 meeting as written. Cordes seconded and the vote was unanimous 2-0.

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

VI. OLD BUSINESS

1. There was no update on the Black Rocks Village deceleration lane. Cordes expressed his frustration that we still do not have a plan to finish the work. Last update was that NH DOT was asking for plans which setback the work date, originally scheduled for this week.
2. The revised revenues (NH DRA Form MS 434) was submitted last Friday night by Carlson.
3. Carlson circulated copies of the revised Mast Tree Estates estimates from Stantec for reconstruction work. This is backup for the Highway Department budget. Cordes updated Barham that the cost for this

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road construction was proposed last night by the Budget Committee to be placed into the operating budget and not as a Warrant Article.

4. In follow-up to Janvrin's questions last week, Mike Malloy indicated the choice of shed style had to do with roof pitch and layout, to have more headroom and storage area. The shed is on the end of year purchase list. Some work is being quoted now relative to the migration/upgrade of LED lights at the Complex, as well as improvements to the rear shed (ie: roof and electric outlet). Selectmen asked for grant opportunities and rebates to considered relative to the lighting upgrades.

5. Carlson asked the Board for a formal decision on funding for Lamprey Health Care or successor organization Rockingham Nutrition and Meals on Wheels relative to the senior transportation program. Lamprey wanted to know where the \$4,100 would be going and offered up options for distribution. The Board felt most comfortable giving the funding in equal shares to the two organizations (LHC and RNMOW) who have provided the services this fiscal year. LHC is transitioning all of their contracts and equipment to RNMOW as of July 1, 2020. A motion to provide funding divided in half to each recipient was made by Janvrin and seconded by Barham. The vote was unanimous 3-0.

6. Budgets:

4442 Direct Assistance - This is the same as proposed in 2020 for general assistance. The majority of programs staying evictions and shut offs have completed. We have certainly seen an increase in cases (amounts of aid) this year, some of which is due to Covid layoffs. A motion to recommend \$20,580 for 4442 Direct Assistance was made by Janvrin and seconded by Barham with unanimous approval 3-0.

4520 Parks & Recreation – Carlson distributed a list of items from the FAA to be considered in the fields budget request for next year. A couple of these items are already underway from the existing budgeted funds. One of their requests is to purchase a rototiller-type attachment for the tractor. FAA President Jamie Thompson has been asked to submit quotes for pricing the various items, as soon as possible.

Carlson put the balance of the budget together based on current year actual, and without any camp program as there is not sufficient staffing to pull it off. This has all been sent to the two current Parks members for review. The request discussed in late September with Nicole Cloutier regarding gate options was further discussed. The Board is still most concerned within security and the past vandalism becoming an issue again. Janvrin was concerned with a larger gate the motorcycles and OHRV's could access the fields causing problems and suggested the future possibility of fencing the soccer field. Barham will review with Nancy Murray to see if any other options may be available. This will be further discussed at next meeting. Carlson stressed the timeline to finish up with the budgets. There was also discussion about following up on the bid proposals to get lighting to the fields.

4130 Executive – Selectmen discussed wage changes while many other lines have decreased in the budget. A motion to recommend \$129,710 for 4130 Executive, was made by Barham and seconded by Janvrin with unanimous approval 3-0.

The Board asked for some research to be done into the amount of other Selectmen's stipends for a reference point.

4194 Government Buildings - Carlson is still working on updating all of the numbers. A 2% wage increase for staff is included and current costs for the fuel contract and gallons, maintenance for fire alarm and sprinkler systems etc; updating Safety Complex to LED lighting. Additional information will be brought back next week.

7. NH DOT information re: Bulky Day - Carlson received a letter unsigned which gives us permission with extra conditions necessary to follow with signature forthcoming. Until we have a signed permission letter, we will encourage people to use the amended traffic route to facilitate the days event. Once received, it will be posted for the closure.

8. GOFERR and FEMA updates/submission deadlines - Carlson spent time this week with Fremont EMD Mark DeBeber as well as chasing down information from FEMA and GOFERR to find out about our submittals. We need a finite FEMA denial to apply for the balance of CARES money. Since DeVeber has not yet applied, this may not come in time. Alternatively, she is putting together other funds that are now eligible funds that may be available for filing to recover funds and make the Town whole from our Covid added expenses.

9. Carlson advised the Board that she sent in the voting grant application with assistance from the Town Clerk on Wednesday night. The Clerk will receive notification of further information needed and/or any type of award we may be eligible for.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

1. Consent Agenda Items

- a. Payroll Manifest \$51,249.79 dated 10/16/2020
- b. Accounts Payable Manifest \$727,040.69 dated 10/16/2020. \$650,000.00 is payable to the Fremont School District.

A motion to approve the above Consent Agenda items was made by Janvrin and seconded by Barham with unanimous approval 3-0.

2. The Police Department written and physical agility tests were held at the Safety Complex on October 3, 2020. Of the original 24 candidates, 12 arrived for the testing. Of those, two failed the written and two failed the physical. The remaining eight are partaking in the interview process.

3. The Board reviewed the folder of incoming correspondence which includes: letter from Library Trustees that they are putting a filter system in for PFOA treatment \$15,000; posting of budget meetings and public hearing schedules; Wreaths Across America event not being held due to Covid this year, but a wreath will be put in front at Town Hall and donations can be made to Liberty House for homeless veterans; SRRDD 53B meeting notice; update NH Public Health on Covid; library maintenance position posting; resident email on hauling on Shirkin Road; letter from the CC relative to the purchase of 04-017; Health Trust letter noting return surplus of \$6,096 to Fremont; information on FEMA money and PPE general election needs.

4. Health Trust renewal for 2021 letter was provided which needs to be signed. The Board will review and further discuss next week.

5. The Selectmen will not meet the week Thanksgiving and will approve payroll with Carlson and one Selectmen's approval with their signatures to follow. Veteran's Day week will have no change.

VIII. WORKS IN PROGRESS

1. Work continues on the MS 1 preparation. We are very close to the end of the data submission.

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2. Janvrin will be attending the SRRDD 53-B Committee quarterly meeting next Wednesday October 21, 2020 at 6:30 pm at the Atlantic Grill in Rye NH.

3. The Library has an RFP posted for exterior trim painting work that is included in the budget. The Trustees also decided last night at their meeting to move forward with an additional water treatment system.

4. Thomas Paoletta began working on Monday and is assisting with some fall cleanup work as well as at the ballfields.

5. A motion to recommend a conditional appointment for Frank Chase Jr employment as a part time highway worker pending receipt of a satisfactory motor vehicle record check was made by Barham and seconded by Janvrin. The vote was unanimous 3-0.

6. To facilitate the road change pattern for Bulky Day Janvrin has volunteered to hand deliver the flyers Carlson will print tomorrow to the residents to make them aware of the traffic pattern change for the event.

At 8:26 pm Janvrin moved to enter non-public session pursuant to NH RSA 91-A:3 II (c) and (e) to discuss a personnel and 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's non-public session began at approximately 8:30 pm after a restroom break.

At 8:45 pm 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 discussed preparation and setup for voting matters on November 3.

Motion was made by Barham and seconded by Janvrin to conditionally hire Frank Chase Jr pending the receipt of his NH DMV records check being satisfactorily returned, for the part-time Highway Department laborer/equipment operator position at a rate of \$17.00 per hour. The vote was unanimously approved 3-0 and when the records check is returned, Chase can begin working.

The Board suggested that Deputy Nichols schedule a meeting with the candidate regarding his background check to gather additional information.

With no further business which may legally come before the Board, a motion was made by Barham and seconded by Janvrin to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 pm. The vote was approved 3-0.

The next regular Board meeting will be held on Thursday October 22, 2020 at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Heidi Carlson, Town Administrator