

FREMONT BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING
Fremont Town Hall, Fremont, NH 03044
August 15, 2018
7PM

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Mary Anderson called the August 15, 2018 Budget Committee meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7PM at the Fremont Town Hall. Present were: Mary Anderson, Gene Cordes, Mary Jo Holmes, Joe Miccile, Josh Yokela and Brittany Thompson. Also present were Heidi Carlson and Susan Penny.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mary Jo Holmes made a motion to approve the minutes of May 9, 2018. Gene Cordes seconded the motion. Motion passed 5:0.

Mary Jo Holmes made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 10, 2018 meeting and public hearing. Brittany Thompson seconded the motion. Motion passed 5:0.

REVIEW OF INFORMATION FROM BUDGET WORKSHOP ON JULY 25, 2018

There was a review of the "Basic Law of Budgeting" workshop that was held by Margaret Byrnes, Esq., of the NH Municipal Association on July 25, 2018 in Sandown. Those who attended included Brittany Thompson, Gordon Muench, Joe Miccile, Mary Anderson, Heidi Carlson and three Selectmen. Powerpoint handouts were distributed to Committee members for reference. Focus items included:

Default Budget

- Any one-time items cannot be included in the default budget (e.g. if staff members are not returning to school, they cannot be in the default budget)
- Need default budget review/how calculations were made at deliberative session (not amended)
- Actual budget transfers should not be done in order to better compare year to year. Ms. Penny noted that she has given reports for the adopted budget column, to which she defers, and she said she would relay this information to the School Board (for FY19, not physically transferring money).
- Voting in the Affirmative (this will be confirmed)

SCHOOL BUDGET UPDATE/REVIEW CURRENT BUDGET REPORT 2018

As of now, about \$485,000 is scheduled to be returned to reduce taxes; Ms. Penny still needs to work on tuition and open invoices however (\$590,000 is encumbered, which is mostly Sanborn-related. Last year's issue has been reconciled (split difference) and the district has a better method of charging students: paying for the number of students enrolled on three dates during the year (@ October 1, January 1, and May 1). There was discussion on payment going both ways, as students come and go throughout the year. Sanborn pays for 504 plans. Fremont does not pay for ALP students. Ms. Penny will double check on payment for part-time students for the next meeting. Ms. Penny was commended for her work in this matter.

The security grant work is coming along well (reconfigured, more safe entry/vestibule). The security grant was for \$255,000 and the district had to contribute 20% matching (\$52,500), which can be taken from the FY19 budget (or the maintenance fund if necessary).

Ms. Anderson requested current trust fund balances for the next meeting.

Ms. Penny noted that the school building's roof is 33 years old and not in good shape. There was discussion and general feeling that it should be replaced before it becomes very problematic.

TOWN BUDGET UPDATE/REVIEW CURRENT BUDGET REPORT 2018

Police Department wages and personnel changes

Town Hall

Highway Shed and Complex Generator projects completed

Old generators out to bid

Safety Complex Roof out to bid

Solid Waste contract RFP

Ms. Carlson noted that multi-year contracts need to be approved by the legislating body (can't put contract increase in the budget). There has been misuse of default budget calculations. She said that voters will need to adopt the solid waste contract (which ends on December 31, 2018) first (it will go on the Warrant), so she has asked the company to extend the contract until March 31st. This affects School District multi-year contracts as well, such as bussing (which is up this year). If a budget amount increases after the public budget hearing adjourns, a second hearing is necessary.

Per the information at the budgeting seminar: Contracts are defined as "previously approved, in the amount so approved, by the legislative body in either the operating budget authorized for the previous year or in a separate warrant article for a previous year."

Summer road improvement work complete on Beede Hill Road and Red Brook Road

Safety Complex Heating system conversion complete

Fire Rescue radios purchased

NEXT MEETING DATES:

SEPT. 12, 19, 26 OCT. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 NOV. 7 (start School budget), 14, 28 DEC. 5, 12, 19 JAN. TBA

ADJOURNMENT

Mary Jo Holmes made a motion to adjourn at 8:30PM. Brittany Thompson seconded the motion. Motion passed 5:0.

Respectfully submitted by Susan Perry, Secretary

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