

FREMONT BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING
Fremont Town Hall, Fremont, NH 03044
May 9, 2018
7PM

CALL TO ORDER

Chair pro-tempore Mary Anderson called the May 9, 2018 Budget Committee meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:00 PM at the Fremont Town Hall. Present were: Mary Anderson, Gene Cordes, Mary Jo Holmes, Joe Miccile, Josh Yokela (arriving at 7:05 PM), Jonathan Starr, and Brittany Thompson (School Board Representative). Also present were: Allyn Hutton, Susan Penny, Heidi Carlson, and Susan Perry.

INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERSHIP

There were introductions of Board members, Town Administrator, Board Secretary, and School Superintendent and Business Administrator.

ELECT CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Mary Jo Holmes made a motion to nominate Mary Anderson as Chair. Joe Miccile seconded the motion. Motion passed 7:0 (J. Yokela was not yet present).

Gene Cordes made a motion to nominate Pat Martel as Vice Chair. Mary Jo Holmes seconded the motion. Motion passed 8:0.

UPDATE PHONE LIST & CONTACT INFORMATION (Informational)**APPROVAL OF MINUTES: JANUARY 10, 2018**

Mary Jo Holmes made a motion to table the minutes of January 10, 2018. Joe Miccile seconded the motion. Motion passed 8:0

SCHOOL BUDGET UPDATES/INFORMATION

Review of school budget updates/information included:

- 4.19% increase in Sanborn tuition rate (\$18,871.20 per student = increase of about \$700); a 2% increase was budgeted. The projected enrollment was 215 but is not 208; therefore the district is about \$60,000 in the hole going into FY19 (tuition line). The School Board plans to fund the tuition fund, in which there would be about \$300,000.
- A summary of tuition rate increases had been provided, and it was noted that tuition increases varied, even up to about 8% and as low as under 1% (last year).
- Fremont pays on a projected cost per pupil
- Declining enrollment in Sanborn
- Joint Board meeting scheduled on May 22nd
- \$255,000 security grant funding for projects such as: front vestibule redesign, swipe cards for entrance, security cameras, window film, and updated phone/intercom system. Work will begin by July – has to be done by April 30, 2019.
- Carbon filtering for water bubblers due to PFOA finding (not harmful but the District took precaution). Total filtration system would cost about \$15,000 otherwise.

TOWN BUDGET UPDATE/REVIEW CURRENT BUDGET REPORT 2018

People were happy that the budget passed. Two warrant articles did not pass: police officer and historic museum capital reserve fund.

Ms. Carlson presented the following information:

- The police department is now short three officers (one of which is on military duty during which his position must be held): positions have been posted. There has been discussion about doing a wage study.
- Children's librarian resignation and hiring of a new aide

- Town Hall and Highway shed generator projects are almost complete
- Town Hall rekeying has been done and came in under bid
- Safety Complex water testing and systems have been updated
- Earth Day pickup was very successful, had a good turnout (1.46 tons of roadside trash)
- Solid waste contract changes are pending
- Summer road improvement work (both road warrant articles passed – total is about \$500,000 worth of work; the Committee discussed alternative ideas to fund roadwork moving forward e.g. bond, capital reserve, 20 year plan, etc. Ms. Carlson will address this with the Road Agent.)
- Hiring/training of new building inspector
- Hiring/training of new Deputy Town Clerk Tax Collector (former one moved and is no longer a resident)
- Safety Complex heating systems update
- Full-time Highway Department position
- Encumbered items including fire truck repair (fire truck is back in service)
- Fire Rescue Department study with MRI (Municipal Resources Inc. – they do consulting, recruitments and assessing and look at compensation plans)
- Town Hall server installation is complete/new Police Department replacement server has been ordered
- Plans for Expendable Trust Fund for IT needs and computer replacements
- Fire Rescue replacement computers
- Safety complex roof is at end of life – planning on a warrant article for this (partially encumbered)

TENTATIVE BUDGET SCHEDULE

Ms. Carlson said that she would have information to start budget reviews in August. The Selectmen review budgets and bring recommendations to the Budget Committee. The Committee decided on August 15th as the first meeting of the budget season. Ms. Anderson will draft a meeting schedule for that meeting.

NEXT MEETING DATE: AUGUST 15, 2018 at 7PM – Town Hall Upstairs

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:17 PM, Gene Cordes made a motion to adjourn. Pat Martel seconded the motion. Motion passed 8:0.

Respectfully submitted by,
Susan Perry, Secretary