

FREMONT BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING
Fremont Town Hall, Fremont, NH 03044
November 1, 2017
7PM

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Mary Anderson called the November 1, 2017 Budget Committee meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:01 PM at the Fremont Town Hall. Present were: Budget Committee Chair Mary Anderson, Vice Chair Pat Martel, Gene Cordes, Mary Jo Holmes, Joe Miccile, Kathy Miccile, and Josh Yokela and School Board member Jennifer Brown.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: OCTOBER 26, 2017

The nay vote for the Vendor Payments line 4445 was clarified as being J. Yokela not P. Martel. The following clarification was made:

	2017-2018 Town of Fremont Health Insurance			
	<u>Monthly Cost</u>	<u>Yearly Cost</u>	<u>Town</u>	<u>Employee</u>
Single	\$817.90	\$9,814.80	\$9,814.80	0
2-person	\$1,635.81	\$19,629.72	\$17,666.74	\$1,962.98
Family	\$2208.34	\$26,500	\$23,163.02	\$3,337.06

Jennifer Brown made a motion to approve as amended the minutes of October 26, 2017. Joe Miccile seconded the motion. Motion passed 7:0:1 (abstention from K. Miccile).

SCHOOL BUDGET UPDATES/INFORMATION

Ms. Brown reported that the School Board had a budget workshop last week. This is a contract year for teachers and negotiations are underway; salaries make up the largest part of the budget. Superintendent Allyn Hutton and Business Administrator Susan Penny had looked at three-year trending and cut \$27,000 of unnecessary items off the top. The Budget Committee was concerned about roughly \$1 million in discretionary money that was not budgeted for (the District turned back \$650,000 in last year's budget which decreased minimally, and unbudgeted projects were still able to be done. There was a request to see a spreadsheet of projects that were done/cost (doors, bathrooms, etc.) Ms. Brown explained that \$442,000 was known tuition from the prior fiscal year that was being resolved. There was known money from the 9th bus which was used for the oil tank and \$50,000 was cut last year. There was discussion about budget transfers and there was a request to see a side by side report of the original (adopted) budget as proposed by the Town and the ending budget. Ms. Anderson will be meeting with Superintendent Hutton and will discuss the new budget perspective this year.

TOWN BUDGET UPDATES/INFORMATION

There was concern about the 13% increase in the Town budget thus far. There was discussion about the budgets and Warrant Articles of the Highway Department, Police Department and Personnel Administration. Topics included: having adequately-staffed departments (capped at a certain level); having a consultant help make staffing recommendations; prioritizing budgetary items; the high cost of benefits (concern about 0% contribution for single plan; consider increasing employee contribution); lack of full-time employees; and possibly postponing the extra police officer request until benefits of the most recent officer appointment are seen (to better gauge requirements).

4155 PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION (TABLED)

4210 POLICE

Discussion included: matrix change; agility and longevity; and salaries and benefits. Ms. Brown favored leaving money in the budget to build incentive program to help with personnel retention.

Josh Yokela made a motion to reduce the patrol wage line by \$9,500 to \$282,668 (eliminating the physical agility - bringing the total budget to \$562,602). Pat Martel seconded the motion. Motion passed 6 aye: 2 nay (J. Brown and G. Cordes).

Vote to move on to the next budget: 7:1.

Vote to continue discussion on the police department budget: 8:0.

Mr. Yokela spoke about vehicle maintenance based on history, money not being spent, and newer vehicles. He suggested reducing the maintenance line by \$2,000 to be in line with spending actuals and some extra. Mr. Cordes noted that police vehicles get wear from daily use and there is still more maintenance to do by the end of this year.

Josh Yokela made a motion to reduce the maintenance by \$2,000 (to \$2,560). This would bring the recommended budget total to \$560,602. Mary Jo Holmes seconded the motion. Motion passed 6 aye: 2 nay (Brown, Cordes).

Pat Martel recommended \$560,602 for the Police Department Budget line 4210. Joe Miccile seconded the motion. Motion passed 6 aye:2 nay (Brown, Cordes).

4220 FIRE RESCUE

Mary Jo Holmes recommended the Board of Selectmen's recommendation of \$194,269 for the 4220 Fire Rescue Department budget. Joe Miccile seconded the motion. Motion passed 8:0.

4312 HIGHWAY (HOLD)

TOWN WARRANT ARTICLES

Ms. Holmes spoke in favor of One Sky Community Services, which is a new request and will be on a Warrant Article. She said this service is being used by families in town and helps mentally challenged children (ages 3-21) learn life skills. She recommended \$2,000 for the article (as opposed to \$3,500 as was requested).

It was suggested that the description of the Articles be placed after the article instead of beforehand.

The following votes were made on Warrant Articles:

ARTICLE B: HIRE AN ADDITIONAL F/T POLICE OFFICER (\$37,272)

Jennifer Brown made a motion to recommend article B: Hire and Additional F/T Police Officer (\$37,272). Gene Cordes seconded the motion. Motion failed 2 aye (Brown, Cordes): 6 nay.

Josh Yokela made a motion to not recommend article B: Hire an Additional F/T Police Officer (\$37,272). Joe Miccile seconded the motion. Motion passed 6 aye: 2 nay (Brown, Cordes)

ARTICLE C: LIBRARY BUILDING EXPENDABLE TOWN TRUST FUND (\$5,000)

Mary Jo Holmes made a motion to recommend article C: Library Building Expendable Town Trust Fund (\$5,000). Pat Martel seconded the motion. Motion passed 8:0.

ARTICLE D: FIRE TRUCK CAPITAL RESERVE FUND (\$50,000)

Pat Martel made a motion to recommend article D: Fire Truck Capital Reserve Fund (\$50,000). Jennifer Brown seconded the motion. Motion passed 8:0.

ARTICLE E: BRIDGE CAPITAL RESERVE FUND (\$25,000)

Gene Cordes made a motion to recommend article E: Bridge Capital Reserve Fund (\$25,000). Mary Jo Holmes seconded the motion. Motion passed 8:0.

ARTICLE F: HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT CAPITAL RESERVE FUND (\$25,000)

Jennifer Brown made a motion to recommend article F: Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund (\$25,000). Joe Miccile seconded the motion. Motion passed 8:0.

ARTICLE G: BEEDE HILL ROAD HIGHWAY PAVING AND IMPROVEMENTS (\$213,094) – TABLED

ARTICLE H: RED BROOK ROAD HIGHWAY PAVING AND IMPROVEMENTS (\$162,710) – TABLED

ARTICLE I: EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT EQUIPMENT CAPITAL RESERVE FUND (\$25,000) – TABLED

ARTICLE J: MOSQUITO CONTROL PROGRAM (\$49,550)

Joe Miccile made a motion to recommend article J: Mosquito Control Program (\$49,550). Jennifer Brown seconded the motion. Motion passed 8:0.

ARTICLE K: HISTORIC MUSEUM CAPITAL RESERVE FUND (\$25,000) – TABLED

ARTICLE L: HIGHWAY WINTER MAINTENANCE EXPENDABLE TOWN TRUST FUND - TABLED

ARTICLE M: AMENDING ELDERLY EXEMPTION INCOME AND ASSET LIMITS – TABLED

ARTICLE N: AMENDING VETERAN CREDIT ALLOWANCE FOR FREMONT IN LIGHT OF NEW LEGISLATION

Gene Cordes made a motion to recommend article N: Amending Veteran Credit Allowance for Fremont in light of the new legislation. Joe Miccile seconded the motion. Motion passed 8:0.

ARTICLE O: ONE SKY COMMUNITY SERVICES REQUEST (\$2,000) – TABLED

NEXT MEETING DATE: NOVEMBER 8, 2017 – at Fremont Public Library Following School Budget Forum at 6-7PM

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:05 PM, Jennifer Brown made a motion to adjourn. Joe Miccile seconded the motion. Motion passed 8:0.

Respectfully submitted by,

Susan Perry, Secretary