

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chair Mary Jo Holmes, in the main floor of the Fremont Town Hall. Present were members Mary Jo Holmes, Pat Martel, Michael Nygren, Steve Bonaccorsi and Gene Cordes; and Town Administrator Heidi Carlson. Member Jon Benson arrived at 7:33 pm. Members Josh Yokela and Gordon Muench attended remotely via Teams. Yokela joined at 7:15 pm; and Muench joined and dropped the connect a couple of times before being connected fully. Tonight's meeting is a live broadcast by Greg Fraize of FCTV. Fraize was also present throughout the meeting.

A motion to approve the minutes of the December 9, 2020 meeting was made by Cordes and seconded by Bonaccorsi. Holmes found several corrections on page 1 and wanted to add in the actual amounts of funds returned to the District over the past three years. Some research was done through SAU paperwork and the total returns in each of the past three years includes 2018 \$571,751; 2019 \$50,848; and 2020 \$445,382. This will be added to the minutes. With this change, and updates to the motions (and who made them) on recommendations for WA 11 and 13. With these amendments, the vote to approve the minutes as amended was approved 5-0-1 with Nygren abstaining. (Muench was having technical difficulty and not voting).

A motion to approve the minutes of December 16, 2020 meeting as amended was made by Cordes which was seconded by Nygren. The vote was unanimous 6-0-0. There was one typo corrected on page two. (Muench not present).

There were no School Budget items left for review. The budget and Warrant have been reviewed and recommended.

Carlson presented some Town Budget follow-up information. First was a reduction in the Parks & Recreation operating budget of \$4,900. Cordes explained that funds were encumbered in 2020 (from excess operating funds), and the \$4,900 included in the 2021 budget is not needed for that purpose. This brought the Parks and Recreation budget to \$29,072.

This led to discussion on the updated Warrant, and Article 4 for the Town operating budget. Carlson had updated the recommended budget on Article 4 operating budget, and if the Committee agrees with the \$4,900 reduction, the revised operating budget would be \$3,647,861. Carlson also noted that the default budget is updated (reduced) to \$3,409,025 after further checking the spreadsheet formulas. Cordes moved to amend the Parks and Recreation budget to \$29,072. Martel seconded and the vote was unanimous 6-0-0.

For clarity Carlson read the updated Article 4: Shall the Town of Fremont raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling \$3,647,861? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$3,399,845 which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Fremont or by law or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. Note: This operating budget warrant does not include appropriations contained in ANY other warrant articles.

A motion to recommend Article 4 with an operating budget at \$3,647,861 was made by Bonaccorsi and seconded by Nygren with unanimous approval 7-0-0.

Carlson then reviewed Article 10 for the Library Building Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund. Carlson explained that the Selectmen had changed this article to \$25,000 with the entire amount coming from UFB, and that the Selectmen had removed Article 11 as previously proposed. Cordes further explained that by using surplus from operating budget to place into one Warrant Article set aside for this fund and

that is what this article which is now one fund. A motion to recommend Article 10 appropriating \$25,000 to come from Unreserved Fund Balance was made by Cordes and seconded by Bonaccorsi. The vote was 7-0-0.

Carlson reminded viewers that Town Petition Warrant Articles are due next Tuesday by noon to the Selectmen's Office. Anyone with a School Petition Warrant Article should contact the SAU office for the time deadline to submit on Tuesday.

Jon Benson arrived at 7:33 pm.

Carlson reviewed the open positions in both the Town and School District.

TOWN POSITIONS OPEN in 2021

Budget Committee: 2 for 3 years
Library Trustee: 1 for 3 years
Selectman: 1 for 3 years

Cemetery Trustee: 1 for 3 years
Road Agent: 1 for 3 years
Trustee of Trust Funds: 1 for 3 years

SCHOOL DISTRICT POSITIONS OPEN in 2021

School Board Member: 2 for 3 years
School District Moderator: 1 for 1 year
School District Treasurer: 1 for 1 year

School Board Member: 1 for 2 years
School District Clerk: 1 for 1 year

This information is posted on the website, and the Candidate Declaration period begins on January 20, 2021 and runs through Friday January 29, 2021.

Carlson explained the Warrant is being submitted to DRA for review and that the signature page will be ready for members to sign at the Public Hearing.

Announcements: The Fremont School District is accepting applications for:

School District Moderator

- *To fill current vacancy –until the March 2021 election*
- *Must be a resident of Fremont, NH*
- *Training available*
- *\$150 Stipend*
- *Deliberative Session will be held on January 30th at 9:00 am; Snow date is scheduled for February 6th at 9:00 am*
- *See attached RSA 197:19*
- *Interested applicants should send a letter of interest by January 18th to:*

*Shawn Perreault
C/O SAU Office
432 Main Street
Fremont, NH 03044*

Letters can be mailed or dropped off at the above address.

***NH RSA – Title XV EDUCATION CHAPTER 197 SCHOOL MEETINGS AND OFFICERS
Section 197:19***

197:19 Moderator. – *The moderator shall have the like power and duty as a moderator of a town meeting to conduct the business and to preserve order, and in the conduct of a school district meeting, all the statutory duties, powers and authority granted to town moderators, and may administer oaths to district officers and in the district business.*

Source. 1852, 1301. CS 74:8. GS 79:11. GL 87:11. PS 90:17. 1921, 85, V:18. PL 120:18. RL 139:18. RSA 197:19. 1971, 524:5. 1979, 321:6, eff. Aug. 21, 1979.

DATE POSTED: January 6, 2021
2021 or until filled

www.SAU83.org

POST THROUGH: January 18,

In response to questions from the Committee, Carlson and Cordes discussed that the only other petition they know of was one related to changing the name of the Board of Selectmen to Selectpersons or Selectboard.

Chair Holmes volunteered to draft the Committee's Report for our annual Town Report. She will circulate to Committee members to review.

There was discussion about providing additional details for the Warrant to include detailed explanation of the change in the numbers being the inclusion of all the paving work which has in the past, traditionally been included in a separate Warrant Article. Committee members noted that the tax rate information descriptions on the articles made note of this. Cordes added that the Board of Selectmen's report also highlights road improvements being put into the operating budget.

The Public Hearing is currently scheduled for Wednesday January 13, 2021 at 7:00 pm at Ellis School. A zoom option will be available and FCTV will do a live broadcast. Social distancing and masks will be required. Holmes asked for an early arrival by 6:30 pm of Committee members, to arrange the set up with Covid-19 regulations on social distancing.

With no other business before the Budget Committee a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 pm was made by Cordes and seconded by Bonaccorsi. The vote was unanimous 8-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Nygren
Selectmen's Administrative Assistant