

The 2022 Fremont Town and School Public Budget Hearing was held in the Ellis School Gym at 432 Main Street in Fremont. Present were Budget Committee Members Mary Jo Holmes, Pat Martel, Steve Bonaccorsi, Gordon Muench, Jon Benson and Gene Cordes; Member Brian McGinn logged in via Zoom; Town Administrator Heidi Carlson, Recording Secretary Shawn Perreault, FCTV Operators Greg Fraize and Bill Millios (in the control room); Select Board Member Neal Janvrin, SAU Business Administrator Nathan Castle, Superintendent Ellen Halliday, School Board Member Brittany Thompson, Town Historian Matthew Thomas, Road Agent Leon Holmes Jr, Fire Chief Rich Butler, Police Chief Jon Twiss.

Chair Holmes called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm starting with the Pledge of Allegiance. Holmes informed the public of the email address (hcarlson@fremont.nh.gov) and the text number (603 418 4416) that questions could be submitted to. She will do her best to get to the questions and answer them. The Committee members introduced themselves.

School District Budget and Warrant Articles

Holmes started by reviewing the School District Warrant Articles. Each article was read aloud with the School Board and Budget Committee recommendations and asked for any discussion on them. (Warrants and State Budget Forms for the budget and default are included as an addendum to these minutes). Muench read the one Petitioned Warrant Article, which he stated was an advisory vote. There were no questions and no discussion on any of the information.

Nathan Castle and Ellen Halliday left the meeting at the conclusion of the School reading.

Town Budget and Warrant Articles

Holmes started by reminding the community of the dates for Deliberative Sessions which will be held on Saturday February 5, 2022 beginning at 9:00 am at Ellis School. The School session will be first, followed by the Town session.

Carlson started by reading article 1 of the Town Warrant, outlining all of the Town positions open on the ballot this year. To sign up for office, you must be registered to vote no later than next Tuesday January 18. The Town Clerk has office hours from 7:30 to 3 that day, and the Supervisors meet from 7 to 7:30 pm at the Library. That is also the last day to register to vote and be eligible to vote at Deliberative Session. The Town Warrant Article Narrative and State Budget Forms are included as an addendum to these minutes. The Town also circulated several other summary budget, revenue and tax rate impact forms. Carlson outlined that all of this information is available on the Town's website, some on the homepage articles and on the 2021 Town Report pages.

Holmes informed the public that the first two Warrant Articles are for Zoning Ordinance changes and the Budget Committee doesn't take a position on these articles. Holmes then moved to Warrant Article 4 relative to the operating budget. It is noted that the Warrant Article Narrative contains details about almost all department line items in the budget.

The Committee members took turns reading through each Article on the Warrant as well as the Select Board and Budget Committee recommendations, along with a short explanation narrative on each Article and asking for any discussion. Holmes explained unassigned fund balance for Articles 7 & 8. These votes will not cause further tax impact.

Road Agent Leon Holmes Jr spoke about Article 9 for the lease purchase of a new dump truck and equipment. He stated that a lot of his budget this year was spent repairing this truck. It is at the end of its life and used a lot. This is a five-year lease, this first payment is on the Warrant Article to be appropriated this year and the other payments would be part of the budget for the following four years. Carlson stated that an escape clause allows the Town to have a majority vote, otherwise there are a lot of other requirements that must be met. Part of the escape clause is the understanding that the remaining payments of the lease will be in the Highway budget submitted for vote at each annual meeting by voters.

Matthew Thomas spoke to Article 15 for the additional \$10,000 for the Museum Capital Reserve Fund. He stated the location of the museum, and informed the public that since 2004 the Historical Society has acquired additional equipment and items. He would like to build on a 3 bay shed on the back of the current building to display and house this equipment that is currently taking up room in other Town buildings. His goal would be to display more of the Town's history and memorabilia to free up the other Town Buildings, such as the Fire Station. There is not a current project in the works, they are looking to save money for this purpose.

No questions came from the floor of the meeting or in via text or email. Holmes restated all of the Deliberative Session information and cited the Town website www.fremont.nh.gov for everyone to get further dates and times and information on the voting options.

Carlson stated that FCTV will be running this meeting as well as some presentations. They can also be live-streamed on YouTube and are available for rebroadcast on the FCTV channel and on the FCTV Vimeo site. Anyone wishing to vote at Deliberative Sessions needs to register by next Tuesday January 18th.

Holmes asked for further questions and there were none. Motion was made by Muench to adjourn the meeting at 7:49 pm. Cordes seconded. The vote was approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Shawn Perreault
Recording Secretary

Addendums to be included with final minutes: Town Warrant 2022; Town MS 737, Town MS 7D;
School District 2022 Warrant; School MS 27; School MS-DSB