

The meeting came to order at 7:00 pm in the basement meeting room at the Fremont Town Hall. Present were Committee members Mary Jo Holmes, Pat Martel, Gordon Muench, Gene Cordes, Joshua Yokela, Steven Bonaccorsi and Jon Benson; Town Administrator Heidi Carlson, Superintendent Ellen Halliday, Business Administrator Nathan Castle, and members of the public Michael Nygren and Emily Phillips. Greg Fraize from FCTV was in the control room.

All rose for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Cordes moved to appoint Mary Jo Holmes as Chair and Pat Martel as Vice Chair. Muench seconded. There was no discussion. The vote passed 7-0.

The Committee then reviewed the candidates expressing interest in filling the vacancy. There were originally four candidates. Keith Stanton withdrew this morning. Sherry Leatherman had a family emergency and was unable to attend this evening. Holmes reviewed her emailed resume including she and her husband have been residents for 8 years and she would like to give back to Fremont through the position and learn more about the community's needs and the budget process, she is a registered nurse, military veteran, USAF Captain and currently works for Tufts Health Care. There was discussion about trying to meet her at a future time.

The other two candidates, Michael Nygren and Emily Phillips, were present this evening.

Nygren gave a brief introduction indicating he lives on Copp Drive and has been a resident for nearly 19 years, has several years of past experience on this Committee and interested in helping out again.

Emily Phillips gave a brief introduction indicating she has just served on three years on the School Board, worked on the HS Search Committee and continues now as a member of the public member on that Committee. She has been involved for the last 12 years and would like to be involved in a Committee again and has a good background with the School budget that she feels would be helpful.

There was discussion about how the Committee should make a decision. Cordes then nominated Mike Nygren for the vacant position. Martel seconded. There was some Q&A about his having stepped back last time and coming forward again. Nygren indicated he had made a commitment for 26 weeks on Wednesday nights and knew that would affect his attendance at meeting. He does not have that same commitment now.

It was clarified that the appointment is for one year through the 2023 Town Meeting. At that time the balance of the term (one year) will be on the ballot with the two other three year terms.

The vote to appoint Nygren was 3 Yes (Cordes, Holmes, Martel) and 3 No (Yokela, Benson, Bonaccorsi); and Muench abstained.

Yokela then moved to appoint Phillips to the vacant position. Benson seconded. This vote passed 4 Yes (Holmes, Yokela, Benson, Bonaccorsi) 2 No (Cordes, Martel); and Muench abstained.

Mike Nygren left the meeting at 7:18 pm. Carlson left the meeting to print an appointment form for Phillips. Upon return, a motion was made by Cordes to have Holmes sign the appointment form on behalf of the Committee. Benson seconded and the vote was approved 8-0. Carlson swore in Phillips.

The Committee reviewed two sets of minutes for approval. Minutes of January 5, 2022 were amended to correct the tense of the anticipated receipt of FEMA funds. They were not received in 2021. (It is noted

the funds of just over \$13,000 were just received by the Town). With this change a motion was made by Bonaccorsi to accept the January 5, 2022 minutes as amended. Benson seconded and the vote was approved 6-0-2 (Yokela, Phillips abstaining).

There was discussion about the minutes of January 12, 2022. Muench moved to approve them as read. Bonaccorsi seconded and the vote was approved 6-0-2 (Yokela, Phillips abstaining).

BA Castle then distributed some current school reports to the Committee including the Balance Sheet and expense report through March 2022. He said the District is doing well so far this year. He reviewed budget transfers and one line item which was overspent. Castle will send interim reports to the entire Committee, blind cc'd so as not to infringe on the Right-to-Know Law.

He said for ¾ of the year completed, the budget is in good shape. He is working on setting up the year-end encumbrances and setting up the new year budget. Last summer the big project was the HVAC system. This summer there is nothing big yet on the docket. All major projects for the year are completed and they are not anticipate using any of the Capital Reserve or Trust Fund reserves. In response to questions from Phillips, he said the new sign would be replaced during April vacation and playground repairs will be done this summer.

Castle said the Audit report was back today but hasn't been reviewed yet. Nate will do a report on that once he gets in it.

Castle and Halliday were thanked by the Committee and left the meeting at approximately 7:30 pm.

Town Administrator Heidi Carlson came to the table to review the Town budget. A full report had been mailed out last week and summary pages to date were distributed this evening. The Highway truck lease has been negotiated. The price of the truck and interest rate both rose since the vote and the added \$544 for the lease payment this year came from the operating budget.

Carlson indicated the full-time Maintenance position approved in the budget is currently posted. There is a part-time Highway Department position posted (due to a retirement), and the Town is currently reviewing bids for outsourcing cemetery maintenance after many months with no response to posted open positions.

Cordes also mentioned the fuel and energy costs which are being monitored. This also affects the hottop prices, and the Town is planning to move ahead shortly as those prices are not anticipated to get much better.

There were no changes to the contact information sheet and Phillips' information was gathered for this document.

The next meeting date was set for Wednesday August 24, 2022 at 7:00 pm.

With no further business a motion was made by Bonaccorsi to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 pm. Benson seconded and the vote was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Carlson
Town Administrator