

**FREMONT BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Fremont Town Hall, Fremont, NH 03044**  
**October 10, 2018**  
**7PM**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Mary Anderson called the October 10, 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, Pat Martel, Joe Miccile, Jonathan Starr and Josh Yokela. Also present were Heidi Carlson and Susan Perry.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*Gene Cordes made a motion to approve the minutes as written of October 3, 2018. Pat Martel seconded the motion. Motion passed 6:0:1 (abstention from G. Cordes).*

**APPOINTMENT: 4220 FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT OPERATING BUDGET AND WARRANT ARTICLES – CHIEF RICHARD BUTLER**

There was discussion about proposed Warrant Articles that would 1) Offer per diem funding for day coverage in the fire station - 2 paid staff members to work 7AM – 5PM (\$113,000) and 2) Offer evening and weekend on-call coverage for \$7.25 (minimum wage) per hour from 5PM – 7AM. There was concern that if the Warrant Articles do not pass, the station would not have coverage. Fifty percent of mostly EMS calls, day and night, go unanswered, per dispatch data of over two summer months. There was concern about putting a lot on taxpayers. Minimal recruitment and retention are affecting local communities as well as nationally (especially with volunteer departments). MRI (Municipal Resources, Inc.) is a vendor (consultant) that has been working with the Department and Selectmen to see what other communities have done, and address personnel views, history and what can be done to make this situation better.

The Fremont Fire Department has 26 active firefighters and EMS personnel. There are 8 people who are certified EMS providers and some have opportunities to work in other communities on an hourly rate, so there is competition. Most live in town but have schedules that occupy their time outside of volunteering. It was noted that Raymond Ambulance staffs 2 ambulances a day, but at night, personnel are at home and go to their station if there is a call, then to the call itself. Ideas were suggested, such as putting more money into Raymond to hire for night shifts but Chief Butler explained that the Raymond Ambulance space is rented from the Town of Raymond and there are no sleeping quarters for staff. There are about 350 calls per year (the daily number varies). Based on NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) standards, it is best for firefighters to work in twos (two in and two out). It was noted that Fremont also has mutual aid from other towns via the dispatch center so the town does have fire/medical protection through mutual aid as well.

Line items that were reviewed include: Fire Chief wages based on call volume/inspections (\$25.47/hour for an average of 15 hours/week); LOSAP and points plans combined; EMS training is not yet recorded because it will begin this fall; increase in mileage reimbursement due to closure of the drill yard in Brentwood (new location is in Concord); \$3,100/uniform set (10 year life on each); note: line 4220660 should be entitled "Equipment Maintenance"; Communications line includes 3 portables at \$4,200 each (of 14 mobile radios , 8 are new) 40 portables with 6 more to be replaced in 2 more cycles.

There was brief discussion about the online fire permit processes. Chief Butler felt that, though the online sign-up might be convenient, there is no way for fire personnel to check out what is being burned (some items can have harmful chemicals or products). Currently, the Duty Officer inspect fire pits.

There was concern about some increased budget lines that were historically underspent. The Committee reviewed the lines and suggested the following reductions amounting to \$8,750:

<u>LINE</u>	<u>SELECTMEN RECOMMENDATION</u>	<u>BUDCOM RECOMMENDATION</u>
4220001 Office Supplies	\$1,000	\$750
4220201 Books/PR/Subscript.	\$2,000	\$1,000
4220100 Fire Chief Wages	\$25,000	\$21,000
4220310 New & Repl. EMS Equip.	\$3,000	\$2,000
4220600 Hydrant/Cistern Maint.	\$1,000	\$500
4220605 Fuel & Oil	\$2,500	\$2,000
4220800 Computer Softw. & Supt.	\$2,500	\$1,500

*Jonathan Starr made a motion for the Budget Committee to recommend \$204,269 for line 4220 FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT. Pat Martel seconded the motion. Motion passed 6:1 (nay, G. Cordes in support of Selectmen's recommended budget).*

#### **TOWN BUDGETS WITH SELECTMEN'S RECOMMENDATIONS COMPLETED (UPDATED EXPENSE SUMMARY PAGES PROVIDED):**

4152 REAPPRAISAL OF PROPERTY – BUDGET AS REQUESTED & DRA INFO. Carlson described information in further detail as received from the Department of Revenue Administration. NH DRA will no longer include as a budget or revenue line within the budget, any Capital Reserve Withdrawal that is done when the Selectmen are the Agents to Expend for the Fund. This means that the \$8,000 planned to be taken from the CRF for Reappraisal of Property is not shown in the appropriation or revenue column. This will alleviate the need for a Warrant Article detailing out this process. The budget is therefore now a total of \$43,580. Carlson asked for the Committee to remember the reason for the decrease, when at some point (when the Capital Reserve Fund is depleted) that the budget will resume to its normal level based on the MRI annual contract (which has no annual increase, but is a Town' commitment).

*Mary Jo Holmes made a motion to recommend the amount of \$43,580 recommended by the Board of Selectmen for line 4152 Reappraisal of Property. Pat Martel seconded the motion. Motion passed 7:0.*

4151 FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION/OTHER (TREASURER, TTF, BUDCOM, AUDIT)

*Mary Jo Holmes made a motion to recommend the amount of \$21,110 recommended by the Board of Selectmen for line 4151 Financial Administration/Other. Pat Martel seconded the motion. Motion passed 6:0 (G. Cordes was out of the room)*

4153 JUDICIAL AND LEGAL – TABLED

4194 GENERAL GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS

The budget for General Government Buildings increased by \$2,382 (due to 2% raise and increase in website maintenance).

*Joe Miccile made a motion to recommend the amount of \$94,931 recommended by the Board of Selectmen for line 4194 General Government Buildings. Jonathan Starr seconded the motion. Motion passed 7:0.*

TABLED:

4312 HIGHWAY AND WA ON CHESTER ROAD

4210 POLICE DEPARTMENT

4140 TOWN CLERK TAX COLLECTOR

#### **TOWN BUDGETS STILL PENDING**

4520 PARKS & RECREATION

4195 CEMETERY

OTHER TOWN BUDGETS:

4902 WA Mosquito Control \$49,550 – circulated last week

Rough draft of Warrant 10/10/2018

**NEXT MEETING DATE: OCTOBER 17, 2018 at Ellis School, 432 Main St. (tour at 7PM in the Ellis School; meeting at 8PM – no appointments, in the Ellis School Library).**

**ADJOURNMENT**

*Gene Cordes made a motion to adjourn at 9:10 PM. Jonathan Starr seconded the motion. Motion passed 7:0.*

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Perry  
Secretary