

## **COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES 2008**

One of the primary responsibilities of local governments in New Hampshire is to provide community facilities and services for residents and businesses. The availability and quality of these facilities and services are major factors in determining the quality of life and general character of a community. It is extremely important to consider the effect population and economic growth will have on a Town's ability to provide essential services and facilities for its residents, and it is also important to consider the long-range needs of Town Departments in order to effectively plan for the financial impact to taxpayers of meeting these needs. In considering these issues, we are guided by the principles of the Vision Statement, the concerns of citizens, and the articulated needs of the Town Departments.

It has become increasingly evident in recent years that the relative location of one land use to another is very important. This relative geography of different land uses is important because the location of commercial facilities, residential areas, and services may affect and also be affected by the growth patterns in a Town. The Town may wish to direct commercial growth towards certain areas of Town that have the required infrastructure and services, and away from other areas, such as those with valuable environmental resources or those with historic character. A Town must ensure that residential areas will be able to be served by Town emergency rescue, fire, and police services within a reasonable response time and that Town Departments are adequately staffed and have the necessary equipment and facilities to perform their duties in providing for the public safety and welfare of Town residents.

While zoning traditionally separated uses into separate and distinct areas, more recent planning theory and practice has shown that Towns and the neighborhoods within them function better and promote higher levels of economic and social interaction and civic life when there is a mix of compatible uses in certain areas. Thus a Town center design, including civic buildings, some retail and commercial activities such as offices and services, and some limited residential housing can serve not only as a convenient and functional center for residents to carry out their day to day activities; it can also help municipalities control the costs of providing services to these diverse land uses by concentrating and combining compatible uses in a more central area of the Town.

It is thus critical to look at community facilities and services in terms of the quality of services rendered, the impact of those services and facilities on land use, the financial considerations in providing and improving Town facilities and services, and the relative locations of different land uses. From this perspective, problems can be defined and future needs addressed consistently with the Vision Chapter in this Master Plan.

This chapter individually addresses each of the facilities and related services provided by the Town, providing recommended actions for planning future facilities based on the articulated

needs of Town Departments, the Vision Chapter of this Master Plan, and the recommended actions voiced by citizens at the Community Vision Forums conducted in order to solicit public input into the Vision Chapter. Information contained in the individual Departmental sections of this chapter was generated through a survey of the Department heads and does not necessarily reflect a consensus opinion of the Planning Board or Selectmen.

The public services and facilities evaluated in this chapter include: the fire department, police department, highway department, school system, public library, recreation programs and facilities, solid waste disposal, cemeteries, and municipal government.

### **Fremont's Vision for Community Facilities and Services**

In 2006, the Planning Board conducted two Vision Sessions. Residents of Fremont were invited to discuss their opinions about the future of Fremont. As a result of the Community Visioning process, nine community goals were established. Of these nine (9) goals, four (4) appear to have direct relevance to the future development of community facilities:

- Fremont's population growth should be commensurate with its ability to service new residents while continuing to effectively serve existing residents.
- The Planning Board seeks to secure a safe, well-designed, maintained and policed local street network suited to Fremont's character.
- The Planning Board continues to encourage the establishment of new public recreational facilities, and the expansion of existing public recreational facilities, located and designed to meet the changing needs of Fremont's residents.
- The Planning Board supports the goal of avoiding the necessity for developing a municipal water and sewer system, through the proper management of sustainable growth.

These four goals should guide the analysis and recommendations contained in this chapter.

## **I. FIRE and RESCUE DEPARTMENT**

The Fremont Fire Department, established as a volunteer department in 1924, consists of thirty six (36) volunteer fire fighters; this includes one (1) part-time Fire Chief position. Presently, volunteers must leave their jobs during a fire, without compensation. Fire safety inspections are conducted by the Fire Chief, Duty Officer or Burner Inspector. The Department participates in an interstate mutual aid agreement with forty (40) communities in Massachusetts, Maine and New Hampshire. Typically, however, the Department renders assistance to the communities of Raymond, Brentwood, Epping and Danville. All fire calls are dispatched through the Raymond Dispatch Center. The Fremont Rescue Squad was merged with the Fire Department in 2007, as the result of a Town Meeting vote.

The Fire/Rescue Department is located at 425 Main Street, in the Fremont Safety Complex which is shared with the Police Station. The building is 145' x 90' with the Fire station utilizing 109' x 90'. Three bays house the Fire Departments vehicles. The training room has the capacity to hold forty eight (48) people.

The following is a description of the Department's fire fighting and rescue equipment.

- Engine #1 is a 2002 American LaFrance Pumper with a 1,500 gpm pump with 1,000 gallons of water/20 gallons of foam. It has a five (5) person cab and carries the Jaws of Life, thermal imaging camera and other tools.
- Engine #3 is a 1980 GMC, with 1250 gpm with 1,000 gallons of water. It carries most of the large Diameter Hose (LDH) 3,000. The truck is in good mechanical condition, but the tank will need to be replaced soon.
- Tank #4 is 1989 Mack Tanker with a 1,250 gpm pump with 2,500 gallons of water with a quick dump discharge. The truck and tank are in good shape.
- Tank #5 is a 1979 Mack Tractor with a 7,600 gallon trailer with a 500 gpm four (4) cylinder pump. This truck is an asset, but the drivers are limited. We are looking to replace it in the near future.
- Tank #1 is a 1978 AMC General 6 x 6 military truck with a homemade tank and pump used primarily for forest fires.
- Forestry #1 is a 1954 Dodge military truck with a homemade tank and pump used primarily for forest fires. It is getting difficult to get parts for this truck due to its age. The unit is put out of service during the winter, as there is not room in the station to house it.
- Rescue #1 is a 2002 Chevy Suburban which carries medical response equipment. This vehicle is in good shape.

- Utility #1 is a 2006 Ford F350 crew cap with a utility body. It carries extra personnel and equipment to calls, to tow the Departments trailers and respond to public assist calls.
- The Town's only emergency vehicle (from Rescue) is a 1979 Dodge van which is in fair condition.

Although the Town has many fire fighting vehicles, most of them are too old to be factored into fire insurance ratings. The Town's fire insurance rating is determined by Insurance Underwriters Inc., which prepares such ratings for every community in New Hampshire. The company visits a community every ten to fifteen years and develops the municipality's fire insurance rating based on a number of factors. The primary factor is the condition of the community's fire fighting equipment. Basically, newer equipment results in lower fire insurance premiums. Fremont would have a better fire insurance rating if the Town purchased a new or relatively new (less than twenty (20) years of age) fire engine.

### **Future Needs**

1. The Fire Department has planned for the following improvements: replacement of Engine #3 and Tanker #5, the addition of a new radio tower, and to fix the weather stripping around the bay doors. The Capitol reserve funds in place as of the 2007 Fremont Town Report include \$85,267.94 for Fire Apparatus, \$13,335.76 for Radio Communication Equipment, and \$2,377.24 for a Rescue vehicle.
2. As mentioned previously, the Town's fire insurance rating could be improved with the acquisition of newer equipment. Many of the older converted military vehicles will have to be replaced in the near future. However, the replacement of older vehicles is dependent on having the space to house them.
3. As Fremont's population continues to grow, so will the number of fire calls. This will increase the duties and time commitment of the Fire Chief and of the volunteers. The Town may soon need to consider expanding the amount of paid personnel. The request for day to day services, emergency calls, training and paper work will push us to hire fulltime personnel. Comparing Fremont's situation with the other communities in the region, communities usually feel the need for a full-time Fire Chief when the population reaches thirty five hundred (3,500) to four thousand (4,000) residents. Fremont's population was estimated to be forty one hundred and fifty nine (4,159) in 2006, by the New Hampshire Office of Energy and Planning. However, a number of other factors also come into play, such as the workload versus existing manpower, existing mutual aid agreements, the amount and type of inspection programs, etc.
4. Additional storage space is needed. Equipment and vehicles that need storage include: 1848 Hand Tub, trailer for the Rescue ATV, two (2) generators, one (1) boat and hose storage. A garage in the rear of the complex could be built and used to house both Fire

and Police Department equipment. Future expansion of the second floor for office and storage space is needed.

5. Energy issues at the complex such as lighting in the apparatus area, heating and air conditioning are currently being addressed by the Energy Committee.

### **Recommendations**

1. Depending on how the Town deals with the existing space limitations of the existing safety complex, the Town should consider upgrading some of its older equipment and vehicles. This would raise the Town's insurance rating, thus lowering fire insurance premiums.
2. When future expansion of the second floor for office and storage space is undertaken plans should include sleeping area also.
3. Increase the Capitol Reserves to keep up with the rising cost of equipment replacement.

## **II. POLICE DEPARTMENT**

The Fremont Police Department is comprised of four (4) full time officers plus the Chief and eight (8) part-time officers. The Chief of Police position is now appointed. The present municipal budget allows for twenty four (24) hours of patrol time per day, plus forty (40) hours of investigation time per week. The Rockingham County Sheriff's Department Dispatch Center is the primary dispatch point for the Fremont Police Department. The department participates in a mutual aid agreement with the Towns of Brentwood, Chester, Danville, Epping, Kingston, Raymond and Sandown. The Town is also periodically patrolled by the Rockingham County Sheriff and the NH State Police.

Police headquarters has been located within the Safety Complex at 425 Main Street since 1998. As the Town grows and more demands are placed on safety services we find there is a need for more space. We have two (2) temporary holding areas but the Rockingham County Jail at North Road in Brentwood is still used for over night or longer detention.

The department maintains four fully equipped police cruisers:

1. A 2007 Ford, Crown Victoria, four-door sedan. This vehicle was purchased new in 2007. This is a marked unit that is the primary patrol vehicle.
2. A 2005 Ford, Crown Victoria, four-door sedan. This vehicle was purchased new in 2005. This is a marked unit that is used as a back up car to the primary patrol vehicle, and a supervisor's car.
3. A 2003 Ford, Crown Victoria, four-door sedan police package. This vehicle was purchased new in 2005. This is un-marked unit that is used by the Chief of Police and for details if needed.
4. A 2006 Ford, Expedition, 4X4 utility vehicle. This vehicle was purchased new in 2006. This is marked unit that is used when the weather conditions make using the sedans not practical. It is also used to haul the "Special Services" trailer

The Town started a capital reserve fund that allows us to purchase a new cruiser every two years. We keep a cruiser six (6) years before it is taken out of service. In it's lifetime a cruiser spends two (2) years primary patrol, two (2) years as back up and supervisor's car, and two (2) years as an unmarked car.

The department also maintains two (2) 2004 Yamaha Grizzly ATVs and one (1) 14 foot Haul Mark enclosed trailer. This equipment is used for our OHRV patrol. It is also used for search and

rescue. The OHRV patrol is paid for by a grant from NH Fish and Game. Any equipment is purchased with monies received from fines paid.

**Recommendations**

1. As stated above, the existing quarters for the Police Department are still too small, despite the expansion since the last Master Plan. Specific needs include: more storage space, a locker room and more office space.

### **III. HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT**

In Fremont, the highway department is administered by a Road Agent who is elected annually at Town Meeting. The Road Agent is responsible for maintaining over forty (40) miles of roads within Town. The highway department has one (1) full-time and one (1) part time employee, and contracts with six (6) snow plow drivers (with personal vehicles).

The highway department shed is located at 113 Danville Road, and currently consists of a sand-and-salt shed, and nothing else. In terms of equipment, the department has one (1) 2004 Ford 1-ton dump truck, three (3) front plows with frames, three (3) wing plows, three (3) sander units, and one (1) chipper, all in fair condition. Currently, the department does not have a central headquarters location. The equipment noted above is kept at the homes of the road agent and his crew.

#### **Future Needs**

1. According to the road agent, about two (2) to four (4) miles of new road are constructed in Town every year. If this trend continues, the Town will need to purchase or rent additional equipment, specifically, a sander unit and a 6-8 ton dump truck for plowing, sanding and road resurfacing.
2. The Department needs a maintenance building. Currently the plan is to develop a design and cost estimate for the building in 2008, and construct the building in 2009. As of the 2007 Town report the capitol reserve fund for this building is \$94,922.50. There is also a \$43,552.70 capitol reserve fund for highway equipment.
3. The Department's equipment, when the Town acquires such equipment, would function better and last longer if a yearly maintenance program was developed. Such a program could involve, among other things, cleaning and lubricating the equipment.

#### **Recommendation**

Develop a design and get a cost estimate for a new maintenance building to be located on the site of the existing sand/salt shed.



#### **IV. SCHOOL SYSTEM**

##### **Population Size**

Fremont is an historic community of approximately sixty nine and six tenths (69.6) square miles, located in Rockingham County to the west of Exeter approximately twenty (20) miles east of Manchester and twenty (20) miles north of Salem. The Town is served by Routes 102 and 107. It has reasonable access to Routes 101, 125, I 93 and I 95. Fremont gained 36.3% of its population (nine hundred and thirty four (934) persons) between 1990 and 2000. This was higher than the increase in Rockingham County which experienced a 12.8% increase during the decade of the 1990's. The State of New Hampshire experienced 11.4% percent growth during the same time period. Fremont's population increase of the 1990's followed a decade (1980-1990) during which the Town grew 93.2%, by twelve hundred and forth three (1,243) persons.

##### **The Ellis Elementary School**

The Ellis Elementary School in Fremont, New Hampshire, is located in a dense, sprawling, one-story brick building, which also houses the Ellis Middle School. Built in 1950, the building has had multiple additions: 1966, 1973, 1986, 1988, with the most recent addition being completed in 2004. The elementary portion of the building houses three hundred and two (302) students, from pre-school, kindergarten and grades 1 through 4, in thirteen (13) general classrooms and two (2) portable general classrooms. The classrooms vary in size, ranging between less than six hundred (600) sq. ft. to more than nine hundred (900) sq. ft. Although most classrooms are adequate in size, the classrooms in the original portion of the building are in the six hundred (600) + sq. ft. range. The smallest classroom, at five hundred and seventy two (572) sq. ft., cannot accommodate a class size larger than eighteen (18) students. Using the class size numbers provided by the district of eighteen (18) in grades 1 and 2 and twenty two (22) in grades 3 and 4, the Current Operating Capacity (COC) would be two hundred and eighty eight (288). Most major systems are adequate and the building is generally well maintained.

The Ellis School is located on a small seven (7.87) acre site which contains two (2) nice areas of playground equipment but has limited open play area. The site has adequate parking space for staff and parents as well an efficient arrangement for student pick-up and drop-off. Two (2) portable buildings with two classrooms in each are located on the site.

##### **Middle School**

The middle school portion of the building houses two hundred and thirty (230) students, from grades 5 through 8, in eleven (11) general classrooms. The classrooms are adequate in size (smaller classrooms in the building are assigned to elementary students) with approximately nine hundred (900) sq. ft. per classroom. Using the class size numbers provided by the district of twenty two (22) in Grades 5 through 8, the Current Operating Capacity (COC) would be two hundred and forty two (242).

**Fremont Historical Enrollment by Grade: PK-8 (1997-2007)**

Year	PK	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
1997-98			50	46	57	47	50	40	43	55	388
1998-99			65	49	47	55	49	49	39	44	397
1999-00			64	49	47	55	49	49	39	44	397
2000-01			69	57	64	48	59	54	49	55	455
2001-02			51	54	53	60	49	57	56	46	426
2002-03			47	50	53	60	57	47	47	55	416
2003-04			59	51	46	55	58	57	47	46	419
2004-05			61	61	54	49	62	57	58	44	446
2005-06			69	62	63	57	47	60	56	57	471
2006-07			61	67	67	65	56	48	66	60	490
2007-08	21	48	65	52	65	65	64	54	48	63	545
2008-09	20	41	65	59	53	64	68	59	55	48	532

The October 1, 2006 enrollment was five hundred (500). In October 1, 2008 enrollment was five hundred and thirty two (532). In 2011, enrollment is projected to increase to five hundred and eighty one (581) and then to decrease to five hundred and forty five (545) in 2016. Accelerated development and/or rapid property turnover, however, could add enrollments above the numbers in the projected Enrollment Table below. All of these factors bear careful watching. As new information is obtained, it can be used to further illuminate and/or modify the enrollment projections for Fremont.

**Projected Enrollments 2008-2016 with K students and additional growth in Fremont**

School Year	Estimated K	1*	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
2008-09	45	55	64	66	75	72	67	59	49	552
2009-10	59	45	56	68	70	76	73	69	59	575
2011-12	55	61	62	49	64	73	72	81	78	595
2012-13	55	56	63	66	52	65	74	75	83	589
2013-14	58	56	58	67	70	53	66	77	77	582
2014-15	57	59	58	62	71	71	54	69	79	580
2015-16	56	58	61	62	66	72	72	56	70	573
2016-17	56	57	60	65	66	67	73	75	57	576

\*Transition students no longer part of Grade 1

### **Housing Growth**

During the 1990's, twelve (12) mobile homes were replaced with permanent structures, thus the total of new dwellings added was two hundred and eighty one (281) permanent units (269 dwellings + 12 mobile homes replaced), compared with three hundred and seventy seven (377) units added during the 1980's. The 1990 Census had listed nine hundred and twenty (920) dwellings. At the time of the 2000 Census, twelve hundred and one (1201) dwellings were listed with 97% of those dwellings occupied. Of these, 88.4% were owner-occupied and 11.6% renter-occupied. Of the thirty six (36) vacant dwellings, eight (8) were for "seasonal, recreational, or occasional use. Town officials report that two hundred and sixty seven (267) housing units have been approved or are in the approval process. Of these, seventy two (72) are one and two family residences. Of the remaining one hundred and ninety five (195) units, one hundred and fifty one (151) will be age-restricted and forth four (44) will be multi-family two (2) and three (3) bedroom units. Information from several sources confirms that construction within the community slowed dramatically during 2006 and remained slow in 2007. The number of construction permits issued decreased from fifty eight (58) in 2005 to eight (8) in 2006 and increased to fifteen (15) in 2007. Some of the remaining land in the Town consists of parks, cemeteries, ponds, Town conservation land, a state recreation trail and wetlands. The Town recently purchased three hundred and twelve (312) acres of land for open space and conservation purposes, and there are plans to continue to expand the amount of acreage that will be designated for these purposes. Town officials note that housing limiters include the lack of Town water and septic issues as well as zoning restrictions which require two (2) and three (3) acre lots. Despite these growth inhibitors the potential for considerable future housing growth does exist. Although a build-out study is not available, a number of factors may produce a continuation of housing growth in the near future. A more flexible lot size provision that was passed in the Spring of 2007 would allow for open space zoning in certain areas. Also, planning data indicates that many large tracts of undeveloped land are still available.

Finally, regional issues such as the construction of a major commercial development in Raymond and the expansion of an existing project in Epping may bring new residents to Fremont. From 2003 to 2005, an average of fifty five (55) building permits were issued each year. Due to the fact that a number of additional units have been approved and many others are awaiting approval, it is likely that, after the new housing market recovers from its present slump, residential construction will resume at a pace that equals or exceeds that of the past four (4) years. Table below displays the fluctuating number of building permits issued annually over the past ten (10) years.

**Fremont Housing Detail 1990 v. 2000**

1990 Dwelling	Occupied	Vacant	2000 Dwellings	Occupied	Vacant
920	865	55	1201	1165 97%	36 3%
68 Mobile	Owner 743 85.9%  Renter 122 14.1%	Seasonal use 15	56 Mobile	Owner 1,030 88.4%  Renter 135 11.6%	Seasonal use 8  Vacancy rate Homeowner 0.9 Rental 0.7

**Grades 9 – 12**

Fremont has a twenty (20) year tuition agreement that began in 2006-07. Starting in 06-07 all freshmen students attend Sanborn High School. There are still two (2) Seniors and one (1) Junior attending Epping High School and one (1) Senior at Timberlane Regional High School in Plaistow and they will phase out and all attend Sanborn. There is a Curriculum Committee that meets from both Kingston and Fremont school districts to work together on evaluating current curriculum.

**High School Enrollment**

Year	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
2006-07	59	39	42	37
2007-08	60	59	44	44
2008-09	55	55	60	40

**Recommendations****LONG TERM**

- Need to rehabilitate/replace school spaces which do not support 21st Century educational programs
- Need to increase school capacities and address current inadequate instructional spaces

**V. PUBLIC LIBRARY**

The Fremont Library is located at 7 Jackie Bernier Drive. The seven thousand (7,000) square foot building was constructed in 2002. As of September of 2008 the library has four (4) part-time employees and is open thirty five (35) hours a week: Tuesday and Thursday from 1:00 pm to 8:00 pm Wednesday and Friday from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, and Saturday from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. The library contains roughly seven thousand (7,000) books, and the borrowing circulation currently stands at roughly seventeen hundred (1,700) volumes.

**Future Needs**

The library is a fairly new building and has no immediate needs, aside from updating the computers.

**Recommendations**

1. Update existing computers.

## **VI. RECREATION FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS**

The Fremont Recreation department employs one (1) part-time grounds keeper. There are also several volunteers. There are three significant recreation areas within Fremont, including:

- The Town owns the fourteen (14) acre Fremont Memorial Park located along Main Street (Route 107). The site is quite accessible and currently contains a soccer field and track, a Little League baseball field, a Babe Ruth baseball field, a softball field, a basketball court and a playground. The fields are mostly used by the Fremont Athletic Association who sponsors soccer, baseball and softball programs. This site also contains a concessions and maintenance building, used for storage of a tractor and maintenance equipment, bathrooms and a concessions stand.
- There is a state-owned recreation trail running adjacent to Fremont Memorial Park. The trail is 1.8 miles long and extends from the Little League field south to the Danville/Fremont border. The land was previously owned by the Boston & Maine Railroad. In 1987, the tracks were removed from the state-owned section of the corridor, and metal gates have been installed at both ends to prevent four-wheel drive vehicles from using the trail. The NH Division of Parks has expressed an interest to work cooperatively with Fremont in managing the railroad bed trail, however, no concrete management plan has been developed at this time and the trail is not maintained by either the State or the Town.
- Ellis School contains several recreation facilities including: play-grounds, ball-fields, and a gymnasium with a basketball court. These facilities are used by the Fremont Parks and Recreation Commission for its summer program.

The Parks and Recreation Commission (established in 1982) is comprised of five volunteers who are appointed by the Selectmen. The Commission sponsors a variety of recreational programs including:

- A summer youth program every summer. This program is six (6) weeks in length and is offered to children grades one through six. The program serves approximately forty five (45) children per year.
- Holiday events for Easter, Halloween and Christmas. These are one (1) day events offered to children from preschool through grade six. These events serve up to sixty (60) children per event.
- Infant plan group
- Memorial Day Parade

**Future Needs**

- As the Town continues to grow, pressures for increased public recreational facilities will also grow. It is important for the Town to manage existing areas and set aside areas for future recreational development. It is an explicit goal of the Vision Chapter of the Master Plan that *“The Planning Board continues to encourage the establishment of new public recreational facilities, and the expansion of existing public recreational facilities, located and designed to meet the changing needs of Fremont's residents.”*

The goals further states: “Fremont has seen its sports programs grow ten- fold since the new fields have been installed at Memorial Park. We are happy to see the community coming together and the kids having a great time. We are also happy to see many adults using the track to walk and run daily. Relative to future projects and goals, the Fremont Recreation Committee reports a need for an acquisition of at least ten (10) acres of property for expansion of recreational facilities and to support two (2) additional baseball fields, one (1) more soccer field and have received interest a tennis court or two. “Additional goals include a skate park and repairs to the existing track.

**Recommendations**

1. The Town should investigate potential sites in Town for additional fields and/or recreation areas. The expansion can be funded through fund raising efforts, warrant articles and grants. The Recreation Services Division within DRED offers grant money, as well as the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund. For more information on grant opportunities, please contact the above sources directly or contact the Rockingham Planning Commission.
2. The Town should work with the Division of Parks to manage the existing, as well a future, Rockingham Recreational Trail.

## **VII. SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL**

According to the-recently published Southeast Regional Solid Waste District - Solid Waste Management Plan, prepared by the Rockingham Planning Commission in February 1991, Fremont produced approximately eleven hundred one hundred and thirty six (1,136) tons of solid waste per year. This total included both residential and non-residential waste. The same source projected an overall municipal total of twenty eight hundred (2,800) tons for the year 2000 and thirty nine hundred and twenty (3,920) tons for the year 2010. According to most recent Fremont Trash and Recycling Newsletter information in 2006, the tonnage disposed of was eighteen hundred and eighty eight (1,888.33) tons and recycled material three hundred and sixty one (361.75) tons. In 2007, total tonnage was eighteen hundred and eighty four (1,884); and recycling two hundred and sixty one (261.1).

Since the closing of the Town's landfill in 1981, Fremont's solid waste disposal needs have been met by facilities in other communities. The Town currently has a contract with Waste Management of NH for curbside pick-up of municipal solid waste and recyclables. The waste is brought to the Turnkey Landfill in Rochester, New Hampshire.

As of July 1, 2008 the Town has implemented a cart system where all dwellings are provided one sixty four (64) gallon cart for disposal of MSW, and all other material must be recycled. It is hoped this will substantially reduce the amount of solid waste and the resultant tipping fees (based on tonnage).

The Southeast Regional Refuse Disposal District (SRRDD), of which Fremont is a member, has a contract with Waste Management of New Hampshire Inc., to use the Turnkey Landfill through the year 2015. The SRRDD, established under RSA 53-B, is primarily for implementing solid waste disposal options.

Bulky wastes are disposed of by at bi-annual drop-off day, held on the grounds of the highway shed at 113 Danville Road. The Town contracts with various vendors for roll-off containers and a variety of municipal solid waste and recycling venues.

Regarding septage disposal, Fremont currently has a precarious arrangement with the Town of Hampton to utilize its wastewater treatment plant for such disposal. Under RSA 149-M: 13, each community in New Hampshire must have its own septage disposal facility, or an arrangement with another community to use theirs. Currently, no formal contract exists between Hampton and its neighboring communities who utilize the wastewater treatment plant for septage disposal. Hampton has an ordinance which allows its wastewater treatment plant to accept septage from neighboring communities; however, Fremont should be aware that the ordinance could be rescinded at Town Meeting. Thus, although Fremont currently meets the letter of the law under RSA 149-M: 13, the Town should begin investigating long-term strategies for septage disposal. Perhaps such a strategy could be developed as part of Fremont's membership in the SRSWD or the SRRDD.



In terms of recycling, Fremont has a voluntary collection program. Materials accepted include: glass, cardboard, aluminum and bi-metal cans, newsprint and plastic. Waste Management is responsible for marketing the recyclables.

### **Recommendations**

1. The Town should maintain its membership in SRRDD and strive to play an active role. As a member of these solid waste planning and implementation districts, Fremont will be able to cooperate with other communities in an effort to reach an efficient and practical long-term solution to solid waste disposal.
2. The Town should begin investigating long-term strategies for septage disposal as required by RSA 149-M: 13. The most feasible solution would be to work within a septage disposal strategy developed by the SRSWD and implemented by the SRRDD. Updates to this strategy are in process. Fremont has a representative for Fremont to this committee as we do in 153: b.

**VIII. CEMETERIES**

There are eleven (11) cemeteries scattered throughout Fremont. The five (5) largest are:

1. The Fremont Village Cemetery, the most extensive cemetery in Town, is located along (Main Street) Route 107 and has about twenty five (25) burial sites left.
2. The Leavitt Cemetery, located along Leavitt Road, has potential for about two hundred and twenty (220) sites which is sufficient space for future needs; however, the new lots need to be laid out in the site's rear acre (new portion).
3. Sleepers Cemetery on Martin Road also has an adequate amount of space for future internments, however, future expansion of this site will likely require a permit from the NH Wetlands Board.
4. The Isaac Brown Cemetery on Route 107 is virtually full and there are no plans for expansion.
5. The Currier Cemetery on South Road is full and is no longer being used.

The Cemetery Trust Fund Trustees administer the expenditure of funds for the lots under perpetual care in Fremont's cemeteries. Administration includes lot allocation and maintenance. It is difficult to accurately project how much cemetery land will be needed. Since there is limited land available for future plots, the Town will ultimately need to reserve additional land for this purpose.

**Recommendations**

1. The Town should continue its planning and development efforts toward meeting the cemetery needs of Fremont's population.

## **IX. MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT**

Fremont's Town Hall, built in 1911, is a three floor structure with approximately thirty one hundred and fifty (3,150) square feet of floor space on each floor. The Town Hall has three (3) full-time employees, four (4) part-time employees and several elected officials. The Town Hall houses the following municipal offices and local boards:

- Selectmen's Office
- Treasurer
- Town Clerk
- Tax Collector
- Planning Board
- Conservation Commission
- Code Enforcement
- Zoning Board of Adjustment
- Budget Committee
- Fremont Athletic Association
- Food Pantry

The Town Hall is also used for Town meetings and celebrations, public hearings, the occasional party, and meetings of the Boy Scouts and FAA; and other community groups.

In the last few years, the offices on the first floor were expanded and renovated. A handicap access ramp and handicap accessible rest rooms were added as well. Also the kitchen facilities have been upgraded. A new office space was constructed in 2004 for the Town Clerk.

As Fremont's population continues to expand, the current reliance on part-time municipal staff may need to be altered. Some additional full-time staff may become a necessity. This may bring about the need for more office space and meeting rooms. Secretarial services for municipal offices may also need to be increased. A full-time land use administrative assistant was hired in 2006.

An increase in population or development activity will also create more work for the Town's Code Enforcement Officer. The Planning Board can endeavor to write the best set of development regulations on the face of the earth; however, this effort is meaningless without an active, professional code enforcement officer to back them up. In many cases, illegalities occur when the officer is off duty. The Town expanded the Building Inspector/ Code Enforcement Officer position to full-time in 2002.

### **Future Needs**

Due to a small parcel (1.12 acres) and proximity to the Exeter River, expansion of the building is

unlikely. A plan is in progress to renovate the basement area, finishing of what is primarily Community Facilities unfinished space and reorganizing the available floor space. This would provide a good deal of added work space. Additionally, at some future point, remodeling of the third floor may be possible, but there is no elevator access to that level.

Plans are in place to renovate the basement of the Town Hall. As of the 2007 Town report a \$46,462.28 capital reserve fund was in place for Town Hall Renovations.

### **Recommendations**

1. Renovate the basement level for suitable public accommodations including bathroom facilities and an air-handling system.