

I. CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm at the Fremont Town Hall Basement Meeting Room. Present were Select Board members Gene Cordes, Roger Barham and Neal Janvrin; Town Administrator Heidi Carlson; and School Board member Gordon Muench. All rose for the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting is live broadcast by Bill Millios from FCTV and livestreamed on Vimeo.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. The Town Clerk is now open from 8:00 am to 12 noon on Tuesdays.
2. **Sunday October 23 Fremont Parks & Recreation PUMPKIN PATCH at Ellis School 12 noon -**
Please join the Fremont Parks & Recreation Commission on the back field at Ellis School for a fun fall event. The first 100 kids can pick out a pumpkin from our magical pumpkin patch. There will be lots of fun and games. There will be different community organizations handing out some goodies. We encourage everyone to wear a Halloween Costume. We will also be collecting items for the Fremont Food Pantry. Every item you bring will enter your name in our raffle.
3. **Tuesday October 26, 2022 from 5:00 to 5:30 pm at the Fremont Public Library -** This is the last day to register before the November General Election, however you may register to vote ON Election Day. Please bring proper identification and proof of residency. Not sure of your party affiliation? Please go to: <https://app.sos.nh.gov/viphome>
4. Fall Bulky Day will be held on Saturday October 29th. Information is posted on the website and if you are interested in volunteering, please contact the Select Board's Office.
5. The semi-annual Drug Takeback Day is also Saturday October 29, 2022. Drop off unused and unwanted medications for safe disposal at the Safety Complex from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.
6. Scary Ghost Stories presented by Fremont Parks & Rec and Fremont Historical Society on Saturday October 29, 2022 at 6:00 pm. Join us for an event with acclaimed storyteller Papa Joe Gaudet and local historian Matthew Thomas at the Historic Fremont Meetinghouse. Parking is at the Ellis School (432 Main St Fremont) so wear appropriate clothing to walk to the Meetinghouse. This FREE event is open to Adults Only. **Space is limited so tickets are required.** You can get tickets at the Fremont Public Library or Fremont Town Hall or using this link:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/396056173677>
7. Fremont Trick or Treat will be held on Sunday October 30 from 5:00 to 8:00 pm.
8. **NEW HAMPSHIRE GENERAL ELECTION - Tuesday November 8, 2022 -** The NH General Election Voting will take place on Tuesday, November 8, 2022 at Ellis School, 432 Main Street in Fremont. Polls are open from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm. This is the link to the application for absentee ballot: <https://www.sos.nh.gov/elections/voters/absentee-ballots/request-absentee-ballot>

Regarding Absentee Voting: Please note that the statutes, executive orders and guidance in place for the 2020 elections specific to COVID 19 and obtaining an absentee ballot have expired. A person can register and vote by absentee if, based on their own health circumstances, medical authorities advise them to avoid going out in public. This applies to: voters with symptoms of a communicable disease or illness. voters who, due to their own health circumstances, limit public exposure in their day-to-day life as a preventative measure. These two types of voters can reasonably conclude that a "physical disability" exists within the meaning of RSA 654:16 and 654:17, absentee registration and RSA 657:1, absentee voting.

Approved 10/27/2022

You can mail, fax, email or drop completed absentee ballot application forms in the drop box and the Clerk's Office will send your ballots out ASAP. If you don't have access to a printer and need these applications mailed to you, contact the Clerk's Office or pick one up at Town Hall. Returned absentee ballots must be received by 5:00 pm on Election Day; November 8th for the State General Election. Completed ballots MUST be submitted in person or mailed, they cannot be accepted via the drop box. The Clerk's Office will be open in addition to normal hours on Monday November 7, 2022 for the State General Election from 3-5 pm for absentee ballot processing only.

9. The Christmas Giving Tree information is posted on the Town's website and is being run by the People's United Methodist Church.

III. LIAISON REPORTS

10/19/2022 Planning Board: Held its meeting at the Town Hall Basement Room at 7:00 pm. The following matters were discussed:

New Business: 02-151.002 & 02-151.004 Iron Horse Park Fremont LLC

The Board held a Public Hearing and was given a presentation of a proposed Commercial Subdivision to create additional lots for development. The set of plans presented were significantly revised from those previously submitted and the Board continued the Public Hearing to Wednesday November 2, 2022.

Administration: The Master Plan Transportation Subcommittee met at 5:00 pm prior to the Planning Board meeting. Their next meeting will November 16 at 5:00 pm.

The next Planning Board meeting is Wednesday November 2, 2022 at 7:00 pm.

From the Library Director: The HVAC replacement has started. Half of the new units are in place and overhead/ceiling piping is done. We're waiting on the electrician (most likely next week) to do his work then we'll have about a week of work left with the installation. We had to move two of the outside units to the north side of the building (facing Jackie Bernier) as we talked about earlier. We've only used about a quarter of the oil we have so we'll be all set and have extra. We can pump it out whenever it is convenient as the tanks don't need to move for the new system.

From the Emergency Management Director: Participated in the monthly State HSEM meeting for local municipalities. The purpose of this meeting is to ensure localities are informed regarding the initiatives coming out of Concord.

Highlights included:

1. Briefings this month from National Weather Service related to products they will provide during the upcoming winter season.
2. Briefing from DOT for upcoming snow season. Key points - DOT does not have a "black road" policy which means they will plow to remove snow accumulations but not to maintain it to a black road standard. DOT does not have multiple shifts for plow crews. It's one shift that will continue to work through the event.
3. The state is investing a good amount of effort in planning and exercises (in light of some recent nationwide current events). NH state planners are participating in national exercises to gain more knowledge and insight on order to pass this along to local level. We will see more exercises that incorporate all levels of first responders (i.e. active shooter exercises) in the near future.

Approved 10/27/2022

From the Cemetery Trustees: Annual Fall clean-up will be taking place at Fremont Cemeteries during the month of November. Please remove all items and mementos from headstones no later than October 31, 2022. The crew takes great care while removing leaves and other debris, however items can be caught up in leaf blowing and may be moved around or lost. If you have any questions, please call Cemetery Sexton Shawn Perreault at 603 770 8929. Thank you!

The **ZBA meeting** scheduled for next Tuesday October 25 has been cancelled. No cases are pending.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Janvrin moved to approve the minutes of October 13, 2022 as written. Barham seconded. The vote was unanimous 3-0.

V. OLD BUSINESS

1. The Board reviewed the Finance Administrator Study Committee task list compiled by Cordes. They suggested that at least 5 other communities in this region (of comparable size, population budget, assessed valuation, etc) be used in the comparison. Copies were made for discussion with the Committee.

2. Budget reviews

4196 Insurance \$77,531 – Carlson explained the changes to the budget, which is about a \$7,000 increase in cost over the current year. The amount budgeted appears larger because there was a \$15,869 credit on the account in 2022 (reducing our payment); and a smaller (\$4,758) credit currently on file that will offset the 2023 payment. Reinsurance costs in 2021 were 30% and are trending toward 20% this year. The costs of insurance are about 60% for the liability component and 40% for the property coverage. Barham moved to recommend 4196 Insurance at \$77,531. Janvrin seconded and the vote was unanimous 3-0.

4445 Social Service Agencies \$35,707 – Copies were circulated of the agencies who have submitted requests thus far. One is missing, but all were given several opportunities after the last meeting to submit. The Board took action on those which were submitted. Janvrin moved to recommend 4445 Social Service for \$35,707. Barham seconded and the vote was unanimous 3-0.

4. Fire Rescue dispatch updates – Carlson noted speaking with Chief Labell in Raymond on Monday about the Town's near-term conversion to the Sherriff's Department Dispatch Center and about how Fremont wanted to provide the proper notice and such for a smooth transition. Chief Butler and Carlson then both spoke with Rockingham Dispatch mid-week and discussed the steps necessary to facilitate the transition. The final letters will be signed later tonight on the Consent Agenda. The Chief signed the Raymond letter while he was present for the Grassdrag session.

There are additional items for consideration and further discussion relative to the conversion including PR information on contact information for burn permits, consideration of a duty cell phone, radio reprogramming, disposition of the red line phone (forwarded to dispatch or discontinued). These will be future agenda items.

VI. SCHEDULED AGENDA ITEMS - times subject to change based on the flow of the meeting.

6:35 pm Public Input - none

VII. NEW BUSINESS

1. Consent Agenda

a. Land Use Change Taxes:

Parcel 02-156.002.008 \$16,000 for lot sold with less than 10 acres

Parcel 02-156.002.009 \$16,000 for lot sold with less than 10 acres

Parcel 02-156.002.010 \$16,000 for lot sold with less than 10 acres

Parcel 02-156.002.011 \$16,000 for lot sold with less than 10 acres

b. Congratulatory letter to James Thompson for Eagle Scout achievement

c. Intent to Cut for parcel 06-034 on Martin Road owned by Scott and Brenda Barthelemy

d. 2022 Second Issue Property Tax Warrant in the amount of \$6,333,119

e. Letter to Town of Raymond regarding Dispatch Services termination

f. Letter to E911 Bureau with updated dispatch center information and request for conversion

Barham moved to approve and sign the Consent Agenda. Janvrin seconded and the vote was unanimous 3-0.

2. The Board reviewed a letter from NHMA regarding disposition of old legal files from their office. The Board would like these to be sent to the Town for recordkeeping and future reference.

3. Board members reviewed the folder of incoming correspondence to include: trucking and the Galloway site from Randy Grasso, Sandown Road Bridge Overflow engineering report for annual warranty renewal, Stantec request for additional services for the HW Department, letter from Chief Twiss about the Physical Agility Stipend awards for 2022, E911 email correspondence re: dispatch services, and the Veteran's Open House notice.

4. Members reviewed the 2022 Property Tax Rate Information sheet for approval and inclusion in the Newsletter. The rate this tax year is \$23.19 which will be posted on the website. Carlson is preparing a power point slide for FCTV as well.

5. The November Newsletter was reviewed and a motion to approve was made by Barham. Janvrin seconded and the vote was unanimous 3-0.

6. Carlson noted that one of the septic pumps failed this week at the Safety Complex. Both pumps have now been replaced and the system is operational. This was a large repair expense.

VIII. WORKS IN PROGRESS

1. Letters have gone out to Veterans and arrangements are in process for a drop-in Open House on Friday November 11th from 4:30 to 5:30 pm at the Town Hall. All Veterans are welcome, and we would appreciate an RSVP, and anyone who wants to help with food should call or email the Select Board's Office.

2. Budget preparations continue with the hope to be wrapped up by the next meeting with very few exceptions.

3. A Select Board meeting is posted throughout election day on Tuesday November 8 beginning at 7:00 am at Ellis School.

4. A Public Hearing notice has been posted today and advertised as follows:

The Fremont Conservation Commission with the Select Board will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, November 3, 2022 at 7:15PM at the Fremont Town Hall, basement meeting room, pursuant to NH RSA 36-A:4 and 5 and RSA 675:7 concerning the purchase of parcel 04-077 for conservation purposes. The parcel is 23.69 acres, located adjacent to the Glen Oakes Town Forest and fronts on Copp Drive. Funding for the purchase is proposed to come from the Fremont Land Use Change Tax Conservation Fund and will not exceed \$197,900 including all closing costs. Grant applications are in progress for up to \$120,000. If awarded, grant funds will be used to fund a portion of the total project cost.

You can also watch the meeting live on FCTV or Vimeo. Written comments will be accepted until 5:00 pm the night of the hearing by mail, electronically to hcarlson@fremont.nh.gov or dropped off in the Town Hall drop box.

At 7:00 pm the Grassdrag follow-up meeting began. Present were NHSA Representatives Evelyn Ferrell and Roger Wright; Fire Chief Richard Butler, Police Chief Jon Twiss, Sergeant Michael Buckley, residents Gary and Tanice Cloutier and Jason Larochelle. Ferrell said it was great weather, 47,000 people attended with no traffic glitches or holdups. She thought there was a lot of car pooling which worked great. Larochelle and Twiss commented that there were no traffic complaints. Twiss said service calls were minimal and only a couple of disorderly conducts. There were no helicopter issues reported. Buckley is looking forward for next year after this year went so well. Butler stated EMS was busy but had nothing further to add.

Building Inspector Larry Miner could not be here this evening but stated *"The Grassdrags 2022 were well planned and executed again this year. Jason Roach the event liaison was well prepared and very efficient in his approach to a very complicated affair set up. Last minute electrical need was accomplished by providing an additional generator to support new electrical loads from both vendors and grass drag events."*

Road Agent had no issues. Everyone was thanked and congratulated for a great job done. Ferrell was given the date of August 1, 2023 to submit her letter and outline for the event to allow for the Town to send notice and plan the initial public meeting to discuss the event.

Grassdrag participants left the meeting at approximately 7:12 pm.

At 7:15 pm Finance Committee Candidates Mary Anderson, Karen Falcone, and Jeanne Nygren came in to the meeting. All three have accepted the Board's invitation to volunteer on the Committee. Cordes discussed the Board's desire and the Town's need, to create a part-time Financial Administrator position. They approached individuals who are interested and capable of doing some background research into what other communities do for that role. This would include job descriptions, pay rates, backgrounds, qualifications and such.

The Board put together a task list that was circulated and reviewed by all. They asked the Committee to focus on comparable communities hopefully in our region, of similar size populations, number of employees, demographics, assessed valuation and make-up, to Fremont and see what those towns do to address this role (PT/FT, wages etc).

The Board asked for the summary of information to be back by December 15th. Carlson will share some of the gathered information relative to other budget considerations in the past year or so, and will circulate a group email to connect everyone. They discussed afternoon meetings maybe Monday, Wednesday or Friday, in the basement meeting room at the Town Hall.

Approved 10/27/2022

As a newcomer to Fremont, Falcone offered some information to the Board about her background which included many roles in local government in Epping (EMT, Fire Ward, Select Board).

With no further questions, the three left the meeting at 7:28 pm.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday October 27, 2022 at 6:30 pm in the basement meeting room at the Town Hall.

At 7:30 pm Janvrin moved to adjourn the meeting. Barham seconded and the vote was unanimously approved 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Nygren
Select Board Administrative Assistant

Heidi Carlson
Town Administrator