# FEBRUARY 2012

We're Building Community

TOWN & SCHOOL DISTRICT VOTING Town Reports will be available for pickup at the Town Hall,

Library, and Safety Complex by March 5, 2012. Be sure to get yours!

Voting on all Town and School articles will take place on Tuesday March 13, 2012. Voting will take place at Ellis School, 432 Main Street in Fremont. Polls are open 7:00 am to 8:00 pm.

The last day to register to vote for the Annual Town and School Elections is Thursday March 1, 2012 with the Town Clerk; or Saturday March 3, 2012 from 11:00 to 11:30 am with the Supervisors of the Checklist who will meet at the Fremont Public Library. Contact the Town Clerk for voting questions at 895 8693.

# **TOWN & SCHOOL ELECTIONS**

Following the filing period for Town and School District Offices, the following people have declared their candidacy:

**TOWN POSITIONS** Selectman: 1 for 3 years Brett A Hunter Moderator: 1 for 2 years Michael Rydeen Road Agent: 1 for 3 years Mark Pitkin Library Trustee: 1 for 3 years Cheryl Rowell Thomas Murdock Trustee of Trust Funds: 1 for 3 years No candidates declared Cemetery Trustee: 1 for 3 years **Richard E Rand** Budget Committee: 2 for 3 years No candidates declared Supervisor of Checklist: 1 for 6 years No candidates declared

SCHOOL DISTRICT POSITIONS School Board Member: 2 for 3 years Ida L Keane Greg Fraize School District Clerk: 1 for 1 year No candidates declared School District Moderator: 1 for 1 year Michael Rydeen School District Treasurer: 1 for 1 year Elizabeth J Stanley

Pursuant to RSA 669:23, Town Clerks are now required to use name order in accordance with RSA 656:5-a.

656:5-a Order of Candidate Names on Ballots. -

I. Whenever there are 2 or more candidates for the same office whose names will appear together within the same column or list on a ballot, the position of such names shall be determined according to this section.

II. Immediately following the close of the period during which a person may accept the nomination of a party committee pursuant to RSA 655:32, the secretary of state or designee shall conduct a public random selection of a whole number from one to the total number of candidates for each possible list length where a group of candidates for the same office may appear in the same list in

state or local elections during the next 2 years. For example, for a possible list of 3 candidates, the number one, 2, or 3 shall be randomly selected. The seed number for each possible list length shall remain in effect for the 2 years until the next random selection of seed numbers.

III. To determine the order of names on each ballot, the candidates for each office in the same list shall be temporarily listed alphabetically by surnames and the positions in such list shall be temporarily numbered in ascending order. The candidate whose position in the initial temporary list equals the seed number selected under paragraph II for the appropriate list length shall appear first on the ballot. The order of candidates after the candidate in the first position shall follow alphabetically by surname with "a" following "z."

# POLITICAL ADVERTISING SIGNS

NH RSA 664:17 Placement and Removal of Political Advertising: "No political advertising shall be placed on or affixed to any public property including highway rights-of-way or private property without the owner's consent. The candidate shall remove all political advertising no later than the second Friday following the election unless the election is a primary and the advertising concerns a candidate who is a winner in the primary. Signs shall not be placed on or affixed to utility poles or highway signs. Political advertising may be placed within State-owned rights-ofway as long as the advertising does not obstruct the safe flow of traffic and the advertising is placed with the consent of the owner of the land over which the right-of-way passes.

No person shall remove, deface, or knowingly destroy any political advertising which is placed on or affixed to public property or any private property except the owner of the property, persons authorized by the owner of the property, or a law enforcement officer removing improper advertising. State, City, or Town Maintenance or Law Enforcement Personnel may remove political advertising placed on or affixed to any public property. Political advertising removed prior to election day by state, city, or town maintenance or law enforcement personnel shall be kept for one week at a place designated by the state, city, or town so that the candidate may retrieve the items.

As it pertains to the highway right-of- way provision, the Fremont Board of Selectmen, after consultation with the Fremont Town Clerk and Moderator, has outlined the following guidelines:

- 1. No political signs shall be placed on Town Property outside of the road right-of- way.
- 2. Within the road right-of-way [generally 13 feet from the edge of pavement or travel way], signs may only be placed with the direct abutter's permission. This refers to the abutter on that side of the street.
- 3. At the polling entrance, unattended political signs may be placed only on the actual polling day during open polling hours [7:00 am to 8:00 pm]; and only in the designated area as determined by the Moderator. The designated area will be appropriately marked and placed in an area that will not obstruct or hinder the safe flow of traffic. (This designated area allows the Town of Fremont to abide by the Attorney General's rules). Signs shall be removed immediately following the election.

4. A candidate or the candidate's representative must attend all other signs which will be permitted in an area designated by the Moderator in accordance with RSA 659:43.

If you have any polling-related questions, please call the Town Clerk at 603 895 8693.

The Town of Fremont designates the Fremont Safety Complex as the storage location for any political advertising signs removed for improper placement; or those found after having been displaced by wind or weather conditions. Contact the Town Clerk for further information.

# NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Selectmen will hold a public hearing at the Fremont Town Hall in the basement meeting room on February 16, 2012 at 7:30 pm in accord with NH RSA 33:8-a to discuss the long-term lease / purchase of a fire truck. The public is welcome to attend.

# FREMONT GARDEN CLUB

The FGC met January 24, 2012 at the Fremont Public Library. Guest Speaker, Mark Davis, of Pawtuckaway Nurseries in Lee, gave a presentation on New Plant Introductions for the 2012 season. In addition Mr. Davis presented valuable information on plant selection and care for our region.

The Club welcomed guest Halachon Springer from Danville, new to this area. Refreshments were provided by Mary Kaltenbach and Pat Angus.

The next meeting of the FGC will be on February 28<sup>th</sup> at the Fremont Town Hall with guest speaker, Linda Zukas of Churchill's in Exeter, who will present, "Houseplants in Containers."

# TRUCK FOR SALE BY SEALED BID

The Town of Fremont is selling by sealed bid, an older model former Emergency Management vehicle no longer needed by the Town. The vehicle is a 1954 Dodge Weapons Carrier, GWV 6,000; pickup body style, <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> ton, gas engine, 6 cylinder. The current odometer reading is 26,109.

Any emergency equipment will be removed from the vehicle. Vehicle to be sold as is, with no warranty or guarantee (except for removal of all emergency equipment.) Vehicle has not been recently inspected and may or may not be roadworthy.

Bids should be submitted in a sealed opaque envelope clearly marked "CIVIL DEFENSE TRUCK BID" to the Fremont Selectmen's Office no later than 4:00 pm on Wednesday February 29, 2012. Bids will be opened publicly at the next available Selectmen's meeting.

The vehicle can be viewed by appointment only with a Town representative. To schedule an appointment, contact Jeanne Nygren at the Selectmen's Office at 603 895 2226 x 11. The vehicle is currently housed at the Fremont Town Hall, rear garage. The Town reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids as is deemed in the best interest of the Town of Fremont.

# ABATEMENT & EXEMPTION INFORMATION

The deadline to file an abatement for your 2011 property assessment is 5:00 pm on Thursday March 1, 2012 at the Selectmen's Office. Forms are available in the Selectmen's Office and on the Town website at <u>www.Fremont.nh.gov</u> on the Board of Selectmen page. Forms will not be accepted if dropped in the outside box after 5:00 pm on March 1<sup>st</sup>, but a March 1, 2012 postmark is acceptable.

The deadline to file a credit or exemption application form in the Selectmen's Office for the 2012 tax year is April 15, 2012. These applications are available in the Selectmen's Office or on the Town website as indicated above. Please be sure you have all of the required documentation submitted with your application form.

Contact the Selectmen's Office at 895 2226 x 11 with any questions regarding assessing, abatements, or exemption and credit applications.

# **RABIES CLINIC**

The Fremont Police Association will sponsor its annual rabies clinic on Saturday, April 14 from 9 am to 1 pm at the Fremont Safety Complex, 425 Main Street.

Rabies shots are \$10 and microchips, \$25. ResQ microchips from Bayer are universally read and have **Free** lifetime registration. Call 895 3425 to reserve your chip, supplies are limited. Dogs need to be leashed and cats need to be in carriers. Please present certification of previous vaccination; otherwise your animal will receive a one-year vaccine. David Smiley, DMV of Smiley Veterinary of Auburn will administer the vaccines and microchips. The Town Clerk will be available to issue dog licenses. The deadline is April 30 to license your dogs.

# DOG LICENSE REMINDER

2012 dog license tags are available. A current rabies certificate is required for licensing your dog(s) as the Clerk's Office is required by law to retain a copy of the vaccination certificate. Please call the office to inquire if the rabies certificate on file is still valid. You must license your dog(s) by April 30<sup>th</sup> to prevent the initiation of a late penalty of \$1.00 per month. As required by RSA 466:1, all dogs must be licensed each year by April 30<sup>th</sup>. For your convenience, the license(s) can be mailed for an additional fee of \$1.00 per license, or you can license your dog(s) online by going to the Town Clerk page on the Town's website at www.Fremont.nh.gov and click E-Dog. If you no longer have your dog, please contact the Clerk's office at 895-8693 so we can update our records accordingly.

## **FUTURE NEWSLETTERS**

The 2012 budget proposal includes printed newsletters to be sent out quarterly. The mailing and printing costs of the newsletter exceed \$500 per issue. The Town does still plans to prepare a newsletter, which will be placed on the website.

Once the new website is online, it will offer a list-serve email subscription that you can sign up for. Please watch for more details in the coming months so you can sign up to receive information through the new website.

## FREE IRISH MUSIC AT THE LIBRARY

The Fremont Library Association is excited to announce the return of the Two Old Friends on March 2nd at 7 pm. Mac McHale and Emery Hutchins, original founders of Northeast Winds, will delight the audience, both young and old, with music from Ireland, the mountains, and the sea. With banjo, guitar, mandolin, concertina, bodran, octave mandolin, and heart-warming vocal harmonies the Friends tell a story in music. The performance will give you plaintive ballads and foot-stomping shout tunes; soaring mandolin solos, gospel sing-alongs, and story-telling. There is something for everyone. The concert is free and open to the public. This night of music is generously sponsored by the Fremont Library Association. For more information please email rowells4@myfairpoint.net.

## ANTIQUES APPRAISAL AT THE LIBRARY

Like the Antiques Road Show? Want to find out what that old antique is worth? Join the Friends of the Fremont Library for an Antiques Appraisal Day on Sunday, April 22nd from 1:00 to 4:00 pm at the Library. The appraisers are Dan Olmstead from Newfields, NH and Aime Sevigny from Maine. Together they bring more than 40 years of experience in the antiques business and they have been offering these programs in the area for about 20 years. The gentlemen have suggested some items that folks may want to bring such as military memorabilia, anything to do with old ships or boats or the seas, books, prints, jewelry, china, glass, quilts, sciencerelated items, just to name a few. The cost is \$3 for one item or 4 for \$10. Funds raised will be used to fund the Friends programs and museum passes. All are invited to attend. There will be light refreshments available. For more information call or email Joan Robinson at <u>irobinson 299@comcast.net</u>, 895-3208 or Cheryl Rowell at <u>rowells4@myfairpoint.net</u>.

# **FROST BAN**

The Town has a Frost Ban Ordinance. Watch for road postings as the ground begins to thaw. Contact the Road Agent at 300 7429 with questions. The Ordinance is posted on the Town's website.

# www.Fremont.nh.gov

# 2012 TOWN MEETING VOTER GUIDE

This Guide has been prepared to provide you additional information for your voting decisions prior to entering the voting booth on Tuesday March 13, 2012. The Guide contains all of the articles as they were amended at Deliberative Session, and some brief descriptions with additional information. You can use this document with the Warrant Summary Sheet, for review of the articles. You can bring the Summary Sheet with you on Election Day.

If you have questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact the Selectmen's Office at 895 2226. If you have questions about voting eligibility or absentee ballots, please feel free to contact the Town Clerks' Office at 895 8693. Additional information is also available on the Town's website at <a href="http://www.Freemont.nh.gov">www.Freemont.nh.gov</a>.

We hope this information is helpful for your understanding of the issues to be voted upon at the 2012 Annual Town Meeting. If you have specific questions that might be answered in advance of voting day on March 13<sup>th</sup>, please feel free to call our office at 895 2226.

Brett A Hunter	Greta St Germain	Annmarie Scribner
Fremont Board of Selectmen		

In our fourth year of the SB2 Town Meeting, we are trying to provide additional information to assist voters in making decisions about the many municipal challenges facing the Town. The Official Warrant remains one document. It is reviewed and discussed at the Deliberative Session. Following any changes at that session, a final format of the questions is created, called the Official Ballot. Also in follow-up to Deliberative Session, this VOTER GUIDE has been created with final warrant article language.

Voting on the finalized Official Ballot will take place on Tuesday March 13, 2012 at the Ellis School, 432 Main Street, Fremont NH. Polls are open 7:00 am to 8:00 pm. You can request an absentee ballot for this session by contacting the Fremont Town Clerk for information at 895 8693. Absentee ballot applications are also available on the Town Clerk page of the website at www.Fremont.nh.gov.

By law, the Selectmen and the Budget Committee must consider any "Special" Warrant Article requesting funds and make a recommendation on the proposed expenditure. In 2009 voters decided to have the Selectmen and Budget Committee's tally votes on articles printed, along with those recommendations as outlined by Statute. The Official Warrant is written as outlined by Statute. For voter information, in the narrative portion of this guide, we have also included tax rate estimates, and other information pertinent to voter consideration of each article.

The type of vote required appears in parentheses at the end of each article as well, such as majority, 2/3 or 3/5 vote requirements. We have also included an estimate of what each article reflects as part of the total Town portion of the tax rate. This is only an estimate, but is based on a conservative, but reasonable growth in the Town's assessed valuation and other factors included in the adjustment of the annual tax rate (including

exemptions, credits, and revenues). Tax rate history provided as reference information:

Year	Town Portion of the Tax Rate	
2009	\$3.44	
2010	\$3.58	
2011	\$3.36	

You can also refer to tax rate historical information elsewhere in the 2011 Town Report.

Road Agent: 1 for 3 years

Moderator: 1 for 2 years

Budget Committee: 2 for 3 yrs

Mark Pitkin

Michael Rydeen

**ARTICLE 1:** To choose by ballot all necessary Town Officers for the ensuing year.

Selectman: 1 for 3 years Brett A Hunter

Library Trustee: 1 for 3 yrs Cheryl Rowell Thomas Murdock

**Cemetery Trustee:** 1 for 3 yrs Richard E Rand

and No candidates declared

Supervisor of Checklist: 1 for 6 yrs No candidates declared

Trustee of Trust Funds: 1 for 3 years No candidates declared

There will be a separate ballot for candidates running for Fremont School District offices. Sample ballots will be posted at the Town Hall, Ellis School, Safety Complex, Public Library and the Fremont Post Office for viewing before Election Day. We will have the sample ballot or a listing of all of the candidates on the website for viewing.

**ARTICLE 2:** Are you in favor of amending <u>ARTICLE IV-A</u> of the Fremont Zoning Ordinance (In-Law Accessory Apartments) as follows:

 Delete the second portion of the sentence in section G; "Any new entrances shall be located on the side or rear of the building *and shall be at ground level.*"

Rationale: Amending this condition would allow the option of having steps to an entrance such as in the case of older, existing homes with existing entrances.

2. Delete section H in its entirety; "*All in law/accessory apartments shall have accessible entrances and shall conform to dwelling unit Type B construction, as specified in the International Residential Code (IRC).* 

**The Planning Board recommends this article.** Rationale: This amendment would eliminate an in-law accessory apartment to be required to conform to dwelling unit Type-B construction which is described as "a dwelling unit designed and constructed for accessibility in accordance with ICCIANSI A 117.1, intended to be consistent with the technical requirements of fair housing required by federal law."

**ARTICLE 3:** Are you in favor of amending <u>Article XI – E; 4</u> (<u>d</u>) of the Fremont Zoning Ordinance (Aquifer Protection District) by adding "*except for propane and natural gas.*"

#### The Planning Board recommends this article. Rationale: This amendment would put the Town in line with NH DES model ordinance in excluding propane and "other liquefied fuels which exist as gases at normal atmospheric temperature and pressure".

## **ARTICLE 4:** Are you in favor of amending <u>Article XIX, 1.3-</u> <u>C</u> of the Fremont Zoning Ordinance (Signs) - "For Sale

Signs" by adding "and do not exceed six (6) square feet in size."

The Planning Board recommends this article. Rationale: This amendment would allow the ordinance to be in keeping with the typical size of for sale signs, particularly pertaining to the sale of land, and eliminate the placement of oversized signs.

**ARTICLE 5:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to enter into a long-term lease/purchase agreement to purchase a new Fire Truck at a cost of four hundred sixty-nine thousand six hundred twenty-eight dollars (\$469,628) and further to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred twenty five thousand dollars (\$125,000) and authorize the withdrawal of one hundred twenty-five thousand dollars (\$125,000) from the Fire Truck Capital Reserve Fund for a down payment to lower the agreement amount to three hundred forty-four thousand six hundred twenty-eight dollars (\$344,628) payable over a term of five (5) years. The agreement does not contain an escape clause.

## The Selectmen recommend this appropriation 3-0. The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 7-0. (3/5 ballot vote required)

This article proposes the purchase of a new fire truck for the Fremont Fire Rescue Department. The proposal is for a new KME Predator Panther 3,000 gallon pumper tanker truck. The new truck would replace two older trucks, the Department's Engine 3 (1979) and Tank 5 (1975). The new truck will provide for increased efficiency and safety of responders and the Town; and lower operating and maintenance costs.

Current NFPA standards recommend that fire apparatus should be front line 20 years; five years on second or third line; and then removed from service.

The tax impact of this article is zero in 2012. The total purchase price of the truck is \$469,628. It is proposed to withdraw \$125,000 from the existing Fire Truck Capital Reserve Fund for the down payment, and finance the balance of the cost (\$344,628) in a five year lease/purchase agreement. Thus payments would be due in each of the five years beginning with 2013. The subsequent lease payments would have a tax impact in the coming years of repayment.

**ARTICLE 6:** Shall the Town of Fremont raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling \$2,563,725? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$2,537,577 which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Fremont or by law or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. Note: This operating budget warrant article does not include appropriations contained in ANY other warrant articles.

#### The Selectmen do not recommend this appropriation 3-0. The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 7-0. (Majority vote required).

This is the total of all operating budgets for the Town of Fremont, excluding warrant articles. The full budget detail can be found on the State Form MS-7, which is available on the Town's website, in the 2011 Annual Town Report, or a printed copy can be obtained at the Town Hall. The complete line item detail budget is available on the website, on the Budget Committee page.

With SB2 in place, this master budget article includes the number recommended by the Budget Committee of \$2,563,725. The Board of Selectmen recommended \$2,570,413 for the operating budget. The recommendations of Selectmen and Budget Committee can be viewed on the State Form MS-7.

Following are some highlights of changes in the operating budgets, based on the Board of Selectmen's recommendations: Wage increases have been included for all permanent town employees. If the operating budget is approved, this would be the first overall wage increase since 2008 for non-police personnel. The 2011 default budget reorganization included adoption of a Police Department pay matrix that included wage increases. Again, Departments tried to remain cognizant of the difficult economic times as well as their needs. Selectmen and the Budget Committee reviewed each budget before making a recommendation. <u>Executive</u>: Reduction in the number of print/mailed copies of the Fremont Newsletter, reduction in office expenses, Committee supplies, and advertising.

<u>Election and Registration</u>: There are three major State and Federal elections scheduled for 2012, and one local election.

<u>Reappraisal of Property</u>: Multi-year contract with MRI (Municipal Resources Inc) to include a CPI increase in the cost of contracted assessing services. The current contract represents a reduction in services compared to years past.

Legal: Down \$5,000 from the 2011 request.

<u>Personnel Administration</u>: Increased due to some health insurance premium increases, but overall the full-time work force has been reduced. State mandated increases in NH Police Retirement were significant. <u>General Government Buildings</u>: The budget includes \$13,000 for repainting the Olde Meetinghouse; with other maintenance and energy efficiency upgrades at Town buildings; and additional work to be done on the computer systems at the Town Hall and the Safety Complex. <u>Planning & Zoning</u>: Continued reduction of staffing with only part-time

coverage.

<u>Police Department</u>: Wage matrix adopted in 2011 to help with retention. Matrix allows for step increase based on merit.

<u>Building Inspection</u>: Continued reduction of staffing with only part-time coverage.

<u>Highway Department</u>: Block Grant revenue from the State of NH decreased to \$96,835 with State funding cutbacks. The budget includes \$100,000 for hottop/upgrade work.

<u>Solid Waste Collection</u>: The contract rate for solid waste and recycling pickup increased by 5% with a monthly fuel adjustment for prior 12 months, which was effectively an increase due to the increased cost of diesel fuel. Overall this resulted in an increase in the contract cost.

<u>Vendor Payments:</u> Reduction in some agency requests; some recommended at lower funding levels. The total is consistent with the 2011 default budget.

<u>Parks & Recreation</u>: Recommended at 2011 default level. <u>Library</u>: Requested increase in staff coverage time, Budget Committee recommendation slightly above 2011 default level.

<u>Debt Service</u>: Interest payments reduced over the life of the bonds. A new short-term note is budgeted to cover a small loan to complete purchase of the Smith property to enhance the Spruce Swamp / Glen Oakes Town Forest area. This will be repaid by the end of CY 2012 due to grants received for the project.

Interest on Tax Anticipation Notes: Reduced from 2011 due to less borrowing from the collection of bi-annual taxes.

If the Budget Committee's proposed operating budget passes, it is estimated at this time that the tax rate for the Town would increase by approximately \$0.50. All tax impact estimates are per \$1,000 of valuation. The number of veteran credits, exemptions, and amount of overlay (which affect the final rate) are estimated for the purposes of establishing tax rate changes. These current estimates of Overlay, Exemptions and Veteran Credits add about \$0.30 to the tax rate. We are also assuming a conservative but reasonable amount of growth in the total assessed valuation of the Town, which is the largest component of the tax rate setting formula.

The estimated amount of tax impact is shown for each of the warrant articles in the narrative portion. If the other warrant articles as proposed by the Town pass, the Town's portion of the tax rate is estimated to increase \$0.49 per thousand. This would fund some long-awaited projects and help the Town to improve the overall maintenance of town roads, as well as plan for the future needs of the Town by funding Capital Reserve Accounts.

**ARTICLE 7:** To see if the Town will vote to establish a Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of Bridge Construction and Reconstruction, to appoint the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from said Fund, and to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) to be placed in this Fund. This sum to come from fund balance (surplus) and no amount to be raised from taxation.

#### The Selectmen recommend this appropriation 3-0. The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 5-1. (Majority vote required)

Article 7 proposes a new Capital Reserve Fund for future bridge engineering and construction. Currently two of Fremont's bridges are listed on the States "red list" as in need of significant repair or to be replaced. More information about the Bridge Aid process can be found in the Report of the Highway Study Committee. The Town needs to think about saving for future bridge needs.

There is no tax increase for this article in 2012, as it will be funded from fund balance.

Articles 8 through 12 request funding for five existing Capital Reserve Funds with each purpose specified. Money voted will add to what has already been set aside. These funds accrue over time and are then used to offset the cost of larger capital purchases when needed. To see the amount already saved in each of these funds, refer to the Annual Report of the Trustees of Trust Funds in the 2011 Town Report. The purpose of Capital Reserve funding is to create a more balanced effect on the tax rate by saving a portion of the cost every year so it is available when a capital purchase becomes necessary. Saving money in Capital Reserve Funds helps to balance the tax rate by reducing the impact of one-time large expenditures.

Again this year, the Board of Selectmen is recommending some of the Capital Reserve Funds be funded from unreserved fund balance. This means that there is no tax increase of this savings, and it is transferred from the existing unreserved fund balance. That sum is in essence money turned back from unexpended funds during the 2011 calendar year.

**ARTICLE 8:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twelve thousand five hundred dollars (\$12,500) to be placed in the Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund. This sum to come from fund balance (surplus) and no amount to be raised from taxation.

## The Selectmen recommend this appropriation 3-0. The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 5-1. (Majority vote required).

Article 8 proposes to add funds to the existing Capital Reserve Fund for police vehicles. The Town traditionally saves annually for the purchase of a replacement police cruiser every two years. This savings plan creates a more balanced effect on the tax rate, in that a payment of the same amount is made every year; and in the second year, the sum withdrawn to fund the purchase of a replacement police cruiser.

Within the next couple of years it is anticipated that the Town could need to purchase a replacement cruiser every year with current activity levels. There is no tax increase for this article in 2012, as it will be funded from fund balance.

**ARTICLE 9:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) to be placed in the Town Hall Renovations Capital Reserve Fund. This sum to come from fund balance (surplus) and no amount to be raised from taxation.

## The Selectmen recommend this appropriation 3-0. The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 5-1. (Majority vote required).

For several years, the Town has been working on a plan for renovations to the basement of the Town Hall. This fund saves for the prospect of these renovations. The future plan is for the work to completely renovate the basement area and provide for the following: maintain the existing Planning and Zoning and Building Inspection Offices; provide for one additional small future office within the proposed layout; enlarge and utilize space in the existing meeting room (total space of approximately 700 SF - currently it's about 390 SF); replace the aging heating systems (circa 1965); increasing energy conservation with improved efficiency units; HVAC system is about 1/3 of the total cost of renovation; energy conservation with removal of "cold spaces" throughout the building; provides for a single bathroom at the first floor level (no bathroom currently exists in the basement); provides for a second method of egress to the rear of the building(easterly side); remodels the existing entrance and corrects water entry problems (west side of building); replace the existing propane hot water heater, incorporated into new HVAC system; afford continued space for Food Pantry: with a small kitchenette; and a future vault for Town Records.

There is no tax increase for this article in 2012, as it will be funded from fund balance.

**ARTICLE 10:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) to be placed in the Property Reassessment Capital Reserve Fund.

#### The Selectmen recommend this appropriation 3-0. The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 7-0. (Majority vote required).

This fund plans for future revaluation/recertification work, which is required by the NH Constitution and Statutes to be done every five years. Funds added will help fund a future property reassessment process (revaluation or recertification), which would be due for April 1, 2015.

The estimated tax impact of this expenditure is \$0.04 per thousand.

**ARTICLE 11:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) to be placed in the Fire Truck Capital Reserve Fund.

#### The Selectmen recommend this appropriation 3-0. The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 6-1. (Majority vote required).

This fund plans for the future purchase of fire apparatus. The goal of the fund is to be able to replace equipment when needed with less impact to taxpayers. The cost of the truck being proposed for purchase in 2012 is \$469,628 and it is anticipated that the next new fire truck would be comparable in price in 5-8 years. At the present time, NFPA recommends a 20-year life cycle for fire apparatus and the Department currently has three pieces exceeding this life span.

The estimated tax impact of this expenditure is \$0.14 per thousand.

**ARTICLE 12:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) to be placed in the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund.

## The Selectmen recommend this appropriation 3-0. The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 6-1. (Majority vote required).

This fund plans for the future purchase of highway equipment. Much discussion took place this past year on the future plans for the Town to purchase a backhoe, which is considered to be more cost-effective than the current contracted arrangements. The Town does not own a significant amount of equipment. The Highway Study Committee has studied the cost-benefit analysis of owning versus contracting for the majority of our equipment needs. The sum requested this year has been increased to allow for the near-future purchase of a backhoe for the Town.

The estimated tax impact of this expenditure is \$0.14 per thousand.

**ARTICLE 13:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) to purchase and equip a Police vehicle to be used as a Detective car for the Police Department; and further to authorize the withdrawal of twelve thousand five hundred dollars (\$12,500) from the Police Capital Reserve Fund created for this purpose.

#### The Selectmen recommend this appropriation 3-0. The Budget Committee does not recommend this appropriation 6-1. (Majority vote required). As amended at Deliberative Session.

This purpose of this article is to request funding to purchase a used vehicle. It will be used by the Juvenile and Detective divisions of the Fremont Police Department. This vehicle will replace a 2000 Honda Civic that has been used as a DARE car. The Honda is not suitable as a detective/juvenile vehicle. It has very limited space for the storage of equipment and even less space for the transportation of people. As we get involved in different investigations we find that we are traveling out of town to interview witnesses and people of interest. We transport victim to surrounding areas to track and identify stolen property. A full sized cruiser is not cost effective to use for this type of activity. Another issue is confidentially when investigating a matter that requires the transportation of a juvenile. This vehicle will be equipped with the necessary equipment to completely investigate a crime scene. It will be equipped with

communication and warning equipment. It will not be an addition to the existing fleet.

The tax impact of this purchase is \$0.01. When we received the 2011 year end figures from the Trustees of Trust Funds, there was not sufficient money to completely fund this purchase from the existing Capital Reserve Fund. An amendment passed at Deliberative Session to remove \$12,500 from Capital Reserve, as that is what is in the fund at the present time.

**ARTICLE 14:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of six thousand three hundred eighty-five dollars (\$6,385) for the purchase of OHRV equipment; and further to authorize the withdrawal of six thousand three hundred eighty-five dollars (\$6,385) from the OHRV Special Revenue Fund created for this purpose.

#### The Selectmen recommend this appropriation 3-0. The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 6-1. (Majority vote required).

There is no amount to be raised from taxation for this article. The funds requested in this article come from an account that is funded

entirely through the Police Department's OHRV enforcement program. It reflects no impact on the tax rate as it is funded from court imposed fines. The equipment being requested will be used to enhance the Department's Special Services Unit in areas ranging from ATV Patrol to Search and Rescue. Key components targeted will be communications and our ability to operate in a remote and self-sufficient manner.

The article will fund batteries for portable radios, portable battery chargers, deep cell gel batteries, a siren system for the OHRV units, radar gun holders, and additional safety vests.

The tax impact of this purchase is \$0.00 as it is funded from the existing Special Revenue Fund. There are no tax dollars involved with this fund.

**ARTICLE 15:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of forty-nine thousand five hundred fifty dollars (\$49,550) to continue the Public Health Mosquito Control Program.

#### The Selectmen recommend this appropriation 3-0. The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 6-0. (Majority vote required).

This article is a request to continue funding the mosquito control program. The contractor has again offered the program with no increase in cost for 2012. The Selectmen have placed this article on the warrant so that the community can have an opportunity to consider it annually and decide whether or not to proceed again this year with a town-wide program. The program is consistent with what was done in years 2008 through 2011, and allows for up to two emergency sprayings of public lots and ballfields at Memorial Park and Ellis School, should that be necessary. Overall mosquito control is a comprehensive program including surveillance, monitoring, trapping and testing of adult mosquitoes; treatment of larvae (a major focus of an effective control program) and adulticiding.

The 2012 program, if approved, would begin immediately following Town Meeting. The estimated tax impact of this program is \$0.14.

**ARTICLE 16:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of six hundred dollars (\$600) to fund an increase in the Treasurer's Annual Stipend. (Current stipend of \$6,000 is included in the Town's operating budget).

The Selectmen do not recommend this appropriation 3-0. The Budget Committee does not recommend this appropriation 5-1. (Majority vote required).

This article proposes to increase the salary for the Treasurer by \$600. It is currently \$6,000; and would increase to a total of \$6,600 if this article were approved. The estimated tax impact of this appropriation is less than \$0.01. The base salary of \$6,000 is included in the Town's operating budget under Financial Administration - Other.

**ARTICLE 17:** To see if the Town will vote to establish an expendable trust fund under the provisions of RSA 31:19-a, to be known as the 250th Celebration Expendable Trust Fund for the purpose of funding the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration to be held in 2014 and to raise and appropriate ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) to be placed in this fund and further to name the Selectmen as agents to expend.

#### The Selectmen recommend this appropriation 3-0. The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 6-0. (Majority vote required).

This article proposes to set aside money in an expendable trust fund for the planned 2014 celebration of the 250th Anniversary of Fremont. Currently a Committee of volunteers meets monthly to work on plans for this historic event for the Town. They are anticipating fundraising to cover costs as well, but want to begin saving for the celebration's larger expenses such as a firework's display.

The estimated tax impact of this appropriation is \$0.03.

ARTICLE 18: To see if the Town will vote to adopt a Conflict of Interest Ordinance as follows:

#### CONFLICT OF INTEREST ORDINANCE

#### SECTION I:

PURPOSE Pursuant to RSA 31:39-(a), the activities of all officers, or employees of the Town, whether elected or appointed, shall be regulated as follows:

#### **SECTION II:** DEFINITIONS

Conflict of Interest shall be defined as a financial, pecuniary or other interest in any official vote, or any other action, transaction or activity undertaken by the Town or its officers, or the Boards or Commissions, which would result in a benefit to such officer or employee not shared by the public in general. The term "pecuniary interest" shall include gifts or consideration in the form of favors, money or services, or the receipt of anything of value whether present or future. The term "activity" shall include any hearing. debate, discussion or official Board vote.

#### SECTION III: **PROHIBITED ACTIVITY**

No officer or employee of the Town shall engage in or participate in any Conflict of Interest as defined under Section II above.

#### SECTION IV: DISCLOSURE

All officers and employees of the Town shall disclose any potential or actual financial or other interest in any business, contract, public proceeding or transaction which involves the Town or any of its agencies. Such disclosure shall be made in writing to the Board of Selectmen.

#### SECTION V: **CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION**

No officer or employee shall disclose any confidential information regarding any other official, employee or member of any Board or Commission. The term "confidential information" shall mean any information, material date or thing which is not available to the public under the Right to Know Laws of the State of New Hampshire.

#### SECTION VI: **EXEMPTIONS**

This Ordinance shall not apply to election contributions given to any person running for public office.

#### SECTION VII: **EFFECTIVE DATE**

This Ordinance shall not apply to any presently elected officer or appointed officer or employee of the Town for a period of forty-five (45) days from the date of the enactment of the Ordinance.

#### SECTION VIII: ENFORCEMENT

Any officer or employee subject to the provisions of this Ordinance shall be subject to removal proceedings before the Superior Court, as provided in RSA 31:39-a.

#### The Selectmen recommend this article 3-0. The Budget Committee recommends this article 5-2. (Majority vote required).

This article proposes to adopt a Conflict of Interest Ordinance for all Town Officials and Employees.

There is no tax impact of this article.

ARTICLE 19: Pursuant to RSA 41:45-a, are you in favor of having the office of Town Clerk combined with the office of Tax Collector, thereby creating a new office of Town Clerk-Tax Collector to be held by one individual, with a term of 3 years?

#### The Selectmen recommend this article 3-0. The Budget Committee recommends this article 7-0. (Majority ballot vote required).

If approved, an article shall be placed on the ballot at the next

annual meeting to choose a Town Clerk-Tax Collector. This article proposes to combine the positions of Town Clerk and Tax Collector to one position. If approved, there would be one elected position on the ballot for a combined Town Clerk-Tax Collector three year term in March of 2013. The intent of the Article is improved efficiency and customer service, and financial savings for the Town. Of the 234 cities and towns in NH, 131 of them have combination Clerk-Collectors. There is no tax impact of this article in 2012.

**ARTICLE 20:** To see if the Town will vote to appoint the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from the Highway Building Capital Reserve Fund previously established in 1993.

#### The Selectmen recommend this article 3-0. The Budget Committee recommends this article 6-1. (Majority vote required).

NH Statute allows that Selectmen can be appointed agents of Capital Reserve Funds, such that the money could be expended from them for allowed purposes, without further Town Meeting action. This is proposed to allow the Selectmen as agents of this fund so that work could be done to repair or upgrade the Highway building using funds already saved by the Town.

There is no tax dollar impact of this article.

Please be sure to vote on Tuesday March 13, 2012. All articles as shown here will be on the Official Ballot. Polls are open from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm at Ellis School.

Check the Town website for further information and details at: www.Fremont.nh.gov

Click on: Town Report 2011 and Budget Committee Also see the Warrant Tally Page for use in making your choices.

Town Hall Office Hours Tel: 895 2226 ~ Fax: 895 3149 Selectmen's Office VM 10,11 Mon & Fri 8:30 am to 12 noon Tues & Wed 8:30 am to 4:00 pm Thurs 11:00 am to 5:00 pm <u>FremontTA@comcast.net</u> FremontTownHall@comcast.net

Tax Collector 895 3200 X 14 Thursday 11:00 am to 2:00 pm <u>FremontTax@comcast.net</u>

Town Clerk 895 8693 VM 15,16 Mon, Tues & Wed 8:00 am to 3:00 pm Thurs 10:00 am to 7:00 pm Closed Friday FremontClerk@comcast.net

Bldg & Planning 895 3200 Building Inspector VM 18 Tues & Thurs 8:30 to 10:00 am; 1:00 to 4:30 pm; Weds eves 5:00 to 7:00 pm and by appointment <u>FremontBl@comcast.net</u>

Planning & Zoning VM 17 Tues, Weds, Thurs 8:30 am to 12:30 pm; Tues 1:00 - 4:30 pm FremontPZ@comcast.net

Health Bob Meade 895 3200 x 18

Welfare by appt 895 3200 x 12

Town & Department Contacts Police Department 895 2229 Fax 895 1116 Mon – Fri 8:00 am to 4:00 pm police@fremontnhpd.com

EMERGENCY dial 9 1 1 Fire Rescue Business 895 9634 Office Hours M/Th 5:00 to 7:00 pm Raymond Disp 895 4222 Non-Emerg

Highway Dept - Road Agent Mark Pitkin 300 7429

Fremont Public Library Tel 895 9543 ~ Fax 895 0549 Tues & Thurs 1:00 to 8:00 pm Wed & Fri 9:00 am to 5:00 pm Sat 9:00 am to 2:00 pm www.fremontpubliclibrary.org

Food Pantry Kathy 895 1162 Stephanie 895 4454

Ellis School 895 2511 sau83.org 432 Main Street SAU #83 895 6903 Fax 895 6905 5 Hall Road Suite 1 Fremont NH

 Post Office
 895 2094

 Mon - Fri 8:30 - 11:30 am / 12:30 4:30 pm
 Sat 8:30 to 11:00 am

 FAA
 fremontathletics@yahoo.com
 Trash Pickup & Recycling – Waste

 Management of NH - 800 847 5303
 600 847 5303
 600 847 5303

**MEETING SCHEDULE** Town Hall – Main Floor Parks & Recreation 7:00 pm Mar 13 Apr 10 **Open Space** May 8 7:00 pm Energy Comm Feb 21 250<sup>th</sup> Comm Feb 22 8:00 pm 6:00 pm Apr 25 Mar 21 Town Hall - Basement Mtg Room Cemetery Trustees 3:30 pm Apr 2 Conservation Comm 7:00 pm Mar 5 Apr 2 Planning Board 7:00 pm Mar 7, 21 Apr 4, 18 Selectmen 6:00 pm Feb 23 Mar 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Zoning Board 7:30 pm Mar 27 Feb 28 www.Fremont.nh.gov

Fremont Public Library Library Trustees 4<sup>th</sup> Weds 7:00 pm Supervisors of Checklist 7:00 - 7:30 pm Mar 6 and 11-11:30 am on Mar 3 Friends of Library 1<sup>st</sup> Tues 7:00 pm

MOVED TO TOWN HALL FOR FEB 28 AND MAR 27 Garden Club 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday 7:00 pm The Fremont Newsletter Selectmen's Office PO Box 120 Fremont NH 03044-0120 ECR Presorted Standard **US POSTAGE PAID** Fremont NH 03044 Permit NO. 5

# We're Building Community

CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR UPDATED TOWN INFORMATION. You can find us at www.Fremont.nh.gov

# **RESIDENT OR BOXHOLDER**

# FREMONT NH 03044

Please send email for the Newsletter to: <u>Selectmen@Fremont.nh.gov</u>

Deadline for submital is the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month for publication in the following month. No opinion pieces will be accepted. Submissions may be edited for clarity and/or due to space constraints.