



# TOWN OF FREMONT

## 2009 TOWN MEETING WARRANT ARTICLE NARRATIVE

IN PREPARATION FOR DELIBERATIVE SESSION  
SATURDAY 31 JANUARY 2009 AT 9:00 AM AT ELLIS SCHOOL  
SNOW DATE: MONDAY 02 FEBRUARY 2009 AT 7:00 PM AT ELLIS SCHOOL

We hope this information is helpful for your understanding of the issues to be voted upon at the 2009 Annual Town Meeting. If you have specific questions that might be answered in advance of the Deliberative Session on Saturday January 31, 2009, please feel free to call our office at 895 2226 or send an email to [Selectmen@Fremont.nh.gov](mailto:Selectmen@Fremont.nh.gov) or to [FremontTA@comcast.net](mailto:FremontTA@comcast.net).

Gene Cordes

Donald W Gates Jr  
Fremont Board of Selectmen

Brett A Hunter

This document contains the written warrant articles and additional narrative information on each of the articles, so that you can better understand the subject matter prior to discussing it at the Deliberative Session.

This is our first year of SB2 Town Meeting. The process is different with regard to activity on this warrant. 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. Thus SB2 is called the Official Ballot law.

At the Deliberative Session, Articles 3 through 33 can be amended and may appear differently on the Official Ballot, depending on actions at the Deliberative Session. **We hope to see you at this important, interactive, session.**

Voting on the finalized Official Ballot will take place on Tuesday March 10, 2009 at the Fremont Safety Complex, 425 Main Street, Fremont NH. Polls are open extended hours beginning at the March 2009 election, from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm.

By law, any "special" warrant article requesting funds must be considered by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee, and each must make a recommendation on the proposed expenditure. In past years, we have done this on all warrant articles, and this is not authorized by statute. This year, you will see in the official warrant, only those recommendations as permitted by Statute. For voter information, in the narrative portion of this guide, we have included the Selectmen and Budget Committee recommendations. We have also included a warrant article (#31) which would authorize the recommendations of the Budget Committee and Board of Selectmen to be included on all budget and warrant article appropriations in future years.

The type of vote required appears in parentheses at the end of each article as well, such as majority or

2/3 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 setting of the annual tax rate.

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

*This article will list out all candidates running for an elected office within the Town. There will be a separate ballot for candidates running for Fremont School District offices. Sample ballots will be posted at the Town Hall, Safety Complex, Library and Post Office for viewing before Election Day. We will also try again to get the sample ballot on the website for viewing. If this isn't possible, the listing of candidates will still be available on the Town Clerk's page, with other election materials.*

**ARTICLE 2:** Are you in favor of amending the Fremont Zoning Ordinance by adding new Article IV-3:A follows:

#### Article IV Section 3-A

As it relates to Article IV Section 3 and Article XI Section E-1; where-ever a commercial use or a mixed use of residential and commercial are proposed on the same lot the minimum lot size shall be further determined in that each 2000 square feet (or any part thereof) of commercial use shall constitute a calculate-able unit for the purpose of determining the minimum lot size.

The lot size minimum is as determined by Article IV Section 3 and/or Article XI Section E-1; whichever applies.

#### Examples:

The minimum lot size for consideration of commercial Conditional Use Permit in the Flexible Use District would be 2 acres or if in the Aquifer Protection District the minimum lot size for a commercial conditional use permit would be 3 acres.

#### A proposed 10,000 sq ft commercial

A 10,000 square foot commercial use outside of the Aquifer District would require at total of 4.3 acres. Calculation:  $10,000/2000 = 5$  units and minimum lot size is 2 acres, 2 acres plus 20,000 sq ft times the number of units (5) of calculation = 4.3 acres.

#### A proposed 4000 square foot mixed use w/3 residential

A mixed use 4,000 square foot commercial with 3 residential 2 bedroom dwelling units.

The lot is outside the Aquifer. Calculation:  $4,000/2000 = 2$  plus 3 dwelling units = 5 calculate-able units and the minimum lot size is 2 acres, 2 acres plus 20,000 sq ft times the number of units (5) of calculation = 4.3 acres.

(See also Article XI Section E-1)

*This article is not subject to change with discussion at the Deliberative Session and will appear on the ballot as shown.*

*The recent application of zoning districts throughout Fremont (2007) created certain “red roads” that allow for Planning Board review and approval of commercial use on properties abutting these “red roads”. The ordinance amendment now proposed would place a density requirement on the sizing of the commercial use of that property. Currently the Zoning Ordinance provides for acreage and frontage calculations for residential use only; but did not have additional density provisions for commercial use.*

**ARTICLE 3:** 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 \$2,541,438? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$2,531,763, 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.

*This is the total operating budget for the Town of Fremont. This article is referred to as the master budget article. This number is the sum total of all operating budgets, and excludes any special warrant articles. The full budget detail can be found on the State Form MS-7, which is available on the Town’s website, or a printed copy can be obtained at the Selectmen’s Office.*

*Now that SB2 is in place, this master budget article includes only the number recommended by the Budget Committee. The Board of Selectmen recommended \$2,579,079 for the operating budget. The difference in these numbers is \$37,641. The Budget Committee did not recommend \$2,100 in police training, \$10,000 in highway expenses, \$515 in animal control wages, \$8,026 in parks and recreation programs, \$7,000 in library expenses, and \$10,000 in interest in tax anticipation notes.*

*Following are some highlights of the major changes in the operating budgets, based on the Board of Selectmen’s recommendations:*

*Wages in all areas are increased in an effort to adopt the 2008 Wage Study undertaken by the Town. Employees are not being provided a cost of living increase, instead were placed on the new wage matrix in a location that provided them with a modest increase along with placement in an appropriate step and grade as recommended by the NH Local Government Center, who did the independent study of the Town’s various positions and job descriptions.*

*Executive:* Increase in postage rates, continued mailing of registration reminders, additional hours worked by the Clerk’s office staff.

*Election and Registration:* Decreased due to only one election scheduled for 2009.

*Reappraisal of Property:* Multi-year contract with MRI (Municipal Resources Inc) to include a CPI increase in the cost of contracted assessing services.

*Personnel Administration:* Decreased due to a group health insurance plan change.

*General Government Buildings:* Includes \$10,000 for repainting the Olde Meetinghouse.

*Cemeteries:* Includes the next phase of planned expansion at the Leavitt Cemetery.

*Police Department:* Increase in investigative time.

Fire Department: Level funded to 2008 appropriation; includes an increase in the Chief's stipend to account for more administrative time.

Highway Department: Block Grant revenue from the State of NH increased slightly to \$91,825; increased hottop for smaller projects done in-house.

Solid Waste Collection: Contract rate for MSW/recycling pickup increased by 5% with a monthly fuel adjustment for prior 12 months.

Solid Waste Disposal: There is an increased cost per ton in tipping fees at Turnkey Landfill; but a decrease in the amount of MSW generated by homes in Fremont (due to increased recycling and the toter program); has caused a reduction in this line of \$25,000.

Library: Increase in funding of Summer Reading Program, increased maintenance and utility costs, purchase of an additional computer as planned annually.

Debt Service: Interest payments reduced over the life of the bonds.

Interest on Tax Anticipation Notes: Unclear market rate of interest rate for borrowing, and an increase in the amount of borrowing for Town and School funding (in anticipation of taxes) to meet cash flow needs.

*If the Selectmen's proposed operating budget passes, it is estimated at this time that the tax rate for the Town would perhaps increase by \$0.25 per thousand. 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 not available at this time, which is one reason why the values are estimates. The current estimates of overlay Exemptions and Veteran Credits add about \$0.25 to the tax rate as well. 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.*

**ARTICLE 4:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) to be placed in the Highway Building Capital Reserve Fund. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation and the Budget Committee does not recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required.)

*Articles 4 through 11 request funding for eight existing capital reserve accounts with each specified purpose as outlined in the article. Each fund has already been established for future use. These funds 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 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.*

*The estimated tax impact of this expenditure is \$0.03 per thousand.*

**ARTICLE 5:** 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. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation. The Budget Committee does not recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required.)

*The Selectmen recommend this appropriation. The Budget Committee recommends \$1,500 of the amount proposed. The estimated tax impact of this expenditure as proposed is \$0.03 per thousand.*

**ARTICLE 6:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) to be placed in the Town Hall Renovations Capital Reserve Fund. The Selectmen and the Budget Committee recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required.)

*This article has been placed on the warrant to continue saving for this project. In removing revenue to fund the project if Article 21 passes, this appropriation has been considered as being part of the fund. If Article 21 does not pass, this will continue to be the savings account for it in a future year. The estimated tax impact of this expenditure is \$0.06 per thousand.*

**ARTICLE 7:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) to be placed in the Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund. The Selectmen and the Budget Committee recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required.)

*This fund plans for future revaluation/recertification work, which is required by Statute and NH DRA Rules, to be done every five years. The estimated tax impact of this expenditure is \$0.06 per thousand.*

**ARTICLE 8:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) to be placed in the Expansion/Renovation of the Fremont Historic Museum Capital Reserve Fund. The Selectmen and the Budget Committee recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required.)

*This fund was established to save for the future renovations/expansion of the Fremont Historic Museum. The estimated tax impact of this expenditure is \$0.02 per thousand.*

**ARTICLE 9:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) to be placed in the Fire Truck Capital Reserve Fund. The Selectmen and the Budget Committee recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required.)

*Because of the increasing cost of fire apparatus, this article was increased from the \$12,500 which has been requested annually in prior years. The goal of the fund is to be able to purchase replacement equipment as needed with less impact to taxpayers. In order to do this, it was felt that the amount added annually to the fund should be increased. It is anticipated that a new fire truck at this time would cost \$350,000 to \$400,000.*

*The estimated tax impact of this expenditure is \$0.06 per thousand.*

**ARTICLE 10:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) to be placed in the Radio Communication Equipment Capital Reserve Fund. The Selectmen and the Budget Committee recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required.)

*This fund was established to assist the Town with the conversion to digital technology. Much of the initial conversion has been done, and the fund has been maintained for replacement of major items such as portable*

*and mobile radios, which cost \$2,000 to \$3,000 per unit. The estimated tax impact of this expenditure is \$0.01 per thousand.*

**ARTICLE 11:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) to be placed in the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation and the Budget Committee does not recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required.)

*This fund was established to assist with the capital costs of equipment for the Highway Department. The Town currently owns plows and sanders and a one ton dump truck, which require updating and replacement as they wear out. There is also consideration that the Town may own additional equipment in the future when a time comes that we rely less on contracted equipment hire.*

*The estimated tax impact of this expenditure is \$0.05 per thousand.*

**ARTICLE 12:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) for the purchase of a roller and trailer for the Highway Department; and further to authorize the withdrawal of fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) from the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund created for this purpose. (Majority vote required.)

*This article was submitted by the Road Agent for the purchase of a one and one-quarter ton roller and trailer for use in road paving projects. The Road Agent feels this will save money over time in rental fees; and will allow the Department to do more work "in house" instead of hiring outside contractors..*

*The Selectmen recommend this appropriation and the Budget Committee does not recommend this appropriation. The estimated tax impact of this expenditure is \$0.00 because it is fully funded from existing Capital Reserve funds.*

**ARTICLE 13:** 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. (Majority vote required.)

*This article requests funding to continue the mosquito control program, which has been in place for three years in Fremont. 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 for 2009 is consistent with what was done in 2008, and allows for up to two emergency sprayings of public lots and ballfields at Memorial Park and Ellis School, should that be necessary. The overall mosquito control program is a comprehensive program beginning with surveillance, monitoring, and trapping and testing of adult mosquitoes; to treatment of larvae (a major focus of an effective control program) through adulticiding.*

*The 2009 program, if approved, would begin immediately following Town Meeting. A program would need to be funded annually if the Town continues to have concerns about the mosquito population. The information the Town has received from State Health Officials at this time indicates that EEE and WNV will again be issues in NH during 2009. They cannot forecast to what extent, but feel it is important for towns to remain vigilant and prepared.*

*A 2008 reimbursement grant from the State of NH in the amount of \$3,576 has been shown as a budgeted revenue. The 2008 grant money was not received until calendar 2009.*

*The Selectmen recommend this appropriation and the Budget Committee does not recommend this appropriation. The estimated tax impact of this expenditure is \$0.11 per thousand.*

**ARTICLE 14:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of seventy-four thousand six hundred twenty dollars (\$74,620) to do paving and overlay work, and do associated shoulder work on sections of Rogers Road from Beede Hill Road to Shirkin Road; Shirkin Road from Beede Hill Road to Rogers Road; Bean Road between Pine Street and Beach Street; and to pave Clough Crossing. (Majority vote required.)

*This article requests funding to shim and install overlay paving, and do shoulder work on the roads specified. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation and the Budget Committee only recommends \$67,240 of this appropriation, eliminating the work to be done on Clough Crossing, as it services only two homes and sees no other thru traffic.*

*The estimated tax impact of this expenditure is \$0.17 per thousand.*

**ARTICLE 15:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty-five thousand sixty-nine dollars (\$25,069) to purchase and equip a 2009 Police Cruiser for the Police Department; and further to authorize the withdrawal of twenty-five thousand sixty-nine dollars (\$25,069) from the Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund created for this purpose. (Majority vote required.)

*This article requests funding to purchase a new Police Department Cruiser to replace the oldest car in the fleet, a 2003 Ford Crown Victoria with approximately 146,000 miles currently on it. The full purchase price is proposed to be removed from the existing Capital Reserve Fund.*

*The Selectmen and the Budget Committee recommend this appropriation. The estimated tax impact of this purchase is \$0.00 as it is funded from the existing Capital Reserve Fund.*

**ARTICLE 16:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of eighteen thousand one hundred ninety-seven dollars (\$18,197) to purchase and equip a used vehicle for use by the detective/juvenile division of the Fremont Police Department; and further to authorize the withdrawal of eleven thousand dollars (\$11,000) from the Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund created for this purpose. (Majority vote required.)

*This article requests funding to purchase a vehicle (used) for use by the Juvenile / Detective division of the Police Department, and would be an addition to their existing fleet. Of the purchase price, \$11,000 is proposed to be removed from the existing Capital Reserve Fund.*

*The Selectmen and the Budget Committee do not recommend this appropriation. The estimated tax impact of this purchase is \$0.02 per thousand.*

**ARTICLE 17:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of seventy thousand dollars (\$70,000) to perform an assessment recertification for the tax year beginning 04/01/2010 pursuant to NH DRA Rules; and further to authorize the withdrawal of seventy thousand dollars (\$70,000) from the Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund created for this purpose. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the recertification is complete or by December 31, 2010, whichever is sooner. The Selectmen and the Budget Committee recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required.)

*This article requests funding for the planned 2010 Recertification in accordance with the NH Department of Revenue Administration Rules and NH RSA 21-J regarding assessing. As the Town currently funds annually a Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of Revaluation, the cost will be removed from that Fund; making the tax impact of this article \$0.00. The Town is considering a statistical update (less involved than the 2005 Full Revaluation) to take into account market fluctuations in the years since that revaluation was completed.*

**ARTICLE 18:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one thousand six hundred fifteen dollars (\$1,615) for an increase in the Town Clerk's salary. (Majority vote required.)

*In 2008 the Selectmen placed an article on the warrant to have the Town vote to set the rate of compensation for all elected Town Officials, as recommended by DRA and outlined in Statute. At that time, it was indicated that future changes to such compensation packages for elected Town Officials would also be brought back before the voting body.*

*This article represents the Town Clerk's requested increase of \$1,615 (to a salary total of \$36,315). The base salary as approved in 2008 is already included in the operating budget.*

*The Selectmen and the Budget Committee recommend \$1,000 of this appropriation. The estimated tax impact of the article as presented is less than \$0.01 per thousand.*

**ARTICLE 19:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of six hundred dollars (\$600) for an increase in the Treasurer's salary. (Majority vote required.)

*In 2008 the Selectmen placed an article on the warrant to have the Town vote to set the rate of compensation for all elected Town Officials, as recommended by DRA and outlined in Statute. At that time, it was indicated that future changes to such compensation packages for elected Town Officials would also be brought back before the voting body.*

*This article represents the Treasurer's requested increase of \$600 (to an annual salary of \$6,600). The Selectmen and the Budget Committee recommend this appropriation. The estimated tax impact of this article is less than \$0.01.*

**ARTICLE 20:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of fifty dollars (\$50) for an increase in the Deputy Treasurer's stipend. (Majority vote required.)

*In 2008 the Selectmen placed an article on the warrant to have the Town vote to set the rate of compensation for all elected Town Officials, as recommended by DRA and outlined in Statute. At that time, it was indicated that*



*future changes to such compensation packages for elected Town Officials would also be brought back before the voting body.*

*This article represents the Treasurer's requested increase of \$50 for the Deputy, (to an annual stipend of \$250). The Selectmen and the Budget Committee recommend this appropriation. The estimated tax impact of this is less than \$0.01.*

**ARTICLE 21:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of two hundred forty thousand dollars (\$240,000) to renovate the basement of the Fremont Town Hall; and further to authorize the withdrawal of up to one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) from the Town Hall Renovation Capital Reserve Fund created for this purpose. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the renovations are complete or by December 31, 2010, whichever is sooner. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation and the Budget Committee does not recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required.)

*For several years, the Town has been working on a plan for renovations to the basement of the Town Hall. This item has been placed on the warrant for consideration and discussion by voters. The sum of money proposed would completely renovate the basement area and provide for the following: maintain the existing Planning and Zoning Office and Building Official's Office; provide for one additional small future office space 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); replaces the aging heating systems (circa 1965); energy conservation with improved efficiency of 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 uni-sex 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); locates and removes the exterior in-ground oil storage tank; replaces existing propane hot water heater, incorporated into new HVAC system; affords continued space for Food Pantry; with a small kitchenette area; and a future vault location for Town Records is planned into the layout. (The detailed scope of work and some drawings are available on the website, on the Budget Committee page).*

*There has been discussion about whether the Federal Government Stimulus package may provide grant monies for this type of project, and whether having the project funded (even in part); might make the Town more eligible (more available) to apply for and receive such funds.*

*Using up to \$100,000 of the monies in the Capital Reserve Fund, the estimated tax impact of the project is \$140,000; or an increase of \$0.33 in the tax rate per thousand.*

**ARTICLE 22:** To see if the Town will vote to discontinue the Fremont Cable Access Expendable Trust Fund created in 2008. No monies are in this fund. (Majority vote required.)

*In 2008, a Town Expendable Trust Fund was established as a mechanism to fund cable access, through revenues from franchise fees, while a renewal contract was being negotiated. Because the contract did not get finalized in calendar year 2008, there were no franchise fees deposited into the fund by Comcast.*

*In the meantime, the statutes have changed to permit the creation of revolving funds for cable access. A revolving fund will be a more efficient way to save in a separate fund, any cable revenues received, and allow purchases to be made from that fund.*

*If this article passes, it will discontinue the Expendable Town Trust Fund. The Selectmen and the Budget Committee recommend this article. There is no tax impact of this article.*

**ARTICLE 23:** To see if the Town will vote to establish a revolving fund pursuant to RSA 31:95-h, for the purpose of Cable Access, and to raise and appropriate twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) from cable franchise fees, to be placed in said fund. All revenues received from cable franchise fees will be deposited into the fund, and the money in the fund shall be allowed to accumulate from year to year, and shall not be considered part of the Town's General Fund unreserved fund balance. The Town Treasurer shall have custody of all moneys in the fund, and shall pay out the same only upon order of the governing body and no further approval is required by the legislative body to expend. Such funds may be expended only for the purpose for which the fund was created.

*This article is made possible by new legislation contained in NH RSA 31:95-h. Creation of a cable fund in this fashion will allow for cable franchise fee revenues to go in; and allows for expenses from it for the purchase of equipment related to cable/public access.*

*It is anticipated that the contract will be completed in February 2009, and the work of appointing a cable access management committee, laying out the plans for public access, and purchase of the necessary equipment, will begin.*

*If this article does not pass, any money received from cable franchise fees would be returned to the general fund to offset property taxes, and no funding would be available in 2009 for cable access management.*

*The Selectmen and the Budget Committee recommend this article. There is no tax dollar impact of this article. Any expenses would be funded from cable franchise fee revenues.*

**ARTICLE 24:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty-two thousand dollars (\$22,000) for repair of a stone wall on North Road at parcel 06-047.001.003.001 to include necessary safety considerations, such as a guardrail, at this location. (Majority vote required.)

*This article requests funding to repair a section of stone wall on North Road, which was damaged in the spring of 2008. The Town put the project out to bid and has a proposal for the repairs. The work includes resetting of the damaged areas of stone, as well as safety improvements such as a guardrail in the area. This stone retaining wall is a shared property boundary between the Town's road right-of-way, and the abutter.*

*The Selectmen recommend this article. The Budget Committee does not recommend this article. The estimated tax impact of this article is \$0.05 per thousand.*

**ARTICLE 25:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of four hundred twenty-five dollars (\$425) in support of the American Red Cross, Manchester Chapter. If

approved, in future years this agency would become part of the Vendor Payments operating budget. (Majority vote required.)

*This article requests funding in support of a new social service agency, the Manchester Chapter of the American Red Cross. The Red Cross is called on for assistance with sheltering during emergency situations (power outages, storms, floods); and is also called on for fire emergencies to assist displaced families. Much of their work is disaster relief. The Red Cross also provides referrals, materials and financial assistance that will enable individuals and families to resume their normal daily activities as quickly as possible after a disaster.*

*The Selectmen and the Budget Committee recommend this appropriation. The estimated tax impact of this expenditure is less than \$0.01.*

**ARTICLE 26:** To see if the Town will vote to adopt the provisions of NH RSA 36-A:4-a, I (b) to authorize the Conservation Commission to expend funds for contributions to qualified organizations for the purchase of property interests, or facilitating transactions related thereto, where the property interest is to be held by the qualified organization and the Town will retain no interest in the property.

*This article was presented by the Fremont Conservation Commission and is supported by the Board of Selectmen. The law changed in 2008 allowing Conservation Commissions to contribute conservation funds to projects sponsored by private conservation groups such as land trusts for acquisitions of property interests (fee or easement) held by the organizations, and/or transaction costs related to these purchases, without having to hold a legal interest in property. For example, to expend funds for property interests that are not owned by the Town. An example would be the rights that are obtained by the Society for Protection of NH Forests, but the Town wishes to partake in an expense related to the transaction in the name of open space preservation. This might include survey work or title research involving a Fremont property that an outside agency will ultimately hold an easement on.*

*Purchasing and caring for conservation land has substantial costs in money, time and responsibility. There are times when partnering with another organization such as a land trust may be the most efficient use of your conservation dollars. The law requires a public hearing before specific expenditures are made.*

**ARTICLE 27:** To see if the Town will vote to adopt the provisions of NH RSA 72:62 for the property tax exemption on real property equipped with solar energy systems, which exemption shall be in an amount equal to one hundred percent (100%) of the assessed value of the solar energy systems, in accordance with NH RSA 72:61, 72:27, 72:33, 72:34; and 72:34-a.

*Articles 27, 28, and 29 were proposed by the Energy Committee and supported by the Board of Selectmen. The intent of these articles is to encourage certain energy improvements that are alternatives to petroleum and other fossil fueled energy sources by exempting from assessment improvements as defined within the RSA's listed within each exemption.*

*Article 27 deals with solar powered systems Article 28 focuses on wind powered systems and Article 29 on wood heating systems. These are the only exemptions available by statute at this time.*

*The Town's contracted Assessor has indicated that they would not place a value on the extra cost of installing qualified heating systems in these exemptions. If the property has a "conventional" heating system and installs wither wood, solar or wind as an additional system, the property would be valued with just the regular heating system, with no added value for the second system. If the qualified wood, solar or wind system was the only system installed, the extra cost involved in doing so would not be valued. Most likely the value would be similar, if not the same, as a property with just a "conventional" system. Until sales of such properties occur, the only data regarding value would be cost. As sales do occur, it is possible that other considerations may need to be addressed. This information applies to Articles 28 and 29 as well.*

**NH RSA 72:61 Definition of Solar Energy Systems.** – *In this subdivision "solar energy system" means a system which utilizes solar energy to heat or cool the interior of a building or to heat water for use in a building and which includes one or more collectors and a storage container. "Solar energy system" also means a system which provides electricity for a building by the use of photovoltaic panels.*

*The tax impact of this article cannot be determined as there is no way to determine how many property owners may be eligible. The value of the exemption is deducted from the total assessed value of the property, and reduces the overall assessed valuation of the Town.*

**ARTICLE 28:** To see if the Town will vote to adopt the provisions of NH RSA 72:66 for the property tax exemption on real property equipped with wind-powered energy systems, which exemption shall be in an amount equal to one hundred percent (100%) of the assessed value of the wind-powered energy systems, in accordance with NH RSA 72:65, 72:27, 72:33, 72:34; and 72:34-a.

*See explanation for Article 27 above.*

**NH RSA 72:65 Definition of Wind-Powered Energy Systems.** – *In this subdivision "wind-powered energy system" means any wind-powered devices which supplement or replace electrical power supplied to households or businesses at the immediate site.*

**ARTICLE 29:** To see if the Town will vote to adopt the provisions of NH RSA 72:70 for the property tax exemption on real property equipped with wood heating energy systems, which exemption shall be in an amount equal to one hundred percent (100%) of the assessed value of the wood heating energy systems in accordance with NH RSA 72:69, 72:27, 72:33, 72:34; and 72:34-a.

*See explanation for Article 27 above.*

**NH RSA 72:69 Definition of Woodheating Energy System.** – *In this subdivision "woodheating energy system" means a wood burning appliance designed to operate as a central heating system to heat the interior of a building. The appliance may burn wood solely or burn wood in combination with another fuel. A central heating system shall include a central appliance to distribute heat by a series of pipes, ducts or similar distribution system throughout a single building or group of buildings. A wood burning appliance shall not include a fireplace, meaning a hearth, fire chamber or similarly prepared place with a chimney intended to be usable in an open configuration whether or not it may also be closed and operated closed; or a wood stove meaning a wood burning*

*appliance designed for space heating purposes which does not operate as a central heating system or as a sole source of heat.*

**ARTICLE 30:** To see if the Town will vote to adopt the provisions of NH RSA 72:37-b Exemption for the Disabled for taxpayers, who, if qualified, shall receive a yearly exemption in an amount of \$50,000. To qualify, the person must have been a New Hampshire resident for at least 5 consecutive years, own the real estate individually or jointly, or if the real estate is owned by such person's spouse, they must have been married to each other for at least 5 consecutive years. In addition, the taxpayer must have a net income of not more than \$25,000, or, if married, a combined net income of not more than \$35,000; and own net assets not in excess of \$45,000 excluding the value of the person's residence.

*This exemption works similar to the Elderly Exemption currently in place, but would apply to a taxpayer qualified as Disabled. Any such exemption would be reviewed and approved by the Board of Selectmen if qualified. The exemption has been established to match the minimum elderly exemption. Once eligible for the elderly exemption (in terms of age); the elderly exemption then applies instead of the disabled exemption.*

*The tax impact of this article cannot be determined as there is no way to determine how many property owners may be eligible. The value of the exemption is deducted from the total assessed value of the property, and reduces the overall assessed valuation of the Town.*

**ARTICLE 31:** To see if the Town will vote pursuant to RSA 32:5, V-a to require that all votes on recommendations on budget items or warrant articles by the Budget Committee and the Board of Selectmen shall be recorded votes and that the numerical tally of such votes shall be printed in the Town Warrant next to the affected warrant article.

*As the Department of Revenue is adhering to the statutes which permit the "recommended" language to be included in warrant articles, the Board of Selectmen is proposing this article so that the recommendation of the Budget Committee and Board of Selectmen can be included on every appropriation warrant article.*

*This article authorizes those recommendations to be made on all warrant articles, and not simply the ones prescribed in Statute (which currently includes funding into other funds such as capital reserve funds, long term bonds or notes, petition warrant articles, and those designated as special and non-lapsing or non-transferrable).*

**ARTICLE 32:** To see if the Town will vote to accept deeded title to Risloves Way (approximately 2,660 feet) as designated on Plan # D-31622 and D-32813 from Allan Rislove, with a two year maintenance bond to be held by the Town in the amount of \$50,000. (Majority vote required.)

*This article proposes to accept deeded title to Risloves Way. All necessary inspections have been completed and recommendations in place from the Town's Road Agent, Consulting Engineer, and Fremont Planning Board. A two year maintenance bond will be held by the Town in the amount of \$50,000.*

**ARTICLE 33:** To see if the Town will vote to accept deeded title to Moose Meadow (approximately 1,150 feet) as designated on Plan # D-34369 from Shawn and Kim Senter,

with a two year maintenance bond to be held by the Town in the amount of \$25,000.  
(Majority vote required.)

*This article proposes to accept deeded title to Moose Meadow. All necessary inspections have been completed and recommendations in place from the Town's Road Agent, Consulting Engineer, and Fremont Planning Board. A two year maintenance bond will be held by the Town in the amount of \$25,000.*