



## TOWN OF FREMONT

### 2011 TOWN MEETING WARRANT ARTICLE NARRATIVE

**IN PREPARATION FOR DELIBERATIVE SESSION TO BE HELD  
TUESDAY 08 FEBRUARY 2011 AT 7:00 PM AT ELLIS SCHOOL  
SNOW DATE: WEDNESDAY 09 FEBRUARY 2011 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 2011 Annual Town Meeting. If you have specific questions that might be answered in advance of the Deliberative Session on Tuesday February 8, 2011, 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).

Brett A Hunter

Greta St Germain  
Fremont Board of Selectmen

Annmarie Scribner

This document contains the written warrant articles and additional narrative information on each article, to assist you in better understanding the subject matter prior to discussing it at Deliberative Session.

In our third year of the SB2 Town Meeting, we are trying to provide additional information to assist voters in making informed decisions about the many municipal challenges facing the Town. 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. Following Deliberative Session, a VOTER GUIDE will be prepared to include any changes from Deliberative Session, and will include all of the material to be voted on at the polls March 8, 2011.

At the Deliberative Session, Articles 2 through 24 will be discussed and may appear differently on the Official Ballot, depending on actions at the Deliberative Session on February 8th. **We hope to see you at this important, interactive session.**

Voting on the finalized Official Ballot will take place on Tuesday March 8, 2011 at the Fremont Safety Complex, 425 Main Street, Fremont NH. Polls are open hours from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm. You can also request an absentee ballot for this session by contacting the Fremont Town Clerk for information at 895 8693.

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.

In 2009, the Town's portion of the tax rate was \$3.44 as a reference. In 2010 the Town's portion of the tax rate was \$3.58. You can also refer to tax rate historical information elsewhere in the 2010 Town Report.

**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 have the sample ballot or a listing of all of the candidates on the website for viewing.*

**PURCHASE A NEW FIRE TRUCK** – Long term lease/purchase arrangement with a \$100,000 withdrawal from the existing Capital Reserve Fund. There is no tax impact in 2011 for this article. Tax impacts will be seen in the subsequent lease/payment years.

**ARTICLE 2:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to enter into a seven year long-term lease/purchase agreement in the amount of four hundred sixty-five thousand dollars (\$465,000) for the purchase of a 2011 KME Fire Truck; and to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) for the down payment; and further to authorize the withdrawal of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) from the Fire Truck Capital Reserve Fund for said down payment. The lease 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 2011 KME Predator Panther 3,000 gallon 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 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 2011. The total purchase price of the truck is \$465,000; and the balance after the down payment (\$365,000) would be financed for a period of seven years. Those subsequent payments would have a tax impact in the coming years of repayment on the lease.*

**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 \$2,599,038? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$2,452,659 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 recommend this appropriation 2-1. The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 5-0. (Majority vote required.)

*This is the total operating budget for the Town of Fremont. This article is referred to as the master budget article and is the sum total of all operating budgets, 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 2010 Annual Town Report, or a printed copy can be obtained at the Selectmen's Office.*

*Now that SB2 is in place, this master budget article includes the number recommended by the Budget Committee of \$2,599,038. The Board of Selectmen recommended \$2,617,588 for the operating budget. The Budget Committee did not recommend operating expenses within some budgets. These amounts can be viewed on the State Form MS-7 in the 2010 Town Report.*

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

*Two percent 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. Departments, cognizant of the difficult economic times, came in with initial budget proposals that were level with (and in some cases less than) the default budget. Selectmen reviewed all budgets as did the Budget Committee.*

*Election and Registration: Decreased due to fewer elections scheduled for 2011.*

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

*Legal: Increase in pending cases, primarily in zoning enforcement*

*Personnel Administration: Decreased due to a health insurance premium reduction and reduction in full-time work force; budgeted for NH Retirement increase.*

*Planning & Zoning: Reduction in full-time work force*

*General Government Buildings: The budget includes \$10,000 for repainting the Olde Meetinghouse; unable to be done in 2010. A new website is proposed to be designed for the Town; and additional work to be done on the computer systems at the Town Hall.*

*Police Department: New wage matrix proposed by the Board of Selectmen to help with retention within the Department.*

*Building Inspection: Reduction in full-time work force*

*Highway Department: Block Grant revenue from the State of NH increased slightly to \$111,655. The budget includes \$150,000 for hottop/upgrade work as well as increases in the amount of general maintenance to be undertaken.*

*Solid Waste Collection: The contract rate for solid waste and recycling pickup increased by 5% with a monthly fuel adjustment for prior 12 months, which was effectively a slight decrease, offsetting the overall increase in the cost of the contract.*

*Vendor Payments: Reduction in some agency requests; some recommended at lower funding levels*

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

Interest on Tax Anticipation Notes: Reduced from 2010 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 slightly. 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, and are estimated for the purposes of establishing tax rate changes. These current estimates of Overlay, Exemptions and Veteran Credits add about \$0.25 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 operating budget and all 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.*

*Articles 4 through 10 request funding for seven 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 2010 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 impact of this savings, and it is transferred from the existing unreserved fund balance. That sum is in essence money turned back from unexpended funds or additional revenues, during the 2010 calendar year.*

CONTRIBUTION TO THE HIGHWAY BUILDING CAPITAL RESERVE FUND – No amount to be raised by taxation

**ARTICLE 4:** 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 Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund. This sum to come from unreserved fund balance 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.)

*This fund was established to assist with the future 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 purchase additional equipment in the future to rely less on contracted equipment hire. Please refer to the Report of the Highway*

*Study Committee in the Town Report for additional information on the research in this area done during 2010.*

*There is no tax impact of this expenditure in 2011 as it will be funded from unreserved fund balance.*

CONTRIBUTION TO THE POLICE CRUISER CAPITAL RESERVE FUND – No amount to be raised by taxation

**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. This sum to come from unreserved fund balance and no amount to be raised from taxation. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation 3-0. The Budget Committee recommends the appropriation 6-0. (Majority vote required.)

*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 impact of this expenditure in 2011 as it will be funded from unreserved fund balance.*

CONTRIBUTION TO THE TOWN HALL RENOVATIONS CAPITAL RESERVE FUND – No amount to be raised by taxation

**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. This sum to come from unreserved fund balance and no amount to be raised from taxation. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation 3-0. The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 6-0. (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 will continue to save 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 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); increasing 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 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; affords continued space for Food Pantry; with a small kitchenette area; and a future vault location for Town Records is planned into the layout.*

*This article has been placed on the warrant to continue saving for this project. There is no tax impact of this expenditure in 2011 as it will be funded from unreserved fund balance.*

#### CONTRIBUTION TO THE REVALUATION CAPITAL RESERVE FUND

**ARTICLE 7:** 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 6-0. (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 impact of this expenditure is \$0.04 per thousand.*

#### CONTRIBUTION TO THE FIRE TRUCK CAPITAL RESERVE FUND

**ARTICLE 8:** 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 recommend this appropriation 3-0. The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 6-0. (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 2011 is \$465,000 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 Town currently has three pieces exceeding this life span.*

*The estimated tax impact of this expenditure is \$0.07 per thousand.*

#### CONTRIBUTION TO THE HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE BUILDING CAPITAL RESERVE FUND

**ARTICLE 9:** 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 Maintenance Building Capital Reserve Fund. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation 3-0. The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 4-2. (Majority vote required.)

*This fund plans for future work which may be needed at the Fremont Highway Department. In Article 13 of this Warrant is a proposal to renovate the existing storage shed to a maintenance building; and to work on a pole barn. It is anticipated that future growth at the site will occur and the fund plans for future improvements at the site.*

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

CONTRIBUTION TO THE HISTORIC MUSEUM CAPITAL RESERVE FUND – No amount to be raised by taxation

**ARTICLE 10:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) to be placed in the Historic Museum Capital Reserve Fund. This sum to come from unreserved fund balance and no amount to be raised from taxation. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation 3-0. The Budget Committee does not recommend this appropriation 5-1. (Majority vote required.)

*This fund was established to save for the future renovations/expansion of the Fremont Historic Museum. This work would at some point allow for storage and display of additional historic items held by the Historical Society. There is no impact of this expenditure in 2011.*

REMOVAL OF MONEY FROM CAPITAL RESERVE TO PURCHASE A POLICE CRUISER – A portion of this amount (\$2,996) to be raised by taxation

**ARTICLE 11:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty-six thousand nine hundred ninety-six dollars (\$26,996) to purchase and equip a Police Cruiser for the Police Department; and further to authorize the withdrawal of twenty-four thousand dollars (\$24,000) from the Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund created for this purpose. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation 3-0. The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 6-0. (Majority vote required.) There is \$2,996 to be raised by taxation for this article.

*The Fremont Police Department maintains four fully equipped vehicles, three sedan style patrol cruisers, and one utility vehicle. The Department typically keeps a patrol vehicle for six years.*

*The first two years a vehicle is used as the primary patrol vehicle for approximately 16 patrol shifts per week. The majority of the mileage is put on the cruiser during these years. Many officers use this unit. The primary patrol car is a 2010 Ford Crown Victoria.*

*The second two years it is used as a patrol back up vehicle. It is used if there is a need for a second vehicle. It is assigned to an officer for patrol duty 5 shifts per week trying to keep the mileage down on the primary patrol vehicle. It is also used for details if a cruiser is needed. This vehicle is a 2007 Ford Crown Victoria.*

*The last two years the markings are removed from the vehicle, it becomes low profile. It is a fully equipped cruiser that is used by the Chief of Police and the Detective Division. It is a 2005 Ford Crown Vic.*

*The utility vehicle is a 2006 Ford Expedition. When it was purchased the plan was for it to be a 10-year vehicle. This unit is used to tow the OHRV trailer. It is used in inclement weather when a 4-wheel drive vehicle is needed. This unit is also used as a detail vehicle when a sedan is not available.*

*Because of the nature of the work the wear and tear on emergency vehicles is greater than a vehicle owned by an individual. The constant use, the number of different drivers, the constant stopping and starting, and the number of hours a cruiser sits at a scene running creates maintenance problems as the cruisers get older. We have an aggressive maintenance program but as the cruisers get older, the cost of maintenance increases.*

*The tax impact of this purchase is \$0.01 as it is primarily funded from the existing Capital Reserve Fund.*

REMOVAL OF MONEY FROM OHRV SPECIAL REVENUE FUND TO PURCHASE OHRV EQUIPMENT – No amount to be raised by taxation

**ARTICLE 12:** 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 6-0. (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 our 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.*

REMOVAL OF MONEY FROM CAPITAL RESERVE TO FUND RENOVATIONS TO THE FREMONT HIGHWAY SHED/GARAGE – No amount to be raised by taxation

**ARTICLE 13:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred twelve thousand dollars (\$112,000) to renovate the Fremont Highway shed to a maintenance garage and build a salt and sand pole barn storage area; and further to authorize the withdrawal of one hundred twelve thousand dollars (\$112,000) from the Highway Building Capital Reserve Fund created for this purpose. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation 3-0. The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 5-2. (Majority vote required.) There is no amount to be raised from taxation for this article.

*The Highway Study Committee, working with the Road Agent and Board of Selectmen, formulated a proposal to renovate the existing building at the Highway Site into a maintenance garage. This was done to make better use of the building the Town owns; and save some money as compared to constructing a brand new maintenance building. From the detailed specifications, RFP's were done in the fall of 2010 for budget estimating purposes for this Warrant Article.*

*It is anticipated that for the money appropriated that the existing building can be renovated and serve as a maintenance garage with some storage. Additionally, a pole barn is planned to be constructed by town staff to store salt and sand.*



*The tax impact of this purchase is \$0.00 as it is funded from the existing Capital Reserve Fund.*

#### FUNDING THE MOSQUITO CONTROL PROGRAM

**ARTICLE 14:** 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 4-2. (Majority vote required.)

*This article requests funding to continue the mosquito control program, which has been in place for five years in Fremont. The contractor has again offered the program with no increase in cost for 2011. 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 2010, 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 2011 program, if approved, would begin immediately following Town Meeting. A reimbursement grant from the State of NH in the amount of \$2,130 has been shown as a budgeted revenue to offset this warrant article. The estimated tax impact of this program is \$0.13.*

ESTABLISHING A CABLE ACCESS REVOLVING FUND – No amount to be raised by taxation. This fund will be used to support local cable access.

**ARTICLE 15:** 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 monies 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. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation 3-0. The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 6-0. (Majority vote required.) There is no amount to be raised from taxation for this article.

*This article is made possible by 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. This would include cameras and broadcast equipment to provide for live broadcast of public meetings in Town; as well as the ability to tape and rebroadcast additional meetings or events. The return line from Fremont to Exeter has been constructed, and we now*

*need this fund to be able to purchase the cameras and other equipment to enable broadcasting of Fremont meetings and events, as well as continue the informational ticker.*

*Currently, cable subscribers are paying a franchise fee on their monthly cable bill. This money is collected by Comcast in accordance with the cable contract, for the purpose of funding local public cable access. Local public access would allow for live broadcasting of meetings and rebroadcast of more material, as well as the information ticker that streams on currently shown to Fremont subscribers on Channel 22.*

*The Town needs a legal mechanism to accept and expend funds without action by Town Meeting each year. The creation of this fund will establish a place to deposit the funds for the specific purpose of cable access. 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 will be available for cable access management. Without this legal authority in place, the Town does not have a legal means to accept and expend money collected by Comcast in franchise fees.*

*There is no tax dollar impact of this article. Expenses would be funded from cable franchise fee revenues received from Comcast. Tax dollars are not impacted by this article; and no tax dollars are used to fund public access.*

#### FUNDING AN INCREASE IN THE ROAD AGENT STIPEND

**ARTICLE 16:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of five thousand two hundred dollars (\$5,200) for an increase in the Road Agent Salary. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation 3-0. The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 4-2. (Majority vote required.)

*This article proposes to increase the salary for the Road Agent by \$5,200. It is currently \$4,200; and would increase to a total of \$9,400 if this article is approved. The estimated tax impact of this appropriation is \$0.01. The base salary of \$4,200 is shown in the operating budget of the Highway Department.*

#### CONVERTING THE ELECTED ROAD AGENT TERM FROM ONE TO THREE YEARS

**ARTICLE 17:** To see if the Town will vote to change the term of elected Road Agent from one (1) to three (3) years. The Selectmen recommend this article 3-0. The Budget Committee recommends this article 6-0.

*This article will change the current Road Agent term from one to three years. This is proposed to allow for more long-term planning by the Road Agent. There is no tax dollar impact of this article.*

#### COMBINING THE OFFICES OF TOWN CLERK AND TAX COLLECTOR

**ARTICLE 18:** 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 6-0. (Majority ballot vote required).

*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 2012. The intent of the Article is improved efficiency and customer service, and financial savings for the Town. There is no tax impact of this article in 2011.*

#### AUTHORIZING THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION WITH REGARD TO PROPERTY INTERESTS

**ARTICLE 19:** 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. The Selectmen recommend this article 3-0. The Budget Committee does not recommend this article 5-1. (Majority vote required.)

*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. Example: related to the rights obtained by the Society for Protection of NH Forests, the Town may share in the expense 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.*

*There is no tax dollar impact of this article.*

#### APPOINTING SELECTMEN AS AGENTS OF CAPITAL RESERVE FUND PREVIOUSLY ESTABLISHED

**ARTICLE 20:** To see if the Town will vote to appoint the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from the Radio Communications Capital Reserve Fund previously established in 1998. The Selectmen recommend this article 3-0. The Budget Committee recommends this article 6-0. (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. Is proposed to allow the Selectmen as agents of this fund so that the radio communication fund could be used if needed to purchase replacement radios during the year if any should be damaged or wear out. A portable radio used by the Police and Fire Rescue Departments cost approximately \$3,000 each.*

*There is no tax dollar impact of this article.*

#### AUTHORIZING THE SELECTMEN TO ACQUIRE OR SELL LAND OR BUILDINGS WITHIN PARAMETERS OUTLINED BY NH RSA 41:14-a.

**ARTICLE 21:** To see if the Town will vote to adopt the provisions of NH RSA 41:14-a in accordance with NH RSA 41:14-c to authorize the Selectmen to sell land, buildings, or both, which have been acquired by tax deed. The Selectmen recommend this article 3-0. The Budget Committee recommends this article 7-0. (Majority vote required).

*The Selectmen have placed this article on the Warrant to enable them to sell tax-deeded property during the two year redemption period. The ability to do this would alleviate some responsibility and cost to the Town in maintaining properties taken for tax deed.*

*There is a required public hearing process and notification to former owners required prior to sale of any property under this statute. This article will work in concert with an authority granted to the Board of Selectmen in 1994 pursuant to NH RSA 80:42 and 80:80.*

*The tax benefit of this article for taxpayers is that properties are returned to the rolls of taxable property, thereby increasing the tax base of the Town.*

PETITION ARTICLE TO ELIMINATE THE FRANCHISE FEE FROM CABLE SUBSCRIBER BILLS.

**ARTICLE 22: By Petition:** "Shall the Town of Fremont vote to eliminate the \$3.19 "franchise fee" (tax) that has been placed on all Comcast subscribers bills by the Fremont Selectmen?" The Selectmen do not recommend this article 3-0. The Budget Committee does not recommend this article 7-0. (Majority vote required).

*This article was submitted by petition. At the Public Hearing, the petitioner provided that there should already be sufficient funding collected from franchise fees to pay for the items needed, thus the franchise fee should be ceased on individual Comcast customer bills.*

*There is a provision in the Town's contract with Comcast for the Board of Selectmen to adjust the franchise fees collected. There is also a provision in the contract that franchise fees collected would be 5% for the first two and half years of the contract; and would reduce to 2.5% for another two and a half years before being discontinued.*

*The original intent of franchise fees was to fund public access to include live broadcast of meetings and information; as well as an informational "ticker" on a local cable channel for Fremont cable subscribers.*

PETITION ARTICLE TO RESCIND THE ADOPTION OF THE BUDGET COMMITTEE

**ARTICLE 23: By Petition:** "Shall the Town vote to rescind the adoption of an Official Budget Committee in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Budget Act (NH RSA Chapter 32:14)? The Selectmen do not recommend this article 3-0. The Budget Committee does not recommend this article 7-0. (Majority vote required).

*This article was submitted by petition and is not recommended by the Board of Selectmen or the Budget Committee. This would eliminate the review process currently used in accord with the Municipal Budget Law, and remove the Budget Committee.*

*The Selectmen feel that the additional review process that the Budget Committee provides results in additional time and research being spent on requests for funding for the Town and School, and is an important part of the "check and balance" process.*

PETITION ARTICLE TO CREATE AN ORDINANCE TO RESTRICT ACCESS TO PRIVATE PROPERTY AND PROVIDE CERTAIN NOTICE REQUIREMENTS

**ARTICLE 24: By Petition:** "To see if the Town of Fremont NH will vote to approve the following ordinance:

All entrance onto private property for non-recreational purposes, including but not limited to bio-diversity studies, endangered species or habitat survey's sampling, delineation, and other data gathering projects, whether or not authorized by municipal agencies, boards, or commissions, shall require prior, written notification to the property owner(s) and prior written permission from the property owner(s).

Such notification shall include a specific and complete description of:

1. The purpose or reason for accessing the property;
2. The date and duration of the requested access;
3. Species, land, or environmental features that are being evaluated;
4. The way information collected will be recorded and retained;
5. The method or methods by which information will be shared with government boards, agencies, other third parties and/or the general public.

Information gathered without permission shall not be recorded, made public, or used for studies and/or grants. Data gathered without permission shall invoke a fine of \$250 per tax parcel payable to the Town of Fremont. The requirements of this ordinance shall not apply to federal, state, or local law enforcement, emergency fire and ambulatory services, local assessment officials, boundary surveys, customary utility activities, or emergency response related to public health or animal control."

The Selectmen do not recommend this article 3-0. The Budget Committee does not recommend this article 7-0. (Majority vote required).

*This article was submitted by petition. The petitioner included the following purpose: "This ordinance is being proposed to provide property owners with timely notification of all non-recreational activities on their land, including endangered species and habitat surveys. In many towns entrance onto private property by has been occurring for non-recreational purposes without direct landowner notification. Often the results of these actions have restricted or severely curtailed existing and potential uses of the property including normal residential, agricultural, silvacultural, and conservation activities. In some instances the results adversely impact land values, leading to significant losses for the owner and erosion of the tax base for the state, counties, and towns. This will lead to remaining taxpayers paying a higher portion of the tax burden."*

*The Selectmen and Budget Committee did not recommend this article because insufficient information was submitted at the time of the Public Hearing to make a determination.*

*The Town's Attorney advised in his review of Warrant Articles, that the submission should be included as written, although enforcement and other issues may come up. He said he would categorize this as a "General Ordinance" and not a Zoning type of Ordinance.*

**Please be sure to vote on Election Day, Tuesday March 8, 2011.  
All articles (including any amendments from Deliberative Session) will  
be on the Official Ballot. Polls are open from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm**

**Fremont Safety Complex  
425 Main Street  
Fremont NH**

**Contact the Town Clerk for absentee ballot or other election information at 895 8693.**

**Check the Town website for further information and details at:**

**[www.Fremont.nh.gov](http://www.Fremont.nh.gov)**

**Click on:  
Town Report 2010  
Budget Committee**