



TOWN OF FREMONT 2013 TOWN MEETING WARRANT ARTICLE NARRATIVE

**IN PREPARATION FOR DELIBERATIVE SESSION TO BE HELD
TUESDAY 05 FEBRUARY 2013 AT 7:00 PM AT ELLIS SCHOOL
SNOW DATE: THURSDAY 07 FEBRUARY 2013 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 2013 Annual Town Meeting. If you have specific questions that might be answered in advance of the Deliberative Session on Tuesday February 5, 2013, please feel free to call our office at 895 2226 x 10 or send an email to FremontTA@comcast.net.

Annmarie Scribner

Brett A Hunter
Fremont Board of Selectmen

Greta St Germain

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 fifth year of the SB2 Town Meeting, we endeavor to provide additional information to assist voters in making informed 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. 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 12, 2013.

At the Deliberative Session, Articles 2 through 18 will be discussed. Articles 4 through 18 can be amended by floor vote, and may appear differently on the Official Ballot, depending on actions at the Deliberative Session on February 5th. **We hope to see you at this important, interactive session.**

Voting on the finalized Official Ballot will take place on Tuesday March 12, 2013 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.

The type of vote required appears at the end of each article, 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
2012	\$3.41

You can also refer to tax rate historical information in the 2012 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, 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.

If you would like to run for Town or School District Office, the sign-up period is January 23, 2013 through February 1, 2013. You must sign up with the Town Clerk during normal office hours, and a special session solely for sign-ups will be held on the final day, Friday February 1, 2013 from 3:00 to 5:00 pm at the Town Hall.

Current Town Positions open include: Selectman 1 for 3 years; Tax Collector 1 for 3 years; Town Clerk 1 for 3 years; Treasurer 1 for 3 years; Trustee of Trust Funds 1 for 3 years; Library Trustee 1 for 3 years; Supervisors of Checklist 1 for 3 years and 1 for 5 years; Budget Committee 2 for 3 years and 1 for 2 years; Cemetery Trustee 1 for 3 years.

ARTICLE 2: Are you in favor of amending ARTICLE XVIII of the Fremont Zoning Ordinance by removing from the Corporate Commercial District the parcels located at Map 5 Lot 36 and Map 5 Lot 37, and update the Fremont New Hampshire Zoning District Map dated December 13, 2006 to reflect this amendment?

The Planning Board recommends this article.

Rational: These are the only two parcels on the south side of Shirkin Road that are in the Corporate Commercial District with an overlay of Flexible Use Residential use that front on Beede Hill Road. The owners prefer their property not to be zoned as commercial.

ARTICLE 3: Are you in favor of amending Article XVIII of the Fremont Zoning Ordinance by updating the Fremont New Hampshire Zoning District Map dated December 13, 2006 to reflect the following amendment.

1. Where a property falls within the Village District, Corporate Commercial District or the Commercial Highway District and is also located on a red road which is zoned Flexible Use Residential, the applicable zoning regulations will be that of Village District, Corporate Commercial District or the Commercial Highway District.

2. Remove Shirkin Road west of Beede Hill Road from the list of Red Roads which are zoned Flexible Use Residential.

The Planning Board recommends this article.

Rational: The purpose of this amendment is to alleviate confusion relative to use of a property when that property falls within more than one zoned district.

ARTICLE 4: 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 seventy-one thousand three hundred eighty-five dollars (\$471,385) and further to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred seventy five thousand dollars (\$175,000) and authorize the withdrawal of one hundred seventy-five thousand dollars (\$175,000) from the Fire Truck Capital Reserve Fund for a down payment to lower the agreement amount to two hundred ninety-six thousand three hundred eighty-five dollars (\$296,385) 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 8-0.
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 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 2013. The total purchase price of the truck is \$471,385. It is proposed to remove \$175,000 from the existing Fire Truck Capital Reserve Fund for a down payment, and finance the balance of the cost (\$296,385) in a five year lease/purchase agreement. Thus payments would be due in each of the five years beginning with 2014. The subsequent lease payments would have a tax impact in the coming years of repayment. The tax impact for year 2014 is \$0.18.

ARTICLE 5: 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 \$2,499,591? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$2,543,795 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 3-0.
The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 8-0.
Majority vote required.**

This is the total of all operating budgets for the Town, 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 2012 Annual Town Report, or a printed copy can be obtained at the Selectmen's Office.

With SB2 is in place, this master budget article includes the number recommended by the Budget Committee of \$2,499,591. This is down \$37,986 from the appropriated budget in 2012. The recommendations of Selectmen and Budget Committee can be viewed on the State Form MS-7 in the 2012 Town Report.

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 (except for police personnel). 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.

Executive: Reduction in the number of print/mailed copies of the Fremont Newsletter, reduction in office expenses, Committee supplies, and advertising.

Election and Registration: There is only one local election for 2013.

Reappraisal of Property: 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.

Personnel Administration: Increased due to health insurance premium increases, and an increase in mandatory NH Retirement costs. Overall the Town's full-time work force remains at a reduced level. State mandated increases in NH Police Retirement were significant.

General Government Buildings: The budget is down due to the cost encumbered from 2012 for repainting of 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.

Planning & Zoning: Continued reduction of staffing with only part-time coverage.

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

Building Inspection: Continued reduction of staffing with only part-time coverage.

Highway Department: Block Grant revenue from the State of NH decreased to \$93,723 with State funding cutbacks. The budget includes funding for hottop/upgrade work. Overall it is the same as 2012.

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 an increase due to the increased cost of diesel fuel.

Vendor Payments: Reduction in some agency requests; some recommended at lower funding levels. The total is consistent with the 2012 default budget.

Parks & Recreation: Recommended at 2012 default level.

Library: Requested increase in staff coverage time, Budget Committee recommendation slightly above 2012 default level.

Debt Service: Interest payments reduced over the life of the bonds. One final payment will be made on the 2012 short-term note to complete purchase of the Smith property.

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 \$0.20. 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 \$0.31 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 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 \$0.56 per thousand. This would fund important safety equipment for the Fire Department, a police cruiser, mosquito control, and plan for the future needs of the Town by funding Capital Reserve Accounts.

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to change the purpose of the existing Emergency Management Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund to the Emergency Management Equipment Capital Reserve Fund, and vote to appoint the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from the Emergency Management Equipment Capital Reserve Fund.

The Selectmen recommend this article 3-0.

The Budget Committee recommends this article 8-0.

2/3 vote required.

There is no tax impact for this article.

There is no tax impact for this article. It will change the purpose of the Capital Reserve Fund and help the Town to purchase a generator or other equipment. The primary use at this time would be a generator for establishing an Emergency Shelter for the Town.

Articles 7 through 11 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 2012 Town Report or on the Town's website (Town Report 2012). 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.

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 Bridge Construction and Reconstruction Capital Reserve Fund.

The Selectmen recommend this appropriation 3-0.
The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 8-0.
Majority vote required.

Article 7 proposes to add funding to the Bridge Capital Reserve Fund for future bridge engineering and construction. Currently two of Fremont's bridges are on the States "red list" that are in need of significant repair or replacement. With funding allocated in 2012, we were able to get on the NH Bridge Aid list for future construction funding. The Town needs to think about saving for the future bridge needs.

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

CONTRIBUTION TO THE POLICE CRUISER CAPITAL RESERVE FUND

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of sixteen thousand five hundred dollars (\$16,500) to be placed in the Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund.

The Selectmen recommend this appropriation 2-0.
The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 8-0.
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.

The cost to purchase and outfitting a new cruiser has increased as the Ford Crown Victoria is no longer manufactured. The amount of money saved aside each year is also being increased to fund the total cost of a new car every two years.

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

ARTICLE 9: 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 6-2.
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 2013 is \$471,385 and it is anticipated that the next new fire truck would be comparable in price in 4-7

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 10: 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 Highway Building Capital Reserve Fund.

**The Selectmen recommend this appropriation 3-0.
The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 6-2.
Majority vote required.**

This appropriation is proposed to have enough in the Capital Reserve Fund to complete improvements to the existing highway barn, renovating it to a maintenance garage. In 2012, a sand and salt shed was constructed and materials moved from the former building. The second part of the shed plan is to close in the existing building so that it can be used for maintenance and secure storage. Building codes and other updates since the original plans were laid out have added some cost. It is anticipated that this sum would facilitate the final work to be done at the site to make it a fully functioning Highway Department garage.

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

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of forty-seven thousand eighty-eight dollars (\$47,088) to purchase eight Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) for the Fremont Fire Rescue Department.

**The Selectmen recommend this appropriation 3-0.
The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 8-0.
Majority vote required.**

This appropriation is part of a two year plan to replace the existing, aged, SCBA units for the Fire Department. These packs are for breathing air (for use in a fire or hazardous condition situation). The Department's current inventory of SCBA packs and tanks are more than 10 years old and it is time to replace them. This will fund 8 packs and all of the necessary attachments, and will outfit two of the trucks with new packs.

The estimated tax impact of this expenditure is \$0.13 per thousand.

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of thirty-three thousand thirty-nine dollars (\$33,039) to purchase and equip a Police cruiser; and further to authorize the withdrawal of twenty-four thousand dollars (\$24,000) from the Police Capital Reserve Fund created for this purpose.

**The Selectmen recommend this appropriation 3-0.
The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 8-0.
Majority vote required.**

This appropriation is primarily funded from Capital Reserves. The Ford Crown Victoria is no longer made as a police vehicle, and the conversion to a Ford Police Interceptor Sedan (a different size and style) means that some of the equipment inside the vehicle needs to be replaced. The Department is also changing the paint scheme of the vehicles with this purchase. This will replace the oldest car in the fleet. The next older vehicle will be retrofitted to a low-profile car.

The estimated tax impact of this expenditure is \$0.02 per thousand. Only \$9,039 of the purchase price will be raised by taxation. The balance is already saved in a Capital Reserve Fund.

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of seven thousand eight hundred thirty-five dollars (\$7,835) for the purchase of OHRV equipment; and further to authorize the withdrawal of seven thousand eight hundred thirty-five dollars (\$7,835) from the OHRV Special Revenue Fund created for this purpose.

The Selectmen recommend this appropriation 3-0.

The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 8-0.

Majority vote required.

There is no amount to be raised from taxation for this article.

Passage of this article reduces the operating budget of the Police Department.

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. The Police Department operating budget was reduced and the items will be purchase from this fund. If this article does not pass, there will be an increase in the operating budget next year to make the necessary equipment purchases.

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 8-0.

Majority vote required.

This article requests funding to continue the mosquito control program, which has been in place for seven years in Fremont. The contractor has again offered the program with no increase in cost for 2013. 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 this year with a town-wide program. The program is consistent with what was done in years 2008 through 2012, 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 2013 program, if approved, would begin immediately following Town Meeting. The estimated tax impact of this expenditure is \$0.13.

ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) to be placed in the 250th Celebration Expendable Trust Fund.

**The Selectmen recommend this appropriation 3-0.
The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 7-1.
Majority vote required.**

This fund was created in 2012. This article proposes to set additional money aside 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.

The estimated tax impact of this expenditure is \$0.01.

ARTICLE 16: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) in support of Family Promise of Greater Rockingham County Inc, a new social service agency. If approved, this would become part of the annual operating budget for social service agencies.

**The Selectmen recommend this appropriation 3-0.
The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 6-2.
Majority vote required.**

This article proposes funding a new social service agency. The agency is a 501 (c) 3 organization started to help homeless children with families. It is an affiliate of a national organization, Family Promise, which was opened in 1988 and now has 181 open affiliates across the US. An affiliate helps homeless families regain housing by creating a program called Interfaith Hospitality Network (HIN). In this network, 10-13 congregations of any faith take turns hosting up to 5 homeless families in their church building, for one week at a time, 4-5 times per year. A professionally staffed Day Center works with the families on the issues that led to homelessness, helps them find jobs and stable housing.

The estimated tax impact of this expenditure is less than \$0.01.

ARTICLE 17: 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 8-0.

Majority ballot vote required.

If approved, an article shall be placed on the ballot at the next annual meeting (2014) 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 2014. 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 2013.

ARTICLE 18: To see if the Town will vote to designate as Town Forests, in accordance with NH RSA 31:110, the following parcels of land:

Smith Land (Acquisition to supplement Glen Oakes Town Forest)
Map 4 Lots 086, 088, and 089

The Conservation Commission recommends this article.

The Selectmen recommend this article 3-0.

The Budget Committee recommends this article 8-0.

Majority vote required.

This article proposes to add the newly acquired Smith Land to the area already designed as the Glen Oakes Town Forest.

**Please be sure to vote on Election Day, Tuesday March 12, 2013.
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 at the
Ellis School, 432 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