



## TOWN OF FREMONT 2020 Town Meeting Warrant Article Narrative

**In preparation for Deliberative Session to be held  
Saturday February 1, 2020 at 9:00 am at ELLIS SCHOOL  
SNOWDATE: Saturday February 8, 2020**

We hope this information is helpful for your understanding of the issues to be voted upon at the 2020 Annual Town Meeting. For the first time this year, in response to widespread community interest, we have scheduled both the Town and School District Deliberative Sessions together on the same Saturday. The day will begin with the School Deliberative Session at 9:00 am. At the conclusion of that meeting, there will be a brief intermission and Town Officials will set up, and the Town Deliberative Session will begin.

If you have specific questions related to Town Warrant Articles that might be answered in advance of the Deliberative Session on Saturday February 1, 2020, please feel free to call our office at 895 2226 x 301 or send an email to Heidi Carlson at [hcarlson@fremont.nh.gov](mailto:hcarlson@fremont.nh.gov).

Gene Cordes

Neal Janvrin

Roger Barham

Fremont Board of Selectmen

The Official Warrant must be written as outlined by NH Statute, and this document includes that language but also additional information on each article to assist you in better understanding the subject matter prior to discussing it at the Deliberative Session. In our twelfth year of the SB2 form of Town Meeting, we endeavor to provide additional information to assist voters in making decisions about the many municipal challenges facing the Town. The Official Warrant is reviewed and discussed at Deliberative Session. Following any changes at that session, a final format of the questions is created and now called the Official Ballot. Following Deliberative Session, a VOTER GUIDE is prepared to include any changes from Deliberative Session and will include all of the material to be voted on at the polls March 10, 2020.

At the Deliberative Session all articles on this Warrant will be discussed. Articles 7 through 22 can be amended by floor vote, and may appear differently on the Official Ballot, depending on actions at Deliberative Session on February 1st. **We hope to see you at this important, interactive session.**

Final voting on the Official Ballot will take place on Tuesday March 10, 2020 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 at [clerkcollector@fremont.nh.gov](mailto:clerkcollector@fremont.nh.gov) or 895 8693 x 307.

In 2009 Fremont voters decided to have the Selectmen and Budget Committee's tally votes on articles printed, along with those recommendations as outlined by Statute. The type of vote required also appears at the end of each article, such as majority, 2/3 or 3/5 requirements. We have also included here in this narrative, an estimate of what each article reflects as part of the total Town portion of the tax rate. This is only an estimate, and 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
2013	\$3.86
2014	\$3.58
2015	\$4.37
2016	\$3.89
2017	\$4.44
2018	\$4.77
2019	\$4.73

**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 also have the candidate listing on the Town's website home page.*

*If you would like to run for Town or School District Office, the sign-up period is January 22, 2020 through January 31, 2020. You must sign up with the Town Clerk during normal office hours. Winter office hours are Monday and Friday 9:00 am to 12 noon; Tuesday 7:30 am to 3:00 pm; Wednesday 3:00 to 7:00 pm; Thursday 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. In addition, the Town Clerk and the School District Clerk will be at the Town Hall on the final day, Friday January 31 from 3:00 to 5:00 pm for candidate declaration only.*

### **Town Positions Open in 2020**

Budget Committee: 2 for 3 years  
Cemetery Trustee: 1 for 3 years  
Moderator: 1 for 2 years  
Supervisor of the Checklist: 1 for 6 years  
Trustee of Trust Funds: 1 for 3 years

Budget Committee: 2 for 1 year  
Library Trustee: 1 for 3 years  
Selectman: 1 for 3 years  
Town Clerk Tax Collector: 1 for 3 years

**ARTICLE 2 INFORMATION:** *CONSIDER A ZONING ORDINANCE CHANGE. This proposal will amend Fremont Zoning Ordinance Article 7 by revising district names to reflect 2019 Zoning Ordinance updates and adding approval language for Conditional Use Permits in Flexible Use Residential and Residential Districts for clarification purposes. This proposal also includes removing similar approval language from Article 8 to reflect changes in Article 7. The proposed changes to this Article are to bring more clarity to the regulation and do not contemplate any change in policy.*

**ARTICLE 2:** Are you in favor of the proposed amendments to Articles VII and VIII submitted by the Planning Board for the Fremont Zoning Ordinance as follows:

**New language**      ~~Removed language~~

Section 701 - Establishment of Districts

The Town of Fremont is hereby divided into the following Zoning Districts: **Main Street District, Shirkin Road Commercial District, Residential District** ~~Commercial Highway, Corporate/Commercial~~ Flexible-Use Residential, and existing Districts which include the Fremont Village District, Wetlands and Watershed Protection District and the Aquifer Protection District.

Section 702 – District Locations and Zoning Map

The Flexible-Use Residential, **Main Street District, Shirkin Road Commercial District, Residential District** ~~Commercial Highway, Corporate/Commercial~~ and the Fremont Village District are shown on the Fremont New Hampshire Zoning District Map dated ~~December 13, 2006~~ **March 2019**, kept by the Town Clerk as the official Zoning Map. The areas of the districts include tax map parcels as depicted on the Zoning Map. The Wetlands and Watershed Protection District and the Aquifer Protection District are overlay zoning districts. The lands included thereon are as defined in Article 12, Section 1201, Wetland and Watershed Protection District and in Article 12, Section 1203, the Aquifer Protection District.

Section 704 - Flexible Use Residential District

704.2 By Conditional Use Permit, the Planning Board may allow commercial operations on **lots with frontage on** specific roads identified on the Fremont, NH, Zoning District Map-

704.3 Conditional Use Permit Requirements: Pursuant to RSA 674:21, the Planning Board is hereby authorized to grant a Conditional Use Permit in the Flexible Use Residential District for commercial operations provided that the following conditions ~~are found to exist:~~ **as listed below are met:**

- A. The total maximum square footage of all commercial structures on a single parcel is no greater than ten thousand (10,000) Square Feet.-
- B. The entire commercial operation shall be located within 500 feet of the lot frontage within the Flexible Use Residential District. The Planning Board may on a case-by-case basis allow commercial operations to be located further than 500 feet from the lot frontage if the impacts of the use on abutting properties are demonstrated to be sufficiently minimized. Impacts include, but are not limited to, noise, odor, visual impacts, traffic, or safety.
- C. The commercial operation shall not result in a change in the essential characteristics of the area or abutting properties on account of the location or scale of buildings, other structures, parking areas, access ways, or the storage or operation of associated equipment or vehicles.
- D. The proposed use complies with all other applicable sections of the Zoning Ordinance.
- A. The permit is in the public interest.**
- B. There will be no greater diminution of neighboring property values than would be created under any permitted use in the Flexible Use Residential District.**
- C. That there are no existing violations of the Fremont zoning ordinance on the subject property.**
- D. That the character of the area shall not be adversely affected in the context of:**
  - 1. Architecture**
  - 2. Transportation**
  - 3. Scale of coverage**
  - 4. Scale of building size**
  - 5. Consistency of uses**
- E. That granting the permit will not result in undue municipal expense.**
- F. That the proposed use will be developed in a manner compatible with the spirit and intent of the ordinance.**
- G. That the capacity of existing or planned community facilities and services (including streets and highways) will not be adversely impacted.**
- H. That the general welfare of the Town will be protected.**
- I. That the following impacts have been mitigated to the extent practical:**
  - 1. Noise**
  - 2. Light**
  - 3. Transportation**
  - 4. Visual effects**
  - 5. Odor**
- J. Landscaped or other appropriate buffers of sufficient opacity and materials shall be required if deemed reasonably necessary for the welfare of neighboring properties or the Town.**

#### Section 707 Residential District

707.2 Conditional Use Permit Requirements: Pursuant to RSA 674:21, the Planning Board is hereby authorized to grant a Conditional Use Permit in the Residential District ~~for multi-family dwellings~~ provided that the following conditions ~~are found to exist:~~ **as listed below are met:**

- A. The proposal meets the additional setback and frontage requirements under Article 9 – Lot requirements.-
- B. The multi-family dwellings shall not result in a change in the essential characteristics of the area or abutting properties.
- C. The proposed use complies with all other applicable sections of the Zoning Ordinance.
- D. The permit is in the public interest.**
- E. There will be no greater diminution of neighboring property values than would be created under any permitted use in the Residential District.**

- F. That there are no existing violations of the Fremont zoning ordinance on the subject property.
- G. That the character of the area shall not be adversely affected in the context of:
  - 1. Architecture
  - 2. Transportation
  - 3. Scale of coverage
  - 4. Scale of building size
  - 5. Consistency of uses
- H. That granting the permit will not result in undue municipal expense.
- I. That the proposed use will be developed in a manner compatible with the spirit and intent of the ordinance.
- J. That the capacity of existing or planned community facilities and services (including streets and highways) will not be adversely impacted.
- K. That the general welfare of the Town will be protected.
- L. That the following impacts have been mitigated to the extent practical:
  - 1. Noise
  - 2. Light
  - 3. Transportation
  - 4. Visual effects
  - 5. Odor
- M. Landscaped or other appropriate buffers of sufficient opacity and materials shall be required if deemed reasonably necessary for the welfare of neighboring properties or the Town.

#### ARTICLE 8 - CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT

Pursuant to RSA 674:21, the Planning Board is hereby authorized to grant a Conditional Use Permit to allow for a conditional use in accordance with the restrictions and requirements of **Article 7** and ~~8-A~~. A Conditional Use Permit may not establish a use specifically prohibited by this Ordinance.

#### Section 805 – Standards for Approval

All standards **conditions** as listed in Article 7 and ~~below~~ must be met for the granting of a Conditional Use Permit.

- ~~A. The permit is in the public interest.~~
- ~~B. There will be no greater diminution of neighboring property values than would be created under any permitted use in the Flexible Use Residential District.~~
- ~~C. That there are no existing violations of the Fremont zoning ordinance on the subject property.~~
- ~~D. That the character of the area shall not be adversely affected in the context of:~~
  - ~~1. Architecture~~
  - ~~2. Transportation~~
  - ~~3. Scale of coverage~~
  - ~~4. Scale of building size~~
  - ~~5. Consistency of uses~~
- ~~E. That granting the permit will not result in undue municipal expense~~
- ~~F. That the proposed use will be developed in a manner compatible with the spirit and intent of the ordinance.~~
- ~~G. That the capacity of existing or planned community facilities and services (including streets and highways) will not be adversely impacted.~~
- ~~H. That the general welfare of the Town will be protected.~~
- ~~I. That the following impacts have been mitigated to the extent practical:~~
  - ~~1. Noise~~
  - ~~2. Light~~
  - ~~3. Transportation~~
  - ~~4. Visual effects~~
  - ~~5. Odor~~

~~J. Landscaped or other appropriate buffers of sufficient opacity and materials shall be required if deemed reasonably necessary for the welfare of neighboring properties or the Town.~~

The Planning Board recommends this article 4-0-0.  
(Majority vote required)

ARTICLE 3 INFORMATION: CONSIDER A ZONING ORDINANCE CHANGE. This proposal will amend the Fremont Zoning Ordinance for clarification purposes by modifying language for lot size requirements and adding tables in Articles 9 and 12 as follows:

- Adding clarifying language relative to lot creation dates and adding a table detailing number of dwelling units allowed by minimum lot size in Article 9, Section 903.
- Adding clarifying language relative to lots located within the Aquifer Protection District and adding a table detailing number of dwelling units allowed by minimum lot size in Article 12, Section 1203.8. The proposed changes to this Articles are to bring more clarity to the regulation and do not contemplate any change in policy.

**ARTICLE 3:** Are you in favor of the proposed amendments to Articles IX and XII submitted by the Planning Board for the Fremont Zoning Ordinance as follows:

**New language**      ~~Removed language~~

Section 903 – Lot Size

- A. All lots created after 1986 shall be a minimum of two (2) acres (87,120 square feet) in area, except for lots serving two (2) or more dwelling as outlined in Section 903.B below.**
- B. Any new or legally existing lot serving two (2) or more dwellings shall be a minimum of two (2) acres (87,120 square feet) in area** ~~No lot shall be less than two (2) acres in area except that lots on which multiple family dwellings are located and shall be increased by twelve thousand (12,000) square feet per family dwelling unit when less than five (5) units and by twenty thousand (20,000) square feet per dwelling family unit when five (5) or more family dwelling units., ie: two (2) Acres plus twelve thousand (12,000) multiplied by the number of family units or two (2) Acres plus twenty thousand (20,000) multiplied by the number of family units.~~

Number of Dwelling Units	Minimum Lot Size (square feet)	Acres
1	87,120	2.00
2	99,120	2.28
3	111,120	2.55
4	123,120	2.83
5	187,120	4.30
6	207,120	4.75
7	227,120	5.21
8 or more	247,120 sq. feet, plus 20,000 sq. feet for each additional dwelling unit.	5.67 plus 20,000 sq. feet for each additional dwelling unit.
(See also Article 12, Section 1201.6.C. for additional lot sizing requirements.)		

- C. Lots with two (2) or more legal dwellings units that do not meet the lot requirements under Section 903.B may continue in their present use. Any new uses, changes in use, expansion, or resumption of the use are subject to the requirements of Article 5.
- D. No lot shall have more than one (1) occupied dwelling structure thereon regardless of the number of dwelling units. (See also Article 12, Sections 1203.6 A and H.)

#### 1203.8 Use Regulations

##### A. Minimum Lot Size:

1. Minimum lot size within the Aquifer Protection District shall be three (3) acres **(130,680 square feet)**. Lots containing up to four (4) units shall contain an additional eighteen thousand (18,000) square feet per unit. Lots containing five (5) or more units shall contain an additional thirty thousand (30,000) square feet per unit. ~~No lot shall have more than one (1) residential structure regardless of the number of dwelling units.~~

Number of Dwelling Units	Minimum Lot Size (square feet)	Acres
1	130,680	3.00
2	148,680	3.41
3	166,680	3.83
4	184,680	4.24
5	214,680	4.93
6	244,680	5.62
7	274,680	6.31
8 or more	304,680 sq. feet, plus 30,000 sq. feet for each additional dwelling unit.	6.99 plus 30,000 sq. feet for each additional dwelling unit.
(See also Article 12, Section 1201.6.C. for additional lot sizing requirements.)		

2. No lot shall have more than one (1) occupied structure thereon regardless of the number of dwelling units.

The Planning Board recommends this article 4-0-0.  
(Majority vote required)

ARTICLE 4 INFORMATION: CONSIDER A ZONING ORDINANCE CHANGE. This proposal will amend the Fremont Zoning Ordinance by replacing the word extension with the word expansion in Article 9, Section 901 to make Ordinance language for expansion of existing structures consistent with language in Article 5, Section 503 for expansion of non-conforming structures. The proposed changes to this Articles are to bring more consistency and clarity to Articles 5 and 9 and do not contemplate any change in policy.

**ARTICLE 4:** Are you in favor of the proposed amendment to Article IX submitted by the Planning Board for the Fremont Zoning Ordinance as follows:

**New language**      ~~Removed language~~

Section 901 – New and ~~Extension~~ **Expansion** of Existing Structures

Any new structure or ~~extension~~ **expansion** of existing structure intended for any use shall be set back from the street property line at least fifty (50) feet. In the case of multiple family dwelling structures, the

setback shall be increased by an additional five (5) feet per family dwelling unit (**Example: 50 feet + ({# of dwelling units} X 5 feet) = front lot line setback.**) ~~ie: (50 plus (5 multiplied by the number of family units)).~~ And that any such structure shall be set back from the side and rear lot lines by at least thirty (30) feet except in the case of multiple family dwelling structures, this set back shall be increased by an additional ten (10) feet per family dwelling unit. (**Example: 30 feet + ({# of dwelling units} X 10 feet) = side and rear lot line setback**) ~~ie: (thirty (30) plus ten (10) multiplied by the number of family units).~~ (See also Article 12, Section 1201.6.D)

**The Planning Board recommends this article 4-0-0.  
(Majority vote required)**

ARTICLE 5 INFORMATION: *CONSIDER A ZONING ORDINANCE CHANGE. This proposal will amend the Fremont Zoning Ordinance by eliminating language in Article 5, Section 501 that only allows the reconstruction of non-conforming structures that have been destroyed by casualty loss and removing requirement that reconstruction be completed within two (2) years. This proposal is a change in Town Regulation. It provides more flexibility in the reconstruction of a non-conforming structures.*

**ARTICLE 5: Are you in favor of the proposed amendment to Article V submitted by the Planning Board for the Fremont Zoning Ordinance as follows:**

**New language**      ~~Removed language~~

Section 501 – Reconstruction

Any non-conforming structure ~~which is completely or substantially destroyed by casualty loss~~ may be replaced with a similar structure which has the same building footprint dimensions and meets the setbacks of the previously existing structure. The structure may be rebuilt provided such construction is started within one (1) year ~~of the casualty loss and complete within two (2) years of the casualty loss.~~ The provisions of the Town of Fremont Building Code, as amended, shall apply to any reconstruction.

**The Planning Board recommends this article 4-0-0.  
(Majority vote required)**

ARTICLE 6 INFORMATION: *CONSIDER A ZONING ORDINANCE CHANGE. This proposal will amend the Fremont Zoning Ordinance by revising District names to reflect 2019 Zoning Ordinance updates, adding prohibited signage types, and clarifying illumination requirements to allow internally lit signs. This proposal contemplates a change in Town Sign Regulations.*

**ARTICLE 6: Are you in favor of the proposed amendment to Article XVI submitted by the Planning Board for the Fremont Zoning Ordinance as follows:**

**New language**      ~~Removed language~~

ARTICLE 16 – SIGNS

1600.2 – Definitions

- A. Sign: Any material conveying information which is attached to the exterior of a structure, a pole, or some object such as a rope or wire between structures, poles, or the ground shall be considered a sign and subject to the provisions of this ordinance.
- B. Commercial: Any lot in ~~Commercial Highway District, Corporate Commercial District, Main Street District, Shirkin Road Commercial District, Residential District,~~ Fremont Village

District, and commercial operations **in the Flexible Use Residential District** with a Conditional Use Permit laid out as per Article 7, Section 704.2 of this Ordinance.

1600.4 – Prohibited Signs

- A. Signs in the Right-of-Way: No signs shall be allowed in the Town or State Right-of-Way.
- B. Highly Reflective and Fluorescent Signs. Signs made wholly or partially of highly reflective materials and/or fluorescent or day-glow painted signs.
- C. It shall be unlawful to affix, attach, or display any advertisement upon any object of nature, utility pole, telephone booth, or highway sign.
- D. Animated, moving, flashing, intensely lighted signs and signs that emit audible sound, noise, or visible matter.
- F. Visual Story Signs that convey a sequence of messages.**

1600.5 – Additional Sign Regulations

- A. Setbacks. All signs must be set back at least ten (10) feet from all property lines. A sign must not impair a motorist's visibility of oncoming traffic.
- B. Illumination. All external light sources shall be dark sky compliant. **Internally lit signs are allowed.**

**The Planning Board recommends this article 4-0-0.  
(Majority vote required)**

**ARTICLE 7 INFORMATION: TOWN OPERATING BUDGET.** *This is the total of all 2020 operating budgets for the Town, excluding Warrant Articles, reviewed at the annual Public Budget Hearing on January 15th. The full budget detail can be found on the State Form MS 737, which is available on the Town's website and will be part of the 2019 Annual Town Report. Copies are also available at the Selectmen's Office. The tax impact of this operating budget is approximately \$0.29 more than the default budget and includes some important decisions about the Town's services and operating costs.*

*With SB2, this master budget article includes the Budget Committee recommendation of \$3,395,997. This is up from the appropriated budget in 2019 of \$3,169,730. Revenues are also up, and this offsets the budget, thus making the tax rate impact of the 2020 proposed operating budget approximately \$0.30 overall from 2019. This does not include any Warrant Articles voted separately. Each additional tax rate impact is listed with Articles that appropriate money.*

*Following are some highlights and changes within each of the operating budgets:*

**4130 Executive:** Proposed wage increases of 2%. This budget covers all operating costs of the Selectmen's Office. There is an adjustment proposed to the Town Administrator's salary to be more in line with other communities and based on experience.

**4140 Town Clerk Tax Collector:** This budget covers operating costs of the Clerk/Collector Office. There are some slight increases in service contracts. Town employees covered in this budget include a proposed 2% wage increase.

**4141 Election & Registrations:** Increased due to four elections. Town/School election in March is a minor cost aside from printing ballots. Three major State/Federal elections in 2020 have a significant impact on this budget. The budget covers the Moderator, Ballot Clerks, Supervisors of Checklist, ballot tally machine programming, supplies and maintenance, printing and producing all necessary checklists and printing of local ballots.

**4151 Financial Administration – Other:** Includes the Treasurer's salary and supplies; Budget Committee clerical costs and administration, Trustees of Trust Funds expenses, and annual professional audit of all Town financial records. This is level funded.

**4152 Reappraisal of Property:** In 2016 the Selectmen signed a new 5-year contract for assessing services which includes a cyclical update process. This covers all of the Town's contracted assessing, the utility contract (to appraise all utility properties); tax assessing software & maintenance, tax mapping services, web-hosting of tax maps and all assessing data. The cyclical process balances out annual costs and reduces the 5<sup>th</sup> year revaluation cost that we have seen over the past few revaluation cycles. The budget is less \$8,000 for the offset from the Capital Reserve Fund. That reduction will end when the CRF is



depleted. The new values for 04/01/2020 will be available this spring, with a review and information process for citizens to discuss their assessment with Assessors.

4155 Personnel Administration: This budget covers personnel costs related to wages (FICA & Medicare) as well as employee benefits such as insurance. It includes a full year of the Fire Rescue on-call EMS coverage for nights and weekends. This also includes employer share of retirement costs.

4191 Planning & Zoning: This covers all office functions, administration and clerical support to the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Adjustment. The office is now consistently staffed at 20-22 hours per week including 3-4 evening meetings per month. There is a slight increase in the Circuit Rider Planner contract, and wages for a new hire. The Board continues to work on updating Ordinances and Regulations, including consulting and supporting documentation on the Impact Fee Ordinance. Important Master Plan updates are underway, with continued funding to come from this line. This includes a public survey in January/February that we need residents to complete!

4194 Government Buildings: This budget covers the maintenance of the Town Hall, Safety Complex, Highway Shed, Museum, Meetinghouse and Historic Building. The Safety Complex needs annual fire suppression system maintenance; alarm systems maintenance, etc. Maintenance staff proposed 2% wage increase. Funds are included for the new roof which was long overdue on the shed at the rear of the Town Hall parking lot.

4195 Cemeteries: This covers care and maintenance of Town-owned cemeteries, the largest of which are Leavitt and Village. Cemetery Sexton has been a great improvement in recordkeeping and providing assistance with lot sales, burials, etc. Leavitt Cemetery expansion work could not all be completed and a small amount is encumbered to be done in the spring. The 2020 budget continues to focus on increasing available burial space. Staff 2% wage increases are included.

4196 Insurance: This covers all property and liability insurance coverages and is based on a multi-year contract agreement.

4210 Police Department: Clerical wage adjusted to allow for 2% wage increase; uniformed officer matrix adjusted for 2.5% wage increase. We lost another officer in 2019 (replaced at year end). The budget covers all operating costs of the personnel and equipment needed to staff and run the Police Department. Includes lease payment on cruisers, fuel, vehicle and equipment maintenance. New in 2020 is proposed body cameras for all officers to increase accountability for the Town, officers, and the citizens.

4220 Fire Rescue Department: Conversion in 2020 to paid hourly compensation for all Fire Rescue activity, which is the current trend of fire and EMS service nationwide. This budget includes a full year of EMS on-call coverage for nights and weekends, maintenance of apparatus and equipment, fire and EMS gear, uniforms, supplies and training. Increase in gear costs to replace four sets of aged out protective gear. Work continues on Department growth and recruitment to address growing needs and call volume.

4240 Building Inspection: Wage increase of 2%, with estimated 26-28 hours per week of services from the Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer. Budget includes training, mileage reimbursement and minimal office supplies. New Building Inspector currently being sought due to turnover.

4290 Emergency Management: Includes minimal allowance for supplies and contract services in the event of a major weather event (flood, ice storm, etc); small increase for bi-annual PM service contract on all standby generators.

4312 Highway Department: Wages adjusted to allow for 2% increase. FT position filled for a full year with additional hours requested for the part-time position. Budget includes paving and improvement projects on Hooke Road and Ann Lane, several other maintenance and upkeep projects. Increases in tree work and planned acceptance of new Town roads is pending. No guardrails budgeted this year.

4323 Solid Waste Collection: This continues to be one of the larger changes in the budget. Voters approved the new contract in March 2019 which authorized annual 3% increases.

4324 Solid Waste Disposal: Contract changes resulted in recycling processing fees, which can be reduced by our good efforts at recycling and keeping the stream with only the currently allowed items being recycled. The tipping fees contract is through the Regional SWD 53B and continue to increase due to decreasing landfill capacity the es and reduction in other disposal options (burning, etc). We have a continued need for recycling bins and continue to offer bi-annual Bulky Day events for residents. 53B dues include our participation in annual Hazardous Waste Day as well.

4414 Animal Control: Wage adjusted for 2% increase. Covers all costs associated with Animal Control services including supplies, training, truck fuel and maintenance.

4415 Health: Covers a small stipend for Health Officer and Deputy, costs of the office, including training, water testing and annual dues to the NH Health Officer's Association.

4442 Direct Assistance: General payments for assisted persons. Budget increased based on need and lack of other suitable solutions for our lowest income residents.

4445 Vendor Payments to Social Service Agencies: Each of these payments supports a social service agency that provides service to Fremont residents, usually at a reduced or sliding fee scale. One agency did not submit a request for 2020.

4520 Parks & Recreation: Budget includes care and maintenance of the ballfields and playground areas (\$33,341), and FAA provides additional manpower support. Seasonal maintenance coverage at 16 hours per week with a 2% wage increase, dealing with the many areas of fields and parks to care for. Planned improvements to the fields include lighting and phased bleacher replacement. \$3,153 covers Town events such as the Easter Egg Hunt, Halloween and Christmas Tree Lighting events; and Playgroup. Without a camp program in 2020, these events will be important for our youth.

4550 Library: This budget covers all staffing, books, and programs of the Fremont Public Library and maintenance of the building. Employee wage increases at 2% are supported in this recommendation. Several building maintenance items remain the focus for repair.

4610 Conservation Commission: The Commission oversees natural resources of the Town and reviews and comments on projects and proposals involving wetlands. The budget also includes update work on the Natural Resource Inventory (NRI) Chapter of the Master Plan (substantial mapping). The budget also includes training and work on trail maintenance.

4711-4721 Debt Service: Reduction in principal and interest I b on debt due to age of notes. Only two bonds remain, the Fremont Public library Construction and the Glen Oakes Conservation Land purchase.

*The difference between the Selectmen and Budget Committee proposed operating budget is \$21,626 not recommended by the Budget Committee. It is the Budget Committee's recommendation that moves forward for voter consideration. The total estimated tax impact of the operating budget as proposed is \$4.00. This is approximately \$0.30 more than the operating budget approved in 2019. The increase in revenues and overall assessed valuation have helped manage the tax rate impact of the operating budget.*

*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 which is similar to last year. We have seen more Veteran Credits since the adoption of the "All Veteran" tax credit in 2018. 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 formula used to set the tax rate. **All tax rate impacts are estimates. We do anticipate that the 2020 revaluation will result in increases in the total overall assessed valuation, which will help balance the increases in the budget request.***

*The estimated tax impact is shown for each of the Warrant Articles in the narrative portion. If the proposed budget and all Warrant Articles as proposed by the Town pass, the Town's portion of the tax rate is estimated to increase approximately \$0.89 per thousand from the actual current Town rate of \$4.73 per thousand. Each of the Warrant Articles can be considered on its own merit. The impact of each individual Article is included with each rationale.*

**ARTICLE 7:** 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 \$3,395,997? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$3,279,161 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)

ARTICLE 8 INFORMATION: *CONSIDER HIRING AN ADDITIONAL FULL-TIME POLICE OFFICER.* This Article would approve hiring another officer for the Fremont Police Department. This would be the sixth full-time officer for the Town, to bring the staffing levels closer to recommended national standards. If this is approved, the cost for a full year of this officer in 2021 would be approximately \$96,367. If passed, this would be part of the operating and default budget in future years. The estimated tax rate impact of this article is \$0.10.

**ARTICLE 8:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of forty-two thousand nine hundred ninety-seven dollars (\$42,997) to hire a new full-time police officer. This sum covers five months of wages and benefits and necessary gear, equipment and required testing for the officer. If approved, this funding will remain as part of the operating and default budget in future years.

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

ARTICLE 9 INFORMATION: *CONTRIBUTION TO THE COMPUTER REPLACEMENT FUND.* This savings account is used for server replacement so that the periodic cost of replacement of the Town's two servers is not as much of an impact on the annual operating budget. There is currently \$4,012.47 in this fund. The estimated tax rate impact of this article is \$0.01.

**ARTICLE 9:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate four thousand dollars (\$4,000) to be placed in the Fremont Computer Equipment Expendable Trust Fund.

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

ARTICLE 10 INFORMATION: *CONTRIBUTION TO THE LIBRARY BUILDING MAINTENANCE FUND.* This fund is used for repair/replacement of building maintenance items (HVAC systems, well, etc) with funds set aside in savings annually. This fund was established in 2015 to plan for future building repairs and maintenance that are needed as the building ages (built in 2001). The Library has an extensive HVAC system that will need maintenance and repairs. There is currently \$17,437.87 in the fund. The estimated tax rate impact of this article is \$0.01.

**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 Library Building Maintenance Expendable Town Trust Fund.

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

Articles 11, 12, 15 and 17 request funding for four existing Capital Reserve Funds with each purpose specified. Any funds approved 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. **Saving money in Capital Reserve Funds helps to balance the tax rate by reducing the impact of one-time large expenditures.**

ARTICLE 11 INFORMATION: CONTRIBUTION TO THE FIRE TRUCK CAPITAL RESERVE FUND. This savings account helps fund the cost of replacement fire apparatus to create a more balanced tax rate. This article saves toward replenishing the Fund after the expense paid in 2015 for our newest fire truck. The Department continues to be behind in its fire truck replacement schedule and is due for a truck to replace another old unit in the fleet. The cost of fire apparatus is expensive and saving a portion every year will greatly help to reduce the one-time impact of these purchases. There is currently \$155,115.02 in this fund. The estimated tax rate impact of this article is \$0.12.

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

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

ARTICLE 12 INFORMATION: CONTRIBUTION TO THE HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT CAPITAL RESERVE FUND. This savings account helps fund the cost of replacement highway equipment to create a more balanced tax rate. There is currently \$42,536.64 in this fund. This savings account has been able to purchase all highway vehicles and equipment to date. The next planned replacement is the Town's one ton truck, which is 9 years old. The estimated tax rate impact of this article is \$0.06.

**ARTICLE 12:** 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 Equipment Capital Reserve Fund.

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

ARTICLE 13 INFORMATION: This will continue work begun in 2019 on the next section of Chester Road, from where 2019 improvements left off, through to the Chester town line. This will include the work and the base coat of pavement on that section. The estimated tax rate impact of this article is \$0.32.

**ARTICLE 13:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred thirty-four thousand five hundred twenty-eight dollars (\$134,528) to grind, reclaim and pave Chester Road from the end of work in 2019 to the Chester Town Line (3,270 feet) and do associated shoulder work.

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

ARTICLE 14 INFORMATION: *This would create a new savings account whereby some money could be saved and used toward for emergency weather events, which are not carried in the annual operating budget. This has been proposed to address future situations similar to what happened in a one day microburst storm that wiped out a large section of Chester Road in June 2019. We do not budget for extraordinary events other than winter, and this would be a savings account to be used in this type of emergency. The estimated tax rate impact of this article is \$0.06.*

**ARTICLE 14:** To see if the Town will vote to establish an expendable trust fund under the provisions of RSA 31:19-a, to be known as the Fremont Emergency Weather Expendable Town Trust Fund for clean-up and repairs as needed after natural disaster / weather emergencies (flood, wind, rain) and to raise and appropriate twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) to be placed in this fund and further to name the Board of Selectmen as Agents to Expend with consult from the Emergency Management Director and Road Agent.

**The Selectmen recommend this appropriation 3-0.**

**The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 5-2-1.**

(Majority vote required)

ARTICLE 15 INFORMATION: *CONTRIBUTION TO THE BRIDGE CAPITAL RESERVE FUND. This savings account will fund the next bridge replacement the Town needs to undertake. The Martin Road Bridge replacement is partially re-engineered, and the Town becomes eligible for reimbursement from NH Bridge Aid as of 07/01/2020. There is currently \$76,367.05 in this fund. The Town is planning to continue work on the Martin Road Bridge and begin applying for reimbursement from NH Bridge Aid as soon as we are eligible and have hit the State's benchmarks in the process. The estimated tax rate impact of this article is \$0.24.*

**ARTICLE 15:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) 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 6-1-1.**

(Majority vote required)

ARTICLE 16 INFORMATION: *FUNDING THE MOSQUITO CONTROL PROGRAM. This article requests funding to continue the annual program in Fremont for mosquito control, primarily with larval treatment. The contractor is maintaining the same contract price as the past several years. The Selectmen have placed this Article on the Warrant so that the community can have an opportunity to consider it annually and decide whether to proceed with a Town-wide program. The overall mosquito control program is a comprehensive program beginning with surveillance, monitoring, and trapping and testing of adult mosquitoes. Primary treatment is of larvae in wetland areas with a corn-based product. Larval treatment is a major focus of an effective control program. The program also allows for up to two emergency sprayings of public lots at the Complex and Library, and ball fields at Memorial Park and Ellis School. The estimated tax rate impact of this article is \$0.12.*

**ARTICLE 16:** 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 7-1.**

(Majority vote required)

ARTICLE 17 INFORMATION: CONTRIBUTION TO THE HISTORIC MUSEUM CAPITAL RESERVE FUND. This savings account would fund future improvements for a Historic Museum to add capacity for preservation of Fremont's many historic artifacts including the antique fire hand tub. There is currently \$10,424.52 in this fund. The estimated tax rate impact of this article is \$0.04.

**ARTICLE 17:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) to be placed in the Historic Museum Renovation Capital Reserve Fund.

**The Selectmen recommend this appropriation 3-0.**  
**The Budget Committee does not recommend this appropriation 4-4.**  
(Majority vote required)

ARTICLE 18 INFORMATION: CONSIDER AMENDING THE VETERAN CREDIT ALLOWANCE FOR FREMONT IN LIGHT OF UPDATED LEGISLATION. The current Veteran Credit is \$500. The statute now allows for this to increase to a maximum of \$750. Currently there are 221 Veteran Tax Credits and with this increase the tax impact would be approximately \$55,250 or \$0.13 on the tax rate. This will apply to Veteran Credits and All Veteran Credits.

**ARTICLE 18:** Shall the Town of Fremont modify the Veteran's Tax Credit in accordance with NH RSA 72:28, II from its current tax credit of \$500 per year to \$750?

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

ARTICLE 19 INFORMATION: CONSIDER AMENDING THE DISABLED VETERAN CREDIT ALLOWANCE FOR FREMONT IN LIGHT OF UPDATED LEGISLATION. The current Disabled Veteran Credit is \$2,000. The statute now allows for this to increase to a maximum of \$4,000. Currently there are 7.5 Disabled Veteran Tax Credits associated with this increase the tax impact would be approximately \$15,000 or \$0.03 on the tax rate.

**ARTICLE 19:** Shall the Town of Fremont modify the Disabled Veteran's Tax Credit in accordance with NH RSA 72:35 from its current tax credit of \$2,000 per year to \$4,000?

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

ARTICLE 20 INFORMATION: CONSIDER AMENDING THE ELDERLY EXEMPTION VALUE IN LIGHT OF THE PENDING 2020 REVALUATION. The current Elderly Exemptions in Fremont are \$60,000 (65 to 74 years of age), \$80,000 (75 to 80 years of age) and \$100,000 (80 years of age and older. This Article would increase the exemption amount to account for increases in valuation anticipated with the April 1, 2020 revaluation. This vote would result in a reduction of assessed valuation of \$160,000 on the overall \$416,000,000 valuation, less than \$0.01 on the tax rate.

**ARTICLE 20:** Shall the Town modify the provisions of NH RSA 72:39-a for elderly exemption from property tax in the Town of Fremont based on assessed value, for qualified taxpayers, to be as follows: for a person 65 years of age up to 74 years \$70,000; for a person 75 years of age up to 80 years \$90,000; for a person 80 years of age or older \$110,000. To qualify, the person must

have been a New Hampshire resident for at least 3 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 in each applicable age group 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.

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

ARTICLE 21 INFORMATION: CONSIDER AMENDING THE DISABLED EXEMPTION AMOUNT FOR FREMONT IN LIGHT OF THE PENDING 2020 REVALUATION. The current Disabled Exemption in Fremont is \$50,000. This Article would increase the value to account for increases in valuation anticipated with the April 1, 2020 revaluation. This vote would result in a reduction of assessed valuation of \$40,000 on the overall \$416,000,000 valuation, less than \$0.01 on the tax rate.

**ARTICLE 21:** Shall the Town modify the provisions of NH RSA 72:37-b, Exemption for the Disabled from property tax, based on assessed value for qualified taxpayers, to be \$60,000? To qualify, the person must have been a New Hampshire resident for at least 5 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 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.

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

ARTICLE 22 INFORMATION: CHANGE THE SALARY FOR THE ELECTED POSITION OF TOWN CLERK TAX COLLECTOR. This will increase the current salary 2% from \$35,700 to \$36,414. The estimated tax rate impact of this article is less than \$0.01.

**ARTICLE 22:** To see if the Town will authorize an increase in the Town Clerk Tax Collector's annual salary by seven hundred fourteen dollars (\$714) to be a total of thirty-six thousand four hundred fourteen dollars (\$36,414); and further to raise and appropriate the sum of seven hundred fourteen dollars (\$714) for this purpose.

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

**Please be sure to attend the Town Deliberative Session on Saturday, February 1, 2020 at Ellis School at 9:00 am. In response to community requests, this is the first year of scheduling the Town and School Deliberative Sessions on the same day.**

**The School meeting will begin at 9:00 am and it will be followed by the Town's meeting after a brief intermission.**

**(Snow date: Saturday February 8, 2020 at 9:00 am)**

**Check the Town website for further information and details at: [www.Fremont.nh.gov](http://www.Fremont.nh.gov).**

**Reports and Town Meeting information are posted to the TOWN REPORT page of the website as soon as they are available.**