

TOWN OF FREMONT 2022 Town Meeting Warrant Article Narrative

In preparation for Deliberative Session to be held Saturday February 5, 2022 at 9:00 am at ELLIS SCHOOL SNOWDATE: Saturday February 12, 2022

We hope this information is helpful for your understanding of the issues to be voted upon at the 2022 Annual Town Meeting. We have again 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, please feel free to call our office at 895 2226 x 301 or send an email to Heidi at hcarlson@fremont.nh.gov.

Gene Cordes Neal Janvrin Roger Barham Fremont Select Board

The Official Warrant must be written as outlined by NH Statute. This document includes that language with additional descriptive information on each article to assist you in better understanding the subject matter prior to discussing it at the Deliberative Session. 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 8, 2022.

At the Deliberative Session all Articles on this Warrant will be discussed. Articles 4 through 16 can be amended by floor vote, and may appear differently on the Official Ballot, depending on actions at Deliberative Session on February 5th.

Final voting on the Official Ballot will take place on Tuesday March 8, 2022 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 or 603 895 8693 x 307.

In 2009 Fremont voters decided to have the Select Board 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

Year	Town Portion of the Tax
	Rate
2015	\$4.37
2016	\$3.89
2017	\$4.44
2018	\$4.77
2019	\$4.73
2020	\$3.23
2021	\$3.91

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 is provided as reference information. In 2020 Fremont underwent a revaluation so the amount of taxable property value also increased. It continues to increase as new homes and other property improvements are added.

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

Budget Committee: 2 for 3 years Cemetery Trustee: 1 for 3 years

Library Trustee: 1 for 3 years

Moderator: 1 for 2 years

Cemetery Trustee: 1 for 2 years

Treasurer: 1 for 3 years

Select Board Member: 1 for 3 years Trustee of Trust Funds: 1 for 3 years

Supervisor of Checklist: 1 for 6 years

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. It is also on the Town's website home page with voter and Annual Meeting information.

If you would like to run for Town or School District Office, the sign-up period is January 19, 2022 through January 28, 2022. You must sign up with the Town Clerk or School District Clerk. You can call 603 895 8693 x 307 or email clerkcollector@fremont.nh.gov for more information. In addition, the Town Clerk and the School District Clerk will be at the Town Hall on the final day, Friday January 28, 2022 from 3:00 to 5:00 pm for candidate declaration only.

<u>ARTICLE 2</u>: Are you in favor of the proposed amendment to Article 11 submitted by the Fremont Planning Board for the Fremont Zoning Ordinance as follows:

Existing language New language Existing language to be removed

ARTICLE 11 – DWELLING UNITS, ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS AND HOME OCCUPATION Section 1101 – Dwelling Unit Requirements

1101.6 All multiple unit dwellings shall conform to and shall not exceed the following limitations:

Number of Family Units

Number of Bedrooms/Family Unit

One

5 -6 or more
3 - 4
Three
2
Four

The Planning Board recommends this article 5-0. (Majority vote required)

This proposal will amend Fremont Zoning Ordinance Article 11 by modifying the table in Section 1101.6 that summarizes limitations on the number of bedrooms allowed per family unit in multi-family dwellings. The existing table restricts multi-family dwellings with seven (7) to eight (8) family units to one bedroom per unit and does not allow any multi-family dwellings over eight (8) family units. Language was added to allow two (2) bedrooms per unit for multi-family dwellings having five (5) or more family units. This zoning amendment is consistent with New Hampshire's Workforce Housing Statute which requires any municipality's land use ordinances and regulations to create reasonable and realistic opportunities for the construction of workforce housing, including multi-family housing (i.e., five (5) or more dwelling units).

ARTICLE 3: Are you in favor of the proposed amendment to Article 9 submitted by the Fremont Planning Board for the Fremont Zoning Ordinance as follows:

Existing language New language Existing language to be removed

ARTICLE 9 – LOT REQUIREMENTS Section 902 – Frontage

Every building lot shall have a minimum contiguous lot frontage on Federal, State and Town highways of two hundred (200) feet provided that where lots are located on exterior side of a curving street the minimum road frontage shall be no less than one hundred (100) contiguous feet, provided that the average width of the lot measured across its center shall be two hundred (200) feet. Building lots on which multiple family dwellings

are located shall have an additional frontage of twenty (20) feet per family unit when less than five (5) family units and forty (40) feet per family unit when five (5) or more family units are considered. i.e.: (two hundred (200) plus twenty (20) multiplied by the number of family units) or (two hundred (200) plus forty (40) multiplied by the number of family units). No lot line shall be less than one hundred (100) feet and each lot shall have no less than four (4) lot lines.

The Planning Board recommends this article 5-0. (Majority vote required)

This proposal will amend the Fremont Zoning Ordinance by removing example language from Article 9, Section 902. The existing example language in Section 902 attempts to provide clarity to frontage requirements for multi-family dwelling units but is not applicable for a lot on which a dwelling with two (2) family units is considered. The existing language is sufficiently clear without the example.

ARTICLE 4: 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 \$3,834,661? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$3,745,534 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 Select Board recommends this appropriation 3-0. The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 6-1. (Majority vote required)

This is the Operating Budget for all Town Departments, exclusive of other Warrant Article requests. The estimated tax impact of the overall total operating budget is expected to be \$0.10 over the current year. This estimate accounts for anticipated valuation changes, as well as other changes that will occur in the coming year to values, exemptions and credits of all types. In 2021 the total Town portion of the Tax Rate was \$3.91 including all Warrant Articles voted in 2021.

The full budget detail can be found on the State Form MS 737, which is available on the Town's website now and will be part of the printed 2021 Annual Town Report. Copies are also available from the Select Board's Office and outside the front and back door at the Town Hall. The operating budget includes some important decisions about the Town's services and operating costs.

With SB2, this "master budget" Warrant Article includes the Budget Committee recommendation of \$3,834,661. This is up from the appropriated budget in 2021 of \$3,693,992. Revenues are also up, and this offsets the budget, thus making the tax rate impact of the 2022 proposed operating budget just pennies more than the 2021 operating budget portion of the tax rate. The tax impact is also lessened by the increase in property values from the 2020 revaluation and other changes.

Following are some highlights and changes within each of the operating budgets as well as general information about each Department:

<u>4130 Executive</u>: Proposed wage increases of 2%. This budget covers all operating costs of the Select Board's Office. There is an additional adjustment proposed to the Town Administrator's salary to be more in line with other communities as well as accounting for years of 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. There is a decrease in some of hours and costs as we have fully reopened. There is still considerable work done by mail (thus postage remains constant).
- 4141 Election & Registrations: Increased due to three elections, one local and two State. Town/School election in March is a minor cost aside from printing ballots. Covid impacts have made elections more costly due to safety measures and needed staffing levels and safety equipment. We are always in need of additional staff to help with setup and the many tasks associated with running a successful election day.
- <u>4151 Financial Administration Other</u>: 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: Current assessing contracts include the cyclical update process. This covers all of the Town's contracted assessing, utility contract (to appraise all utility properties); tax assessing software & maintenance, tax mapping services, web-hosting of tax maps and assessing data. The cyclical process balances out annual costs and reduces the 5th year revaluation cost. Significant upgrades to Vision Version 8 were made in 2021 at year end with other operating funds which were available. We are also near the end of the existing Capital Reserve Fund returning the full cost to the operating budget.
- 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 sixth full-time police officer which was voted in 2021. Health Insurance costs are down but NH Retirement has increased (State-mandated).
- 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 approximately 20 hours per week including 3-4 evening meetings per month. There is an added wage increase for the Land Use Administrator. Board continues to work on updating Ordinances and Regulations.
- 4194 Government Buildings: This budget covers the maintenance of the Town Hall, Safety Complex, Highway Shed, Museum, Meetinghouse and Historic Building. It includes annual fire suppression system maintenance, alarm systems maintenance and monitoring, etc. Part-time maintenance staff 2% wage increase and includes one full-time maintenance position. Various part-time positions have become increasingly hard to fill and the Town's needs continue to grow. We have only been able to be reactionary to various building maintenance items and have fallen behind in major upkeep items. We believe a full-time position will address these deficiencies.
- 4195 Cemeteries: This covers care and maintenance of Town-owned cemeteries, the largest of which are Leavitt and Village. The Cemetery Sexton position has been a great improvement in recordkeeping and providing assistance with lot sales, burials, etc. Additional budgeting for stone wall repair work is included. A great deal of work is needed in this area. Staff 2% wage increases are included.
- 4196 Insurance: This covers all property and liability insurance coverages. It is reduced due to a credit on the account for reduced claims during the pandemic.
- 4210 Police Department: Clerical wage adjusted to allow for 2% wage increase; uniformed officer matrix adjusted for 2.5% and step; increases. We lost two officers in 2021, one replaced with a new officer who has just graduated from the Academy, and the other with an experienced officer. 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. We continue to make lease payments on the body camera systems voted in 2020. Some of the increases are due to the increased cost of all supplies and equipment, and a new body style to the cruisers which are due for replacement in 2022. We are planning to keep one additional cruiser in the rotation (slightly less trade-in value). The equipment for new cruisers with a different body style will also add costs. (We are also working on grants to offset some of this change). A new physical fitness incentive is also budgeted.
- <u>4220 Fire Rescue Department</u>: We are budgeting for current statistics on call volume and for EMS on-call coverage for nights and weekends. It includes 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. The Department has been instrumental in carrying the community through the current health-care pandemic.

<u>4240 Building Inspection</u>: A few additional hours and wage increase are budgeted. Budget includes training, mileage reimbursement and office supplies. Code Enforcement and building activity continue to increase in the current economy. Permit fee revenue covered the full cost of operations in 2021.

<u>4290 Emergency Management</u>: 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. Small increase in stipend for the Emergency Management Director, which has not been increased in more than 10 years.

4312 Highway Department: Wages adjusted to allow for market increase. Annual paving and road improvements are now funded within the operating budget. This should fund one to two miles of road upgrade. We need to keep up this schedule to maintain adequately, the Town's more than 40 miles of road network. Overlay work of the Mast Tree Estates subdivision, Hooke Road, and Ann Lane is planned in 2022. We have seen increases in the cost of materials, but the budget is only slightly higher than 2021.

4313 Bridges: This covers the annual inspection on the Sandown Road Overflow Bridge deck to maintain the warranty for the new deck installed in 2019.

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. The increase in population (measured through completed occupancy certificates issued) is also calculated in the annual changes.

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 are paid through a contract with SRRDD 53B and continue to increase due to decreasing landfill capacity and reduction in other disposal options (burning, etc). We have a continued need for recycling bins and will continue to offer bi-annual Bulky Day events for residents. 53B dues include our participation in one annual Hazardous Waste Day. Recycle processing fees steadily decreased over 2021, but have started to increase again as of year end. We budgeted for a similar pattern in 2022. Overall MSW tonnage in 2021 increased by 8.2 tons, but with the increase in number of Occupancy Certificates issued, this is bound to continue increasing. Recycling was actually down by 25 tons.

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

<u>4415 Health</u>: Covers a small stipend for Health Officer and Deputy, both increased slightly to account for added work of the pandemic. Includes costs of the office, training, water testing and annual dues to the NH Health Officer's Association. This is level-funded and we are fortunate to have solid staffing with a Public Health RN, MSN (and now also has a Doctorate in Nursing) as our Health Officer, and a Public Health MS Army Reservist as the Deputy.

<u>4442 Direct Assistance</u>: General payments for assisted persons. Budget is level funded. We did see some outside assistance available from outside agencies during the pandemic, and have tried to use those resources for our most vulnerable populations.

<u>4445 Vendor Payments to Social Service Agencies</u>: Each of these payments supports a social service agency that provides service to Fremont residents, usually at a reduced or sliding fee scale.

4520 Parks & Recreation: The majority of this budget includes care and maintenance of the ballfields and playground areas and the 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. Additional field improvement work is included. Funding for Town events such as the Easter Egg Hunt, Halloween and Christmas Tree Lighting events is included, hoping we can do more in a safer 2022! No camp program is budgeted for 2022.

<u>4550 Library</u>: 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 as well as an adjustment for the Library Director to become more competitive with market rates. Several building maintenance items remain the focus of the budget. We were able to accomplish a lot in 2021, and encumbered funds to continue work on the HVAC upgrade. We would like to complete this work in 2022 (from saved funds in an Expendable Trust Fund) as well as within the operating budget if supplies can be obtained. A bid specification is currently underway for HVAC improvements.

<u>4610 Conservation Commission</u>: The Commission oversees natural resources of the Town and reviews and comments on projects and proposals involving wetlands. The budget also includes training, dues, and Town Forest trail maintenance.

<u>4711-4721 Debt Service</u>: Reduction in principal and interest on debt due to age of notes. Only the Glen Oakes Conservation Land purchase bond remains outstanding at this time. The 20 year Library bond was retired in 2021.

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 \$0.41 to the tax rate. We are 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. The increase in values from the 2020 revaluation continue to help balance the changes in the budget requests as do increases in revenue. We have also used grant funds and Covid reimbursements to offset some of our expenses.

The estimated tax impact is shown for each of the Warrant Articles in the narrative portion. If each of the proposed Warrant Articles pass, the Town's portion of the tax rate is estimated to increase approximately \$0.50 per thousand from the actual current Town rate of \$3.91 per thousand. Each of the Warrant Articles can be considered on its own merit. The financial impact of each individual Article is included with each rationale.

Articles 5 and 6 request funding for existing Capital Reserve Funds. 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 5: 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 Select Board recommends this appropriation 3-0. The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 6-2. (Majority vote required)

This savings account helps fund the cost of replacement fire apparatus. The most recent purchase was 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. It is anticipated the next new truck will cost at least a half a million dollars. There is currently \$256,195 in this fund. The estimated tax rate impact of this article is \$0.09

ARTICLE 6: 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 Select Board recommends this appropriation 3-0. The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 7-1. (Majority vote required)

This savings account will fund the next bridge replacement on Martin Road. The Martin Road Bridge is red-listed and has been partially engineered. The Town became eligible for reimbursement from NH Bridge Aid as of 07/01/2021. If we are unable to raise the amount necessary to get through the next step, we will lose the NH Bridge Aid funding. Bridge Aid covers 80% of the total project cost (meaning taxpayers only fund 20%). If we lose it, we will have to pay for the bridge replacement from tax dollars. There is currently \$126,867 in this fund. The estimated tax rate impact of this article is \$0.18.

Articles 7 and 8 request funding for existing Expendable Trust Funds, also savings accounts set up for non-capital costs. Both of these are funded from unassigned fund balance and have no impact on the current year tax rate. This means that savings from the 2021 budget (excess revenue or unspent appropriations) will be used to fund these savings accounts.

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of four thousand dollars (\$4,000) to be placed in the Fremont Computer Equipment Expendable Trust Fund previously established. This sum to come from unassigned fund balance. No additional amount to be raised from taxation.

The Select Board recommends this appropriation 3-0. The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 7-1. (Majority vote required)

This savings account is used for server replacement so that the periodic five-year cost of replacement of the Town's two servers is not as much of an impact on the annual operating budget. This article is funded from unexpended operating budget appropriations in 2021 and has no further tax impact. There is currently \$12,045 in this fund.

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) to be placed in the Library Building Maintenance Expendable Town Trust Fund previously established. This sum to come from unassigned fund balance. No additional amount to be raised from taxation.

The Select Board recommends this appropriation 3-0. The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 6-1. (Majority vote required)

This savings account is used to fund larger repair/replacement building maintenance items. The pending project is HVAC replacement, with that system near the end of its useful life. An engineering evaluation is currently underway to determine the best option and create a set of engineered documents for use to bid the HVAC work. This article is funded from unexpended operating budget appropriations in 2021 and has no further tax impact. There is currently \$47,564 in this fund.

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to enter into a five year lease agreement for \$151,798 for the purchase of a new six wheel dump truck and equipment for the Highway Department and to raise and appropriate the sum of thirty-two thousand fifty-four dollars (\$32,054) for the first year's payment for that purpose. This lease agreement contains an escape clause.

The Select Board recommends this appropriation 3-0. The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 7-0-1. (Majority vote required)

This Article would authorize the lease/purchase of a new six wheel dump truck and equipment for the Highway Department. The proposal is a five year lease (with an escape clause) and equal payments with a buyout at the end. The estimated tax rate impact of this article is \$0.06.

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of thirty-five thousand dollars (\$35,000) to continue the Public Health Mosquito Control Program.

The Select Board recommends this appropriation 3-0. The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 6-2. (Majority vote required)

The Town worked with a local vendor in 2021 and found some savings in the contract cost. This is \$5,000 less than the 2021 contract. If passed, the Select Board will discuss a contract with the same local vendor. As in past years, the Select Board has 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 comprehensive, beginning with surveillance, monitoring, trapping and testing of adult mosquitoes, along with treatment. 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 \$0.06.

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of four thousand seven hundred fifty dollars (\$4,750) to support a new social service agency, the So Rock Coalition for Healthy Youth. If approved, this agency would be included in future operating and default budgets.

The Select Board recommend this appropriation 3-0. The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 5-2. (Majority vote required)

The Select Board has traditionally put any new request for social service funding in a Warrant Article so it can be independently considered. If this article passes, we would include So Rock in our operating and default budgets in years ahead. The Southern Rockingham Coalition for Healthy Youth provides critical resources to youth and families to reduce substance misuse and support mental health through education, programming and leveraging local, state and federal resources for the benefit of the towns they serve. Their request is approximately \$1 per capita contribution from Fremont. The estimated tax rate impact of this article is less than \$0.01.

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) to support a new social service agency, Family Promise of Southern NH. If approved, this agency would be included in future operating and default budgets.

The Select Board recommends this appropriation 3-0. The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 5-2. (Majority vote required)

This new request for social service funding is also in a separate Warrant Article so it can be independently considered. If this Article passes, we would include Family Promise of Southern New Hampshire in our operating and default budgets in years ahead. Family Promise offers Residential Housing and Diversion Programs to assist families who are temporarily experiencing homelessness. The estimated tax rate impact of this article is less than \$0.01.

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will authorize an increase in the Town Clerk Tax Collector's annual salary by seven hundred forty-three dollars (\$743) to be a total of thirty-seven thousand eight hundred eighty-six dollars (\$37,886); and further to raise and appropriate the sum of seven hundred forty-three dollars (\$743) for this purpose.

The Select Board recommends this appropriation 3-0. The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 6-1. (Majority vote required)

This is a 2% salary increase for the Town Clerk Tax Collector. The estimated tax rate impact of this article is less than \$0.01. It is the Town's practice to include any changes to Town Officials salaries/stipends as a separate Warrant Article.

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town will vote to designate as Town Forest, in accordance with NH RSA 31:110, the following parcel of land: 04-017.

The Select Board recommends this article 3-0. The Conservation Commission recommends this article 5-0. The Budget Committee recommends this article 6-1. (Majority vote required)

This would add the ten (10) acre parcel 04-017 to the Oak Ridge Town Forest and make it subject to the Town Forest Ordinance. There is no tax impact of this article. This parcel was acquired by the Town in 2020 using monies from the Conservation Commission's Land Use Change Tax Fund. The land is off of Louise Lane, connecting to other Town Forest properties.

ARTICLE 15: 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.

The Select Board recommends this appropriation 3-0. The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 5-2. (Majority vote required)

This savings account will fund future improvements to the Museum to allow for greater storage and display areas for the Town's many historic artifacts, equipment and information. The estimated tax rate impact of this article is less than \$0.02. There is currently \$10,491 in this fund.

ARTICLE 16: By Petition: To see if the town will vote to ban the use of voting machines in local, state and federal elections.

The Select Board does not recommend this article 3-0. The Budget Committee does not recommend this article 6-1. (Majority vote required)

This article was submitted by petition of Glenn Glazebrook and 25 others. The tax rate impact of this article is estimated to be between \$0.02 and \$0.05 in any tax year depending on number and complexity of elections.

Please be sure to attend the Town Deliberative Session on Saturday, February 5, 2022 at Ellis School at 9:00 am.

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 12, 2022 at 9:00 am)

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