

## APPRECIATION

Commencing with the 1991 Town Report, the Town has annually recognized an individual who has stepped up to the plate, and gone above and beyond, to work with, and for, the Town of Fremont.

This year has proven to be a very challenging year. It would be difficult to single out one person. With that in mind, the Board would like to dedicate this report to the men and women of our Public Safety, Emergency and Health Departments.

Each Department has certainly gone far beyond what the common definition of what is expected of them. Each Department has shown their dedication to the Town with services provided, training, and leadership.

Let us start off with our Fire and Rescue Department. Due to the Fire Chief's medical leave, Deputy Chiefs and the entire Department needed to fulfill the "next man/woman up" commitment. They did it! In the year 2020 they implemented, for the full year, the paid on-call for the EMS personnel for nights and weekend coverage. It also was the year they left the "Points Plan" for compensation for time on departmental business (training and meetings) and response to calls and implemented an hourly compensation plan for departmental business and response to calls.

They maintained a constant state of readiness to respond to all requests for services through training, maintenance of equipment, and a desire to serve our community. The Department continued with their recruitment initiatives and most importantly they dealt with the challenges of the COVID as it developed and evolved throughout the year. Their "can do" response to the challenges is just what we needed. They fulfilled the mission of the Fremont Fire Rescue Department: provide protection of life, property, and the environment from the effects of fires, medical emergencies, and hazards; engage the community through progressive community outreach.

Our Emergency Management Director position has typically been focused on weather emergencies and interfacing with State emergency officials. The Director prepares and oversees plans and procedures for natural disasters and other emergencies. Our Emergency Management Director Mark DeVeber was instrumental this year in leading our response to the Pandemic. He became a strong resource for Town Officials by attending meetings and briefings on planning and other resources available to Fremont and other communities and then communicating information to Town Officials including our Department Heads. The time commitment has been significant, and the timely information and guidance has been reassuring and a significant asset throughout 2020.

Similarly, our Health Officer, April Phelps, was thrust into a greater leadership role than could have been envisioned. She was available, resourceful, and offered calm steady voice when needed. She continues to provide educational information for the community.

Finally, our ever-present Police Department has coped with another year of being thinly staffed and the departure of a full-time officer within the year, and another at the end of the year.

There is a plan to fill the vacancies, but it takes time. In addition to reallocation of administrative and investigate time, there was use of overtime; and vacation time was deferred.

This occurred against the backdrop of the ongoing COVID issues and having to implement policies and procedures for their own and public safety. The leadership and departmental commitment to getting the Department and the community through these challenges has been tremendous.

They too, met their mission to protect residents and all those who pass through the community by establishing high standards of impartial and professional law enforcement. As dedicated officers they provide service with understanding, response with compassion, performance with integrity and law enforcement with vision.

**On behalf of the Town of Fremont, we sincerely thank you all for your hard work, sacrifice and dedication to the Fremont community!**



*"We are not put on this earth for ourselves, but are placed here for each other.*

*If you are there always for others, then in time of need, someone will be there for you."*

~ Jeff Warner

**There is always a Notary Public in the Selectmen's Office. Call us if you need this type of service. Many Town services are available by appointment, and you can do almost anything online, by mail, or drop off to the Town Hall drop box, Complex drop box, or Library book return/curbside. Please call or email us to get what you need. Offices are generally staffed during the normal/posted operating hours for each Department or Building.**

Photos Courtesy of Heidi Carlson