

Report of the Board of Selectmen

The Board of Selectmen, Department Heads and the Town Administrator have worked hard throughout the year to meet the Town's needs and while at the same time, live within the Town's budget. The Board of Selectmen wishes to thank everyone who makes its possible: elected and appointed officials, Department Heads and employees, and the ever-present volunteers. Thank you for all your service and commitment to the Town of Fremont.

In March, Roger Barham was re-elected to the Board of Selectmen for a three year term. The current Board continues to be very dedicated and collectively has many years of experience in Town Official capacities.

Events within the year included the Memorial Day parade and ceremony at the Village



Cemetery and Wreathes Across America ceremony at the Fremont Town Hall. These events honor our past and present military service members. As a community we are thankful and respectful of the work and sacrifice of all who put themselves in harm's way for our safety and protection. This includes our Police and Fire / EMS Departments.

Accomplishments in 2019 included:

- Replacement of the roof shingles on the Highway Department building (2018 Encumbrance)
- Installation of an AED in the basement meeting room at the Fremont Town Hall
- Purchase of additional portable radios for the Fremont Fire Rescue Department
- Continued with the use of a Fire Rescue Services consultant to aid in Departmental planning.
- Replaced the Town's website and at year end created updated email contact through the Town's website and domain name.
- Replacement of the roof shingles on the Parks & Recreation maintenance/concession stand building.

Other accomplishments in 2019 included:

- Under the leadership of the Road Agent, the final wearing course paving was installed on Red Brook and shoulder repairs, subsurface repairs and binder course pavement were installed on sections of Bean and Chester Roads. A significant project was the replacement of the Sandown Road Bridge Overflow.

The project was completed on time and within budget. Funds for all the work was in the operating budget and in an approved separate Warrant Article related to the Bridge Capital Reserve Fund. A separate report detailing the project with a summary of cost is included in the Annual Report.

- With the approval and funding of Warrant Article # 12 at 2019 Town Meeting, in April, the leadership of the Fremont Fire Rescue Department began to implement the initiative for members of the Fremont Fire Rescue Department to sign up for paid on-call shifts for EMS coverage focusing on overnight and weekend coverage. Through the first nine months, the initiative has been very successful with improving availability to respond to emergency calls for service. Utilizing the recommendation of the Fire Rescue Consultant, the Fremont Fire Rescue Department implemented several membership recruitment strategies. Early indications are that the strategies are working well. Elsewhere in the Town Report is the Department's Annual Report.
- With funding from the subscriber franchise fees, Fremont Community Television (FCTV) continues to live broadcast and record for later rebroadcast, public meetings and community events. Within 2019 a second Community Access channel was activated with an intended use to include an educational purpose (FCTV channel 13). FCTV's role and importance to the Fremont community continues to evolve and grow in importance. As with many things, a few strong contributors are making a large contribution to FCTV and its development. The Board of Selectmen thanks them for their vision and commitment. Elsewhere in the Town Report is the FCTV Annual Report.

Year End 2019 encumbrances included:

- Additional Fire Rescue portable radios
- Continuation of work at the Leavitt Cemetery

Within 2019, Town representatives participated in Public Hearings held by the Epping Planning Board regarding an application for Site Plan approval for commercial use of a lot on the Epping end of Shirkin Road. Fremont residents in the area have raised substantial concern about the volume of heavy truck traffic and its impact on the neighborhood and the safe use of the streets. In addition to those concerns, Town Officials, including the Road Agent, are concerned about impact of the heavy truck use on the road conditions and the costs associated with maintaining and repairing of the effected roads. Considerable discussion involving various options has occurred. At year end the Town was pursuing an engineering evaluation of the current conditions and capacity of Shirkin, Leavitt and Rogers Roads. With the engineering information in hand it is anticipated that vehicle weight limits can be implemented and the needs and cost of repairing the current road conditions will be known. This will continue to be a very important action item in 2020.

On the 2020 Town Meeting Warrant there are several Articles that we would like to bring to your attention:

- Article 8 requests authorization to hire an additional full-time police officer. Fremont is understaffed by recommended standards and compared to similar communities in our area. The Fremont Police Chief is once again making this recommendation in the

interest of public safety. A similar article was proposed in 2018 and 2019 had a lot of voter support but was not approved. We feel that all of us recognize the need for an adequate police force for the safety and protection of our community.

- Article 14 is for road improvements to Chester Road. It is a scope of work that is recommended by an engineer and continues with the work on this road that began in 2019. Fremont has over 40 miles of maintained streets. Generally, the useful life of a paved surface is about 20 years. Therefore, it is important that we as a community routinely address the maintenance and repair needs of our streets. Deferring needed road work means the needs will be greater in the future and Town will have deteriorating road conditions until they are repaired.

In 2020 the compensation paid to Fire Rescue Department members will be based on hours spent on Department activity. In the past it has been a fixed amount of money paid out once a year based on a point system that tracked Department member's activity within the year. The



compensation plan that is being implemented is a trend that has occurred or is underway in many other departments in similar communities. The change was a recommendation by

the Consultant to the Department and has been long-discussed by Department leadership.

Photo 07/11/2019 Fire Rescue Members upgrading their certifications posing with Fire Officers. L to R Back: Seth Wood, Lt Ryan Dame, Deputy Joe Nichols, Chief Rich Butler, Deputy Kevin Zukas, Captain Vincent O'Connor, Lt John Linville, Jared Butler; Front: Josh Gallant, Joe Parisi, RJ Giegerich.

In summary 2019 was busy and productive year. Once again we are thankful for the past support of the Town's voters / taxpayers. The Board of Selectmen is grateful for the opportunity to serve the Fremont community and looks forward to working with everyone again in 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

Gene Cordes, Chair
Neal Janvrin
Roger Barham



Photos courtesy of Heidi Carlson