

Report of the Budget Committee

The Town of Fremont is governed by the Municipal Budget law, RSA Chapter 32 and according to RSA 32:1 the purpose of the Budget Committee is to "assist voters in the prudent appropriation of public funds." We are elected by the voters to recommend amounts proposed by the Governing Body. We make our recommendations but the voters are ultimately the ones who will decide these matters, when they vote on March 10. Polls are open at Ellis School from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm.

The Budget Committee had their first meeting in April to reorganize after the newly elected members are established. We are then able to begin our meetings for the new budget season in September. We meet with Administrators from the Town, School District, and many Department heads. We discuss budgets line by line and make our own recommendations to the taxpayers of the Town. This year again for every \$416,000 of new expenditures, the tax rate will increase by \$1.00. For example, if your property valuation is \$200,000 your taxes would increase \$200.00 annually.

In December the Committee accepted the resignation of Jonathan Starr and appointed Patricia Martel to his position. These changes result in four open positions, the two regular three year terms that come up annually, as well as two one year terms to fill out appointments that only go to Town Meeting time in March.

Fremont School District Budget

The proposed School Budget this year is \$11,857,513; a \$454,562 decrease from the prior year default budget. The decrease was mainly due to less students attending Sanborn Regional High School, unanticipated revenue and the reduction of capital costs to Sanborn. This is a decrease in the tax rate of approximately \$0.78.

Fremont Town Budget

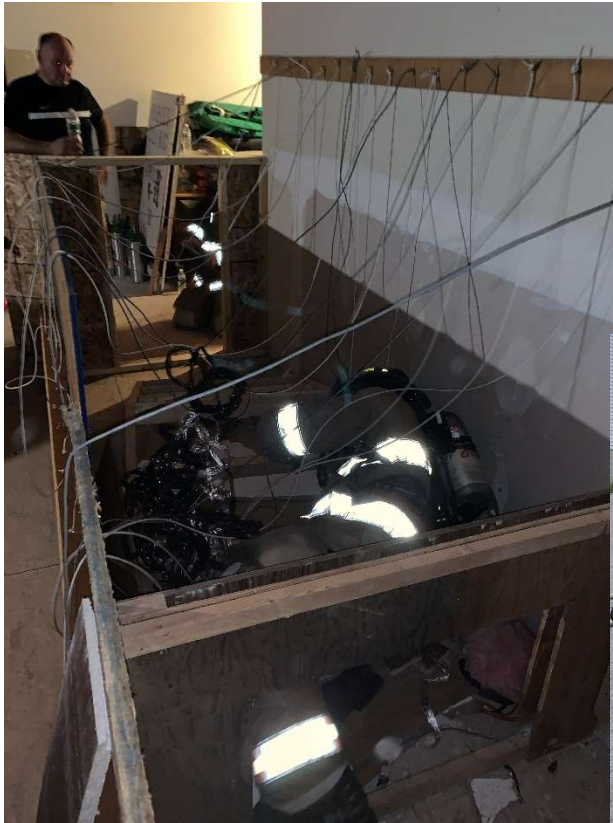
The Town Operating Budget and Warrant Articles proposed by the Selectmen for 2020 was \$3,869,412. The Budget Committee originally recommended \$3,789,075. These proposed amounts by Selectmen include all Warrant Articles such as a new police officer, road improvements and Capital Reserve Funds for the Fire Rescue Department, Highway Department, and Bridges and Expendable Trust Fund appropriations for library maintenance, computer equipment and weather emergencies.

The Selectmen later reduced the operating budget request by \$27,006 in light of the summer camp program being cancelled. The Budget Committee met in advance of Deliberative Session and also reduced their recommendation by that amount. The total amount you will see recommended on the Town Warrant in Article 7 for final voter consideration in March is \$3,368,991. The overall total recommended by the Budget Committee is therefore \$3,762,069.

If everything proposed is approved by the voters the School District is a decrease of approximately \$.78 and the Town an increase of approximately \$.90 from last year. The new overall assessed valuations due for April 1, 2020 will likely reduce the overall tax rate impacts as values are anticipated to increase.

We as a Budget Committee have worked extremely hard to decrease the spending so that our taxes do not increase again this year. We urge you ALL to come out and vote on March 10th.

Mary Jo Holmes, Chair
Joe Miccile, Vice Chair
Gordon Muench, School Board Representative
Gene Cordes, Selectmen's Representative
Steven Bonaccorsi
Patricia Martel
Michael Nygren
Joshua Yokela



Fire Rescue SCBA Training (firefighters in full gear navigating through a maze, with consideration for many obstacles including wires!)

Swapping out gear and SCBA bottles



Photos courtesy of Seth Wood, FFRD