

2020 Town of Fremont Deliberative Session Minutes

Pursuant to NH RSA 40:13 II, the First Session of the 2020 Town Meeting (Deliberative Session) shall be held on Saturday February 1, 2020 at the Ellis School, 432 Main Street in Fremont New Hampshire at 9:00 am. The snow date for this session is Saturday February 8, 2020 at 9:00 am at the Ellis School.

Note that the School District Session will take place first and the Town Deliberative Session will begin at completion of School session, with a brief intermission.

The Second Session (Voting Session) shall be held on Tuesday March 10, 2020 at the Ellis School, 432 Main Street in Fremont New Hampshire with polls open from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm. All Articles will be voted upon by Official Ballot with any amendments as made at the Deliberative Session.

Town Moderator Michael Rydeen called the first session of the 2020 annual Deliberative Session to order at 10:12 am. He spoke of the meeting agenda and asked all in attendance to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance, led by Sgt Jason Larochelle then allowed for Board member introductions. Seated were Town Administrator Heidi Carlson; Selectmen Gene Cordes, Roger Barham and Neal Janvrin; Budget Committee members Gordon Muench ex-officio member of the School Board; Mary Jo Holmes, Joe Miccile, Joshua Yokela, Patricia Martel and Steven Bonaccorsi.

Selectman Cordes gave the summary of the year. He spoke of infrastructure maintenance, website upgrading, the consultant's ongoing work with Fire Rescue Department, and equipment updating. He stated that the Town provided 2% pay raises to Town employees in 2019, the Red Brook Road rebuild was completed, and Bean and Chester Roads' first phases were completed. The Sandown Road Bridge Overflow was completed on schedule and within budget. Gene welcomed Leanne Miner as our new Land Use Administrative Assistant and that we have filled a police officer vacancy. He stated that FCTV added a second public channel as part of franchise fees, the Fremont Public Library is continually evolving, adding groups and events. Volunteers are working on trails and we have replaced 10 end-of-life computers. Looking ahead, we need to continue road repairs, the Library Trustees have worked on library needs for structure and he expressed appreciation for volunteers and Town staff as the backbone of our Town.

Cordes spoke to the dedication in this year's Town Report, presenting a framed picture acknowledging Jack Downing. Jack has been in town for a long time, he was involved on the Planning Board from 2008-2019, Zoning Board of Adjustment, Open Space Committee and other community projects.

Moderator Rydeen spoke of the general rules and began with the Warrant Articles.

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

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

- ~~i. The permit is in the public interest.~~
- ~~ii. There will be no greater diminution of neighboring property values than would be created under any permitted use in the Flexible Use Residential District.~~
- ~~iii. That there are no existing violations of the Fremont zoning ordinance on the subject property.~~
- ~~iv. 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~~
- ~~i. That granting the permit will not result in undue municipal expense~~

- ii. ~~That the proposed use will be developed in a manner compatible with the spirit and intent of the ordinance.~~
- iii. ~~That the capacity of existing or planned community facilities and services (including streets and highways) will not be adversely impacted.~~
- iv. ~~That the general welfare of the Town will be protected.~~
- v. ~~That the following impacts have been mitigated to the extent practical:~~
 - 1. ~~Noise~~
 - 2. ~~Light~~
 - 3. ~~Transportation~~
 - 4. ~~Visual effects~~
 - 5. ~~Odor~~
- i. ~~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)

Moderator Rydeen stated that Zoning amendment Warrant Articles 2-6 cannot be amended. Janvrin moved Article 2. Barham seconded.

Andy Kohlhofer spoke to the Article and the survey offered to the public to help the Planning Board and give them direction, help with the master plan and future goals and trying to clarify some of the language.

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,

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.)

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.~~

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.~~

<i>Number of Dwelling Units</i>	<i>Minimum Lot Size (square feet)</i>	<i>Acres</i>
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)

Janvrin moved Article 3. Barham seconded. Kohlhofer spoke to the Article and stated that they changed some language for clarification, mostly for builders to know regulations.

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)

Janvrin moved Article 4. Barham seconded. Kohlhofer spoke to clarifying this expansion. He stated that this is more for developer, this outline is clearer for them.

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)

Janvrin moved Article 5. Barham seconded. Kohlhofer spoke to the Article and explained the current regulation. He stated that this new regulation would cover non-conforming structures and allow property owners to build again as it was. He felt this makes it easier to do so.

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)

Janvrin moved Article 6. Barham seconded. Kohlhofer stated that the Building Inspector had difficulty interpreting the language. This is to clarify language and contradictory language. He gave further detail on specifics, such as internally lit signs now being allowed, since it is unclear under the current language.

Matthew Thomas was concerned that setbacks must be at least 10 feet from property lines. Thomas stated that he doesn't think it is right and you should be able to attach signs to a tree. He thinks this is being taken too strenuously and that business owners shouldn't have to have a sign in the middle of the yard. He stated that he thinks this is too strict. He asked to take into account that the cooperage can't stay in business because they have no signage, this is not fair to businesses. The Fremont plaza was supposed to allow an illuminated sign out front.

Barham explained that the 10-foot setback is not a change, it is existing language. This just clarifies the language. Roger clarified that the plaza development has an easement, the owners have not taken the option to have an illuminated sign and that the Planning Board hasn't given them a hard time.

Thomas asked why a posted sign must be internally lit and Roger explained that it does not have to be internally lit, it just has to have any light facing down not up. Kohlhofer agreed that all the plaza owner has to do is contact the land use office.

Cordes made a motion to restrict reconsideration of Articles 2-6. Barham seconded. The hand vote was passed to restrict reconsideration of Articles 2-6.

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)

Moderator Rydeen read aloud Article 7. Mary Jo Holmes moved Article 7. Steven Bonaccorsi seconded.

Holmes spoke on the work from the Budget Committee, Selectmen, and Department Heads. Selectman Cordes made a motion to amend the operating budget down by \$27,006 for a total operating budget of \$3,368,991. He explained that this is a reduction in the Parks and Recreation budget as there is not going to be a summer program. Barham seconded.

Sarah Lundquist asked for clarification about the reduction. Nancy Murray stated that she would like to consider rather than reducing this amount, to reduce by only half to allow expansion of other programs for adults and seniors. Moderator Rydeen explained that the bottom line doesn't guarantee allocation of the "half" kept going where intended. Murray made a motion on the amendment to add back in \$10,000 from the original \$27,006 in the summer camp line. Heidi Carlson stated that the Selectmen have always observed where money was requested to go and kept it there. The Selectmen would put that money where requested and intended.

Nicole Cloutier stated that the \$27,006 was money that was accounted for; however, this is money recuperated from the camp fees, therefore it comes to a near zero balance. This would not be the same scenario since it would not be recovered from camp fees. Tim Lins asked why we would eliminate a program that comes to a zero balance. Carlson explained that the Parks and Recreation Commission could not support the volunteerism to oversee this program.

Mary Jo Holmes stated that the Parks and Recreation is not taking this line item out of the budget, it would be just for this year and hopefully this program could come back next year.

Murray made a motion to amend the \$27,006 to \$17,006. Holmes seconded. Barham explained that this adds money to taxpayers, this is a \$10,000 increase compared to the original self-funded \$27,006. Maria Knee stated that her understanding is that the funds would also be put back in the budget by programs created for adults and senior citizens. Josh Yokela stated that he doesn't know what these proposals would be and felt that to assume it would be offset by fees is premature. He stated that the Parks and Recreation budget has \$36,000 left currently and only spent last year \$27,000 noting there was \$10,000 extra for spending.

Murray officially withdrew her proposal.

Moderator Rydeen went back to the original motion to remove \$27,006 from operating budget. The hand vote was passed to amend the operating budget down to 3,368,991.

Moderator Rydeen stated that Article 7 would go on the ballot as amended.

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)**

Moderator Rydeen read aloud Article 8. Cordes moved Article 8. Barham seconded.

Barham gave a slideshow power point presentation speaking to Article 8 and stated that the Board of Selectmen strongly recommend this Article. He felt that this is a serious public issue and that this is the third year it has failed becoming more critical. Barham asked Police Chief Jon Twiss to accompany him to discuss the presentation and statistics giving comparisons of Fremont to other comparable NH towns in population.

Chair Holmes spoke to why the Budget Committee did not recommend this Article, because of the amount of the Article and that we are SB2. She stated that the Budget Committee wanted to give voters the opportunity to vote on this. Cloutier stated that the voters will vote on this regardless, and felt that by not recommending this article continually, it is giving a clear message to the voters not to vote in favor.

Police Chief Twiss explained the differences between full-time and part-time police officers allowance in hours and amount of training time with specific numbers. He stated that the job has changed substantially in the last 35 years and gave examples on crime trends. He feels that having part-time officers with that responsibility is a huge liability and disservice overall to the Town. He explained issues with availability stating that part-time officers have other jobs and that if something happens they are not always readily available. Retirees are restricted on the number of hours they can work. He gave examples of needing further officers in situations and not having them. Barham gave FBI statistics within Rockingham County as well. Fremont's number per 1,000 residents is currently 50% of resources recommended. He stated that we should be at 9 full-time officers and we are at 5, putting us over 50% additional workload for the Rockingham County average.

Bonaccorsi wanted to further elaborate on Holmes' statement that this is up to the voters and that he strongly suggests taking what the Police Chief is stating into consideration. He reiterated that they are under-resourced and can relate to running a business when not properly staffed; things fail and we need officers to show when we are in need. He stated that this is a huge safety issue and that there is nothing more important than our safety.

Yokela stated that this would not give us a second officer if someone was on call, it is not solving the problem. He said there may be more times we have 2 officers, but this is intended mainly to reduce the use of part-time officers. Also, not all towns listed have 24-hour coverage and we do, therefore there is a difference in comparison which may reflect in the statistics perceived. Lt Morelli spoke to staffing and experiences. He stated that there are other obligations the town has to fill, as a detective it takes time to investigate and takes away from patrol time when unsupervised and on call 24/7. We are doing more with less and victims of serious crimes' parents are waiting for justice because there is not enough time to work on cases and not enough patrolmen.

Brittany Thompson addressed the Budget Committee saying they want the people to vote on this, she thinks it's irresponsible give non-recommendation when they could just abstain. People are looking at their recommendation. She suggested if the Committee wanted voters to decide they would abstain.

Janvrin spoke of relating personally to this article. He stated that scheduling is a nightmare, and the job is not the same as 50 years ago. He spoke to his scheduling staffing issues related to Police Chief Twiss, and asked that people please support this article. Kohlhofer stated that we didn't vote to consider Article 7, we can always amend to reduce it, to allow for another full time police officer.

Yokela made a motion to reduce the operating budget by \$42,997 to allow for another full time police officer. Moderator Rydeen explained that the article has to be over before amending and we are not done with this Article yet.

Chief Twiss explained that this would add 2 officers on duty during peak times and could have an officer in the school more often. These are long term goals, overtime and there are not enough people to fill the slots. He wants to fill them overtime but cannot with understaffing.

Kohlhofer stated that everything here says suggests eliminating the DARE Program rather than hire to cover that. Angela O'Connell offered statistics on the DARE Program and spoke on the program being very important to build relationships, support students, teaches children to go to law enforcement for help. To say this program is just about drugs is not correct. Greg Fraize stated that he has 3 kids who have been in this program and was upset with Kohlhofer's Statement.

Martha Abney stated that as a teacher, she can speak to the DARE Program and how that officer helps teach teachers how to prepare for worst case scenarios. Kids face a lot of temptations, she went to her first student's funeral this year and will do what it takes to prevent ever having to do that again.

Cloutier discussed her history with the Town of Fremont and the feeling of safety. She stated that Fremont is not exempt from crime. She spoke of dangerous situations lone officers have faced, having to call for back-up and waiting can mean life or death. She spoke of cost of this article, if passed would cost

each household \$20 to \$40 this year and \$40 to \$80 each year after if your home is assessed between \$200K and \$400K. She felt it disgusting that we are more than willing to pay the cost of 5 full-time police officers in picking up trash. She made comparisons to other articles that pass with a high price and significantly less importance. She gave history on troubles caused by lack of police staffing including losing the DARE Program and the loss of over \$400K to our town due to officers leaving because of poor staffing. She stated that she has felt hesitation in sending her children to school amongst school shootings in the US and gave information on how the school has adjusted to safety of students concerning such. She felt that having a police presence in our school would be most important to protect our children. She stated that by not voting yes on this article year after year, we are choosing not to protect the people who protect us.

Yokela made a motion to reconsider Article 7. Kohlhofer seconded. Motion failed.

Moderator Rydeen stated that Article 8 would go on the ballot as presented.

Shawn Perreault made a motion to restrict further reconsideration of Articles 7 and 8. Cordes seconded. The hand vote passed to restrict reconsideration of Articles 7 and 8.

Ida Keane asked if the Town wants a new full-time police officer, what is the reason that it wasn't added to the operating budget? She thinks that by having it as a Warrant Article it is set up to fail. Cordes spoke to the intention of making this a Warrant Article that since costs will vary, a default budget will not allow changes next year even if it passes.

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)**

Moderator Rydeen read aloud Article 9. Cordes moved Article 9. Barham seconded.

Carlson spoke to the article, this is saving aside for cost of servers needing replacement at the Town Hall and Police Station approximately every 5 years.

Yokela moved to amend this Article to \$1. Holmes seconded.

Yokela said he wanted to see if people are interested in reducing other potential spending to allow the full-time police officer article to pass and intends to cut anything to add up to \$47,000.

The hand vote was counted, and the motion failed. Moderator Rydeen stated that Article 9 would go on the ballot as presented.

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)**

Moderator Rydeen read aloud Article 10. Cordes moved Article 10. Barham seconded.

Librarian Eric Abney spoke to article and stated that this was to pay for the larger building expenses. As equipment and fixtures come to end of life in the building, this would allow for savings over time instead of asking for large sums when needed.

Yokela made a motion to amend Article 10 to \$1. Kohlhofer seconded.

Kohlhofer stated that every time we add an article it raises taxes by \$.10. He has concerns that some are essential, and some aren't. He felt the Town needs to keep expenses in control.

Eric Abney stated that if we don't spend now, it costs us more to do later and needs to be done regardless. He stated that putting money away now as opposed to emergent need is wiser.

The hand vote was counted, and the motion to amend Article 10 failed.

Eric Abney explained that expenses coming up are going to cost \$50,000 to \$60,000 (air handling systems, furnaces, etc). Carlson spoke to price for all of this and that we are going to need to address the building infrastructure at some point, and it is better to save ahead.

Moderator Rydeen stated that Article 10 would go on the ballot as presented.

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)**

Moderator Rydeen read aloud Article 11. Cordes moved Article 11. Barham seconded.

Fire Chief Richard Butler stated that Fremont has a history of not saving for future needs. This is intending to further prepare.

Carlson stated that in 2015 when we purchased the last fire truck, we paid \$255,000 up front, which was what was in the CRF account; and due to that down payment up front, we saved \$15,000 on the cost of that fire truck. Fire apparatus is one of our larger capital costs.

Leanne Miner said she would like to see the Town work on long-term Capital Improvement Programs. Other towns have several impact fees and she asked that people give input through the online survey.

Yokela made a motion to amend Article 11 down to \$7,003. Holmes seconded.

Chief Butler asked why the Budget Committee recommended this article and are now changing their minds. Yokela stated that they voted for these, and this is a question to the people in this room. After hearing that the police article is so important to pass, he's trying to allow for anyone in the room who wants to cut anywhere to fund the police article without increasing the tax rate. This is just to allow consideration.

Holmes called the question for no further discussion on an amendment of \$7,003. The hand vote was made and Rydeen declared the vote passed to call the question.

Moderator Rydeen stated that Article 11 would go on the ballot as presented.

Gene Cordes made a motion to restrict reconsideration of Articles 9, 10 and 11. Barham seconded. The hand vote was passed to restrict reconsideration of articles 9, 10 and 11.

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)**

Moderator Rydeen read aloud Article 12. Janvrin moved Article 12 and Barham seconded.

Road Agent Leon Holmes Jr spoke to the article and gave an account of equipment. He stated that he doesn't need anything right now, but eventually we will need to replace a 1 Ton truck, it's a 2012 with 80K miles and he's looking to pass at 100,000 miles. Last year we didn't put anything in this fund due to the allocation of money toward bridge reconstruction.

Carlson explained that the reason for these funds is to save instead of borrowing through a bond.

Yokela made a motion to amend Article 12 to \$1. Matthew Thomas seconded.

Yokela stated that he thinks this is worth it, and that a lot of highway equipment is not as expensive as fire apparatus.

Allen Dunn stated that he thinks these are well thought out articles and to change them all to radically is doing a disservice to the electorate. He feels this should be passed as is. The people are going to make those decisions on what they prioritize.

Nicole Cloutier agreed that by changing these articles, we are taking the vote away from the voters to change the amounts and not give them choices. Matthew Thomas disagreed, stating that they do have a right which is why they need to be here at the public hearing. He was frustrated that people are not here, therefore they deserve the taxes they pay. Lori Holmes disagreed with Thomas and stated that she thinks this should have been done at the public hearing. She cited that RSA 32:1 states the Budget Committee's purpose is to assist the voters. There is a reason we have a public hearing. That is where residents should be, here at Deliberative Session, we put faith in Department Heads, the Budget Committee and Selectmen. The Public hearing is where people should have come to express concerns, not at Deliberative Session. She felt that the final decision should be made at the polls, not here and believes numbers should be left alone.

Mary Jo Holmes called the question for no further discussion, seconded by Gene Cordes. The hand vote was made and failed.

Moderator Rydeen stated that Article 12 would go on the ballot as presented.

Shawn Perreault made a motion to restrict reconsideration of Article 12, seconded by Lori Holmes. The hand vote was passed to restrict article 12.

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)**

Moderator Rydeen read aloud Article 13. Janvrin moved Article 13. Barham seconded.

Road Agent Holmes spoke to the Article. He stated that last year paving of the entire road was approved, then cut by half due to the bridge repair.

Yokela made a motion to reduce Article 13 to \$91, 530. Mary Jo Holmes seconded.

Yokela stated that he thinks this is valuable and people should consider supporting it, we should be doing more. Bonaccorsi stated that what he can't appreciate is that the Budget Committee has been discussing these exact numbers for months. He doesn't agree with amending but thinks this is holding the Budget Committee accountable for not moving to this prior to this day. He thinks this is making it seem like they aren't supporting the advice they've given. This is being made clear that we need that officer and that bringing everything down to \$1 is demeaning to the process.

Yokela, rebutted that he thinks the Budget Committee recommended what the Town could afford. The Budget Committee doesn't have the ability to amend numbers in Warrant Articles, only to recommend or not recommend; which is why he is making \$1 motions as a citizen.

Holmes Jr gave history in the planning process and phases of work on Chester Road. This is the second phase, and he doesn't want to come back every year to ask to pass this. If we were to cut back we won't be able to finish the binder on the road. Nancy Murray stated that she thinks we can keep the original number. She then spoke of her subdivision, an approximate 32 year-old neighborhood, and that she would like subdivision priorities to not have to need a Warrant Article. She said her road is decrepit, and she wants future planning for subdivisions prioritized.

Cordes made a motion to call the question for no further discussion, seconded by Mary Jo Holmes. The hand vote was made and passed to call the question.

Mary Jo Holmes seconded the motion for the amendment, the hand vote was made and failed to amend Article 13.

Moderator Rydeen stated that Article 13 would go on the ballot as presented.

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)

Moderator Rydeen read aloud Article 14. Janvrin moved Article 14. Barham seconded.

Mark DeVeber, Emergency Management Director, spoke to the article. He stated that emergencies come at a cost, they come at most inopportune times. Setting aside money is appropriate to save money in the long run.

Yokela stated that we had an emergency this year that cost \$15K. He then moved to reduce Article 14 to \$1. Mary Jo Holmes seconded.

Yokela stated that he feels the Selectmen can pull this money from other departments in the case of an emergency. DeVeber clarified that when Josh said in the "unlikelihood of emergency", this is a responsible number provided for the road crew and heavy equipment. This allows us to properly plan and be responsible. Holmes Jr elaborated that the fund Josh referred to is for snow only, not for

emergencies, and can't be used for anything else. He noted the over-expenditure in the Highway budget was because we didn't have enough for the Chester Road windstorm aftermath and cleanup. Carlson clarified that we have a Winter Maintenance Trust Fund, and further explained Josh's reference to the fund balance. The Town's fund balance is an overall balance of excess revenues and underexpenditures over time, and Fremont does not carry even the minimum balance set by the NH Department of Revenue Administration. Selectmen feel this money is better back offsetting the tax rate annually.

Yokela called the question for no further discussion, seconded by Mary Jo Holmes.

Moderator Rydeen stated that Article 14 would go on the ballot as presented.

Cordes made a motion to restrict further consideration of Articles 13 and 14, seconded by Barham. The hand vote was passed to restrict reconsideration of Articles 13 and 14.

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)**

Moderator Rydeen read aloud Article 15. Janvrin moved Article 15. Barham seconded.

Carlson stated that these funds will take us the next steps in replacement of the next red listed bridge project on Martin Road. She offered some information on the Sandown Road Overflow Bridge completed in 2019, under budget and on time. She thanked the voters for the \$200,000 voted last year to complete that project. The Martin Road project has been dormant for at least 18 months. If this Article doesn't pass, we may not be eligible for our 80% reimbursement funding from NH Bridge Aid. The project is on the NH DOT funding list for the State's FY beginning July 1 this year.

The Town has spent approximately \$65,000 to date on engineering for the Martin Road Bridge, and needs additional funding to complete engineering and get through the first approval step in NH Bridge Aid in order to apply for reimbursement of our 80% of the first stage of work. The plan is that with those funds, and additional taxpayer funds in the CRF, that we may be able to get through the construction documents, bidding, and even begin construction.

Yokela made a motion to reduce this Article to \$57,003. Joe Miccile seconded.

Yokela called the question for no further discussion, seconded by Greg Fraize. The hand vote was made and passed to call the question.

The hand vote was made and failed to amend Article 15. The Moderator stated that Article 15 would go on the ballot as presented.

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)**

Moderator Rydeen read aloud Article 16. Janvrin moved Article 16. Barham seconded.

Carlson provided some information about the program in Fremont. Cloutier added that Fremont did test positive for EEE last year.

Yokela made a motion to amend the Article down to \$6,553. Bill Knee seconded. Yokela stated that he is not sure the program could run at this number and this article would have to be a yes or no. Carlson stated that it might be possible to investigate the cost of spraying only. Holmes asked what is sprayed and Carlson replied it includes the grounds at Ellis School, Memorial Ballfields, and parking lots at the Safety Complex and Library. Holmes asked if this a pro-active spraying and how many years in the past we have had positive finds. Carlson replied that out of about 11 years we have had positive finds about 6 or 7 times. Cordes stated that this has been supported in the last 11 years, even with the years of a default budget this has passed. He reiterated that Selectmen want the voters to decide. Angela O'Connell stated that we have had positive results but because we are pro-active this could have been much higher for the positive tests.

Cordes called the question for no further discussion, seconded by Holmes. The hand vote was made and passed. The hand vote was made and failed to amend Article 16.

Cordes made a motion to restrict further consideration of Articles 15 and 16. Barham seconded. The hand vote was passed to restrict reconsideration of Articles 15 and 16.

The Moderator stated that Article 16 would go on the ballot as presented.

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)

Moderator Rydeen read aloud Article 17. Janvrin moved Article 17. Barham seconded.

Matthew Thomas spoke to the article. He stated that he hopes to have antique fire apparatus from storage all under one roof in a controlled climate and would like to add a 3-bay addition. He offered statistics on number of visitors to the Fremont Museum. Yokela asked if there has been any reach out to any local businesses for potential sponsorship on this. Matthew replied that he has but it is not easy getting grant money. We have been fortunate for the support through membership to pay the electric bill and purchase additional memorabilia, however Fremont does not have access to sponsorship. Holmes stated this meeting has preserved school and town, but we also need to preserve our history.

Janvrin made the motion to call the question for no further discussion, seconded by Barham. The hand vote was made and passed to call the question, ending discussion.

The Moderator stated that Article 17 would go on the ballot as presented.

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)

Moderator Rydeen read aloud Article 18. Janvrin moved Article 18. Barham seconded.

Carlson spoke to the article and there was no further discussion. The Moderator stated that Article 18 would go on the ballot as presented.

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)

Moderator Rydeen read aloud Article 19. Janvrin moved Article 19. Barham seconded.

Carlson spoke to the article and there was no further discussion. The Moderator stated that Article 19 would go on the ballot as presented.

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)

Moderator Rydeen read aloud Article 20. Janvrin moved Article 20. Barham seconded.

Carlson spoke to the article stating that 2020 will bring new assessments increasing property values. This allows for \$10,000 increase in each age category to allow to keep up with changes. There was no further discussion.

The Moderator stated that Article 20 would go on the ballot as presented.

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)

Moderator Rydeen read aloud Article 21. Janvrin moved Article 21. Barham seconded.

Carlson explained that this increases the exemption by \$10,000 also to keep up with changing values as noted in Article 20. There was no further discussion.

The Moderator stated that Article 21 would go on the ballot as presented.

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)

Moderator Rydeen read aloud Article 22. Janvrin moved Article 22. Barham seconded.

Carlson explained that it is practice in Fremont that any change to a Town Official's salary is handled by separate Warrant Article for voter consideration.

With no further discussion, the Moderator stated that Article 22 would go on the ballot as presented.

With no further business to come before the legislative body, Cordes moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:49 pm. Mary Jo Holmes seconded, and the voice vote was approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole E. Cloutier
Town Clerk Tax Collector



Town Hall Basement Meeting Room
Note the AED in the far right corner.

This was installed in early 2020, to be accessible for any meetings being held in the room.

Photo courtesy of Heidi Carlson