

**TOWN OF FREMONT NH**  
**2013 DELIBERATIVE SESSION**  
**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2013**  
**ELLIS SCHOOL 7:00 PM**

Moderator Rydeen called the first session of the Annual Town Meeting to order at 7:00 pm. He stated that anyone who has not checked in with Supervisors should please do so. He then asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance led by H D Wood IV, Interim Police Chief, followed by a moment of silence for all our service men and women.

Moderator Rydeen stated that a modified version of Roberts Rules of Order would be used as a guide to run the meeting. He explained that Articles can be amended at this meeting, but will not be voted on at this time. Voting on the Articles will take place on Election Day, Tuesday March 12, 2013 by official ballot. He said the persons who are presenting an Article will be allowed 10 minutes to speak and members of the audience will be allowed 4 minutes to speak. He asked that before speaking, you state your name and address, and everyone wishing to speak must get to the microphone. Only Fremont voters will be allowed to vote or speak, aside from Town administrative staff and the Town's Attorney. Handouts of the Rules of Order, the Warrant Article Narrative, Town Budget Form MS-7 and the Default Budget form MS-7D were available for those in attendance. There were 44 registered voters in attendance, and a total of 65 persons present.

Moderator Rydeen announced that there would be a *Meet the Candidates* forum on March 5, 2013, from 6:00 pm – 7:15 pm at the Ellis School gym.

Seated at the head table were Budget Committee members; Gene Cordes, Charles Kimball, Joseph Miccile, Michael Nygren, Patricia Martel, Griffin Cordes and Greg Fraize; Town Counsel John Ryan; Selectmen Brett Hunter, Greta St. Germain and Annmarie Scribner; Town Administrator Heidi Carlson and Town Clerk Shannon Bryant.

Moderator Rydeen explained the procedure for restricting reconsideration of Warrant Articles.

Moderator Rydeen read aloud Article 1 and explained it does not require any action and cannot be amended at this time

**ARTICLE 1:** To choose by ballot all necessary Town Officers for the ensuing year.  
Rydeen then read the names of the Town & School candidates running for office.

Moderator Rydeen read aloud Article 2:

**ARTICLE 2:** Are you in favor of amending ARTICLE XVIII of the Fremont Zoning Ordinance by removing from the Corporate Commercial District the parcels located at Map 5 Lot 36 and

Map 5 Lot 37, and update the Fremont New Hampshire Zoning District Map dated December 13, 2006 to reflect this amendment? The Planning Board recommends this article.

Article 2 was moved by Gene Cordes and seconded by Jack Karcz. There being no discussion, Moderator Rydeen stated *Article 2 will appear on the ballot as written.*

Moderator Rydeen read aloud Article 3:

**ARTICLE 3:** Are you in favor of amending Article XVIII of the Fremont Zoning Ordinance by updating the Fremont New Hampshire Zoning District Map dated December 13, 2006 to reflect the following amendment.

1. Where a property falls within the Village District, Corporate Commercial District or the Commercial Highway District and is also located on a red road which is zoned Flexible Use Residential, the applicable zoning regulations will be that of Village District, Corporate Commercial District or the Commercial Highway District.
2. Remove Shirkin Road west of Beede Hill Road from the list of Red Roads which are zoned Flexible Use Residential.  
The Planning Board recommends this article.

Article 3 was moved by Gene Cordes and seconded by Greg Fraize. There being no discussion, Moderator Rydeen stated *Article 3 will appear on the ballot as written.*

Moderator Rydeen read aloud Article 4:

**ARTICLE 4:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to enter into a long-term lease/purchase agreement to purchase a new Fire Truck at a cost of four hundred seventy-one thousand three hundred eighty-five dollars (\$471,385) and further to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred seventy five thousand dollars (\$175,000) and authorize the withdrawal of one hundred seventy-five thousand dollars (\$175,000) from the Fire Truck Capital Reserve Fund for a down payment to lower the agreement amount to two hundred ninety-six thousand three hundred eighty-five dollars (\$296,385) payable over a term of five (5) years. The agreement does not contain an escape clause. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation 3-0. The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 8-0. 3/5 ballot vote required.

Article 4 was moved by Gene Cordes and seconded by Greg Fraize.

Deputy Fire Chief Joe Nichols said that the trucks are aging and there have been issues with the tank leaking on Engine 3. Tank 5 has been out of service and is now on light duty. With continuous use and maintenance, these trucks are difficult to repair and may deteriorate further resulting in both trucks being out of service. The proposed new truck has combined attack/water capabilities and would be dual use. He cautioned that we are falling behind and it would be desirable to get into a regular purchase/replacement schedule. He is hopeful the voters will support this.

There being no further discussion, Moderator Rydeen stated *Article 4 will appear on the ballot as written.*

Moderator Rydeen read aloud Article 5:

**ARTICLE 5:** 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 \$2,499,591? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$2,543,795 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. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation 3-0. The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 8-0. Majority vote required.

Article 5 was moved by Gene Cordes. Greg Fraize seconded.

Gene Cordes stated that the Budget committee's number differed from the Selectmen in that it was \$6,400 higher to include their recommending that sum be added to Government Buildings for a revamping of the HVAC system at the Safety Complex.

Fire Chief Richard Butler made a motion to amend the line item for replacement equipment (4220300) within the Fire Rescue budget from \$1.00 to add \$9,999; for a total bottom line of the Fire Rescue budget of \$179,448. This would increase the total appropriation in Article 5 to \$2,509,590. The motion was seconded by David Barker.

Dan Itse asked how much was spent in 2012. The answer was stated as \$10,913.56. Dennis Howland asked about adding money to a line item. Annmarie Scribner said that \$10,000.00 had been spent on that line item between 10/31/12 and 12/31/2012. She pointed out that the Selectmen wrote a separate warrant article for breathing apparatus for the Fire Department. She said that money can be transferred into the line item if needed.

Butler said the Department purchased off road ATV equipment with a state grant and that is how the bulk of that line item was spent at the end of 2012. They had to wait for the grant and had no money available for expenses within the budget to move around.

Scribner said the Board of Selectmen worked hard on the budget, utilizing a \$425,000.00 fund balance to keep taxes down by \$1.10 per thousand on the tax rate (in September 2012). The 2012 tax rate was \$27.80 per thousand, however, if all the school articles pass, the rate is estimated to go up to \$29.90 per thousand.

Deputy Chief Nichols said that of the budget, \$75,000 supports 28 staffers. He said they are looking for a new CO2 detector and replacement of a copier which is now over 20 years old. In the first month of the year the Department responded to an increased call volume of 38 calls. He

said that updating equipment is essential to providing community services. Nichols said he knows times are tough, but his Department's budget is already lean.

Dan Itse asked if funds can be transferred to that line item from anywhere in the budget. Annmarie Scribner said it could, and further explained the transfer process.

Annmarie Scribner called the question and Gene Cordes seconded. *The vote to call the question passed by card vote.*

The Moderator then took up the vote of Article 5 as amended. *The vote to amend Article 5 passed by card vote 31 – 19.*

There being no further discussion, Moderator Rydeen stated *Article 5 will appear on the ballot as amended to an operating budget of \$2,509,590.*

Moderator Rydeen read aloud Article 6:

**ARTICLE 6:** To see if the Town will vote to change the purpose of the existing Emergency Management Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund to the Emergency Management Equipment Capital Reserve Fund, and vote to appoint the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from the Emergency Management Equipment Capital Reserve Fund. The Selectmen recommend this article 3-0. The Budget Committee recommends this article 8-0. 2/3 vote required. There is no tax impact for this article.

Article 6 was moved by Gene Cordes and seconded by Greg Fraize.

There being no further discussion, Moderator Rydeen stated *Article 6 will appear on the ballot as written.*

Moderator Rydeen read aloud Article 7:

**ARTICLE 7:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) 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 8-0. Majority vote required.

Article 7 was moved by Greg Fraize, seconded by Gene Cordes.

Mark Pitkin explained the NH Bridge Aid funding process. There was \$25,000.00 voted into the fund when it was created last year. It will now be 2021 before we are eligible for State Bridge Aid Project funding. Currently, there are two bridges on the "red list", those being Martin Road and Scribner Road.

There being no further discussion, Moderator Rydeen stated *Article 7 will appear on the ballot as written.*

Moderator Rydeen read aloud Article 8:

**ARTICLE 8:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of sixteen thousand five hundred dollars (\$16,500) to be placed in the Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation 2-0. The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 8-0. Majority vote required.

Article 8 was moved by Gene Cordes and seconded by Greg Fraize.

Dan Itse wanted to know why we are putting in money taking it out since Article 12 seeks to appropriate \$33,039.00 for purchase and equip a police cruiser. Heidi Carlson explained how Capital Reserve Funds work. While the proposed Article 12 withdrawal of \$24,000.00 would be coming out of the Capital Reserve Fund, it will not fully replace a vehicle. The proposed appropriation in this article goes toward replacing another vehicle in two years. Essentially, we are saving for the next car.

Dan Itse questioned why not add \$16,500.00 to the appropriation and take less money out of the Capital Reserve Fund.

Carlson stated the Capital Reserve Fund's purpose, which has gotten out of sequence due to an increase in the cost of cruisers, as the Ford Crown Victoria is no longer made, thus the equipment can no longer be changed over from the old cars.

There being no further discussion, Moderator Rydeen stated *Article 8 will appear on the ballot as written.*

Moderator Rydeen read aloud Article 9:

**ARTICLE 9:** 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 6-2. Majority vote required.

Article 9 was moved by Gene Cordes and seconded by Greg Fraize.

There being no discussion, Moderator Rydeen stated *Article 9 will appear on the ballot as written.*

Moderator Rydeen read aloud Article 10:

**ARTICLE 10:** 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 Building Capital Reserve Fund. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation 3-0. The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 6-2. Majority vote required.

Article 10 was moved by Greg Fraize and seconded by Gene Cordes.

Mark Pitkin said that a new pole barn for salt and sand had been put up this year because the old building could not support the weight of the materials on the exterior walls. They are now working on converting the original building to put on garage doors and make it into a maintenance building to have an indoor space to work on vehicles as opposed to doing this outdoors as they have been in all kinds of weather. A well was drilled in 2012, providing water there for the first time ever. They will now be able to clean equipment there as well.

There being no further discussion, Moderator Rydeen stated *Article 10 will appear on the ballot as written.*

Moderator Rydeen read aloud Article 11:

**ARTICLE 11:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of forty-seven thousand eighty-eight dollars (\$47,088) to purchase eight Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) for the Fremont Fire Rescue Department. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation 3-0. The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 8-0. Majority vote required.

Article 11 was moved by Gene Cordes and seconded by Greg Fraize.

Annmarie Scribner said this represents one half of the amount of Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA's) that the Department needs to replace. The Selectmen feel it is important to get into a regularly scheduled program to replace this equipment which is vital for health and safety of those utilizing the equipment.

There being no further discussion, Moderator Rydeen stated *Article 11 will appear on the ballot as written.*

Moderator Rydeen read aloud Article 12:

**ARTICLE 12:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of thirty-three thousand thirty-nine dollars (\$33,039) to purchase and equip a Police cruiser; and further to authorize the withdrawal of twenty-four thousand dollars (\$24,000) from the Police Capital Reserve Fund created for this purpose. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation 3-0. The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 8-0. Majority vote required.

Article 12 was moved by Gene Cordes and seconded by Greg Fraize.

Interim Police Chief Wood said that since last year the cruiser was voted down, thus the 2009 cruiser was not replaced and now has over 162,000 miles on it. However, that is an estimate since the odometer has broken. The 2012 vehicle expense was \$3,307.67. Mileage continues to accrue on all vehicles, and aging equipment causes increased maintenance costs. Wood pointed out that the Department relies on these vehicles to be top-notch performance and response vehicles, also on call by the EMS system. The new vehicle is a Ford Interceptor fully equipped at \$33,0399;

road ready. This equates to .02 cents on the tax rate for the portion of the item funded by taxes \$9,039.

There being no further discussion, Moderator Rydeen stated *Article 12 will appear on the ballot as written.*

Moderator Rydeen read aloud Article 13:

**ARTICLE 13:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of seven thousand eight hundred thirty-five dollars (\$7,835) for the purchase of OHRV equipment; and further to authorize the withdrawal of seven thousand eight hundred thirty-five dollars (\$7,835) from the OHRV Special Revenue Fund created for this purpose. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation 3-0. The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 8-0. Majority vote required. There is no amount to be raised from taxation for this article. Passage of this article reduces the operating budget of the Police Department.

Article 13 was moved by Gene Cordes and seconded by Greg Fraize.

Andy Kohlhofer wanted to know if we had taken money out of this fund last year.

Heidi Carlson advised this was not the case, it had failed. It has been voted down the past 2 or 3 years in a row.

H D Wood advised that this fund is used to help fund patrols of the Rockingham Trail, largely aided by grants from NH Fish & Game. The money in the special revenue fund comes from fines and summons issued, a portion of which comes back to the Town from the court system. Wood went on to explain the items to be purchased include; batteries, radios, portable chargers, traffic cones, ATV safety vests, and Motorola comports/communication devices that can be worn with helmets.

There being no further discussion, Moderator Rydeen stated *Article 13 will appear on the ballot as written.*

Annmarie Scribner made a motion to restrict reconsideration of Articles 2 through 13. Greta St Germain seconded. *The vote to restrict reconsideration of Articles 2 through 13 passed by card vote.*

Moderator Rydeen read aloud Article 14:

**ARTICLE 14:** 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 8-0. Majority vote required.

Greg Fraize moved Article 14. Dan Itse seconded.

Dave Barker asked if someone could tell us what this is for, is it sufficient, and if not, can we add to it.

Heidi Carlson said it does not include driving around and spraying all neighborhoods. It is primarily geared toward treating larvae and wetland areas. Up to two emergency sprays are done at the end of summer, for West Nile Virus and Eastern Equine Encephalitis. Spraying is not Town-wide, it only includes the grounds at Ellis School, fields at Memorial Park, and parking lots at the Safety Complex and Library. The full program costs between \$4,000 and \$8,000 per month; and also includes a large amount of mosquito collections and testing. The testing is done by the NH State Lab.

Andy Kohlhofer wanted to know if this includes every body of water or pool where they may exist. Heidi Carlson said no, not every wetland or water space is sampled. These are done in representative batches.

There being no further discussion, Moderator Rydeen stated *Article 14 will appear on the ballot as written.*

Moderator Rydeen read aloud Article 15:

**ARTICLE 15:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) to be placed in the 250<sup>th</sup> Celebration Expendable Trust Fund. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation 3-0. The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 7-1. Majority vote required.

Article 15 was moved by Dan Itse and seconded by Greg Fraize.

Andy Kohlhofer wanted to know if the Expendable Trust Fund can accept donations and who controls the funds.

Heidi Carlson said that donations cannot be placed in this fund. The Selectmen have ultimate control/approval of this Expendable Town Trust Fund pursuant to the manner it was set up last year at Town meeting, and expenses would be based on recommendations of the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee. Carlson stated that she believed the Committee was working on a non-profit status for acceptance of private donations.

Matthew Thomas spoke about 250<sup>th</sup> Committee Fundraising activities. The Committee meets frequently to try to raise money to offset expenses. Six thousand dollars (\$6,000) has been raised from souvenir sales, some of which will be used to generate more funds for the June, 2014 celebration. The cost of a marching band alone will be from \$800 - \$1,000. Additional expenses include portable toilets, lighting and power hook-ups, and field day events at Peterson's Farm on Martin Road. The Committee has discussed a variety of events being planned, such as an antique car show, militia group encampment, etc, and hopes for the community's support.



There being no discussion, Moderator Rydeen stated *Article 15 will appear on the ballot as written.*

Moderator Rydeen read aloud Article 16:

**ARTICLE 16:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) in support of Family Promise of Greater Rockingham County Inc, a new social service agency. If approved, this would become part of the annual operating budget for social service agencies. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation 3-0. The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 6-2. Majority vote required.

Article 16 was moved by Greg Fraize and seconded by Griffin Cordes.

Andy Kohlhofer wanted to know what Family Promise does. Heidi Carlson, reading from their request letter, said that Family Promise is a new social services agency, a local affiliate of a National organization which helps homeless families regain housing. It is a faith-based organization with a 77% success rate nationally. There is a 3 month average family participate in this service, and they rotate between volunteering churches, who shelter and feed the families usually for one week at a time.

Carlson stated that overall resources available to assist homeless families are dwindling. Dan Itse pointed out that this organization provides shelter in rural areas on a volunteer basis. We don't have shelters or similar services which would be available in more urban areas.

There being no further discussion, Moderator Rydeen stated *Article 16 will appear on the ballot as written.*

Moderator Rydeen read aloud Article 17:

**ARTICLE 17:** Pursuant to RSA 41:45-a, are you in favor of having the office of Town Clerk combined with the office of Tax Collector, thereby creating a new office of Town Clerk-Tax Collector to be held by one individual, with a term of 3 years? The Selectmen recommend this article 3-0. The Budget Committee recommends this article 8-0. Majority ballot vote required. If approved, an article shall be placed on the ballot at the next annual meeting (2014) to choose a Town Clerk-Tax Collector.

Article 17 was moved by Gene Cordes and seconded by Greg Fraize.

Kathy Picone observed that this has been on the ballot for quite a few consecutive years now and her feeling is that the people have spoken. She asked for more details on how this position will work.

Annmarie Scribner said the Board has kept it on the ballot because they feel it is needed and that Fremont is one of the last towns in the state not to combine the two positions. She said that first we need to get the position, if it passes, then the Town has a year to put together the proposal and

vote on funding for it. Scribner feels it is important to the Board, and sometimes it takes awhile for people to get used to the idea. She stated that the fire truck has been put back on the Warrant despite lack of passage to date as well.

Lori Holmes observed that this will be the fourth consecutive year on the ballot, the first being in March 2010. She shared that we are not one of the last towns with the combined Town Clerk / Tax Collector, and in fact, stated that many still have separate offices. Holmes encouraged voters to go to the Local Government Center (LGC) website where wages and benefits for most communities, as well as other relevant information, is provided in detail. The applicable RSA is intended to be a guideline specifically written for guidance on the process and verbiage that must be used on a ballot. Holmes wanted to know if this will be a 40 hour per week position, will one person be working or with an assistant/deputy, as well as what kind of funding and service ramifications will residents receive for their money.

Greta St Germain said not every town has combined these positions but that 75% have. There are LGC reports available on combined wages and benefits and the Selectmen also have this data available. She said the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee support the position. The Board of Selectmen feels it will be more efficient looking to the future, and would be done in conjunction with planned renovations of the Town Hall. They feel this is the best route, but that ultimately the townspeople will decide.

There was some discussion about people running for combination of the office.

Moderator Rydeen asked that if the Budget Committee supports this Article, on what have they based this decision why are they recommending it.

Gene Cordes stated that the Committee thought it was a good idea, but did not have any numbers to support it.

Kathy Piccone reiterated that this has been ongoing for four years. She feels that people still do not know the costs and prefer to have a detailed framework of the position to base a reasoned decision upon.

Gene Cordes asked if this was amendable or just discussion. The Moderator stated the article cannot be amended by law.

Ida Keane asked how many hours the Tax Collector works now and what is the compensation, and how many hours does the Town Clerk work now and what is the compensation.

Annmarie Scribner said the Tax Collector has office hours two (2) hours per week and the salary is \$16,500 per year, although is only required to by law to have office hours two (2) hours per month. She said there are other hours worked, especially during the busy times during tax collections. The Town Clerk presently has 23 open hours per week with four hours for administration, and that it is budgeted for 34 hours total per week with a salary of \$29,490. It is currently being prorated on an hourly basis since the first of the year. Scribner said in addition

there is \$1,000 in deputy (Town Clerk & Tax Collector) stipends to add, giving a total salary of a \$46,990 per year to work with.

Annmarie Scribner called the question. Greta St Germain seconded. *The vote to call the question passed by card vote.*

There being no further discussion, Moderator Rydeen stated *Article 17 will appear on the ballot as written.*

Annmarie Scribner moved to restrict reconsideration of Articles 14 through 17. Brett Hunter seconded. *The motion to restrict consideration of Articles 14 through 17 passed by card vote.*

Moderator Rydeen read aloud Article 18:

**ARTICLE 18:** To see if the Town will vote to designate as Town Forests, in accordance with NH RSA 31:110, the following parcels of land: Smith Land (Acquisition to supplement Glen Oakes Town Forest) Map 4 Lots 086, 088, and 089. The Selectmen recommend this article 3-0. The Conservation Commission recommends this article. The Budget Committee recommends this article 8-0. Majority vote required.

Article 18 was moved by Brett Hunter and seconded by Gene Cordes.

Andy Kohlhofer wanted to know what is the rationale for increasing the size of the Town forest.

Dennis Howland said this parcel adds just over 76 acres adjacent to the Spruce lot, which is one of the major aquifers in Rockingham County. Part of the overall process is to protect the soil, the recognizing that the Spruce swamp is very important aquifer for Rockingham County.

Andy Kohlhofer asked if there would be an opportunity to develop the land. The answer was provided that with the easement on the property, it will not be developed.

Rene King asked if there is a tax impact. Carlson answered that there is no tax impact to this designation, and further explained the approximate cost of the property and how it was funded. Of the total cost (\$220,000); \$65,000 was funded from tax dollars, most of which was repaid with grants.

Dennis Howland said the Town already owns it. Heidi Carlson said the land is subject to certain restrictions. Andy Kohlhofer said that with the Town so desperate for tax revenues, there is a need to keep any developable property taxable.

There being no further discussion, Moderator Rydeen stated *Article 18 will appear on the ballot as written.*

Annmarie Scribner moved to restrict reconsideration of Article 18, seconded by Greta St Germain. *The vote to restrict reconsideration passed by card vote.*

There being no further business to come before the legislative body, Gene Cordes made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:31 pm. Dan Itse seconded the motion. *The motion to adjourn passed by voice vote.*

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon V. Bryant  
Town Clerk