

TOWN OF FREMONT NH 2014 DELIBERATIVE SESSION

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2014

ELLIS SCHOOL 7:00 PM

Moderator Rydeen called the first session of the Annual Town Meeting to order at 7:00 pm. It is noted for the record that the Deliberative Session was postponed to its snow date by the Moderator. The Moderator made a decision on Tuesday afternoon February 4, 2014 and notices were posted to inform the public at all Town Buildings, and the Fremont Post Office. The decision was announced at the School Deliberative Session that evening, and it was posted on the doors of Ellis School at the conclusion of the School Deliberative Session on Tuesday night. At 10:00 pm it was posted on the Town's website and email distribution lists. This was done after the conclusion of the School Deliberative Session to avoid any confusion that the School Session had been moved.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, there was an Appreciation Award presentation made by our Selectmen, Gene Cordes, Brett Hunter and Leon Holmes Sr, to Mr. Charles Kimball for his service to the Fremont Budget Committee and Fire Department.

Moderator Rydeen stated that anyone who has not checked in with Supervisors of Checklist should please do so.

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 11, 2014 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 who are allowed to speak. 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 57 registered voters in attendance, of the 3001 registered voters in town, and a total of 59 persons present.

Seated at the head tables were Budget Committee members: Chairman Charles Kimball, Michael Nygren, Tyra Vargas and Greg Fraize; Town Counsel Dave Sayward; Selectmen Brett Hunter, Leon Holmes, Sr. and Gene Cordes (also the Representative to the Budget Committee); Town Administrator Heidi Carlson and Town Clerk Sharon Girardi.

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.

Moderator Rydeen read aloud the list of candidates running for office:

Selectman: 1 for 3 years

Sharon Girardi

Gene Cordes

Moderator: 1 for 2 years

Michael Rydeen

Town Clerk/Tax Collector: 1 for 3 years

Tyra Vargas
Nicole Cloutier

Trustee of Trust Funds: 1 for 3 years

Jeanne Nygren

Library Trustee: 1 for 3 years

John Hennelly

Supervisor of Checklist: 1 for 6 years

Elizabeth Rand

Budget Committee: 2 for 3 years

Tyra Vargas
Mary Anderson

Budget Committee: 1 for 2 years

Neal Janvrin

Budget Committee: 1 for 1 year

Mark Kidd

Cemetery Trustee: 1 for 3 years

None

Cemetery Trustee: 1 for 1 year

None

Moderator Rydeen read aloud Article 2.

ARTICLE 2: Are you in favor of amending ARTICLE XVIII of the Fremont Zoning Ordinance by changing Section 10.10 (a) to read as follows:

Article XVIII Section 10.10 (a) Standards for Building Lots and Site Design

Lot Shape and Size: House lots and building envelopes should generally be square or rectangular in shape and contain adequate upland area to accommodate average-sized houses and typical amenities such as garages, pools and sheds, including reasonable areas for expansion of these buildings. The minimum lot size shall be no less than three quarters (¾) of an acre or thirty two thousand six hundred and seventy (32,670) square feet per dwelling unit.

At least one half (1/2) of an acre or twenty one thousand seven hundred and eighty (21,780) square feet of contiguous land of every lot laid out (after the adoption of this amendment) for residential use shall be buildable land with soils dry enough to permit for installation and use of facilities for disposal of sanitary waste(s) disposal facilities and shall not have slopes exceeding twenty percent (20%).

(added text is in italics)

The Planning Board recommends this article.

Gene Cordes moved this article and Leon Holmes Sr. seconded. Article 2 was then open for discussion. This article is not eligible to be amended. With no discussion, Moderator Rydeen moved forward to the next article.

Moderator Rydeen read aloud Article 3.

ARTICLE 3: Are you in favor of amending ARTICLE XVIII of the Fremont Zoning Ordinance by changing Section 10.11 (e) to read as follows:

Article XVIII Section 10.11 (e) Open Space Standards

“Landscaping: Landscaping of common areas (such as community greens, cul-de-sac islands, and along both sides of new streets) shall be landscaped with deciduous shade trees may be required by the Planning Board”. The minimum caliper of trees along roadways shall be three (3) inches

measured at a point six (6) inches above the root ball, and spaced every one hundred (100) feet along the road right-of-way. Species *shall be deciduous shade trees and shall be salt tolerant.*

(added text is in *italics*, deleted text lined out)

The Planning Board recommends this article.

Gene Cordes moved this article and Brett Hunter seconded. Article 3 was then open for discussion. With no discussion, Moderator Rydeen moved forward to the next article.

Moderator Rydeen read aloud Article 4.

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote to adopt the following Ordinance:

**TOWN OF FREMONT
REGULATION OF HORSES, FARM ANIMALS AND POULTRY**

Pursuant to the authority conferred by the New Hampshire Revised Statutes Annotated Chapter 31:39, I (b) in order to promote the general welfare of the citizens of the Town of Fremont, the following Ordinance is hereby enacted:

SECTION 001. REGULATION

1.1 It shall be unlawful for the owner or keeper of any horse, farm animal or poultry to either willfully or negligently allow such animal to run at large in public places. "Run at large" shall be construed to mean off the property of the owner or keeper and not under the control of the owner or keeper by leash, cord, chain, or otherwise.

1.2 Any horse, farm animal or poultry found in a public place, and not under the control of its owner or keeper, may be taken into custody by the Fremont Animal Control Officer or a Fremont Police Officer. The Officer shall make reasonable efforts to notify the owner or keeper of the animal, before seizing it.

1.3 Any horse, farm animal or poultry that is seized by the Fremont Animal Control Officer or a Fremont Police Officer in a public place, where the owner or keeper cannot be identified or located, shall be held by the Town at a Town approved facility. The owner or keeper of the animals shall be responsible for all damages and expenses incurred in the capturing, transporting and holding of the escaped animal, boarding costs, and any medical care required by the holding facility.

SECTION 002. PENALTIES

2.1. Any owner or keeper of a horse, farm animal or poultry who willfully or negligently permits such animals to run at large in public places, may be subject to a penalty not exceeding \$1,000 for each offense. Any fine or penalty collected under this Ordinance shall be paid to the Town of Fremont.

2.2. In addition to any penalty, in conjunction with any penalty, or as an alternative to any penalty imposed under this Ordinance, the Town of Fremont may request that the Court require the owner or keeper of the horse, farm animal or poultry which has been impounded for running at large, to pay for the boarding and impoundment fees established by the animal shelter or holding facility and any reasonably necessary medical expenses incurred during the impoundment of the animal regardless of whether the owner or keeper retrieves the animal.

The Selectmen recommend this article 3-0. Budget Committee recommends this article 4-2. (Majority vote required)

Brett Hunter moved this article and Gene Cordes seconded. Article 4 was then open for discussion. With no discussion, Moderator Rydeen moved on to Article 5.

Moderator Rydeen read aloud Article 5.

ARTICLE 5: 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 sixty-one thousand seven hundred seventy-five dollars (\$461,775) 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 eighty-six thousand seven hundred seventy-five dollars (\$286,775) 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 6-0.** (3/5 ballot vote required)

Gene Cordes moved this article and Brett Hunter seconded. Article 5 was then open for discussion.

Citizen Joseph Nichols of 16 Middle Street, discussed the need for a new fire truck for Fremont. Mr. Nichols explained that there have been 29 fires since the beginning of the year, and they need to have reliable equipment to respond to these situations. He further explained that this expense will be a zero tax *impact* in 2014 with a \$.17 tax impact for each of the next two years, with the tax impact reducing in the final two years of the lease payment.

Dan Itse, 20 Kelsey Dr, asked if there was a balance due at the end of 5 years to take possession? Heidi Carlson explained that the fifth year lease payment releases the truck to the town with no further obligation.

With no further discussion, Moderator Rydeen moved on to Article 6.

Moderator Rydeen read aloud Article 6.

ARTICLE 6: 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 \$2,505,364? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$2,504,378 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 6-0.** (Majority vote required)

Brett Hunter moved and Mike Nygren seconded. Article 6 was then open for discussion.

Mike Nygren explained that budgets were submitted to the Budget Committee and this is the final number they voted to bring forward to the Town to vote on.

With no discussion, Moderator Rydeen moved on to Article 7.

Moderator Rydeen read aloud Article 7.

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to appoint the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from the Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund, previously established in 1984. **The Selectmen recommend this article 3-0. The Budget Committee recommends this article 6-0.** (Majority vote required)

Gene Cordes moved the article and Brett Hunter seconded. Article 7 was then open for discussion.

Selectman Cordes explained that the present Capital Reserve Fund, in its current state, needs approval by the legislative body to be spent. The Selectmen have not been able to obtain that permission. There are several cruisers needing repair/replacement. Approval of this article will allow the selectmen to make the decision to use the funds or not without the need for approval of the legislative body.

With no discussion, Moderator Rydeen moved on to Article 8.

Moderator Rydeen read aloud Article 8.

ARTICLE 8: 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 Bridge Construction and Reconstruction Capital Reserve Fund. **The Selectmen recommend this appropriation 3-0. The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 5-1.** (Majority vote required)

Gene Cordes moved the article and Brett Hunter seconded. Article 8 was then open for discussion. With no discussion, Moderator Rydeen moved on to Article 9.

Moderator Rydeen read aloud Article 9.

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) to be placed in the Town Hall Renovations Capital Reserve Fund. **The Selectmen recommend this appropriation 3-0. The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 5-1.** (Majority vote required)

Gene Cordes moved the article and Brett Hunter seconded. Article 9 was then open for discussion. With no discussion, Moderator Rydeen moved on to Article 10.

Moderator Rydeen read aloud Article 10.

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) to be placed in the Property Reassessment Capital Reserve Fund. **The Selectmen recommend this appropriation 3-0. The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 6-0.** (Majority vote required)

Gene Cordes moved the article and Brett Hunter seconded. Article 10 was then open for discussion. With no discussion, Moderator Rydeen moved on to Article 11.

Moderator Rydeen read aloud Article 11.

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 5-1.** (Majority vote required)

Gene Cordes moved the article and Brett Hunter seconded. Article 11 was then open for discussion. With no discussion, Moderator Rydeen moved on to Article 12.

Moderator Rydeen read aloud Article 12.

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 4-2.** (Majority vote required)

Gene Cordes moved the article and Brett Hunter seconded. Article 12 was then open for discussion. With no discussion, Moderator Rydeen moved on to Article 13.

Moderator Rydeen read aloud Article 13.

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of up to ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) to be placed in the Town Expendable Trust Fund for building repairs and maintenance. This sum to come from Unreserved Fund Balance and no amount to be raised from taxation. **The Selectmen recommend this appropriation 3-0. The Budget Committee recommends the appropriation 6-0.** (Majority vote required)

Brett Hunter moved the article and Gene Cordes seconded. Article 13 was then open for discussion. With no discussion, Moderator Rydeen moved on to Article 14.

Moderator Rydeen read aloud Article 14.

ARTICLE 14: 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 4-2.** (Majority vote required)

Brett Hunter moved the article and Gene Cordes seconded. Article 14 was then open for discussion.

Don Miller of 1 Danville Rd asked if this will replace equipment or be additional. Joe Nichols explained that this will replace aged equipment that is currently on hand.

With no discussion, Moderator Rydeen moved on to Article 15.

MOTION: Selectman Gene Cordes made a motion to restrict reconsideration on articles 5-14. Motion was seconded by Brett Hunter. Motion passed by card vote.

Moderator Rydeen read aloud Article 15.

ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) to reconstruct approximately 3,000 feet of Whittier Drive. **The Selectmen recommend this**

appropriation 3-0. The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 3-2-1. (Majority vote required)

Gene Cordes moved the article and Brett Hunter seconded. Article 15 was then open for discussion.

Don Miller of 1 Danville Road asked the Budget Committee: why was the vote from Budget Committee all over the place? Mike Nygren explained that he was a negative vote because although he doesn't have an issue with this article, he doesn't think the tax payers can afford all the warrants and if the Budget Committee agrees to every warrant, citizens will assume they agree with spending the money.

James Thompson of 81 Brown Brook Circle, asked if anyone can speak to the issues to Whittier Drive. He expressed concern that Fremont has not had an engineering study done on the roads and does not have a long range plan in place to replace roads as aging indicates is necessary. Heidi Carlson stated our Road Agent will start at the oldest part of road, beginning out at Chester Road, and work toward newer section. Currently the road does not have a lot of drainage; they will address this issue and repave should this pass.

Cynthia Crane of 203 Scribner Road asked, "Has there been an analysis done on all the roads in the town to see what needs to be addressed or is this based solely on citizen complaints?" Gene Cordes indicated that no formal study has been done; they identified the most problematic roads and are addressing them based on the age of the roads.

Tracy LaChance of 85 Hooke Road asked if we have anything in the budget to address other issues in the town. Heidi Carlson indicated there is approximately \$100,000 in the budget for re-pavement of roads in town. We have not had warrants like this in several years, but the Road Agent has requested this warrant specifically for this purpose this year.

Dan Itse of 20 Kelsey Drive asked what the total length of Whittier Drive is. Heidi Carlson indicated it was approximately 2.2 miles long.

Don Miller of 1 Danville Road, stated this is a fairly new road, in his opinion, he wondered if this the first time this has been repaired and are we outside of the window for to fall back on the initial bond? Gene Cordes indicated that this road was put in sometime in the 1980's and the condition is such that we need to target repairs. Heidi Carlson stated that this road is way outside the bond parameters.

Phil Coombs, 102 Chester Rd, stated that this seems like a duct tape approach; perhaps we need an engineering study as a master plan for all of our roads in Fremont. Mike Rydeen indicated that this would need to be another warrant article in another year.

With no further discussion, Moderator Rydeen moved on to Article 16.

Moderator Rydeen read aloud Article 16.

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 5-1.** (Majority vote required)

Gene Cordes moved the article and Brett Hunter seconded. Article 16 was then open for discussion. With no discussion, Moderator Rydeen moved on to Article 17.

Moderator Rydeen read aloud Article 17.

ARTICLE 17: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) to be placed in the 250th Celebration Expendable Trust Fund for the June 2014 Celebration. **The Selectmen recommend this appropriation 3-0. The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 4-2.**
(Majority vote required)

Gene Cordes moved the article and Brett Hunter seconded. Article 17 was then open for discussion. With no discussion, Moderator Rydeen moved on to Article 18.

Moderator Rydeen read aloud Article 18.

ARTICLE 18: Shall the Town rescind the provisions of RSA 31:95-c to restrict all of the revenues from Police Department OHRV and Town Ordinance fines and forfeitures, to expenditures for the purpose of Purchasing OHRV Safety and Enforcement Equipment? Such revenues and expenditures shall be accounted for in a special revenue fund to be known as the Police Department OHRV Safety and Enforcement Equipment Fund, separate from the general fund. Any surplus in said fund shall not be deemed part of the general fund accumulated surplus and shall be expended only after a vote by the legislative body to appropriate a specific amount from said fund for a specific purpose related to the purpose of the fund or the source of the revenue. Should Article 19 fail, this article shall be null and void. **The Selectmen recommend this appropriation 3-0. The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 6-0.**
(Majority vote required)

Gene Cordes moved the article and Brett Hunter seconded. Article 18 was then open for discussion.

Heidi Carlson stated that Articles 18 and 19 go hand in hand and the purpose is to change the funding mechanism that was put in place in 2001. At that time, a Special Revenue Fund was created to house revenues for tickets issued on the OHRV trails to address what was a major problem at the time. This Article will discontinue the Special Revenue Fund, which needs voter approval for expenditure. Article 19 proposes to put the money into a different type of fund, a Revolving Fund, for the same purpose. It does not raise any taxes because it is existing money that is not raised by taxes, but collected in fees and fines. If either Article 18 or 19 fail, they both fail. The ultimate goal is to spend money from revenues to buy equipment for OHRV safety and enforcement, and be able to remove those expenses from the Police Department operating budget.

With no discussion, Moderator Rydeen moved on to Article 19.

Moderator Rydeen read aloud Article 19.

ARTICLE 19: Shall the Town vote to establish a revolving fund pursuant to RSA 31:95-h for the purpose of providing public safety services. All revenues received from the Police Department's OHRV fines and forfeitures and Town Ordinance fines will be deposited into the fund and the money in the fund shall be allowed to accumulate from year to year, and shall not be considered part of the Town's General Fund unreserved fund balance. The Town Treasurer shall have custody of all moneys in the fund, and shall pay out the same only upon order of the Board of Selectmen and Police Chief and no further approval is required by the legislative body to expend. Said funds may be expended for purchasing OHRV safety gear and enforcement equipment, and to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) to be deposited into this fund and further to authorize this amount from the Unreserved Fund Balance. The name of the Revolving Fund will be the Police Department Safety and Enforcement Revolving

Fund. Should this Article fail then Article 18 shall be null and void. Should Article 18 fail, then this Article also fails. **The Selectmen recommend this appropriation 3-0. The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 6-0.** (Majority vote required)

Gene Cordes moved the article and Brett Hunter seconded. Article 19 was then open for discussion. With no discussion, Moderator Rydeen moved on to Article 20.

Moderator Rydeen read aloud Article 20.

ARTICLE 20: Shall the Town vote to establish a revolving fund pursuant to RSA 31:95-h for the purpose of police special detail wages, benefits, administrative costs, supplies, equipment, and cruisers and to raise and appropriate the sum of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) to be deposited into the fund. Further, all revenues received for police special details will be deposited into the fund, and the money in the fund shall be allowed to accumulate from year to year, and shall not be considered part of the Town's General Fund Unreserved Fund Balance. The Town Treasurer shall have custody of all monies in the fund, and shall pay out the same only upon order of the Board of Selectmen and no further approval is required by the legislative body to expend. After payment of police special detail wages, benefits, administrative costs, supplies and other equipment, the fund may also be used for the purpose of purchasing new cruisers for police special details. Such funds may be expended only for the purpose for which the fund was created. **The Selectmen recommend this appropriation 3-0. The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 6-0.** (Majority vote required)

Gene Cordes moved the article and Brett Hunter seconded. Article 20 was then open for discussion.

Gene Cordes indicated this is patented from what has occurred in other towns, and that this Article is intended to be self-sustaining.

MOTION: Motion to amend this amount to \$1.00 was made by Gene Cordes. Motion seconded by Brett Hunter.

Motion was opened for discussion by Moderator Rydeen.

Heidi Carlson explained this fund will separate out of the budget the \$41,000 that we raise annually in the budget and we will track it separately and if at the end of the year we have extra dollars we will add them here and save them toward future cruiser purchases. It is somewhat of a savings account for the police to use toward future purchases thus reducing the tax burden.

James Thompson of 81 Brown Brook Circle asked what a special detail is. Heidi Carlson explained if Asplundh is here working on a tree, they hire a police officer to direct traffic. Situations like this are special details. Officers are paid to do this detail and sometimes there is extra money from these details. Any extra saved would be used to purchase police cruisers in future years.

Motion to amend passed by card vote.

Further discussion on the article: Don Miller, 1 Danville Road, questions if we restrict the flow of revenue by creating revolving fund do we run the risk of raising taxes to fill the gaps? Heidi Carlson indicated the money spent for details has always been self-funding, and there may be slightly less returned to the general fund, but that the goal is never for this to affect taxes. The rates would be increased if the costs increased so that taxpayers do not fund details.

With no further discussion, Moderator Rydeen moved on to Article 21.

Moderator Rydeen read aloud Article 21.

ARTICLE 21: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) to be placed in the Emergency Management Equipment Capital Reserve Fund. **The Selectmen recommend this appropriation 3-0. The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 4-2.** (Majority vote required)

Gene Cordes moved the article and Brett Hunter seconded. Article 21 was then open for discussion.

Margie Diggins of 41 Scribner Road asked if anyone calculated the impact on annual taxes if everything passes. Heidi Carlson indicated that on the buff colored handout, on the back page, there is an estimated tax rate impact that indicates if all warrant articles pass the tax impact would be \$.97 over the current rate. The operating budget is calculated, and then each Warrant Article as a separate tax rate impact.

Vic Sokul of 68 Rowe Drive wondered how big the generators are that we intend to purchase to use the school as a shelter. Heidi Carlson was not sure about the answer to this question. Vic provided some information to the group about using the school as a shelter, having worked at a school district that was a shelter.

Phil Coombs of 102 Chester Road, asked what the allotment for fuel for these generators is. Heidi Carlson indicated that this is only for equipment purchase to get us started. He then asked how old is the generator at Safety Complex? Heidi Carlson indicated that it was donated to the Town and it was 20 years old already when Nynex donated it over 15 years ago. It is experiencing issues now that it is older. The purpose for this Warrant Article is to plan for its use when there are grants available that offset some but not all of the cost.

With no further discussion, Moderator Rydeen moved on to Article 22.

Moderator Rydeen read aloud Article 22.

ARTICLE 22: Shall we rescind the provisions of RSA 40:13 (Known as SB2), as adopted by the Town of Fremont, NH on 3-13-2007, so that the official ballot will no longer be used for voting on all questions, but only for the election of officers and certain other questions for which the official ballot is required by state law? (By petition) **The Selectmen recommend this appropriation 3-0. The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 4-1.** (3/5 ballot vote required)

Gene Cordes moved the article and Brett Hunter seconded. Article 22 was then open for discussion.

MOTION: Joseph Nichols made a motion to amend this to strike 2007 in the date to read 03/11/2008. Motion seconded by Gene Cordes. Motion passed by card vote.

MOTION: Gene Cordes made a motion to amend the date to be 3-11-2008. Brett Hunter seconded.

Discussion on the Motion: Matthew Thomas clarified the dates for the group. The Town voted to approve SB2 voting on Tuesday March 11, 2008.

Motion passed by card vote.

Discussion continues on amended article: Joseph Nichols, 16 Middle Street, stated he put this petition together because people are asking questions after they vote rather than coming to the Deliberative Session to understand the warrants prior to voting. He explained his perception regarding information he gathered on SB2 voting and how it is different from what actually occurs, in his opinion, in our Town. He feels that by rescinding SB2 we bring the vote back to the Deliberative Session and to those that take the time to come out and get educated on the articles at hand.

Keith Stanton, 24 Birch Haven said he has been in town for many years and states that tonight's attendance (57 registered voters) is typical in all the years he has attended. He states that there was a letter that went home stating that the Budget Committee recommended this appropriation and wanted to know what the appropriation is. Heidi Carlson clarified that this was a typographical error and it should read 'article' not 'appropriation'. He further asked the Budget Committee who the nay vote was. Michael Nygren indicated that he was the nay vote on the Budget Committee. Stanton then questioned the Moderator on his co-authoring this citizens' petition. The Moderator stated that as a Moderator he must remain unbiased while moderating and should he choose to speak, he must step down to do so, however, he was in his right to sign this petition. Mr. Stanton stated he does not support this article.

Heidi Carlson clarified that the DRA and the Town's Attorney had advised the Selectmen that we voted tally voting in so our Budget Committee and Selectmen must vote their recommendation on every article except for Zoning Ordinance changes, which are recommended by the Planning Board.

Mary Jo Holmes of 602 Main Street has had the privilege to work on Budget Committee in Town and has had community members say things like it's nice to go to the polls and vote everything down. She's concerned that our Town will suffer should this article not pass. She is asking people to vote in support of this article.

Matthew Thomas of 225 South Road stated that it is not appropriate to assume that everyone votes based on the recommendations of the Budget Committee and make the assumption that people are not educated.

MOTION: Matthew Thomas made a motion to change the word appropriation to article. Leon Holmes Sr. seconded the motion. Motion passed by card vote.

Ida Keane of 123 Sleeper Circle stated that she likes SB2. She feels that with SB2 more people get out to vote. She feels that perhaps the Selectmen should consider changing their strategy so that these important items are moved into the budget rather than have excessive warrant articles. She would not want to see SB2 rescinded. She does not support this article.

Marion Guidoboni of 63 Cavil Mill Road stated she had looked into this topic and conducted research and reported at a previous meeting. What bothered her most is that she was told by all school districts that SB2 would work but you have to get the information out there. Since SB2 our Town Report is not longer mailed to the households, so the information, in her opinion, is not getting to the voters.

Matthew Thomas of 225 South Road feels that many of the issues that people feel traditional Town Meeting doesn't address are in fact able to be addressed, for example, if the community feels that discussion is too long, the attendees can limit discussion or end discussion. There is no excuse for people to not be informed in this town. We have a town newsletter, it's on the internet, it can be automatically sent to your inbox, it is mailed in hard copy in January. If you want a secret ballot, you can request one, and he feels that SB2 has not saved Fremont money. He highly recommends rescinding SB2.

Joseph Nichols of 16 Middle Street stated that Department Heads were told to cut their budgets one year. In that year, the higher, default budget was voted in. The townspeople voted no and put in a higher budget. He wonders how that is educated voting.

Wendy Downing of 447 Main Street stated that she is a lifelong resident. She explained that typically she can't make town meetings due to work, and clarified that she took tonight off to be here, but most of the time she isn't available, however, she feels that she can get the information and have the opportunity to be educated without going to the meeting. She appreciates the opportunity to have her vote count because of SB2. She does not support this article.

Mark Kidd, 26 Scribner Road Unit 1, asked if we did go back to Town Meeting will it be held on Saturday. Gene Cordes responds that history shows it has been on Saturdays in the past, and the people can decide.

Matthew Thomas of 225 South Road stated that Guerwood Holmes made a motion to have Town Meeting on Saturday evenings back in the 1980's and that's when it was held until one Board of Selectmen changed it back to during the week when we moved to Deliberative Session. He feels that it will never be convenient for everyone, all you can do is pick what you think is the best night to get the most people out. It all depends on the Warrant Articles and the passion felt for them, but the people in attendance can stop discussion at any time.

With no discussion, Moderator Rydeen moved on to his Final Notes Information slide.

Final notes: Moderator Rydeen read the slide to the community. It included details on voting, which will be held on Tuesday March 11, 204 at Ellis School. Polls are open 7:00 am to 8:00 pm.

MOTION: Motion to adjourn at 8:44 was made by Gene Cordes. Motion seconded by Brett Hunter. Motion passed by card vote.

Respectfully submitted.



Sharon Girardi
Town Clerk