

Report of the Board of Selectmen

We have had a busy year with work on the basement renovations at the Town Hall, along with several other big road projects, and the daily work of overseeing the Town's operations. The Board has worked hard throughout the year, with our Department Heads and the Town Administrator to meet the Town's needs and while at the same time, live within the Town's budget. Small town NH government and communities depend significantly on volunteers and those who seek public office for little or no compensation. The Board of Selectmen wishes to thank everyone who makes it possible: elected and appointed officials, Department Heads and employees and the ever present volunteers. Thank you for all your service and commitment to the Town of Fremont.

In March, Gene Cordes was reelected to the Board of Selectmen for a 3 year term. The Board works well together and continues to be very dedicated to the Town and its operations. Collectively, we have many years of experience in Town Official capacities.



The annual patriotic events are some of the great community events we participate in. This includes the Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony at the Village Cemetery, the Veteran's Day event at the Fremont Town Hall and Wreaths Across America

ceremony at the Fremont Town Hall. These three events honor our past and present military services members. As a community we are thankful and respectful of the work and sacrifice of all who put themselves in harm's way for our safety and protection. This includes all of our Public Safety officials as well.

We welcomed United States Navy Lieutenant Eric Whicker as our guest speaker on a beautiful Memorial Day morning. The Board also made a presentation to long-time Memorial Day participant Bob Frye. He and his family has been involved in Fremont's Memorial Day services for over 100 years.



Accomplishments in 2017 included:

- Near completion of the renovation work in the basement of the Fremont Town Hall. This has been a multi-year project and began about four years ago as we began replacement of the aged heating system in the building. At year end this work was nearly complete, with some finishing touches planned for the new year.
- Drilling of a new well at the Fremont Safety Complex. For many years we have known that the existing pump had a limited life, and that it was stuck in the well chamber and unable to be removed if it failed. We encumbered funding after an RFP process at the end of 2016, and had this work completed in the spring of 2017. 2017 saw the 20th year in this building, and the debt was retired that funded the building's construction.
- Installation of Automatic External Defibrillator Units at the Fremont Town Hall, Safety Complex, and the Fremont Public Library.
- Under the leadership of the Road Agent significant road improvements were completed on North Road. This was funded through Town voter support in a Warrant Article, and we received an added boost with unanticipated funding from the State in SB 38 with additional, unrestricted HW Block Grant Funds in the amount of \$99,049.55. These added funds went exclusively toward additional paving work.
- Finish paving was completed on Sandown Road and half of Whittier Drive.
- Replacement of outdated Police laptop computers. With a grant, the Chief was also able to buy mobile printers that will expand current Department capabilities from the cruiser.
- Replacement of additional Fire Rescue portable radios.
- Substantial progress in replacement of the generators at the Town Hall and Safety Complex, and a new generator install at the Highway Shed.

Year-end encumbrances included:

- Replacement server work at the Town Hall and the Fremont Police Department
- Repair of the Safety Complex Fire Alarm Panel Controller
- Repair of the pump on Fire Rescue Department's Engine 1
- Conversion of furnaces at the Safety Complex to LP fuel
- Fire Rescue services consultant (additional meetings and planning sessions)
- Additional Fire Rescue Department portable radios
- Repair of the Safety Complex Roof

With the passage of 2017 Warrant Article 18, a subscriber franchise fee was reinstituted to be able to keep the Fremont Community Television (FCTV) initiative alive. The FCTV Committee continues meeting monthly and this included meeting with Comcast representative relative to reinstituting the franchise fee as well as continuing with a cable contract.

FCTV continues to progress with more live and recorded broadcasts and developing the capacity to broadcast from more locations in Fremont. Live broadcast is active at the Fremont

Public Library and was used frequently in 2017 while the Town Hall was under renovations, and for overflow meetings. We believe these broadcasts continue to have a developing audience of regular viewers and the feedback has been positive. Elsewhere in the Town Report there is a FCTV Committee report. The success of the FCTV development has been largely driven by the efforts of a few residents. We are most appreciative of their vision and commitment to this initiative. Bruce White is to be commended for his hard work during this past year of transition, and his team of operators (Bill Millios, Felicia Augevich and Alex Coulombe) have done a tremendous job of keeping FCTV moving forward.

In addition to funds in the Town's operating budget for the maintenance and repairs of Fremont streets there are two Warrant Articles addressing other needed road repairs. WA # 14 that is specifically dedicated to the repair and pavement of Beede Hill; and WA # 15 dedicated to the repair and pavement of Red Brook Road. Fremont has over 40 miles of roadway. Generally, the useful life of a paved surface is about 20 years. Therefore, it is important that we routinely address the maintenance and repair needs of our streets. Deferring needed road work means the needs will be greater in the future and Town will have deteriorating road conditions until they are repaired.

Once again we are thankful for the past support of the Town's voters / taxpayers. The Board of Selectmen is grateful for the opportunity to serve the Fremont community and looks forward to working with you in 2018.

Respectfully submitted,

The Fremont Board of Selectmen
Gene Cordes, Chair
Neal R Janvrin
Roger A Barham



Youth Teams marching at the Memorial Day Parade
28 May 2017
Photo Courtesy of Heidi Carlson