

Report of the Board of Selectmen

The Board of Selectmen, Department Heads and the Town Administrator have worked hard throughout the year to meet the Town's needs and while at the same time, live within the Town's budget. It should be pointed out that NH small town 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 its 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, Roger Barham was elected to the Board of Selectmen for a 3 year term. Leon Holmes Sr ended his second stint on the Board of Selectmen, having previously served in the 1980s and early 1990s. We wish to thank Leon for his years of service. He continues to serve on the Fremont Planning Board and remains active in Town matters. The current Board continues to be very dedicated and collectively has many years of experience in Town official capacities.

Events within the year included 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 our Police and Fire Rescue Departments.

In the 2015 Town Meeting Warrant the voters approved the purchase of a replacement fire truck. The fire truck was ordered in 2015 and the manufacturing of the fire truck was completed 2016. The truck was received in the fall of 2016 and placed in service. The truck had been needed for several years so its arrival was greatly anticipated. Thanks again to the voters for supporting this purchase in 2015.

Accomplishments in 2016 included:

- Completed repairs to the Library's wood framed vent towers. Warrant Article # 7 in the 2017 Warrant asks for continued funding for the Library Building Expendable Trust Fund so that there is adequate funding for future replacement and repair needs.
- Water tank replacement of the Fire Department's Tank 4 as its old tank had a leak that was not repairable. The tank replacement work was contracted for in 2015 and completed in 2016.
- Continued with for the Town Hall heating system replacement work. The work is being completed in phases along with Town Hall basement renovations. Steady progress is being made and it is anticipated that the work can be completed in 2017.
- Additional Automatic External Defibrillator Units for Fremont Fire, EMS and Police vehicles as well as ordering additional units that are anticipated to be manufactured in the spring of 2017. Once received, they will be placed at the Safety Complex, Library, and Town Hall.

- Under the leadership of the Road Agent significant road improvements were made to Sandown Road and Whittier Drive.
- Replacement of outdated Fire and Police portable radios, with continued planning for additional units over time.

Year-end encumbrances included:

- Some of the trade work associated with the Town Hall basement renovation work
- Replacement assessing software server
- Gate repair/refurbishing at Village Cemetery
- Replacement well at the Safety Complex
- Generator replacement

The Fremont Community Television (FCTV) initiative 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 more frequently in 2016. It is the Board's understanding that the 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. As the capacity has been developed, the FCTV Revolving Fund, that was 100 % funded by fees paid by Comcast subscribers, is being utilized. In the Town Warrant, Article 18 seeks approval to reinstitute a fee through Comcast to fund Fremont Community Television's continued operations. The fee would be applicable to television services, only. 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.

We would also like to point out that in addition to the funds planned in the Town's operating budget for the maintenance and repairs of Fremont streets there is Warrant Article # 12 that is specifically dedicated to the repair and pavement overlay of North 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 everyone again in 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

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