

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 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, Neal Janvrin was elected to the Board of Selectmen for a three year term. Brett Hunter ended his time on the Board of Selectmen after over six years of service on the Board. We wish to thank Brett for his years of service. The current Board continues to be very dedicated and collectively has over 30 years of experience as Selectmen.

Events within the year included the Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony at the Village Cemetery, the Veteran's Day event and Wreaths Across America Ceremony, both held 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 Fremont Fire Department has been in need of this truck for several years and after previous unsuccessful efforts, the purchase was authorized. Fire trucks are custom designed and made. After the design was finalized, the order for the new truck was placed during the summer months. The new truck is anticipated to be received and ready to go into service by the fall of 2016.

Accomplishments in 2015 include:

- Completed the roof replacement and painting of the Historic Museum at 282 Main Street. This included trimming and removal of some dead trees very close to the building.
- Completed additional repairs to the library roof. The roof repair /replacement work was started in 2014 in response to unanticipated roof leaks. The work that was completed in 2015 was contracted and funds encumbered in 2014. Warrant Article 4 in the 2016 Warrant asks for additional funding in the Library Building Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund so that there is adequate funding for future replacement and repair needs.
- Initiated the replacement of the Town Hall heating system. The work is being completed in phases with the remaining work to be completed in 2016. There is a contract in place and the funds are encumbered for the future work. The funding for this came from the operating budget. Utilizing Capital Reserve Funds, we anticipate completing some renovations and improvements to the lower level of the Town Hall in 2016.

- Continued with the engineering design work for the replacement of the Martin Road Bridge utilizing funds from a Capital Reserve Fund dedicated for this purpose. The Town is on the waiting list for State of New Hampshire Bridge Aid funding to be available for this project.
- Year-end encumbrances also included:
 - Water tank replacement of the Fire Department's Tank 4 Truck as the tank has a leak that is not repairable.
 - Additional Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) Units for the Safety Services, Fremont Town Hall, Safety Complex and Public Library.
 - Purchase of replacement lawn care equipment
 - Repair paving a section of Taylor Lane
 - Wage study for 10 Town and Library positions
 - Equipment and set up for police cruisers

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. It is the Board's understanding that the broadcasts have a developing audience of regular viewers and the feedback has been positive. Elsewhere in the Town Report there will be the FCTV report. As the capacity has been developed, the FCTV Revolving Fund, that was 100 % funded by franchise fees paid by Comcast subscribers, is being utilized. It is anticipated that on a future Town Warrant, approval will be sought to reinstitute a franchise fee through Comcast to continue to fund Fremont Community Television's operations. The success of the FCTV development has been largely driven by the volunteer efforts of Bruce White, Bill Millios, Leo Danjou, Karen Gehalo and our consultant from RCTV, Kevin Woods. We are most appreciative of the vision and commitment to this initiative.

Last winter is remembered for the frequency and snow depth of the winter storms. This was a significant ongoing challenge for our Highway Department and the contractors hired to maintain our streets in the winter. We are thankful to the Road Agents, employees and contractors who did a great job at keeping our streets open and safe. One of the effects of last winter's storms was the cost over-run of the Highway Department winter maintenance which then impacted the budgeted funds available for road repairs, specifically money earmarked for paving, during the summer months. In the 2016 Town Warrant, Article 3 seeks to create an Expendable Town Trust Fund for highway winter maintenance. The intent would be to utilize the fund to help cover costs in years when there are extreme winter storms, thereby avoiding the need to routinely budget for extreme winter weather and also to avoid the situation where overspending on winter costs reduces the budgeted funds available for summer maintenance and repair projects.

We would also like to point out that in the Town Warrant there are two articles that have to do with repairs and overlays of Fremont streets. Fremont has over 40 miles of streets. 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.

Without a Recycling Committee in Fremont, we have lost touch in recent years with reporting on our municipal solid waste generation (MSW) and recycling numbers. We reviewed this information for the 2015 calendar year and are pleased to report slightly greater than 20% recycling average in Fremont. This is still some distance from the State's original goal of 40% diversion (recycling) to have been attained by the year 2000 as mandated by NH RSA 149-M:2. State averages overall are closer to 30%, so we do have more to accomplish.

Historical MSW and Recycling numbers are shown in the charts below:

Year	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007
Volume of Recycled Material	378.90	363.69	310.21	348.86	342.88	330.83	326	309.02	261.10
Volume of MSW Tipped	1,368.05	1,365.04	1,329.98	1,331.44	1,316.15	1,319.31	1,300.81	1,399.48	1,846.48
Total Tonnage	1,746.95	1,728.73	1,640.19	1,680.30	1,659.03	1,650.14	1,626.81	1,708.50	2,107.58
% Recycled	21.60%	21.03%	18.91%	20.76%	20.66%	20.04%	20.03%	18.08%	14.14%

These volume numbers are in tons. Our tonnage of MSW was greatly reduced from pre-2008 amounts, when we converted to the toter program. This in essence forced a move toward greater recycling as only one toter is allowed per household unit in accord with the trash contract. In 2007 for example, the amount of MSW was 1,846.48. In 2007 dollars (at \$64.51 per ton) this is a significant savings for the 447 tons which were not tipped in 2008. These amounts are also supplemented by the tons of scrap metal recycled on our bi-annual Bulky Drop-off days, as bulk waste costs significantly more per ton to dispose of. ***Every ton we recycle saves the Town \$61.85 in tipping fees, and every bulky ton recycled saves \$73.50!***

Recycling bins are available at the Town Hall during business hours, and recycling information is available on the website (Trash & Recycling link from the homepage); or by contacting the Selectmen's Office at 895 2226 x 11. We have seen families as large as 7 and 8 able to keep trash in one toter, simply by the amount they recycle each week.

The Town suffered a great loss this fall when Meredith Bolduc ended a courageous battle with cancer in October. Many people have known Meredith over the years in her most-recent capacity as Land Use Administrative Assistant. As many as 30 years ago she did a variety of things for the Board of Selectmen, including taking and preparation of weekly meeting minutes; and had been a member of the Zoning Board of Adjustment for years even prior to that. Her significant knowledge of Fremont history, and her help to our office is still greatly missed.

Once again we are grateful for the opportunity to serve the Fremont community and look forward to working with everyone again in 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

The Fremont Board of Selectmen
Gene Cordes, Chair
Leon F Holmes Sr
Neal R Janvrin



Selectmen being introduced to Miss Fremont 2015 and Little Miss Fremont 2015 Pageant Winners during a Selectmen's Meeting in August 2015

Selectmen: Leon Holmes Sr, Neal Janvrin, Gene Cordes
Little Miss Fremont Tessa Donigian and Miss Fremont Ashley Buchanan

Photo Courtesy of Heidi Carlson