

## **Report of the Board of Selectmen**

The Board of Selectmen began the new year again with hope and optimism, ever mindful of the difficult economy, which is a focus of so many Fremont families. Voters supported the default budget at the 2011 Town Meeting and the Board allocated these monies among the Town's Departments based on need and the Departments initial budget submissions. We were able to allocate some additional money to the highway budget, resulting in improvements and repaving on a section of Sandown Road.

The Memorial Day Parade was a great success. Our guest speaker was Alex Melanson, a Fremont Resident, whose father Darren, has been deployed. We thank Alex for his heartfelt contributions to our ceremony. The more local people who are involved, the more special it is for all of us. We are thankful to the many organizations and committees that sponsor events that involve the community.

We completed the 2011 calendar year with only one borrowing in anticipation of taxes. The conversion to bi-annual tax billing has substantially improved the Town's cash flow. We have saved thousands of dollars in interest payments, compared to recent years when taxes were billed annually.

The Town's assessing contract was due for renewal in April. After a competitive bid process, it was again awarded to MRI. The Board reduced the level of services and thus saw a reduction in the contract cost.

The Board continued work on the adoption of policies that are needed in to provide protection, add transparency to the fiscal responsibilities required of the Board for the Town overall. After a full year of work, the Town of Fremont's Personnel Policy was completed and adopted on December 15, 2011. The Board also drafted and adopted an Information Sensitivity Policy mid year. As with all policies and procedures, these are "living" documents that will serve the Town for years to come.

We continued to work on updating of our computer systems and security of the Town's records. Two new systems in the Selectman's Office were updated, and a secondary backup system was installed at year end for Town Hall records to be backed up at the Police Station and vice-versa. This is another level of security for any potential malfunctioning of our systems.

The Town Treasurer's work space and associated records were all moved to the Town Hall this year. The conversion to QuickBooks was completed, with all users (Treasurer, Bookkeeper/Clerk, and Town Administrator) being trained on how to work with the new system. In furtherance of our financial oversight goals, the Town also put the annual audit work out to bid, and chose a new vendor to work with us of the 2011 fiscal year audit.

As has become the norm, we could not get through a year without a major storm. The October Snowfest as it was called, hit Fremont hard on October 29<sup>th</sup>. Power outages again lasted in

some areas up to nearly a week. Fremont's Trick or Treat was postponed by one week due to the storm. As usual, our emergency service and road crews were there throughout, helping residents weather the storm.

Planning and organization of the election officials resulted in a smooth transition to the Town's new polling location at Ellis School. The Safety Complex has outgrown its use in recent years, and can be a hindrance to the emergency operations at the building. We thank the Fremont School Board and School Administration, along with the Election Officials (Town Clerk, Moderator, and Supervisors of the Checklist) for their assistance in changing the new polling location to the Ellis School. The NH Primary recently held in early January at the Ellis School was successful!

Nearing year's end, after researching to find the right fit, the Board contracted with Virtual Town Hall to re-design a new town website. The Board has been working on this for several months. Just into the new year, the real work of editing and organizing content began, and we hope the new site will be on line by spring. Our web address remains the same, [www.Fremont.nh.gov](http://www.Fremont.nh.gov) and enhancements on the new site will include a list-serve that you can sign up for notification of a variety of town mailings and information. This will generate an email to you once a particular item is posted to the site. We hope this will be a valuable tool. As of 2012, the Town Newsletter will only be mailed a few times per year, but is still available on the website. This will also be one of the items you can e-subscribe to, once the new site is up and running. Watch for details this spring.

The People's United Methodist Church, with some assistance from our office and the Fremont Garden Club, led us in the first annual Wreath Across America Program on Saturday December 10<sup>th</sup>. This program places wreaths on Veteran's graves and town monuments during the holiday season. This program was well-attended, and a fitting tribute to all of our Veterans. We hope it might be an annual observance.



The 250<sup>th</sup> Celebration of Fremont is one year closer. The 250th Committee is working diligently to make this a wonderful event for the Town in June of 2014. We hope the Town chooses to support this special event. Anyone interested in being involved should contact the Town Historian Matthew Thomas.

It has been a pleasure serving you and we look forward to the challenges in 2012.

Respectfully submitted,

Brett A Hunter, Chair  
Greta St Germain  
Annmarie Scribner

*“Whether it be to failure or success, the first need of being is endurance ~  
To endure with gladness if we can, with fortitude in any event.”*  
~ Bliss Carman

Photo Courtesy of Matthew Thomas  
December 10, 2011  
Wreaths Across America Program at the Fremont Town Hall