

Report of the Fremont Budget Committee

To Fremont Residents and Taxpayers,

The Town of Fremont is governed by the Municipal Budget Law, RSA Chapter 32 and according to RSA 32:1, the purpose of the Budget Committee is “to assist voters in the prudent appropriations of public funds.” The members of the Fremont Budget Committee are elected by the voters of Fremont and they oversee and analyze the expenditures of the various Town Departments and the Fremont School District.

The Budget Committee can vote to recommend amounts for various purposes that are higher or lower than amounts proposed by the Governing Body. The Budget Committee makes recommendations to the community, and in the end **the voters are the ones who will decide what the budget will be.**

This past year, the Budget Committee met in April and August and then weekly from September to January. During these meetings, members of the Budget Committee discussed with members of the Board of Selectmen, Department Heads and Town Administrator, School Board, School Superintendent and Finance Director as to the rationale for their recommendations. After careful consideration and analysis, the Budget Committee agreed with some recommendations and other times they recommended alternative budgets. As a matter of reference, it is important to remember that for every \$416,000 increase in spending, the tax rate will increase \$1.00. So, as an example a \$1.00 increase in the tax rate means that for every \$200,000 valuation of your property, your taxes will increase \$200 annually.

The School and Town Deliberative Sessions were held this past week. This was an opportunity for Fremont voters to learn more about what they will be voting on March 12. Also, those in attendance have an opportunity to make some changes to the articles which was done as well. Unfortunately, there were technical difficulties with the recording of the School Deliberative Session so residents will not be able to view it on FCTV. However, the Town Deliberative Session was over 4 hours long and was recorded and will be running on FCTV over the next month. If you watch the meeting, you will find out that the Board of Selectmen just learned about 3 weeks ago (after the Public Budget Hearing) about a bridge problem on Sandown Road. There was a lengthy discussion on how the Town can complete and pay for the needed repairs. Other articles were revised as well and there are a number of Zoning Ordinance amendments on the Warrant. The full Warrant can be found on the Town of Fremont home page. This is what we will be voting on March 12.

Fremont School District – The proposed School budget for 2019/20 is \$12,349,713 which represents an increase of \$328,901 (2.74%). However, the amount to be appropriated by taxes has increased \$821,983. The \$821,983 increase is after the Budget Committee requested that the School Board cut \$410,550 from the School budget and this was done. The reason for the large difference between the budget and the appropriation is that there was revenue in previous years to reduce the amount to be raised by taxes as there were funds that were

appropriated for Sanborn tuition which were not paid, which in turn were “returned” by the School District to reduce the tax impact. With the \$821,983 increase in appropriation this year and the collective bargaining contract changes for teachers (\$67,947) for year 1 of the contract, this represents over a \$2.00 increase per one thousand dollars of your property valuation. In other words, if everything is approved for the School Warrant Articles, for every \$200,000 valuation of your home, your taxes will increase \$400 this year.

Town Budget -- The Town operating budget proposed by the Budget Committee is \$3,103,730 which represents an increase of \$138,259 for the 2019 fiscal year over the 2018 operating budget appropriation--\$65,000 of this increase is due to the solid waste pickup and disposal which is something that is changing in every community. If you listen to the meeting on FCTV you will hear why this has happened. Additionally, there are a number of Warrant Articles to be considered by the voters. It is difficult to determine the total tax impact of these Warrant Articles as it depends on what is approved or not by the voters. However, significant amendments were approved at the Deliberative Session so if the budget is approved and all Warrant Articles are approved it means approximately a \$.31 (31 cent) increase in the tax rate. In other words, if everything is approved, for every \$200,000 valuation of your home, your taxes would increase approximately \$62 for Town purposes.

As a community, we have a lot of decisions to make for the Town and School. We urge you to watch the Town Deliberative Session on FCTV, read and review the Warrant Articles and be an informed voter on March 12.

The Budget Committee has worked diligently to put forth a budget to meet the needs of the Town and School while at the same time we are cognizant of the tax burden on our residents. We are all taxpayers and understand the need to keep the tax rate increases reasonable while at the same time attempting to meet the needs of the Town and School District.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary A. Anderson, Chair
Patricia Martel, Assistant Chair
Brittany Thompson, School Board
Representative
Gene Cordes, Selectmen's
Representative

Mary Jo Holmes
Jonathan Starr

Joe Miccile
Joshua Yokela

Fremont Fire Rescue operations at a
Main Street fire scene in April 2018. This is
the Department's newest (2017) Engine.
Photo courtesy of Joe Nichols

This report updated after the School and Town
Deliberative Sessions.

