

Report of the Fremont Budget Committee

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 appropriation of public funds.” The members of the Fremont Budget Committee are elected by the residents 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 propose 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.

The Fremont Budget Committee met in April and August and then weekly from September to January with the exceptions of holiday weeks. During these meetings, members of the Budget Committee discussed with members of the Board of Selectmen, School Board, School Superintendent and Finance Director and Department Heads as to the rationale for their recommendations. After careful consideration and analysis, the Budget Committee agreed with some recommendations and other times they recommended alternate budgets.

Fremont School District Budget - The final budget recommended by the majority of the members of the Budget Committee is approximately \$50,000 less than last year’s approved budget. In reviewing the current year’s anticipated expenditures, it appears that there will be a substantial surplus primarily due to a decrease in the tuition to Sanborn. Between the surplus and the slight decrease in the budget, we are anticipating a decrease in the 2017 tax rate for the school. The Budget Committee will continue to monitor this throughout the rest of the current fiscal year.

Town Budget – The Town is operating on a default budget for 2016 as the recommended budget for the town did not get voter approval last March. The Budget Committee’s recommended operating budget for the town for 2017 is approximately \$200,000 over the 2016 default budget. After careful review and meetings with Selectmen and Department Heads, the Budget Committee is recommending additional expenditures for various things such as improved communication devices for the Fire Rescue Department, completing some much needed road work on various roads, substantial increase in insurance on our Town buildings and additional personnel in the Selectmen’s Office. Additionally, there are a number of warrant articles to be considered by the voters.

The Budget Committee has worked diligently to put forth a reasonable budget to meet the needs of the Town and School while at the same time being cognizant of the tax burden on our residents. We do understand the need to keep our tax rate increases reasonable. We also urge the residents of Fremont to attend the Public Hearings and Deliberative Sessions to become familiar with the proposals being made for our School and Town. Also, consider becoming a member of the Budget Committee so you can better understand the functions of our Town and School governments.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary A. Anderson, Chair

Mark Kidd, Assistant Chair

Mary Jo Holmes

Patricia Martel

Joe Miccille

Michael Nygren

Gene Cordes, Selectmen's Representative to the Budget Committee

Jennifer Brown, School Board Representative to the Budget Committee



Eagle soaring in Fremont in
the area of Main Street near
the Raymond Town Line

31 October 2016

Photo Courtesy of
Mary Wheaton-Pinder

"A bird does not sing because it has an answer. It sings because it has a song."

~ Chinese Proverb