

Report of the 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 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 mid-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 and Department Heads, 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 proposed by the Budget Committee is \$12,353,570.60 (\$408,538.16 or 3.4% increase over last year’s approved budget). The School Board’s recommendation of \$12,457,950 (\$513,317.76 or 4.3% over last year’s approved budget). Additionally, for the ensuing year there is an anticipated decrease in revenue of over \$430,000. As a result, the amount to be raised by taxes has increased over \$838,538 if the Budget Committee recommendation is approved and over \$943,317.16 if the School Board’s budget is approved. The tax rate increases \$1.00 for every additional \$380,000 that is needed so at this point in time we are anticipating a substantial increase in the tax rate of approximately \$2.00 for the school.

Fremont Town Budget – The Budget Committee’s recommendation for the total Town budget including Warrant Articles has actually decreased from the approved 2015 appropriations. As you will recall, the fire truck was appropriated and paid for in one year last year and we were all hopeful that the tax rate would decrease this year as a result. However, the Budget Committee concurred with many of recommendations of the Board of Selectmen as to the appropriations for roads and public safety that are needed to meet the needs of the residents of Fremont. Therefore, there will not be a decrease in the tax rate. At this point, because there is a decrease in the amount of anticipated revenue and if all of the warrant articles pass it would mean an increase in the tax rate of approximately \$.40 (40 cents) for the ensuing year.

The Budget Committee urges 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

Patricia Martel

Joe Miccile

Michael Nygren

Gene Cordes, Selectmen's Representative to the Budget Committee

Jennifer Brown, School Board Representative to the Budget Committee

*"May your trails be crooked, winding, lonesome, dangerous,
leading to the most amazing view.
May your mountains rise into and above the clouds."*

~ Edward Abbey



*Wild turkeys wandering on Danville Road
December 2015*

Photo Courtesy of Bob Meade