

Report of the Fremont Budget Committee

The Fremont Budget Committee was short on its membership from September through the January 2014 public hearing on the recommended budgets. The loss of membership was the result of members relocating from Fremont or no longer being available because of changes in their employment.

The Budget Committee met once each in the months of April and August and then resumed weekly (excluding holiday weeks) review of proposed budgets during September through the mid-January public hearing on the proposed Town and School budgets. The meetings were focused on review of the proposed budgets which were presented by public officials and in some instances Department Heads.

The recommended Town Budget for 2014 is only \$986 more than the Town's default budget. Once again a special warrant article for a new fire truck is being proposed and recommended. Other recommended warrant articles that have in prior years been approved by voters are warrant articles for mosquito control and new Self Contained Breathing Apparatus for the Fire Department. There are also several articles requesting funding for Capital Reserve Funds.

The increase in the recommended School District budget is primarily driven by the contractual obligations for public school tuition for high school students. The Budget Committee did not recommend \$195,203 of the budget proposed by the School Board. The non-recommended items include some text and work books, new computer equipment and software, some equipment and supply line items, contracted aides and tutors, reductions in teacher course reimbursement, substitute teacher expenses, administrative course reimbursement and the reductions of salary increases and one teaching position. The total recommended budget is \$82,122 below the default budget. However, the recommended budget is a budget increase of \$528,291 over the current operating budget.

The Budget Committee would like to encourage Fremont voters who are interested in the public budgeting process to attend a meeting or better yet, attend them all by becoming a Budget Committee member. We have never had too many committed members of the public that want to get more involved in their community.

Respectfully submitted,

The Fremont Budget Committee
Charles Kimball, Chair
Gene Cordes, Selectmen's Representative
Greg Fraize, School Board Representative
Patricia Martel
Michael Nygren
Tyra Vargas