



TOWN OF FREMONT 2023 Town Meeting Warrant Article Narrative

**In preparation for Deliberative Session to be held
Saturday February 4, 2023 at 9:00 am at ELLIS SCHOOL
SNOWDATE: Saturday February 11, 2023**

We hope this information is helpful for your understanding of the issues to be voted upon at the 2023 Annual Town Meeting. We have again scheduled both the Town and School District Deliberative Sessions together on the same Saturday. It will begin with School Deliberative Session at 9:00 am. At the conclusion of that meeting, there will be a brief intermission and Town Officials will set up, and the Town Deliberative Session will begin.

If you have specific questions related to Town Warrant Articles that might be answered in advance of the Deliberative Session, please feel free to call our office at 603 895 2226 x 301 or send an email to Heidi at hcarlson@fremont.nh.gov.

Gene Cordes

Neal Janvrin

Roger Barham

Fremont Select Board

The Official Warrant must be written as outlined by NH Statute. This document includes that language with additional descriptive information on each article to assist you in better understanding the subject matter prior to discussing it at the Deliberative Session. We endeavor to provide additional information to assist voters in making decisions about the many municipal challenges facing the Town. The Official Warrant is reviewed and discussed at Deliberative Session. Following any changes at that session, a final format of the questions is created and now called the Official Ballot. Following Deliberative Session, a VOTER GUIDE is prepared to include any changes from Deliberative Session and will include all of the material to be voted on at the polls March 14, 2023.

At the Deliberative Session all Articles on this Warrant will be discussed. Articles 5 through 22 can be amended by floor vote, and may appear differently on the Official Ballot, depending on actions at Deliberative Session on February 4th.

Final voting on the Official Ballot will take place on Tuesday March 14, 2023 at the Ellis School, 432 Main Street, Fremont NH. Polls are open 7:00 am to 8:00 pm. You can request an absentee ballot for this session by contacting the Fremont Town Clerk at clerkcollector@fremont.nh.gov or 603 895 8693 x 307.

In 2009 Fremont voters decided to have the Select Board and Budget Committee's tally votes on all Warrant Articles, along with those recommendations as outlined by Statute. The type of vote required also appears at the end of each article, such as majority, 2/3 or 3/5 requirements. We have also included here in this narrative, an estimate of what each article reflects as part of the total Town portion of the tax rate. This is only an estimate, and is based on a conservative, but reasonable growth in the Town's assessed valuation and other factors included in the adjustment of the annual tax rate

Year	Town Portion of the Tax Rate
2016	\$3.89
2017	\$4.44
2018	\$4.77
2019	\$4.73
2020	\$3.23
2021	\$3.91
2022	\$4.23

(including exemptions, credits, and revenues). Tax rate history is provided as reference information. In 2020 Fremont underwent a revaluation so the amount of taxable property value has increased, and we continue to see growth and development of properties, adding value to the tax base.

ARTICLE 1: To choose by ballot all necessary Town Officers for the ensuing year.

Budget Committee: 2 for 3 years
Cemetery Trustee: 1 for 3 years
Select Board Member: 1 for 3 years
Trustee of Trust Funds: 1 for 3 years

Budget Committee: 1 for 1 year
Library Trustee: 1 for 3 years
Town Clerk Tax Collector: 1 of 3 years

This article will list all candidates running for an elected office within the Town. There will be a separate ballot for candidates running for Fremont School District offices. Sample ballots will be posted at the Town Hall, Ellis School, Safety Complex, Public Library and the Fremont Post Office for viewing before Election Day. It is also on the Town's website home page with voter and Annual Meeting information.

If you would like to run for Town or School District Office, the sign-up period is January 25, 2023 through February 4, 2023. You must sign up with the Town Clerk or School District Clerk. You can call 603 895 8693 x 307 or email clerkcollector@fremont.nh.gov for more information. In addition, the Town Clerk and the School District Clerk will be at the Town Hall on the final day, Friday February 3, 2023 from 3:00 to 5:00 pm for candidate declaration only.

ARTICLE 2: Are you in favor of the proposed amendments to Article 4 and Article 7 (Zoning Proposal 1) submitted by the Fremont Planning Board for the Fremont Zoning Ordinance as follows:

New text

~~Deleted text~~

Add the following to Section 403 – Definitions:

MOTOR VEHICLE REPAIR SHOP: The use of any building, land area or other premise used principally for the servicing and repair of automobiles, recreational vehicles, or other similarly sized vehicles.

MOTOR VEHICLE SALES: The use of any building, land area or other premise used principally for the display, sale, rental, or lease of new or used automobiles (but may include light trucks or vans, trailers, or recreation vehicles), and including any vehicle preparations, warranty, or repair work conducted as an accessory use.

Revise Section 708 - Table of Uses as follows (P – Permitted; X – Prohibited):

	Zoning Districts			
	SH	MS	FUR	R
<u>Motor Vehicle Repair Shop</u>	<u>P</u>	<u>P</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>X</u>
Motor Vehicle Showroom- <u>Motor Vehicle Sales</u>	P	P	X	X

The Planning Board recommends this Article 5-0-0.

(Majority vote required)

This proposal will amend the Fremont Zoning Ordinance by adding a definition for Motor Vehicle Sales which will replace the existing land use category of Motor Vehicle Showroom and add a new category and definition for Motor Vehicle Repair Shop while maintaining the Zoning Districts where these commercial motor vehicle land uses are permitted or prohibited.

ARTICLE 3: Are you in favor of the proposed amendments to Article 12 (Zoning Proposal 2) submitted by the Fremont Planning Board for the Fremont Zoning Ordinance as follows:

Remove the following from the Aquifer Protection District:

Definition in Section 1203.4 (Existing) Animal Feedlot: ~~A commercial agricultural establishment consisting of confined feeding areas and related structures used for the raising of livestock. An animal feedlot shall be considered one on which more than five (5) animals are raised simultaneously.~~

Prohibited Uses in Section 1203.8.D(9) (Existing) Animal feedlots. ~~(see definitions= five (5) or more animals)~~

The Planning Board recommends this Article 5-0-0.
(Majority vote required)

This proposal will amend the Fremont Zoning Ordinance by removing Animal Feedlot, defined in part as five (5) or more animals, from the list of definitions and prohibited uses within the Aquifer Protection District.

ARTICLE 4: Are you in favor of the proposed amendment to Article 13 (Zoning Proposal 3) submitted by the Fremont Planning Board for the Fremont Zoning Ordinance as follows:

Add the following to Article 1301.1 – Elderly Open Space:

Pursuant to RSA 674:17, IV, any increased density, reduced lot size, expedited approval, or other dimensional or procedural incentive under this elderly open space ordinance is deemed applicable to a development of workforce housing as defined in RSA 674:58, IV. Any proposed workforce housing development shall comply with the provisions of the Fremont zoning ordinance, site plan and subdivision regulations with respect to environmental protection, water supply, sanitary disposal, traffic safety and fire and life safety protection.

The Planning Board recommends this Article 5-0-0.
(Majority vote required)

This proposal will amend the Fremont Zoning Ordinance adding language pursuant to new NH Statutes relative to workforce housing.

ARTICLE 5: Shall the Town of Fremont raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by Special Warrant Articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling \$4,104,296? Should this Article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$3,971,859 which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Fremont or by law or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only.

Note: This operating budget warrant article does not include appropriations contained in ANY other warrant articles.

The Select Board recommends this appropriation 3-0.
The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 5-2-0.
(Majority vote required)

This is the Operating Budget for all Town Departments, exclusive of other Warrant Article requests. The estimated tax impact of the overall total operating budget is expected to be \$0.20 over the current year. This estimate accounts for anticipated valuation, exemption and credit changes in the coming year. In 2022 the total Town portion of the Tax Rate was \$4.23 including all Warrant Articles voted in 2022.

The full budget detail can be found on the State Form MS 737, which is available on the Town's website and will be part of the printed 2022 Annual Town Report. Copies are also available from the Select Board's Office. The operating budget includes some important decisions about the Town's services and operating costs.

With SB2, this "master budget" Warrant Article includes the Budget Committee recommendation of \$4,104,296. We are pleased to report only \$200 not recommended by the Committee, and we worked hard this year to make updates that would help the Town address outstanding maintenance items, improve our wage rates, and continue to make infrastructure improvements. This is up from the appropriated budget in 2022 of \$3,845,154. The tax impact is lessened somewhat by the increase in property values and other improvements. We also received several grants and State revenues that allow for improvements that will not impact the tax rate.

Following are some highlights and changes within each of the operating budgets as well as general information about each Department:

4130 Executive: Proposed wage increases of 5%. As a general note, a 5% wage adjustment was used across departments in order to improve our wage schedule and attempt to get it nearer to Towns comparable to Fremont.

The Executive budget covers all operating costs of the Select Board's Office. There is an additional adjustment proposed to the AA and clerical wages to be more in line with the current market. Our version of QuickBooks is not valid after May and an upgrade is needed to continue all of the accounting functions.

4140 Town Clerk Tax Collector: This budget covers operating costs of the Clerk/Collector Office. There are some slight increases in service contracts. Town employees covered in this budget include a proposed 5% wage increase. There is still considerable work done by mail (thus postage remains constant).

4141 Election & Registrations: Decreased due to only one election, (3 in 2022). Town/School elections in March are a minor cost aside from printing ballots. Covid impacts have made elections more costly due to safety measures and needed staffing levels and safety equipment. We are always in need of additional staff to help with setup and the many tasks associated with running a successful election day. This budget increased in one area because the time has come to purchase additional voting booths. For Federal elections we are required to have 1 booth per 100 registered voters, and we need more booths to be in compliance prior to the next Federal election.

4151 Financial Administration – Other: Includes the Treasurer's salary and supplies; Budget Committee clerical costs and administration, Trustees of Trust Funds expenses, and annual professional audit of all Town financial records. This is level funded.

4152 Reappraisal of Property: Current assessing contracts include the cyclical update process. This covers all of the Town's contracted assessing, utility contract (to appraise all utility properties); tax assessing software & maintenance, tax mapping services, web-hosting of tax maps and assessing data. The cyclical process balances out annual costs and reduces the 5th year revaluation cost. We are very near the end of the existing

Capital Reserve Fund returning the full cost to the operating budget. We feel it is important to keep up with the cyclical analysis and balance the costs of the revaluation and keep information more current.

4155 Personnel Administration: This budget covers personnel costs related to wages (FICA & Medicare) as well as employee benefits such as insurance. It includes a full year of the full-time maintenance positions voted in 2022. We are budgeting based on our actual census to save money within this line.

4191 Planning & Zoning: This covers all office functions, administration and clerical support to the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Adjustment. The office is now consistently staffed at approximately 20 hours per week including 3-4 evening meetings per month. The Planning Board continues to work on updating Ordinances and Regulations and has recently kicked off a thorough Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Process.

4194 Government Buildings: This budget covers the maintenance of the Town Hall, Safety Complex, Highway Shed, Museum, Meetinghouse and Historic Building. It includes annual fire suppression system maintenance, alarm systems maintenance and monitoring, etc. Includes staff 5% wage increases and a full year of the full-time maintenance position. Our contract cost of propane is up slightly. The Town's IT services have increased as our staff increases. Town emails for staff (except the Library) are all included here along with the O365 annual subscription costs..

4195 Cemeteries: This covers care and maintenance of Town-owned cemeteries, the largest of which are Leavitt and Village. The Cemetery Sexton continues to improve our recordkeeping and provide assistance with lot sales and burials. Additional budgeting for stone wall repair work is included. Some was completed in 2022 (with some encumbered to be complete in 2023). Staff 5% wage increases are included.

4196 Insurance: This covers all property and liability insurance coverages. It increased as the credit due this year is less than it was last year. This vendor provides municipal coverage, a unique market.

4210 Police Department: AA wage adjusted to allow for 5% wage increase in addition to a market adjustment. The uniformed officer matrix was adjusted (COL and step) to approximately 5.5% as in all years. We had one retirement in 2022 and two promotions. The budget covers all operating costs of the personnel and equipment needed to staff and run the Police Department. Includes lease payment on cruisers, fuel, vehicle and equipment maintenance. We continue to make lease payments on the body camera systems voted in 2020. Some of the increases are due to the increased cost of all supplies and equipment, and replacement tasers for new and safer units. We have been delayed by a full year on the replacement cruisers from 2022 so maintenance costs have increased (repairs). Membership in the Southern NH Special Operations Unit is included. This is a specialized tactical team to assist in some of the larger events which the Town could potentially be called to.

4220 Fire Rescue Department: We are budgeting for current statistics on call volume and for EMS on-call coverage for nights and weekends. This is a slight reduction in the EMS coverage based on current experiences and availability. Budget includes maintenance of apparatus and equipment, fire and EMS gear, uniforms, supplies and training. Increase in gear costs to replace four sets of aged out protective gear. Wages include a 5% increase and the rate for EMS (home on-call) coverage increased to \$8.50 per hour from the current minimum wage of \$7.25.

4240 Building Inspection: Current Inspector consistently works 25-30 hours per week, to include a 5% wage increase. Budget includes training (now back to in-person), mileage reimbursement and office supplies. Code Enforcement and building activity continue to increase. Permit fee revenue covered the full cost of operations in 2022.

4290 Emergency Management: Includes minimal allowance for supplies and contract services in the event of a major weather event (flood, ice storm); small increase for bi-annual PM service contract on all building standby generators. Small increase in stipend proposed for the Emergency Management Director.

4312 Highway Department: Wages adjusted by 5%. Annual paving and road improvements are now funded within the operating budget. This should fund one to two miles of road upgrade. We need to keep up this schedule to maintain adequately, the Town's more than 40 miles of road network. The bulk of work planned for 2023 is Martin Road in conjunction with the bridge work. Overall 3,900 feet of improvements are planned.

As funds permit Sandown Road from #343 to the Sandown line will be overlaid, and some work at the bridge deck area nearest Main Street.

4313 Bridges: This covers the annual inspection on the Sandown Road Overflow Bridge deck to maintain the warranty for the new deck installed in 2019. Without the inspection, our warranty will void.

4323 Solid Waste Collection: This continues to be one of the larger changes in the budget. Voters approved the new contract in March 2019 which authorized annual 3% increases. The increase in population (measured through completed occupancy certificates issued) is also calculated in the annual changes. There were significantly more CO's issued in 2022 and current trending is that it will continue to increase. We are already looking at bidding the next trash and recycling pickup contract due to significant changes in this market.

4324 Solid Waste Disposal: Contract contains recycling processing fees, which can be reduced by our good efforts at recycling and keeping the stream with only the currently allowed items being recycled. The tipping fees are paid through a contract with SRRDD 53B and continue to increase due to decreasing landfill capacity and reduction in other disposal options (burning, etc). We have a continued need for recycling bins and will continue to offer bi-annual Bulky Day events for residents. 53B dues include our participation in one annual Hazardous Waste Day. Recycle processing fees steadily decreased over 2021, but rose again for 2022.

4414 Animal Control: Wage adjusted for 5% increase. Covers all costs associated with Animal Control services including supplies, training, truck fuel and maintenance.

4415 Health: Covers a small stipend for Health Officer and Deputy, both increased slightly to account for actual annual work. Includes costs of the office, training, water testing and annual dues to the NH Health Officer's Association. We are fortunate to have solid staffing with a Public Health RN, MSN (and now also has a Doctorate in Nursing) as our Health Officer, and a Public Health MS Army Reservist as the Deputy.

4442 Direct Assistance: General payments for assisted persons. Budget is level funded. We did see some continued outside assistance available from outside agencies during the pandemic, and have tried to use those resources for our most vulnerable populations.

4445 Vendor Payments to Social Service Agencies: Each of these payments supports a social service agency that provides service to Fremont residents, usually at a reduced or sliding fee scale. Two new agencies were approved by voters in 2022.

4520 Parks & Recreation: The majority of this budget includes care and maintenance of the ballfields and playground areas. The FAA provides additional manpower support. Seasonal maintenance coverage at 16 hours per week with a 5% wage increase, dealing with the many areas of fields and parks to care for. Additional field improvement work is included. Funding for Town events such as the Easter Egg Hunt, Halloween (child and adult activities) and Christmas Tree Lighting events is included as we have returned to in-person events! No camp program is budgeted for 2023.

4550 Library: This budget covers all staffing, books, and programs of the Fremont Public Library and maintenance of the building. Employee wage increases at 5% are supported in this recommendation as well as a market adjustment for the Children and Young Adult Librarians to become more consistent. Several building maintenance items remain the focus of the budget. We were able to accomplish a lot in 2022 with the HVAC conversion nearly complete.

4610 Conservation Commission: The Commission oversees natural resources of the Town and reviews and comments on projects and proposals involving wetlands. The budget also includes training, dues, and some Town Forest Trail maintenance.

4711-4721 Debt Service: Reduction in principal and interest on debt due to age of notes. Only the Glen Oaks Conservation Land purchase bond remains outstanding at this time.

All tax impact estimates are per \$1,000 of valuation. The number of veteran credits, exemptions, and amount of overlay (which affect the final rate) are estimated for the purposes of establishing tax rate changes. These current estimates of Overlay, Exemptions and Veteran Credits add about \$0.43 to the tax rate. We are assuming a conservative but reasonable amount of growth in the total assessed valuation of the Town, which

is the largest component of the formula used to set the tax rate. **All tax rate impacts are estimates.** The increase in values from the 2020 revaluation continue to help balance the changes in the budget requests as do increases in revenue. We have also used grant funds and Covid reimbursements to offset some of our expenses.

The estimated tax impact is shown for each of the Warrant Articles in the narrative portion. If each of the proposed Warrant Articles pass, the Town's portion of the tax rate is estimated to increase approximately \$0.31 per thousand from the actual current Town rate of \$4.23 per thousand. Each of the Warrant Articles can be considered on its own merit. The financial impact of each individual Article is included with each rationale.

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of four hundred five thousand dollars (\$405,000) to purchase a new fire tanker truck and equipment for the Fire Rescue Department with \$305,000 from the Fire Truck Capital Reserve Fund and \$100,000 to come from Unassigned Fund Balance. No amount from taxation. This Special Warrant Article will be non-lapsing and will not lapse until the fire tanker purchase is completed or by December 31, 2024 whichever is sooner.

The Select Board recommends this appropriation 3-0.
The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 7-1.
(Majority vote required)

This Article would authorize the purchase of a new fire tanker truck and equipment for the Fire Rescue Department. This will replace a 1988 Mack Fire Tanker Truck that has 2,500 gallons of water on it and has been in service for 35 years. The 1988 Mack Fire Tanker Truck with a standard transmission is difficult to drive and does not meet any of today's safety standards to protect our firefighters and the motoring public. In addition, it has exceeded its recommended lifespan of 25 years per the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standard for Automotive Fire Apparatus (NFPA 1901). The proposed new fire tanker truck is a Fouts Brothers 3,000-gallon fire tanker truck with safety features that meet today's standards as well as other features that the Department requires, all of which meet the current edition of NFPA 1901. The proposal is 100% funded by existing financing sources to include monies previously saved in the Fire Truck Capital Reserve Fund, unexpended funds from the 2022 operating budget, and ARPA grant monies received by the Town. There is no further tax impact of this Article.

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) to be placed in the Bridge Construction and Reconstruction Capital Reserve Fund.

The Select Board recommends this appropriation 3-0.
The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 7-0-0.
(Majority vote required)

This savings account will fund the bridge replacement work. The Martin Road Bridge replacement has been engineered and is currently being reviewed by NH DOT. The Town became eligible for reimbursement from NH Bridge Aid in July 2022. The State has recently advised that work must progress on the bridge replacement or they will order it closed, so we are working diligently toward 2023 construction. Bridge Aid covers 80% of the total project cost (meaning taxpayers only fund 20%). The estimated tax rate impact of this Article is \$0.09. The current balance in the fund is \$288,366.

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) to be placed in the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund.

The Select Board recommends this appropriation 3-0.
The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 6-0-1.
(Majority vote required)

This savings account helps fund the cost of replacement Highway Department equipment, creating a more balanced tax rate. The estimated tax rate impact of this Article is \$0.04. The current balance in the fund is \$36,821. This will help to save ahead for the next large purchases as we have replaced three large pieces of equipment in the past three years.

*Articles 7, 8 and 15 request funding for existing Capital Reserve Funds. Funds approved will add to what has already been set aside. These funds accrue over time (including any interest) and are then used to offset the cost of larger capital purchases when needed. **Saving money in Capital Reserve Funds helps to balance the tax rate by reducing the impact of one-time large expenditures.***

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of forty-six thousand forty-six dollars (\$46,046) to hire a new full-time police officer. This sum covers five months of wages and benefits and necessary gear, equipment and required testing for the officer. If approved, this funding will remain as part of the operating and default budget in future years.

The Select Board recommends this appropriation 3-0.
The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 4-3-0.
(Majority vote required)

This Article would approve the funding to hire another officer for the Fremont Police Department. This would be the seventh full-time officer for the Town. The estimated tax rate impact of this Article is \$0.08 for tax year 2023. If this Article is approved, the cost for a full year of this officer in 2024 would be approximately \$103,889. If passed, this funding would become part of future operating and default budgets. The Police Department would like to see this Article approved to allow greater flexibility in scheduling, to have a presence more often at Ellis and to provide greater coverage for the community.

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of four thousand dollars (\$4,000) to be placed in the Fremont Computer Equipment Expendable Trust Fund previously established. This sum to come from Unassigned Fund Balance. No additional amount to be raised from taxation.

The Select Board recommends this appropriation 3-0.
The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 5-2-0.
(Majority vote required)

This savings account is used for server replacement so that the periodic five-year cost of replacement of the Town's two servers is not as much of an impact on the annual operating budget. This Article is funded from

unexpended operating budget appropriations in 2022 and has no further tax impact in 2023. The current balance in the fund is \$16,151.

Articles 10 and 11 request funding for existing Expendable Trust Funds, also savings accounts set up for non-capital costs. Both of these are funded from unassigned fund balance and have no impact on the current year tax rate. This means that savings from the 2022 budget (excess revenue or unspent appropriations) will be used to fund these savings accounts.

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) to be placed in the Library Building Maintenance Expendable Town Trust Fund previously established. This sum to come from Unassigned Fund Balance. No additional amount to be raised from taxation.

The Select Board recommends this appropriation 3-0.
The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 7-0-0.
(Majority vote required)

This savings account is used to fund larger repair/replacement of building maintenance items with funds set aside in savings annually. This Article is funded from unexpended operating budget appropriations in 2022 and has no further tax impact in 2023. The current balance in the fund is \$2,861. In 2022 \$57,000 was removed from this fund to pay for a portion of the \$95,000 HVAC replacement cost. This appropriation will help to build the fund back up again. The next project is expected to be carpet/flooring replacement in the building, which is now 22 years old, or repair of the roof stacks.

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will authorize an increase in the Cemetery Trustee Stipend by fifty dollars (\$50) each to be a total of two hundred dollars (\$200) per Trustee per year; and further to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred fifty (\$150) for this purpose.

The Select Board recommends this appropriation 3-0.
The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 4-3-1.
(Majority vote required)

This is a \$50 increase for each of the three elected Cemetery Trustees. Current stipend is \$150 per Trustee per year and this would increase it to \$200 per Trustee per year. The estimated tax rate impact of this Article is less than \$0.01.

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will authorize an increase in the Town Clerk Tax Collector's annual salary by one thousand eight hundred ninety-four dollars (\$1,894) to be a total of thirty-nine thousand seven hundred eighty dollars (\$39,780); and further to raise and appropriate the sum of one thousand eight hundred ninety-four dollars (\$1,894) for this purpose.

The Select Board recommends this appropriation 3-0.
The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 5-2-0.

(Majority vote required)

This represents a 5% salary increase for the Town Clerk Tax Collector. The estimated tax rate impact of this Article is less than \$0.01.

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town will authorize an increase in the Road Agent's annual stipend by two thousand (\$2,000) to be a total of six thousand five hundred dollars (\$6,500); and further to raise and appropriate the sum of two thousand dollars (\$2,000) for this purpose.

The Select Board recommends this appropriation 3-0.
The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 4-3-1.
(Majority vote required)

This represents a \$2,000 increase in the stipend for the Road Agent. The estimated tax rate impact of this Article is less than \$0.01. The Road Agent position is on-call 24/7 year round and there has not been an increase in the stipend for at least 10 years.

It is the Town's practice to include any changes to an Elected Town Officials salary/stipend as a separate Warrant Article. That is the purpose of Articles 12, 13 and 14.

ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) to be placed in the Historic Museum Capital Reserve Fund.

The Select Board recommends this appropriation 3-0.
The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 4-3-0.
(Majority vote required)

This savings account will fund future improvements to the Museum to allow for greater storage and display areas for the Town's many historic artifacts, equipment and information. The estimated tax rate impact of this Article is \$0.03.

ARTICLE 16: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of thirty-four thousand dollars (\$34,000) to continue the Public Health Mosquito Control Program.

The Select Board recommends this appropriation 3-0.
The Budget Committee does not recommend this appropriation 5-3.
(Majority vote required)

The Town worked with a local vendor in 2022 and found some savings in the contract cost. This is \$1,000 less than the 2022 contract. If passed, the Select Board will discuss a contract with the same local vendor. As in past years, the Select Board has placed this Article on the Warrant so that the community can have an opportunity to consider it annually and decide whether to proceed with a Town-wide program. The overall mosquito control program is comprehensive, beginning with surveillance, monitoring, trapping and testing of adult mosquitoes, along with treatment. Primary treatment is of larvae in wetland areas with a corn-based product. Larval treatment is a major focus of an effective control program. The program also allows for up to

two emergency sprayings of public lots at the Complex and Library, and ball fields at Memorial Park and Ellis School. The estimated tax rate impact of this article is \$0.06.

ARTICLE 17: To see if the Town will vote to establish a Fremont Parks and Recreation Expendable Trust Fund per RSA 31:19-a, for improvements at Memorial Fields/Park, and to raise and appropriate five thousand dollars (\$5,000) to put in the fund, with this amount to come from general taxation; and further to name the Select Board as agents to expend from said fund.

The Parks & Recreation Commission recommends this Article 4-0-0.

The Select Board recommends this Article 3-0.

The Budget Committee recommends this article 6-2.

(Majority vote required)

This Article would create a new Town Expendable Trust Fund for the purpose of future improvements at Memorial Fields/Park at 563 Main Street. This might include a pavilion, field improvements such as gates or fencing, or playground equipment as examples. The tax rate impact of this Article is approximately \$0.01.

ARTICLE 18: To see if the Town will vote to increase the all-volunteer Parks and Recreation Commission membership from five (5) to seven (7) members.

The Parks & Recreation Commission recommends this Article 4-0-0.

The Select Board recommends this Article 3-0.

The Budget Committee recommends this Article 7-1.

(Majority vote required)

This Article would increase the membership from five to seven appointed members of the Commission, an increase of two members. There is no tax rate impact of this Article. The Commission is comprised of all volunteer members. The Commission is working on reaching all age groups in Town and hopes that an expansion of additional voting members will increase their depth and capability.

ARTICLE 19: Shall the Town of Fremont readopt the Optional Veterans' Tax Credit in accordance with RSA 72:28, II, for an annual tax credit on residential property of \$750?

The Select Board recommends this Article 3-0.

The Budget Committee recommends this Article 7-0-1.

(Majority vote required)

ARTICLE 20: Shall the Town of Fremont readopt the All Veterans' Tax Credit in accordance with RSA 72:28-b, for an annual tax credit on residential property which shall be equal the same amount as the standard or optional veterans' tax credit voted by the Town of Fremont under RSA 72:28?

The Select Board recommends this Article 3-0.

The Budget Committee recommends this Article 7-0-1.

(Majority vote required)

In light of new legislation (HB 1667) which would allow eligibility for those who continue to serve, the Town must readopt these Articles. If we do not approve Articles 19 and 20, Fremont will revert back to the Standard Credit, which is only \$50 for Veterans and All Veterans. We are unable to determine any tax impact of the change in eligibility. We expect more Veterans will be eligible but it will depend on if there are any active-service Veteran's currently in Fremont who apply.

ARTICLE 21: To see if the Town will vote to designate as Town Forest, in accordance with NH RSA 31:110, the following parcels of land: 04-066 and 04-066.001.

**The Select Board recommends this Article 3-0.
The Conservation Commission recommends this Article 5-0.
The Budget Committee recommends this Article 6-1-0.
(Majority vote required)**

This Article would add two parcels to the Town Forest designation, making them subject to the Town Forest Ordinance. They are accessible from the old railroad bed and are located out behind the School District Land, which is behind the Fremont Public Library. These two parcels total 25 acres and were a donation to the Town in 2022. There is no tax impact for this Article.

ARTICLE 22: By Petition: Are you in favor of increasing the board of selectmen to 5 members?

**The Select Board does not recommend this Article 3-0.
The Budget Committee recommends this Article 5-3.
(Majority vote required)**

This Article was submitted by citizen petition of 28 registered voters. It would increase the membership from three to five elected members of the Board, an increase of two members. The only tax impact we are able to quantify of this Article is an increase in Select Board member stipend, or an estimated \$0.01. A Public Hearing is required to be held prior to the annual meeting in accord with RSA 41:8-c. (Scheduled for 02/02/2022)

**Please be sure to attend the Town Deliberative Session on Saturday,
February 4, 2023 at Ellis School at 9:00 am.**

**The School meeting will begin at 9:00 am and it will be followed by the Town's
meeting after a brief intermission.
(Snow date: Saturday February 11, 2023 at 9:00 am)**

**Check the Town website for further information and details at: www.Fremont.nh.gov.
Reports and Town Meeting information are posted to the TOWN REPORT page of the
website as soon as they are available.**