

Report of the Budget Committee

The Town of Fremont is governed by the Municipal Budget Law, RSA Chapter 32. According to NH RSA 32:1 the purpose of the Budget Committee is to “assist voters in the prudent appropriation of public funds.” We are elected by the voters to recommend amounts proposed by the governing body. We make our recommendations but the voters are the ones who will decide these matters when they vote on Tuesday March 9, 2021. Polls are open at the Ellis School from 7:00 am until 8:00 pm.

The Budget Committee met in July to reorganize. The results were: Mary Jo Holmes, Chair; Patricia Martel, Vice Chair; Select Board Representative Gene Cordes; School Board Representative Gordon Muench; and four members elected including Steven Bonaccorsi, Joshua Yokela, Jon Benson and Brian McGinn. Thank you all for your time and dedication to Fremont.

The Budget Committee meets with the Administrators from the Town and School District along with several Department Heads. We discuss all budgets and make our recommendations to the taxpayers of the Town.

The proposed School FY23 budget is \$12,298,325. This represents an increase of \$55,774 over the FY22 adopted budget and does not include any Warrant Articles. If this is defeated the default School budget is \$12,308,711. The 2022 Town operating budget to be voted on this year is \$3,834,661. The increase over the appropriated budget in 2021 is \$140,669. This does not include Warrant Articles. If this is defeated the Default budget is \$3,745,534. Default budgets are the same as the prior year with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Fremont or by law or the governing body.

The 2021 tax rate was set at \$22.32 which is a decrease from the 2020 tax rate of \$23.13. This decrease was due primarily to the return of unused funds from the School and the Town. In addition, the 2021 budgets were not up substantially.

The Budget Committee meets regularly during the fall and into the winter months and strives to keep any tax increases reasonable. There are two open positions each for a term of three years for the ensuing period. Anyone interested in serving on this Committee should contact the Town Clerk to sign up during the Candidate Declaration period from January 19, 2022 through January 28, 2022.

All Town and School District employees, officials and volunteers continue to work through the changes brought about during the COVID pandemic. We would like to thank everyone for their understanding and patience.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Committee,

Mary Jo Holmes, Chair Patricia Martel, Vice Chair