



TOWN OF FREMONT 2024 Voter Guide

This Guide has been prepared to provide you with additional information prior to entering the voting booth on Tuesday March 12, 2024. It contains all Articles for consideration with brief descriptions and additional information about the subject matter of each. Only Article 13 was amended at Deliberative Session. You can use this document with the Warrant Summary Sheet for review of the Articles. You can bring the Summary Sheet with you on Election Day if you like. We hope that this information

is helpful for your understanding of the matters to be voted upon at the 2024 Town Meeting. If you have questions, please feel free to call our office at 603 895 2226 x 301 or send an email to Heidi Carlson at hcarlson@fremont.nh.gov

Gene Cordes Neal Janvrin Roger A Barham
Fremont Select Board

We endeavor to provide additional information about the challenges facing the Town of Fremont. The Official Warrant was discussed at Deliberative Session on February 3. This document includes the same language for each Article as you will see on the Official Ballot. To see the language of the full Zoning Amendments (Articles 2, 3 and 4) you can view the Official Warrant or the Warrant Article Narrative. These are available at the Town Hall or on the Town's website on the Town Report page. This final format of all questions is now called the Official Ballot.

Final voting on the Official Ballot will take place on Tuesday March 12, 2024 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 (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.

Year	Town Portion of the Tax Rate
2017	\$4.44
2018	\$4.77
2019	\$4.73
2020	\$3.23
2021	\$3.91
2022	\$4.23
2023	\$4.41

Within this Narrative, we will provide additional information under each Article.

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

Budget Committee: 2 for 3 years
Patricia J. Martel
Sherri Leatherman
Library Trustee: 1 for 3 years
Emily Clark
Road Agent: 1 for 3 years
Leon Holmes Jr

Cemetery Trustee: 1 for 3 years
Steven V. Tomasz
Moderator: 1 for 2 years
Michael Rydeen
Select Board Member: 1 for 3 years
Gordon Muench
Jon E. Benson

Supervisor of Checklist: 1 for 6 years
Cathy Murdock

Trustee of Trust Funds: 1 for 3 years
Mary A Anderson

Once they are back from the printer, 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.

ARTICLE 2: Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendments No. 1 and 2 as proposed by the Fremont Planning Board for the Fremont Zoning Ordinance as follows: to change all references to “elderly” housing throughout Article 13, Section 1301 to “age-restricted” housing and to change all references to “elderly” citizens or residents to citizens or “residents aged 55 years and older”? And further to modify Article 13, Section 1301.2 (General Standards) to remove the explanatory note and revise the name of the state agency that provides housing estimates used to calculate the total number of dwelling units allowed in Fremont in subparagraph B; and to clarify how to calculate the number of bedrooms allowed if the development is located partially within the Aquifer Protection District in subparagraph C? **The Planning Board recommends this Article 5-0. (Majority vote required).**

This amendment will change all references to “elderly” housing throughout Zoning Ordinance Article 13, Section 1301 to “age-restricted” housing and to change all references to “elderly” citizens or residents to citizens or “residents aged 55 years and older.” This will also modify Article 13, Section 1301.2 (General Standards) to remove the explanatory note and revise the name of the state agency that provides housing estimates used to calculate the total number of dwelling units allowed in Fremont in subparagraph B; and to clarify how to calculate the number of bedrooms allowed if the development is located partially within the Aquifer Protection District.

ARTICLE 3: Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 3 as proposed by the Fremont Planning Board to the Fremont Zoning Ordinance as follows: to add definitions in Article 4, Section 403 for Self-Storage Facility and Warehouse; and to amend the Table of Uses in Article 7, Section 708 to include the newly defined uses of Self-Storage Facility and Warehouse, and to indicate in which districts they are allowed, under what conditions they are allowed, and in which districts they are prohibited? **The Planning Board recommends this Article 5-0. (Majority vote required).**

Article 3 will amend the Fremont Zoning Ordinance to add definitions in Zoning Ordinance Article 4, Section 403 for Self-Storage Facility and Warehouse; and to amend the Table of Uses in Zoning Ordinance Article 7, Section 708 to include the newly defined uses of Self-Storage Facility and Warehouse, and to indicate in which districts they are allowed, under what conditions they are allowed, and in which districts they are prohibited.

ARTICLE 4: Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 4 as proposed by the Fremont Planning Board to the Fremont Zoning Ordinance as follows: to add Article 15, Solar Ordinance to include definitions, a table of uses for multiple types of solar structures or arrays, and to indicate in which districts they are allowed, under what conditions they are allowed, and in which districts they are prohibited? **The Planning Board recommends this Article 5-0. (Majority vote required).**

Article 4 would add a Solar Ordinance (known as Zoning Ordinance Article 15) to the Fremont Zoning Ordinance to include definitions, a table of uses for multiple types of solar structures or arrays, and to indicate in which districts they are allowed, under what conditions they are allowed, and in which districts they are prohibited.

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 \$4,452,620? Should this Article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$4,286,089 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 6-1. (Majority vote required)**

Article 5 contains the Operating Budget for all Town Departments, exclusive of Warrant Articles. The estimated tax impact of the overall total operating budget is expected to be slightly over the current year, perhaps by \$0.20. This estimate accounts for anticipated valuation increases as well as exemption and credit changes in the coming year. In 2023 the total Town portion of the Tax Rate was \$4.41 including all Warrant Articles voted in 2023. 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 2023 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, staffing, and operating costs.

With SB2, the "master budget" Warrant Article includes the Budget Committee recommendation of \$4,452,620. We are pleased to report that only \$40 was not recommended by the Committee. We worked hard this year to make updates that will 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 2023 of \$4,154,386. The tax impact is lessened somewhat by the increase in property values and other improvements. We used several grants and State revenues for improvements that did not impact the tax rate. With less requested in Warrant Article appropriations, we feel that the changes in 2024 will be very close to the tax impact of 2023.

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 3%. New full-time Finance/HR position proposed for half of the year. This will work toward getting staffing levels closer to the Town's needs and add depth to our skill set. The Board feels this is long overdue and necessary to keep up with changing finance and HR duties and requirements. The Executive budget covers all operating costs of the Select Board's Office.

4140 Town Clerk Tax Collector: This budget covers operating costs of the Clerk/Collector Office. There are some increases in service contracts. Town employees covered in this budget include a proposed 3% wage increase. There is still considerable work done by mail (thus postage remains constant).

4141 Election & Registrations: Increased due to four elections versus one in 2023. Town/School elections in March are a minor cost aside from printing ballots. The other three State/Federal (2 of which are Primaries) will add significant cost and staff needs. We are pleased to report a lot of new election helpers, some of whom

are volunteers! We continue to purchase additional voting booths to get up to date and improve our equipment.

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 appraisal contract, tax assessing software & maintenance, tax mapping services, and web-hosting of tax maps and assessing data. We have seen increases in the web-hosting and support contracts (across many departments). We find that the majority of users access online data so maintaining this access is important. The cyclical process balances out annual costs and reduces the 5th year revaluation cost. We are at the end of the existing Capital Reserve Fund (and in a separate Warrant Article will ask to close that account). This offsetting revenue has slightly reduced the appropriation in recent years and we will now see the full cost of assessing properties in 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. This cyclical approach allows us to keep about the same budget line, except for CPI cost increases annually, and does not create the large every fifth-year revaluation cost.

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 7th full-time Police Officer approved in 2023, half of a year of benefits for the proposed full-time Finance position, and three-quarters of a year of a full-time Library Director position. We have budgeted based on our actual current employee census.

4191 Planning & Zoning: This covers all office functions, administration and clerical support to the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Adjustment. The office is 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 completed the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and continues with annual Master Plan chapter updates.

4194 Government Buildings: This budget covers the maintenance of the Town Hall, Safety Complex, Highway Shed, Museum, Meetinghouse and Historic Building and some custodial support to the Library. It includes annual fire suppression system maintenance, alarm systems maintenance and monitoring and staff 3% wage increases. 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 subscriptions, server maintenance and firewall program costs. We have seen increases due to cybersecurity upgrades.

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 guiding residents with lot sales and burials. Staff 3% wage increases are included.

4196 Insurance: This covers all property and liability insurance coverages. It increased as there was no lingering credit on our account (as in past years). This vendor provides municipal coverage, a unique market. Cybersecurity insurance increases have been significant.

4210 Police Department: Includes 3% wages for administration and a more significant increase for uniformed personnel in an attempt to better recruit and retain trained staff. We again saw turnover in 2023 and at year end still have one full-time vacancy. 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 and tasers. Because we were delayed a full year on cruiser replacements (finally received in June 2023), online units are becoming maintenance issues (having been used 1+ years longer than anticipated).

4220 Fire Rescue Department: Budget is level funded. We are budgeting for current statistics on call volume and for EMS on-call coverage for nights and weekends. 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 annually. Wages include a 3% increase.

4240 Building Inspection: Current Inspector works 28-32 hours per week on average. Budget includes a 3% wage increase, training, mileage reimbursement and office supplies. Code Enforcement and building activity continue to increase. Permit fee revenue covered the full cost of operations in 2023.

4290 Emergency Management: Includes minimal allowance for supplies and contract services in the event of a major weather event (flood, ice storm); includes annual PM service contracts on all building standby generators (Town Hall, Safety Complex & Highway Shed).

4312 Highway Department: Wage increases in addition to 3% for recruitment and retention. Includes annual paving and road improvements of \$421,000 to 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 2024 is Martin Road in conjunction with the bridge work. Work will then begin on repaving subdivisions throughout Town. We have also seen an increase in snow removal costs.

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. Our Warranty for the work is void without this engineering inspection.

4323 Solid Waste Collection: The Select Board negotiated a new contract in the fall of 2023 which includes delivery of a recycling toter to all households in 2024. The increase in population (measured by occupancy certificates issued) is calculated along with a 5% annual increase in future years. 2024 does not have a fuel adjustment (the reset year), but that would also be included in future years. There were significantly more CO's issued in 2023 and current trending is that it will continue to increase. Voters are asked to accept the trash and recycling pickup contract in Warrant Article 19 so that we have a contract secured for at least five years. This line also covers the recycling processing fees, which can be reduced by our good effort at recycling, keeping the stream clean with only allowable recyclables. Recycle processing fees have fluctuated greatly in the past three years.

4324 Solid Waste Disposal: MSW 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 no longer budget for recycling bins based on conversion to recycling toters, but we will continue to offer bi-annual Bulky Day events. 53B dues include our participation in one annual Hazardous Waste Day event.

4414 Animal Control: Wage adjusted for 3% 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. 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: Payments for assisted persons. Budget is level funded despite an overexpenditure in 2023 due to a wide variety of case circumstances. We did see some continued outside assistance available from outside agencies (residual pandemic grant funds) and have tried to use these 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. A few agencies did not timely submit a request for 2024, so this is slightly lower than past years.

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 3% wage increase, dealing with the many areas of fields and parks to care for. Additional field improvement work is included. Funding for the Easter Egg Hunt, Halloween (child and adult activities) and Christmas Tree Lighting events are included as we have returned to in-person events! Some other new Town Events are also being considered. No camp program is budgeted.

4550 Library: This budget covers all staffing, books, and programs of the Fremont Public Library and maintenance of the building. Employee wage increases of 3% are included. There is an increase of 7 hours

per week for the Children's Librarian due to workload and programming, and a new 10 hour per week Aide position as well as additional hours (approximately 2 per week) to make the Library Director position full-time. Continued building maintenance and repair items are also included. We were able to accomplish a lot in 2023 with the HVAC conversion completed and the roof stacks repaired.

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. There is a new \$1,500 item this year to allow for professional consulting assistance on some land preservation transactions.

4711-4721 Debt Service: Reduction in principal and interest on debt due to age of notes. Only the Glen Oakes 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 \$0.45 to the tax rate. These are statutory parts of the tax rate, which we do not control. We assume 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 and continued growth in the housing and commercial stock help balance the changes in the budget requests as do increases in revenue. We are also using grant funds to offset expenses.*

The estimated tax impact is shown for each of the Warrant Articles in the narrative portion. Each of the Warrant Articles is considered individually. The financial impact of each individual Article is included with each rationale.

*Articles 6, 7 and 8 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 6: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) 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. (Majority vote required)**

This savings account funds bridge replacement work. The Martin Road Bridge replacement has been engineered and is near final approval by NH DOT. The Town became eligible for reimbursement from NH Bridge Aid in July 2022. The Town has done an RFQ for Construction Engineering Services and the bridge construction will be bid shortly. Work must continue to progress on the bridge replacement or we will lose our share of the Bridge Aid funding and be forced to pay for it fully through taxation. This fund is being used to make payments until we are reimbursed our first 80% (of the design engineering costs paid from 2014 to the present). Following bid award, we will be eligible to submit for another Bridge Aid disbursement of half the construction costs. Those funds will be used to pay expenses until the next disbursement can be collected. Bridge Aid covers 80% of the total project cost (thus taxpayers fund 20%). The estimated tax rate impact of this Article is \$0.18. The 12/31/2023 balance in the fund is \$240,725.42.

ARTICLE 7: 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 7-0. (Majority vote required)

This savings account helps fund the cost of replacement Highway Department equipment. We have recently replaced major equipment but feel saving for future needs is important and helps to balance long term effects on the tax rate. The estimated tax rate impact of this Article is \$0.04. The 12/31/2023 balance in the fund is \$47,696.69.

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) to be placed in the Fire Truck Capital Reserve Fund. **The Select Board recommend this appropriation 3-0. The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 7-0. (Majority vote required)**

This savings account helps fund the cost of replacement apparatus to create a more balanced tax rate. The estimated tax rate impact of this article is \$0.09. The 12/31/2023 balance in the fund is \$317,763.06. We have not yet deducted the \$305,000 voted in 2023 as a payment on new truck, which is due to be delivered in the summer of 2024.

Articles 9, 10 and 13 request funding for existing Expendable Trust Funds, also savings accounts, set up for non-capital costs. All three are funded from unassigned fund balance and have no impact on the current year tax rate. This means that savings from the 2023 budget (excess revenue or unspent appropriations) will be used to fund these savings accounts.

ARTICLE 9: 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 6-1. (Majority vote required)**

This savings account is used for server replacement so that the periodic 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 2023 and has no further tax impact in 2024. The 12/31/2023 balance in the fund is \$20,672.36.

ARTICLE 10: 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 8-0. (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 2023 and has no further tax impact in 2024. The 12/31/2023 balance in the fund is \$13,025.92. With this savings

account we were able to complete HVAC replacement and the next major replacement is expected to be carpet/flooring replacement in the building, which is now 23 years old.

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will authorize an increase in the Town Clerk Tax Collector's annual salary by one thousand one hundred ninety-four dollars (\$1,194) to be a total of forty thousand nine hundred seventy-four dollars (\$40,974); and further to raise and appropriate the sum of one thousand one hundred ninety-four dollars (\$1,194) for this purpose. **The Select Board recommends this appropriation 3-0. The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 6-1. (Majority vote required)**

This represents a 3% salary increase for the Town Clerk Tax Collector. The estimated tax rate impact of this Article is less than \$0.01. It is the Town's practice to include any changes to an Elected Town Officials salary/stipend as a separate Warrant Article.

ARTICLE 12: 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 recommends this appropriation 4-3. (Majority vote required)**

This will continue an annual program in Fremont for mosquito control, primarily with larval treatment in wetland areas. The estimated tax rate impact of this Article is \$0.06. This is the same cost and scope as the 2023 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.

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of up to ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) to be placed in the Parks & Recreation Expendable Trust Fund previously established. This sum to come from Unassigned Fund Balance. No additional amount to be raised from taxation. **The Parks & Recreation Commission recommends this Article 4-1. The Select Board recommends this appropriation 3-0. The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 6-1. (Majority vote required)** (All recommendations were based on the original \$5,000 request, before it was amended at Deliberative Session).

This Article would add to the Town Expendable Trust Fund created in 2023 for the purpose of structural amenities. This might include a pavilion, field improvements such as gates or fencing, or playground equipment as examples. Use of these funds in the future will include a Town Meeting vote. There is no additional tax impact of this Article for 2024. The 12/31/2023 balance in the fund is \$5,032.54.

This Article was amended at Deliberative Session from the \$5,000 requested by Parks & Recreation. If there is not enough money in the Unassigned Fund Balance to fund the increase from \$5,000 to \$10,000 then some amount up to the \$10,000 would be transferred to the fund.

Articles 14, 15, 16 and 18 are housekeeping articles to close out and repurpose savings accounts. Some are for purposes that are just systematically funded annually in the operating budget and thus no longer needed, and some are completely obsolete. This will result in some additional revenue to the General Fund in 2024.

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town will vote to discontinue the following Capital Reserve Funds:

Fund Name	Date Created	12/31/2023 Balance
Property Assessment	1995	\$1,599.88
Library	1979	\$112.66
Police Cruiser	1984	\$103.26

Said funds, with accumulated interest to date of withdrawal are to be transferred to the municipality's general fund. **The Select Board recommends this Article 3-0. The Budget Committee recommends this Article 7-0. (Majority vote required)**

Article 14 would close out the three old Capital Reserve Funds with small balances and return the money to the Town's General Fund to offset the tax rate in 2024. The revenue generated is less than -\$0.01 on the tax rate.

ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town will vote to discontinue the Rescue Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund, created in 2001 and transfer said funds with accumulated interest to date of withdrawal to the municipality's general fund. **The Select Board recommends this appropriation 3-0. The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 8-0. (Majority vote required)**

This Article would close out the Rescue Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund. DRA has required us to write two separate Articles (15 and 16) to close this fund, and in the next Article (16), transfer the money from the General Fund Balance into the Fire Truck Capital Reserve Fund. There is no tax impact of this Article, it simply transfers funds from one savings account to another. We are using an estimate of \$2,600 to make the appropriation exact, and a round number acceptable to DRA. Passage of both Articles 15 and 16 is necessary to transfer the money and keep only one Fund, and to avoid appropriating new funds for Article 16.

ARTICLE 16: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of two thousand six hundred dollars (\$2,600) to be added to the Fire Truck Capital Reserve 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 8-0. (Majority vote required)**

This Article will take the funds from discontinued Article 15 and place the money in the Fire Truck CRF. There is no tax impact of this Article, it simply takes the saved funds for a rescue vehicle and puts them toward a future fire vehicle. The cleanup of these Articles is proposed to reflect the combined nature of our Fire and Rescue services into one Department. If Article 15 fails, Article 16 would appropriate new money for this purpose. The goal is to discontinue one fund and put the money in another fund (by passing both 15 and 16).

ARTICLE 17: To see if the Town will vote to change the name of the Fire Truck Capital Reserve Fund, to the Fire Rescue Apparatus Capital Reserve Fund; and to change the purpose from fire truck to any fire rescue apparatus the Fire Rescue Department would purchase. **The Select Board recommends this Article 3-0. The Budget Committee recommends this Article 7-1.** (Two-thirds vote required)

This Article would better reflect our combined Fire Rescue Department and include Fire and Rescue/EMS future apparatus (ie: fire truck, EMS vehicle, ambulance). There is no tax impact of this Article. The Article reflects combination Fire Rescue Department and would address need for future apparatus.

ARTICLE 18: To see if the Town will vote to discontinue the DARE Expendable Trust Fund, created in 2016. Said funds, with accumulated interest to date of withdrawal are to be transferred to the municipality's general fund. **The Select Board recommends this Article 3-0. The Budget Committee recommends this Article 7-0.** (Majority vote required)

This Article would close out an old and now obsolete Expendable Trust Fund that was previously used for the DARE Program. That curriculum is no longer active. The residual balance (as of 12/31/2023 is \$917.67) and any further accrued interest, will be returned to the Town's General Fund to offset the tax rate in 2024. The revenue generated is less than -\$0.01 on the tax rate.

ARTICLE 19: To see if the Town will approve the Select Board entering into a five (5) year contract through 12/31/2028 with Waste Management for the curbside collection, transport and disposal of solid waste, recyclables, and bulky waste from the Town of Fremont with an annual increase of 5% plus an adjustment for additional housing units (currently \$206.88 with a 5% annual multiplier) and a fuel adjustment based on an established baseline of \$4.00 per gallon. The contract will require the Town to continue to use Waste Management and will require Waste Management to provide services at a guaranteed price. The 2024 cost of \$304,908 is included in the operating budget, Article 5, and no additional funds are raised by this Article for 2024. The contract calls for a blended value for recycling which fluctuates based on the market and quality of recycling efforts, and will also provide a 64 gallon recycling toter to each household. **The Select Board recommends this Article 3-0. The Budget Committee recommends this article 6-0.** (Majority vote required)

This Article would approve the Select Board entering into a five year contract for trash and recycling collection for years 2024 through 2028. This contract was renegotiated for a five-year extension with Waste Management, with the added option for a 64 gallon recycling toter to be delivered to all households. This was thought to be a great option, at a reasonable cost for the Town given pricing increases globally. In order for the contract changes to be supported in future years default budgets, the Town's voters are asked to approve this Article. The estimated tax rate impact of this article is shown in Article 5; and would be reflected in 5% annual increases and increases for occupancy permits for new units in future years of the contract. If the contract does not pass, the Town will have reduced services or will cut down on other services to be able to fund trash collection of some kind. The contract is available on the Town's website (Trash & Recycling Page); or at the Select Board's Office. The recycling toters are slated for delivery to Fremont households during the

week of May 6, 2024 with collections in the recycling toter to begin the following week (May 16 and 17 collections in Fremont).

ARTICLE 20: To see if the Town will vote to designate as Town Forest, in accordance with NH RSA 31:110, the following parcel of land: 04-077. **The Select Board recommends this Article 3-0. The Conservation Commission recommends this Article 4-0. The Budget Committee recommends this Article 6-1. (Majority vote required)**

This Article would add parcel 04-077 to the Town Forest designation, making it subject to the Town Forest Ordinance. The parcel was purchased by the Town in 2023 with grants and funds from the Conservation Commission's Land Use Change Tax Fund. The parcel abuts the Glen Oakes Town Forest and is accessible from Copp Drive. The parcel is 23.69 acres. There is no tax impact for this Article.

ARTICLE 21: To see if the Town will vote to form an America 250th 1776-2026 Celebration Committee of five members, for Fremont to officially observe this milestone in American History. The obligations of the Committee will cease 06/30/2027. **The Select Board recommends this Article 3-0. The Budget Committee recommends this Article 6-0. (Majority vote required)**

This Article would provide for a Committee to be established to plan celebration events and activities appropriate for America's 250th Birthday in the year 2026. Their work would begin in the summer of 2024 if this Article is approved. There is no tax impact in 2024. The Committee would generate ideas and perhaps ask for some budget funding in future years to support events for the celebration in 2026.

ARTICLE 22: To see if the Town will vote to change the name and purpose of the 250th Celebration Expendable Trust Fund to the Town Commemorative Events Expendable Trust Fund. **The Select Board recommends this Article 3-0. The Budget Committee recommends this Article 7-1. (Two-thirds vote required)**

This Article would better reflect the use of this savings account toward any milestone celebrations in Fremont, NH or US history. It was originally created to fund the 250th Anniversary of the Town in 2014, and would plan to be used next for some local celebrations in 2026 around the Birthday of the USA. There is no tax impact of this Article. It would simply be a savings account to use toward future commemorative events.

**BE SURE TO VOTE on TUESDAY MARCH 12, 2024 from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm
at the Ellis School Gym, 432 Main Street, Fremont NH.**

Contact the Town Clerk for an absent ballot for Town/School elections. You can also get the form from the website and submit to the Clerk by fax (603 895 3149) email (clerkcollector@fremont.nh.gov), the drop box at the front of the Town Hall or by mail to PO Box 120, Fremont NH 03044-0120. You CANNOT drop off your ballot in the drop box. You can submit by mail or personally hand it to the Clerk or her office staff ONLY.

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.