## **Report of the Budget Committee**

The Town of Fremont is governed by the Municipal Budget Law NH 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, however due to SB2 you the voters are the ones who will decide these requests on March 12, 2024.

I would like to thank the Budget Committee members who work diligently to try and keep the tax rate from increasing year to year. Thank you to members Gordon Muench, Gene Cordes, Josh Yokela, Steven Bonaccorsi, Jon Benson, Nancy Murray and Brenda Beauchain. We meet with Administrators from the Town, the School District, and many Department Heads.

The proposed school district FY 25 is \$13,692,643.20. This is an increase of \$1,036,100.89. This does not include any requested Warrant Articles. If this amount is defeated the default budget will be \$13,712,080. This budget is an increase of 8.19%. The increase is primarily the cost per student going to Sanborn Regional High School. The Budget Committee expressed their disappointment at the increase of 25.6% per student. (Note: The District returned \$336,777.00 to the taxpayers from last year's budget.)

The proposed Town budget is \$4,452,620. If this amount is defeated the default budget is \$4,286,089.

The 2023 tax rate was \$23.59 which was an increase of \$0.40 over the 2022 rate.

The Budget Committee meets from September through January on Wednesday evenings. This year there are two open positions, each for a three-year term.

Anyone interested should sign up during the Candidate Declaration Period from January 24, 2024 through February 2, 2024. Please come out to vote on March 12, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jo Holmes Budget Committee Chair



The Fremont Garden Club hard at work with spring seedlings at the Fremont Public Library!

Photo Courtesy of Michelle Gallant