



TOWN OF FREMONT 2021 Town Meeting Warrant Article Narrative

**In preparation for Deliberative Session to be held
Saturday January 30, 2021 at 9:00 am at ELLIS SCHOOL
SNOWDATE: Saturday February 6, 2021**

We hope this information is helpful for your understanding of the issues to be voted upon at the 2021 Annual Town Meeting. We have again scheduled both the Town and School District Deliberative Sessions together on the same Saturday. The day will begin with the 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. This is efficient in terms of FCTV and staffing setup, as well as with the enhanced procedures which we must follow this year during the pandemic.

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 895 2226 x 301 or send an email to Heidi at hcarlson@fremont.nh.gov.

Gene Cordes

Neal Janvrin

Roger Barham

Fremont Board of Selectmen

The Official Warrant must be written as outlined by NH Statute. This document includes that language but also additional 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 9, 2021.

At the Deliberative Session all Articles on this Warrant will be discussed. Articles 4 through 16 can be amended by floor vote, and may appear differently on the Official Ballot, depending on actions at Deliberative Session on January 30th.

Final voting on the Official Ballot will take place on Tuesday March 9, 2021 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 895 8693 x 307.

In 2009 Fremont voters decided to have the Selectmen and Budget Committee's tally votes on articles printed, 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 also increased.

Year	Town Portion of the Tax Rate
2014	\$3.58
2015	\$4.37
2016	\$3.89
2017	\$4.44
2018	\$4.77
2019	\$4.73
2020	\$3.23

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

Budget Committee: 2 for 3 years
Library Trustee: 1 for 3 years
Selectman: 1 for 3 years

Cemetery Trustee: 1 for 3 years
Road Agent: 1 for 3 years
Trustee of Trust Funds: 1 for 3 years

This article will list out 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 20, 2021 through January 29, 2021. You must sign up with the Town Clerk. It is best to schedule an appointment or contact the office in advance. You can call 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 January 29, 2021 from 3:00 to 5:00 pm for candidate declaration only.

ARTICLE 2 INFORMATION: **CONSIDER A ZONING ORDINANCE CHANGE.** *This proposal will amend Fremont Zoning Ordinance Article 15 by adding language for fee exemptions (Section 1505.3) from School Impact Fees for accessory dwelling units which are typically occupied by single residents or 'in-laws' with no school aged children and for residential houses in developments that are lawfully restricted to occupancy by senior citizens over the age of 55. Existing language in Section 1506 requiring a waiver for senior citizens over age of 62 will then be removed to ease unnecessary administrative burden and to make article consistent with Fremont's current Elderly Open Space Zoning Ordinance (now restricted to persons aged 55 and over) which allows more higher density housing development while preserving open space with age restrictions of 55 and over.*

In advance of this proposed amendment to the Zoning Ordinance, the Fremont Planning Board worked with BCM Planning that also conducted the Town's initial School Impact Fee Study in the late 1990's. This work was done in response to observed changes in the demographics of our school system. School Impact Fees benefit School Capital Improvements which are the biggest portion of the Town's overall capital costs. The study and subsequent Planning Board vote (Planning Board Public Hearing November 2, 2020) resulted in an updated School Impact Fee on new development which is lower than the prior schedule for single family dwellings. The two (2) proposed amendments to Article 15 clarify exemptions to the School Impact Fees which was also part of the 2020 evaluation.

ARTICLE 2: Are you in favor of the proposed amendment to Article 15 submitted by the Fremont Planning Board for the Fremont Zoning Ordinance as follows:

Existing language

New language

~~Existing language to be removed~~

Section 1505 – Assessment of Impact Fees

1505.1 Impact fees shall be assessed on new development to compensate the Town of Fremont for the proportional share of the public capital facility costs generated by that development.

1505.2 Any person who seeks a permit for new development, including permits for new or modified service connections to the public water system or public wastewater disposal system that would increase the demand on the capacity of those systems, is hereby required to pay the public capital facility impact fees authorized under this Section in the manner set forth herein, except where all or part of the fees are waived in accordance with the criteria for waivers established in this Section.

1505.3 The Public School Impact Fee shall be imposed on all new development, except for accessory dwelling units and residential units that are lawfully restricted to occupancy by senior citizens age fifty-five (55) or over. The fees shall be collected by the Town at or prior to issuance of a certificate of

occupancy at the rates per unit according to structure type (4 types) as detailed in the related fee schedule.

Section 1506 - Waivers

The Planning Board may grant full or partial waivers of impact fees where the Board finds that one (1) or more of the following criteria are met with respect to the particular capital facilities for which impact fees are normally assessed.

~~A. A person may request a full or partial waiver of school facility impact fees for those residential units that are lawfully restricted to occupancy by senior citizens age sixty two (62) or over. The Planning Board may waive school impact fee assessments on age-restricted units where it finds that the property will be bound by lawful deeded restrictions on occupancy for a period of at least twenty (20) years.~~

~~A.B.~~ The Planning Board may agree to waive all or part of an impact fee assessment and accept in lieu of a cash payment, a proposed contribution of real property or facility improvements of equivalent value and utility to the public. Prior to acting on a request for a waiver of impact fees under this provision that would involve a contribution of real property or the construction of capital facilities, the Planning Board shall submit a copy of the waiver request to the Board of Selectmen for its review and consent prior to its acceptance of the proposed contribution. The value of contributions or improvements shall be credited only toward facilities of like kind and may not be credited to other categories of impact fee assessment. Full or partial waivers may not be based on the value of exactions for on-site or off-site improvements required by the Planning Board as a result of subdivision or site plan review, and which would be required of the developer regardless of the impact fee assessments authorized by this Section.

~~B.C.~~ The Planning Board may waive an impact fee assessment for a particular capital facility where it finds that the subject property has previously been assessed for its proportionate share of public capital facility impacts, or has contributed payments or constructed capital facility capacity improvements equivalent in value to the dollar amount of the fee(s) waived.

~~C.D.~~ The Planning Board may waive an impact fee assessment where it finds that, due to conditions specific to a development agreement, or other written conditions or lawful restrictions applicable to the subject property, the development will not increase the demand on the capacity of the capital facility or system for which the impact fee is being assessed.

~~D.E.~~ A feepayer may request a full or partial waiver of the amount of the impact fee for a particular development based on the results of an independent study of the demand on capital facility capacity and related costs attributable to that development. In support of such request, the feepayer shall prepare and submit to the Planning Board an independent fee calculation or other relevant study and supporting documentation of the capital facility impact of the proposed development. The independent calculation or study shall set forth the specific reasons for departing from the methodologies and schedules adopted by the Town. The Planning Board shall review such study and render its decision. All costs incurred by the Town for the review of such study, including consultant and counsel fees, shall be paid by the feepayer.

~~E.F.~~ A person may request a full or partial waiver of impact fees, other than those that expressly protect public health standards, for construction within a plat or site plan approved by the Planning Board prior to the effective date of this Section (November 27, 2001 – Date of Ordinance posting). Prior to granting such a waiver, the Board must find that the proposed construction is entitled to the four (4) year exemption provided by RSA 674:39, pursuant to that statute.

The Planning Board recommends this article 6-0.
(Majority vote required)

ARTICLE 3 INFORMATION: CONSIDER A ZONING ORDINANCE CHANGE. This proposal will amend the Fremont Zoning Ordinance by adding language to Article 17 for the expiration of variances and special exceptions granted by the Zoning Board of Adjustment if they are not acted upon within 2 years. In this proposed amendment there are specific dates for expiration consistent with state law. Variances approaching eight (8) years or more with no action (“zombie variances”) will become null and void if not exercised by April 1, 2024. The amendment includes allowances for the Board of Adjustment to review and grant a single, twelve (12) month extension. This amendment allows the sunseting of old variances and special exceptions for land use under older regulations thereby allowing the Town to maintain consistent land use with updated Zoning Ordinances as the Town grows and changes.

ARTICLE 3: Are you in favor of the proposed amendment to Article 17 submitted by the Fremont Planning Board for the Fremont Zoning Ordinance as follows:

New language

Section 1702 – Zoning Board of Adjustment

1702.13 - Expiration of Special Exception and Variance

As authorized by State of NH RSA 674.33.I-a, variances or special exceptions granted on or after August 19, 2013 shall be valid only if exercised within two (2) years of the date of final approval. The Board of Adjustment, at the Applicant's request, may grant a single, twelve (12) month extension. No variance or special exception shall expire within six (6) months of the resolution of a Planning Board application filed in reliance upon the variance or special exception. Variances before August 19, 2013 shall be null and void unless exercised by April 1, 2024.

The Planning Board recommends this article 6-0.

(Majority vote required)

ARTICLE 4 INFORMATION: 2021 OPERATING BUDGET – This Article includes all Department operating expenses, exclusive of other Warrant Article requests. The estimated tax impact of the overall total operating budget is \$3.23. As compared to the 2020 total approved budget and tax rate, this would be approximately a \$0.71 decrease in the tax rate as it relates to the operating budget. This is an estimate accounting for the 2020 revaluation changes, as well as other changes that will occur in the coming year to values, exemptions and credits of all types. In 2020 the total Town portion of the Tax Rate was \$3.97 including Warrant Articles.

It is important to note that in sheer numbers, the primary change in the operating budget from 2020 to 2021 (with ups and downs in some Departments); can be attributed to the amount of Highway paving projects (money for hottop), which have been included here instead of as separate Warrant Articles. The Budget Committee felt this should be an operating expense, as we spend \$200,000 to \$250,000 annually in paving to try and keep up with road infrastructure.

The full budget detail can be found on the State Form MS 737, which is available on the Town’s website now and will be part of the printed 2020 Annual Town Report. Copies are also available from the Selectmen’s Office and outside the front and back door at the Town Hall. 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 \$3,647,861. This is up from the appropriated budget in 2020 of \$3,369,705. Revenues are also up, and this offsets the budget, thus making the tax rate impact of the 2021 proposed operating budget less than the overall tax rate for 2020. The tax impact is also lessened by the increase in property values from the 2020 revaluation.

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 2%. This budget covers all operating costs of the Selectmen's Office. There is an adjustment proposed to the Town Administrator's salary to be more in line with other communities and based on experience.

4140 Town Clerk Tax Collector: This budget covers operating costs of the Clerk/Collector Office. There are some slight increases in service contracts, mortgagee research, and postage. Town employees covered in this budget include a proposed 2% wage increase.

4141 Election & Registrations: Decreased due to only one election. Town/School election in March is 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.

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, the utility contract (to appraise all utility properties); tax assessing software & maintenance, tax mapping services, web-hosting of tax maps and all assessing data. The cyclical process balances out annual costs and reduces the 5th year revaluation cost. The budget is less \$8,000 for the offset from the Capital Reserve Fund. That reduction will end when the CRF is depleted. This is level-funded.

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 Fire Rescue on-call EMS coverage for nights and weekends. This also includes employer share of retirement costs. NH Retirement increases (State-mandated) are the largest increase in this budget.

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 20-22 hours per week including 3-4 evening meetings per month. The Board continues to work on updating Ordinances and Regulations. Important Storm Water Planning is planned in 2021.

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. Maintenance staff proposed 2% wage increase. This budget is down slightly as we encumbered some items in 2020 to complete in the spring of 2021.

4195 Cemeteries: This covers care and maintenance of Town-owned cemeteries, the largest of which are Leavitt and Village. The Cemetery Sexton position has been a great improvement in recordkeeping and providing assistance with lot sales, burials, etc. Leavitt Cemetery expansion work was completed last fall, and a shed and associated work is encumbered to be done in the spring of 2021. Staff 2% wage increases are included.

4196 Insurance: This covers all property and liability insurance coverages.

4210 Police Department: Clerical wage adjusted to allow for 2% wage increase; uniformed officer matrix adjusted for 2.5% and step increase. We lost two officers in 2020 (replaced at year end with new officers currently in the Academy). 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, and were able to pay off the radio lease at year end 2020.

4220 Fire Rescue Department: Conversion in 2020 to paid hourly compensation for all Fire Rescue activity, which is the current trend of fire and EMS service nationwide. This budget includes EMS on-call coverage for nights and weekends, 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. Work continues on Department growth and recruitment to address growing needs and call volume. The Department has been instrumental in carrying the community through the current health-care pandemic.

4240 Building Inspection: A few additional hours and wage increase budgeted. Budget includes training, mileage reimbursement and office supplies. Code Enforcement and building activity are increasing in the current economy.

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

4312 Highway Department: Wages adjusted to allow for 2% increase. FT position vacancy to be filled in the spring, and added use of part-time help in the interim. This is the largest overall change in the operating budget as it includes road work which has been previously separated out into one or more Special Warrant Articles. The total dollars dedicated to road work is roughly the same as prior years, and it is included here this year, considered an annual expense. The Budget Committee was the driving force behind this change, and wants to reflect what the Town's operating costs are to annually maintain a mile or two of roadway. We need to keep up this schedule to maintain adequately, the Town's more than 40 miles of road network. Reconstruction work is planned within the Mast Tree Estates subdivision, and the final overlay of Bean Road and Chester Road in 2021.

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.

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.

4324 Solid Waste Disposal: Contract changes resulted in 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. This was cancelled in 2020 but the District hopes to hold an event in 2021. In 2020 we saw a record increase in MSW tonnage by 70 tons; and recycling by 50 tons. We attribute this to so many residents being home throughout the pandemic.

4414 Animal Control: Wage adjusted for 2% 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, costs of the office, including training, water testing and annual dues to the NH Health Officer's Association. This is level-funded and we are fortunate to be at solid staffing with a Public Health RN, MSN (and now also has a Doctorate in Nursing) s 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 outside assistance available from outside agencies during the pandemic, and have tried to use those resources for our 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.

4520 Parks & Recreation: The majority of this budget includes care and maintenance of the ballfields and playground areas and the FAA provides additional manpower support. Seasonal maintenance coverage at 16 hours per week with a 2% wage increase, dealing with the many areas of fields and parks to care for. Funding for Town events such as the Easter Egg Hunt, Halloween and Christmas Tree Lighting events is included, hoping we can do more in a safer 2021! Without a camp program in 2021, these events will be important for our youth.

4550 Library: This budget covers all staffing, books, and programs of the Fremont Public Library and maintenance of the building. Employee wage increases at 2% are supported in this recommendation. Several building maintenance items remain the focus of the budget. We were able to accomplish a lot in 2020, and encumbered funds to cover projects in the spring of 2021 as well.

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 and work on trail maintenance.

4711-4721 Debt Service: Reduction in principal and interest on debt due to age of notes. Only two bonds remain, the Fremont Public library Construction and the Glen Oakes Conservation Land purchase. The Library bond will be retired in 2021!

ARTICLE 4: 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 \$3,647,861? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$3,399,845 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 Selectmen recommend this appropriation 3-0.
The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 7-0.
(Majority vote required)

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 \$0.42 to the tax rate. This is up from prior years due to the voters increasing the amount of the Veteran Credit in 2020. We have also seen more Veteran Credits since the adoption of the "All Veteran" tax credit in 2018. 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 has also helped to balance the changes in the budget requests.**

The estimated tax impact is shown for each of the Warrant Articles in the narrative portion. If the proposed budget and all Warrant Articles as proposed by the Town pass, the Town's portion of the tax rate is estimated to increase approximately \$0.15 per thousand from the actual current Town rate of \$3.94 per thousand. Each of the Warrant Articles can be considered on its own merit. The impact of each individual Article is included with each rationale.

Articles 5, 6 and 7 request funding for four existing Capital Reserve Funds with each purpose specified. Any funds approved will add to what has already been set aside. These funds accrue over time 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 5 INFORMATION: CONTRIBUTION TO THE FIRE TRUCK CAPITAL RESERVE FUND. This savings account helps fund the cost of replacement fire apparatus to create a more balanced tax rate. This article saves toward replenishing the Fund after the expense paid in 2015 for our newest fire truck. The Department continues to be behind in its fire truck replacement schedule and is due for a truck to replace another old unit in the fleet. The cost of fire apparatus is expensive and saving a portion every year will greatly help to reduce the one-time impact of these purchases. It is anticipated the next new truck will cost at least a half a million dollars. There is currently \$205,920 in this fund. The estimated tax rate impact of this article is \$0.09

ARTICLE 5: 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 Selectmen recommend this appropriation 3-0.
The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 8-0.
(Majority vote required)

ARTICLE 6 INFORMATION: CONTRIBUTION TO THE HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT CAPITAL RESERVE FUND. This savings account helps fund the cost of replacement highway equipment to create a more balanced tax rate. There is currently \$67,760 in this fund. This savings account has been able to purchase all highway vehicles and equipment to date. The next planned replacement is the Town's one ton truck, which is 10 years old. The estimated tax rate impact of this article is \$0.05.

ARTICLE 6: 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 Selectmen recommend this appropriation 3-0.
The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 7-0-1.
(Majority vote required)

ARTICLE 7 INFORMATION: CONTRIBUTION TO THE BRIDGE CAPITAL RESERVE FUND. This savings account funds bridge repair and replacement. The current project is the Martin Road Bridge replacement. It is partially re-

engineered, and the Town became eligible for reimbursement from NH Bridge Aid as of 07/01/2020. If we are unable to raise the amount necessary to get through the next step, we could lose the NH Bridge Aid funding. Bridge Aid covers 80% of the total project cost (meaning taxpayers only fund 20%). If we lose it, we will have to pay for the bridge replacement solely with tax dollars. The Town would like to complete the design engineering on the Martin Road Bridge and begin applying for reimbursement from NH Bridge Aid. If we can complete engineering in 2021, we can get some reimbursement funding, and bid the project in January 2022 when conditions and pricing are anticipated to be optimum. We would raise the balance of money to complete the work in 2022. There is currently \$76,756 in this fund. The estimated tax rate impact of this article is \$0.09.

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 Selectmen recommend this appropriation 3-0.
The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 8-0.
(Majority vote required)

ARTICLE 8 INFORMATION: HIRE AN ADDITIONAL FULL-TIME POLICE OFFICER. This Article would approve hiring another officer for the Fremont Police Department. This would be the sixth full-time officer for the Town, to bring the staffing levels closer to recommended national standards. If successful, it will be approximately one year before a newly hired officer can be certified and fully functioning independently on the street. With the increased traffic in Fremont, officers are spending a great deal of time addressing complaints and with more people home during the pandemic, activity remains high. The Department has seen an increase in drug offenses, overdoses, traffic complaints and the related follow-up. As we are currently short-staffed due to turn-over, this pulls officers away from investigations and administrative responsibilities and increased the need for overtime use.

The estimated tax rate impact of this article is \$0.08 for tax year 2021. If this is approved, the cost for a full year of this officer in 2022 would be approximately \$102,206. If passed, this would become part of future operating and default budgets.

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of forty-five thousand four hundred two dollars (\$45,402) 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 Selectmen recommend this appropriation 3-0.
The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 4-3-1. (Majority vote required)

ARTICLE 9 INFORMATION: CONTRIBUTION TO THE TOWN EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND FOR COMPUTER REPLACEMENTS. 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. There is currently \$8,034 in this fund. This article has NO impact on taxes.

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 amount to be raised from taxation.

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

ARTICLE 10 INFORMATION: *CONTRIBUTION TO THE LIBRARY BUILDING EXPENDABLE TOWN TRUST FUND. This fund is used to fund larger repair/replacement of building maintenance items with funds set aside in savings annually. This article is funded from unexpended Library appropriations in 2020 and has no impact on taxes. The Selectmen have increased the amount to have enough money in this savings account to address the HVAC replacement as the system is near the end of it's useful life. There is currently \$22,528 in the fund. This article has NO impact on taxes.*

ARTICLE 10: 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 Library Building Maintenance Expendable Town Trust Fund previously established. This sum to come from unassigned fund balance. No amount to be raised from taxation.

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

ARTICLE 11 INFORMATION: *FUNDING THE MOSQUITO CONTROL PROGRAM. This article requests funding to continue the annual program in Fremont for mosquito control, primarily with larval treatment. We have received competitive proposals in 2021 and have included the lower proposal in this Warrant Article. If passed, the Selectmen will discuss a contract with a mosquito vendor. As in past years, the Selectmen have 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 a comprehensive program beginning with surveillance, monitoring, and trapping and testing of adult mosquitoes. 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 \$0.07.*

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of forty thousand dollars (\$40,000) to continue the Public Health Mosquito Control Program.

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

ARTICLE 12 INFORMATION: *FUNDING A NEW SOCIAL SERVICE AGENCY. We have traditionally put any new request for social service funding in a Warrant Article so it can be independently considered. If this article passes, we would include So Rock in our operating budget in years moving forward. The Southern Rockingham Coalition for Healthy Youth is a community coalition designed to promote wellness and nurture resiliency for the children, youth and families of southern Rockingham County with the goals of preventing substance misuse and reducing the stigma related to mental health issues. So Rock is working with our partners at Ellis School, the Sanborn District, and the Fremont Police Department. The estimated tax rate impact of this article is less than \$0.01.*

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of four thousand seven hundred fifty dollars (\$4,750) to support a new social service agency, So Rock Coalition. If approved, this agency would be included in future default budgets.

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

ARTICLE 13 INFORMATION: INCREASE THE SALARY FOR THE ELECTED POSITION OF TOWN CLERK TAX COLLECTOR. This is a proposed 2% salary increase. The estimated tax rate impact 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 seven hundred twenty-nine dollars (\$729) to be a total of thirty-seven thousand one hundred forty-three dollars (\$37,143); and further to raise and appropriate the sum of seven hundred twenty-nine dollars (\$729) for this purpose.

The Selectmen recommend this appropriation 3-0.
The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 5-3.
(Majority vote required)

ARTICLE 14 INFORMATION: AMEND THE ELDERLY EXEMPTION VALUE TO CORRECT A CLERICAL ERROR FROM THE 2020 VOTE AND UPDATE EXEMPTION AMOUNT IN LIGHT OF THE REVALUATION. This article corrects the income and asset thresholds to what they have been for the past several years. The article also updates again the amount of the actual exemption in light of the 2020 revaluation and what the actual tax dollars were for our most vulnerable residents. Current Elderly Exemptions in Fremont are \$70,000 (65 up to 75 years of age), \$90,000 (75 to up 80 years of age) and \$110,000 (80 years of age and older). This Article would increase the exemption amount to account for increases in valuation from the 2020 revaluation. This vote would result in a reduction of assessed valuation of \$150,000 on the overall \$535,000,000 valuation. The estimated tax rate impact of this article is less than \$0.01.

ARTICLE 14: Shall the Town modify the provisions of NH RSA 72:39-a for elderly exemption from property tax in the Town of Fremont based on assessed value, for qualified taxpayers, to be as follows: for a person 65 years of age up to 75 years \$80,000; for a person 75 years of age up to 80 years \$100,000; for a person 80 years of age or older \$120,000. To qualify, the person must have been a New Hampshire resident for at least 3 consecutive years, own the real estate individually or jointly, or if the real estate is owned by such person's spouse, they must have been married to each other for at least 5 consecutive years. In addition, the taxpayer must have a net income in each applicable age group of not more than \$35,000 or, if married, a combined net income of not more than \$45,000; and own net assets not in excess of \$50,000 excluding the value of the person's residence.

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

ARTICLE 15 INFORMATION: AMEND THE DISABLED EXEMPTION AMOUNT FOR FREMONT IN LIGHT OF THE PENDING 2020 REVALUATION. The current Disabled Exemption in Fremont is \$60,000. This Article would increase the value to account for increases in valuation from the 2020 revaluation. This vote would result in a reduction of assessed valuation of \$35,000 on the overall \$535,000,000 valuation. The estimated tax rate impact of this article is less than \$0.01.

ARTICLE 15: Shall the Town modify the provisions of NH RSA 72:37-b, Exemption for the Disabled from property tax, based on assessed value for qualified taxpayers, to be \$70,000? To qualify, the person must have been a New Hampshire resident for at least 5 years, own the real estate individually or jointly, or if the real estate is owned by such person's spouse, they must have been married to each other for at least 5 consecutive years. In addition, the taxpayer must have a net income of not more than \$35,000 or, if married, a combined income of not more than \$45,000; and own net assets not in excess of \$50,000 excluding the value of the person's residence.

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

ARTICLE 16 INFORMATION: CHANGE THE NAME OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN. This would change the name to Select Board and members to Select Board Members. There is no tax rate impact of this article.

ARTICLE 16: By Petition: Shall the title of the Fremont NH 'Board of Selectmen' be revised to the: Town of Fremont NH 'Select Board.' And the titles of the Officials be known as: 'Select Board Members'?

The Selectmen recommend this article 3-0.
The Budget Committee recommends this article 7-1.
(Majority vote required)

**Please be sure to attend the Town Deliberative Session on Saturday,
January 30, 2021 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 6, 2021 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.**