

Approved 08/20/2026

I. CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm at the Town Hall in the Basement Meeting Room. Present were Select Board Members Roger Barham and Jon Benson; Town Administrator Heidi Carlson. All rose for the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting is live broadcast by Bill Millios from FCTV and livestreamed on Vimeo.

At 6:30 pm Joan Robinson was also present for an introduction to the Board in preparation for an appointment to the Parks & Recreation Commission. Joan has long been involved in community activities, and has been to the past couple of Parks & Rec meetings. This past Tuesday evening, the Commission recommended her for appointment to the vacant term of Shana Prest through March of 2027.

Both of the Board members know Robinson and had no reservations about her appointment. Barham therefore moved to appoint Joan Robinson for the balance of a term on the Parks & Recreation Commission that would go through March 2027. Benson seconded and the vote was approved 2-0. Carlson swore in Robinson to this position.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. The Community Visioning session will be held on Saturday September 12 from 9 to 11 am at the Ellis School Gym. This is proposed to review recent survey information and help shape the future of community spaces in Fremont. The Planning Board Sub-Committee is exploring the possibility of establishing a community center and wants to hear from residents. Join them for an interactive community visioning session to share your ideas, priorities, and vision for what a community center could look like in Fremont. Whether you have ideas for a new community center, thoughts on improving existing spaces, or questions about the feasibility of this idea, the Sub-Committee wants to hear from you! Input from this session will help shape the conversation and inform the Town's next steps.

2. The NH Primary is coming up on September 8 with polls open from 7 am to 8 pm at Ellis School.

3. All Town Offices are closed on Monday September 7 in observance of Labor Day.

4. The Parks & Recreation Commission will host a summer concert George Belli and the Retroactivists on the front lawn of the Fremont Public Library on August 30 from 4 to 6 pm. Barham added that George Belli specializes in British invasion music and they are a great act. The concert is free and open to the public and will be cancelled in case of rain.

III. LIAISON REPORTS

08/11/2026 Parks & Recreation Commission: Met on Tuesday night with four members in attendance. They voted to recommend Joan Robinson for appointment to the existing vacancy, and discussed various other programming items for the rest of the year. The Summer Concert is 4-6 pm on August 30 at the Library; Halloween Trunk or Treat at Ellis from 3-4 pm on October 25; Scary NH Ghost Tales at 6 pm on October 30 at the Meetinghouse; and Tree Lighting on December 4 at Ellis.

The Cemetery Trustees meeting originally scheduled for Wednesday August 12 has been moved to Wednesday August 19 at 4:00 pm.

The CIP Sub-Committee will meet next Tuesday night at 6 pm. Heidi Carlson, Leon Holmes Jr and Eric Abney are scheduled to attend and provide information for their respective departments.

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Bi-annual generator maintenance was completed on Wednesday this week at the Town Hall and the Highway Shed. The major service (with a part replacement) at the Safety Complex is scheduled for Monday August 31. The cut-over for the new PD computer server will be done on Thursday next week. Copies of the July monthly reports for the Fire Rescue Department were circulated to Board members. The Chief will be back from vacation next week and is likely to schedule time with the Board on Thursday.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Benson moved to approve the Board's Meeting Minutes of 06 August 2026 as written. Barham seconded and the vote was approved 2-0.

V. SCHEDULED AGENDA ITEMS

6:35 pm Public Input - none

VI. OLD BUSINESS

1. Ambulance Services RFP – Carlson and Deputy O'Connor worked on this today and Deputy Nichols was also given a copy as he was at the Town Hall as well. The document is ready aside from the balance of information needed from Chief Butler when he returns and can get it from Raymond Ambulance. Board members are interested in reviewing the most current version and Carlson will send it along. Carlson will also circulate to the Officers group.

2. Eversource has reconsidered their previous declination to take down the tree in front of the Museum on Beede Hill Road. They are going to do the rest of the removal in conjunction with other work in the area. Justin Hensley had started working on it when they initially said no, but they have reconsidered as they are in the area again shortly.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

1. Barham read aloud the items on the Consent Agenda:

- a. Payroll \$53,639.04 and Accounts Payable Manifests \$1,077,881.89 for the current week dated 08/14/2026. The AP manifest includes a transfer payment of \$1,000,000 to the Fremont School District.
- b. Department Head timesheets for the pay period ending 08/08/2026
- c. PO 2026-17 for use of the Town's credit card in the amount of \$216.98 to Intuit to purchase the needed IRS forms W-2 and 1099 NEC for the 2026 tax year (free shipping for early order).
- d. Sign the finalized copy of the DRA Form MS 535, Financial Report for FY 2025, which was completed by our Auditors at Plodzick & Sanderson. Kathy Braun has QuickBooks updated to match this form perfectly, which has been a long work in progress!
- e. Abatement reconsideration on parcel 02-022.012 located at 193 Danville Road. Assessor's updated recommendation is that the property is an embankment ranch style home situated on a 10.81 acre parcel. The reason for the request was owner comments there are a lot of mistakes on the property card. Assessor submitted a prior denial recommendation as a result of no contact with the applicant, which Board agreed with. Since then, Assessor has had a couple of recent meetings with the applicant with information regarding some discrepancies being provided and reviewed. Upon corrections and recognition of flooring issues, the

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- assessment is reduced \$7,222 from \$304,530 to \$297,308. As such it is recommended that an abatement in the amount of \$122.41 plus any applicable interest be granted.
- f. Tax Payment Arrangement for parcel 03-001.001.20B
 - g. Nomination Form recommendation for Alexa Brown as renewed Fremont Representative to the Exeter Squamscott Rivers Local Advisory Committee. This will be forwarded to NH DES who makes the appointments.
 - h. Letter to Rich Boyd in follow-up to discussion and site visit on Shirkin Road.

Benson moved to approve the Consent Agenda as read. Barham seconded and the vote was approved 2-0.

2. The Board reviewed the folder of incoming correspondence to include: email update from the Building Inspector (omitted from mail file last week) on cleanup at 397 Main Street; Planning Board Notices of Decision for the Griffith subdivision (denial) and the Grassdrags Site Plan Amendment to include limited camping (approved with conditions); HW Department winter expenses trending past five years (Kathy Braun has been looking at budgets/financials); current mosquito contractor's report with NH DHHS reporting; complaint regarding an occupied, unpermitted camper on parcel 02-119.001 and the Building Inspector's letter to the property owner; FCTV Remit for second quarter 2026 franchise fees in the amount of \$7,076.39.

3. Budgets reviewed:

4153 Judicial & Legal Expenses \$20,000 – This has been reduced again to reflect current trending. We still need to have sufficient funds for issues/cases that come up. The utility work has been reduced, but there continue to be several code enforcement matters pending as well as needed legal consultation regarding the many legislative changes to statutes and how that affects local Zoning Ordinances and changes that must be made by Warrant Article.

Carlson also indicated that the Griffith's Attorney has contacted us notifying us of their suit against the Town which will be served shortly. They have filed in Superior Court against the Planning Board for denial of their recent subdivision application.

Members were comfortable with the proposal and will bring it back next week when Cordes is present.

4191 Land Use \$61,321 – Carlson explained that the budget proposal is up over the 2026 default level, but only includes about a \$1,000 increase over the requested budget for 2026 as proposed. There is an increase to the hourly rate for the RPC Circuit Rider contract and a 3% wage increase. Carlson indicated that Leanne Miner is beginning to think about her retirement in the next couple of years, and would like to replace Melanie Sloan who has stepped away from the minute-taker role recently; in hopes of trying to find someone who could grow into the position. There was discussion about the expenses to date within the Land Use budget.

After further discussion, Benson stated he is comfortable with these budgets as proposed (he will not be at the meeting next week) and would support them as presented.

4610 Conservation Commission \$5,339 – This budget reallocated funding from the current year and includes a 3% wage increase. Board members were comfortable with the budget as proposed.

Animal Control – Carlson had circulated several years of historic wage information to consider. Chief Boissonneault had indicated in discussion with Carlson that he was not comfortable lowering the wage line to less than an average of six hours per week. He will visit with the Board again soon to finalize the Police and ACO budgets.

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Town Clerk Tax Collector Submission – Debbie Caputo will plan to schedule time with the Board next week to discuss.

4. We have received a complaint about a trailer located off of Brentwood Road that is not permitted. The Building Inspector has sent a letter to the owner of the land.

VIII. WORKS IN PROGRESS

Work continues on 2027 budgets and submission of the tax rate forms (MS 1 and MS 434).

IX. NON-PUBLIC SESSION if needed

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held at 6:30 pm on Thursday August 20, 2026.

With no further business to come before the Board, a motion was made by Benson and seconded by Barham to adjourn the meeting at 7:27 pm. The vote was approved 2-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Carlson
Town Administrator