

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MAY 7, 2011

CONSENT CALENDAR

In an effort to streamline Town Meeting, the Board of Selectmen has decided to use a Consent Calendar this year. The articles the selectmen have placed on the Consent calendar appear below. The use of the Consent Calendar speeds the passage of articles which the Selectmen, in consultation with the Advisory Board believe are unlikely to generate any discussion or debate. These articles are effectively taken from the warrant, placed on this Calendar and acted upon as a unit under one motion which may not be debated. The Moderator will call for any "holds" prior to calling for the vote on the Consent Calendar. Any article(s) so held will be automatically restored to its place on the warrant for action in the normal course. The articles the Selectmen have slated for the consent Calendar are as follows:

ARTICLE 1: To accept the reports of several town officers and all outstanding committees, or act in relation thereto. *(Requested by the Board of Selectmen)*

EXPLANATION: Annual article to accept the reports of Town officials and boards

BOS RECOMMEND: YES ADV. BD. RECOMMEND: YES CAP. PLAN COMM. RECOMMEND N/A TAX RATE IMPACT: N/A

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the transfer of \$40,000 from any excess in the Municipal Light Plant Funds to the town treasury, as authorized by its Light Board in accordance with Chapter 164 of the General Laws of the Commonwealth, or act in relation thereto. *(Requested by the Municipal Light Department)*

EXPLANATION: Routine annual article to accept the transfer of Light Department surplus to the Town Treasury.

BOS RECOMMEND: YES ADV. BD. RECOMMEND: YES CAP. PLAN COMM. RECOMMEND N/A TAX RATE IMPACT: N/A

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to borrow money from time to time in anticipation of the revenue of the financial year beginning July 1, 2011, in accordance with the provisions of the Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 4, and to issue a note or notes as may be given for a period of less than one year in accordance with the Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 17, or act in relation thereto. *(Requested by the Town Treasurer)*

EXPLANATION: Precautionary article allowing the Treasurer to borrow operating funds for the Town if it becomes necessary due to cash flow shortages. Since the passage of quarterly tax billings we have not needed to make Tax Anticipation Note (TAN) borrowings

BOS RECOMMEND: YES ADV. BD. RECOMMEND: YES CAP. PLAN COMM. RECOMMEND N/A TAX RATE IMPACT: N/A

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Town Administrator to enter into a contract or contracts with the Massachusetts Highway Department for the construction and maintenance of town roads in conformance with the Massachusetts General Laws, or act in relation thereto. *(Requested by the Town Administrator)*

EXPLANATION: This article allows the Town Administrator to contract with the State to do road repairs in Ashburnham. Roads such as Route 12 and Rindge Turnpike were repaved and this year we will be looking for Route 101 north to be done with state funds.

BOS RECOMMEND: YES ADV. BD. RECOMMEND: YES CAP. PLAN COMM. RECOMMEND N/A TAX RATE IMPACT: N/A

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate all funds which become available in the Fiscal Year 2012 from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Highways, Chapter 90 Bond Issue proceeds, to be used by the DPW for the repair and maintenance of town roads in conformance with Massachusetts General Laws, or act in relation thereto. *(Requested by the Town Administrator)*

EXPLANATION: This annual article allows the Town to expend its Chapter 90 state funds. For fiscal 2012 the amount of those funds will be \$349,927.

BOS RECOMMEND: YES ADV. BD. RECOMMEND: YES CAP. PLAN COMM. RECOMMEND N/A TAX RATE IMPACT: N/A

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the transfer of trust fund income in the amount of \$2,500 from the Cushing Academy Trust Fund to pay for the fiscal year 2012 secondary school expenses, or act in relation thereto. *(Requested by Town Administrator)*

EXPLANATION: This is the transfer of funds (interest) from the Cushing Academy Trust Fund (\$116,000). When the town students were removed from Cushing Academy they were required to deposit \$114,000 into the town's funds and the interest earned on these monies was to be used to offset the cost to the Town for secondary education in public schools.

BOS RECOMMEND: YES ADV. BD. RECOMMEND: YES CAP. PLAN COMM. RECOMMEND N/A TAX RATE IMPACT: N/A

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from special assessments Title V Receipts Account (septic system loan program) to pay principal and interest due on notes payable to the Water Pollution Abatement Trust, or act in relation thereto. *(Requested by the Town Administrator)*

EXPLANATION: The Town established a Septic System Loan Program where the cost was established as betterments. Each year charges are levied on the tax bills, the revenue received is reserved or appropriation. We then must transfer monies required to cover the loan payment.

BOS RECOMMEND: YES ADV. BD. RECOMMEND: YES CAP. PLAN COMM. RECOMMEND N/A TAX RATE IMPACT: N/A

ARTICLE 21: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$3,500 from the Waterways Improvement Fund for the purpose of waterway improvement maintenance and safety, or act in relation thereto. *(Requested by the Ashburnham Lakes Coalition)*

EXPLANATION: The Waterways Improvement Fund is funded by a portion of the boat excise tax to be used for waterways maintenance, access, law enforcement or fire prevention. The Lakes Association has been given the charge of recommending uses of these monies to the Board of Selectmen who then approve or disapprove expenditures. In the past these monies have been used for Police boat patrols, lifesaving courses, purchase of a Police boat and other water related expenditures.

BOS RECOMMEND: YES ADV. BD. RECOMMEND: YES CAP. PLAN COMM. RECOMMEND N/A TAX RATE IMPACT: N/A