

The following is a list of warrant articles and the recommendations of the Board of Selectmen, the Advisory Board and the Capital Planning Committee for the October 28, 2014 Special Town Meeting.

<b>Article</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Board of Selectmen Recommend</b>	<b>Advisory Board Recommend</b>	<b>Capital Planning Recommend</b>
<b>Art. 1</b>	Prior year bills for Sewer Assessment charges	YES	TBD	N/A
<b>Art. 2</b>	Pay sick leave buyback cost associated employee retirement	YES	TBD	N/A
<b>Art. 3</b>	Pay unused vacation leave benefit Fire Chief	YES	TBD	N/A
<b>Art. 4</b>	Road Improvements	YES	TBD	TBD
<b>Art. 5</b>	Post Employment Medical Cost	YES	TBD	N/A
<b>Art. 6</b>	Transfer the balance of funds from Article 2 of the STM on October 29,2013 to Road Improvement	YES	TBD	TBD
<b>Art. 7</b>	Transfer funds to 250 <sup>th</sup> Celebration	YES	TBD	N/A
<b>Art. 8</b>	Citizen Petition – Gas Pipeline	YES	TBD	N/A

**Proceedings of the Special Town Meeting  
October 28, 2014**

Pursuant to the foregoing warrant, the legal voters of the Town of Ashburnham met at Oakmont Regional High School Auditorium on October 28, 2014. Moderator, Donald "Jeff" Lawrence presided at the meeting which was called to order at 7:00 p.m. The veterans were recognized along with a moment of silence for those currently serving our country. Also recognized were recent retirees Stan Herriott, Manager of the Light Dept, Paul Zbikowski, Fire Chief. Also remembered were those town employees who have recently passed: Loretta Collette, Esther & Norman Bourgeois, Ronald LaPlante, Barbara Landry, William Gilbert, Henry Lambert, Roland St. John and Althea Shea.

**Article 1.**

**To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds, (free cash) a sum of money to account number 11199-56990 to pay a portion of our 5 year (2005 to 2009) sewer line installation assessment, or act in relation thereto. (Requested by the Town Administrator)**

SELECTMEN  
RECOMMEND: YES

CAPITAL PLAN. COMM.  
RECOMMEND: N/A

ADVISORY BD.  
RECOMMEND: YES

TAX RATE  
IMPACT: N/A

***Explanation: In 2005, the Town stopped paying its annual assessment to the Sewer Department. In FY 10 the Town started paying its assessment and has for the past five years. This payment will bring the Town closer to being current.***

**Article 1 Voted:** On motion of Leo Janssens II, it was voted to transfer from free cash the sum of \$85,900 to account number 11199-56990 to pay a portion of the sewer line installation assessment.

Majority "YES"

**Article 2.**

**To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds (free cash) a sum of money to pay the employee sick leave buyback retirement benefit, or act in relation thereto. (Requested by the Town Administrator)**

SELECTMEN  
RECOMMEND: YES

CAPITAL PLAN. COMM.  
RECOMMEND: N/A

ADVISORY BD.  
RECOMMEND: YES

TAX RATE  
IMPACT: N/A

***Explanation: As our staff retires it has been estimated that over the next 5 years we are looking at \$200,000 in non recurring sick leave buyback benefits. Putting money aside will help the impact on our budget.***

**Article 2. Voted:** On motion of Duncan Phyfe, it was voted to transfer from free cash the sum of \$42,000 to pay the sick leave buyback retirement employee benefit.

Majority "YES"

**Article 3.**

**To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds, (free cash) a sum of money to account number 12220-51100 to pay the unused vacation leave benefit, for the Fire Chief, or act in relation thereto. (Requested by the Town Administrator)**

SELECTMEN  
RECOMMEND: YES

CAPITAL PLAN. COMM.  
RECOMMEND: N/A

ADVISORY BD.  
RECOMMEND: YES

TAX RATE  
IMPACT: N/A

***Explanation: On July 24, 2014 Paul Zbikowski retired as Fire Chief from the Town of Ashburnham. This article covers the costs associated with his unused vacation time buyback provision.***

**Article 3 Voted:** On motion of Nick Davis, it was voted to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$14,100 to account number 12220-51100 to pay the unused vacation leave benefit, for the Fire Chief.

Majority "YES"

**Article 4.**

**To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds, (free cash) a sum of money for road improvements, or act in relation thereto. (Requested by the Town Administrator)**

SELECTMEN  
RECOMMEND: YES

CAPITAL PLAN. COMM.  
RECOMMEND: YES

ADVISORY BD.  
RECOMMEND: YES

TAX RATE  
IMPACT: N/A

***Explanation:*** Every year the Town has tried to add monies to the Chapter 90 funds we receive from the state, additional funds will help keep our road repair program on schedule.

**Article 4 Voted:** On motion of Leo Janssens II, it was voted to transfer from free cash the sum of \$122,567 for road improvements.

Unanimous "YES"

---

#### **Article 5.**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds, (free cash) a sum of money for a post retirement fund, or act in relation thereto. (Requested by the Town Administrator)

SELECTMEN  
RECOMMEND: YES

CAPITAL PLAN. COMM.  
RECOMMEND: N/A

ADVISORY BD.  
RECOMMEND: YES

TAX RATE  
IMPACT: N/A

***Explanation:*** At the May annual town meeting voters approved the payment of medical insurance for retirees. This fund is established to help pay for those related costs.

**Article 5 Voted:** On motion of Duncan Phyfe, it was voted to transfer \$45,000 from Free Cash for a post retirement fund.

Majority "YES"

---

#### **Article 6.**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the remaining funds Article 2 of the October 29, 2013 STM, for road improvements, or act in relation thereto. (Requested by the Town Administrator)

SELECTMEN  
RECOMMEND: YES

CAPITAL PLAN COMM  
RECOMMEND: YES

ADVISORY BD.  
RECOMMEND: YES

TAX RATE  
IMPACT: N/A

***Explanation:*** At the October 29, 2013 STM it was voted to erect a Veterans' Memorial on the lawn behind Town Hall. After much discussion the veterans opposed such a move and the project ceased. This article will put the balance of the funds into road improvements.

**Article 6 Voted:** On motion of Nick Davis, it was voted to transfer from Article 2 of the October 29, 2013 STM the balance of \$35,000 for Road Improvements.

Unanimous "YES"

---

#### **Article 7.**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds, (free cash) a sum of money for the Ashburnham 250<sup>th</sup> celebration and related expenses, or act in relation thereto. (Requested by the Ashburnham 250<sup>th</sup> committee)

SELECTMEN  
RECOMMEND: YES

CAPITAL PLAN. COMM.  
RECOMMEND: N/A

ADVISORY BD.  
RECOMMEND: YES

TAX RATE  
IMPACT: N/A

***Explanation:*** 2015 is our 250<sup>th</sup> celebration and the committee has requested additional funding to cover the cost of the project year long activities.

**Article 7 Voted:** On motion of Leo Janssens II, it was voted to transfer \$18,000 from Free Cash for the 250<sup>th</sup> Celebration and related expenses.

Majority "YES"

---

#### **Article 8.**

To see if the Town will vote on a Non-Binding Resolution on the Ashburnham Gas Pipeline,

Whereas a proposed interstate High-Pressure Pipeline carrying natural gas obtained through hydraulic fracturing may come through Ashburnham, or neighboring communities, bringing said fuel en route to Dracut, Massachusetts to be used for electrical generation; and

Whereas said pipeline goes against current Massachusetts commitments to renewable energies and combating global climate change; and

Whereas said projected pipeline routing may traverse and impact protected wetlands surrounding Naukeag Lake, a reservoir for the towns of Ashburnham and Winchendon; and

Whereas a high pressure gas pipeline impacts numerous homeowners property rights, including potential for leak, rupture or devastating explosion, causing untold damage to property and lives; and

Whereas said pipeline creates a fifty-foot wide, cleared swath of land, traversing and destroying mile of wooded area and wildlife habitat, divides numerous parcels of land, negatively affects property values and esthetics of the town, affecting all residents; and

Whereas the cost of said pipeline would require Massachusetts citizens to pay a utility tariff, as well as environmental costs not required by law for Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company, L.L.C. ("TGP," a subsidiary of Kinder Morgan Energy Partners, L.P.), making ratepayers bear financial risk for the endeavors of a private corporation; and

Whereas we the citizens of Ashburnham, Massachusetts, choose not to participate in such encumbrances to the life, vibrancy, and economic stability, affecting the Town of Ashburnham, the Towns and Cities bisected by the pipeline, as well as the citizens of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and our neighbors in New York state and elsewhere, wherever hydraulic fracturing is occurring and the pressurized pipeline is running; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the people of Ashburnham, Massachusetts:

1. Hereby call on our Selectboard to stand in opposition to TGP's high pressure pipeline and not allow it within our town borders;
2. Oppose said pipeline, and any pipeline carrying natural gas obtained through hydraulic fracturing, within the borders of our Commonwealth or our Nation; and
3. Hereby instruct our state and federal legislators and executive branch officials to enact legislation and take such other actions as are necessary to disallow such projects that go against our commitments to life, the environment, our economic well-being, and our bodily safety, and, instead, to legislate more stringent energy efficiency and further exploration of and subsidies for renewable energy sources. *(Requested by Citizen Petition)*

or act in relation thereto.

SELECTMEN  
RECOMMEND: YES

CAPITAL PLAN COMM  
RECOMMEND: N/A

ADVISORY BD.  
RECOMMEND: NO

TAX RATE  
IMPACT: N/A

**Explanation:** *Citizen petition*

**Article 8 Voted:** On motion of Cynda Joyce, it was voted to accept this Non-Binding Resolution on the Ashburnham Gas Pipeline as printed in the warrant.

Majority "YES"

Meeting adjourned at 8:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Linda A. Ramsdell, CMMC  
Town Clerk