

**SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
TANTASQUA REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL
TOWN WARRANT
APRIL 27, 2009
7:00 PM**

**ARTICLE 69
FY09 BUDGET REDUCTIONS**

To see if the Town will vote to approve reducing the FY09 total appropriations for the following line items to the following “revised” amounts:

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Line Item</u>	<u>Original FY09 Appropriation</u>	<u>Revised FY09 Appropriation</u>	<u>Reduction</u>
		Burgess			
13002-53000	Education	Elementary	\$ 8,542,853	\$ 8,487,853	\$ 55,000
12101-51130	Police	Salaries/Wages	\$ 1,374,415	\$ 1,366,615	\$ 7,800
11232-58000	Administrator	Matching Grant	\$ 5,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 3,000
		Purchase of			
11942-52000	Center Office	Services	\$ 4,370	\$ 200	\$ 4,170
12411-51120	Building Inspector	Dept Head Salary	\$ 60,778	\$ 45,778	\$ 15,000
19102-57410	Unclassified	Insurance	\$ 282,000	\$ 273,007	\$ 8,993
				Total:	\$ 93,963

Or take any action in relation thereto

Sponsor: Town Administrator

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:

That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted 8-1.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:

That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted 5-0.

Summary – The Governor reduced state aid to the town through a mid-year cut in local aid which totaled \$93,963. According to DOR Bulletin 2009-04B the Town Meeting must reduce total appropriations by this amount. After reviewing budgets the above reductions are recommended based upon the following:

- *Education – This amount was identified by the School Department as the amount that could be reduced in their FY09 budget.*
- *Police Salaries/Wages – The Police Department was able to obtain a grant that will pay approximately \$7,800 of a dispatcher’s wage for FY09.*
- *Town Administrator’s Matching Grant Account – Most grants that required a local match have been eliminated, the unencumbered amount in this budget can be eliminated for the remainder of FY09.*
- *Center Office – Purchase of Services – When the FY09 budget was developed, it was estimated that the Town would be occupying the Center Office for a period of time in FY09, which is not going to happen.*
- *Building Inspector – Salary – The Building Inspector’s hours have been reduced from full time to 3/5 time.*
- *Unclassified Insurance – This is the Town’s Casualty and Property Insurance – the Town saved by signing a two-year agreement and by various staff and Board/Committee members attending loss control workshops which has reduced the overall funding needed for this line item.*

VOTE OF THE TOWN MEETING: The vote of the Town Meeting was unanimous in approving the article as written as declared by the Moderator.

ARTICLE 70

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION – HISTORIC INTERPRETIVE SIGNS

To see if the town will vote to appropriate from the Community Preservation Act Historic Fund the sum of SIX THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$6000.00) for the purpose of purchasing and installing interpretive signs to be placed at three historically significant public places. These areas are the Town Hall, The Publick House, and The Old Worcester-Stafford Turnpike (Stagecoach toll road, 1810 – at the Heins Farm location); or take any action in relation thereto.

Sponsor: Community Preservation Committee

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:

That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted 9-0.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:

That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted 5-0.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE:

That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted 7-0.

<p><i>Summary – This article would use CPA funds to install three interpretive signs on the historical aspects of three historical locations in the Town.</i></p>

VOTE OF THE TOWN MEETING: The vote of the Town Meeting was unanimous in approving the article as written as declared by the Moderator.

ARTICLE 71

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION – RECREATION FIELD DESIGN

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Community Preservation Act Fund the sum of up to SEVENTY-TWO THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED ELEVEN AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$72,711.00) for the purpose of the design proposal for new recreational fields on the Shepard Parcel on Route 15; or take any action in relation thereto.

Sponsor: Community Preservation Committee

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:

That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted 9-0.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:

That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted 5-0.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE:

That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted 6-0.

Summary –This article is paired with the Annual Town Meeting article to fund the design costs of building new recreation fields at the Shepard parcel (80 Route 15) that was purchased with CPA funds (the other half is for design of additional fields behind the DPW (CPA funds cannot be used for this design since this land was not purchased using CPA funds). Two years ago, the Selectmen created a Field Study Committee in response to the need for additional fields and the Field Study Committee provided a report indicating the need for additional recreational fields. These two properties were selected as the best sites for additional fields and the next step is to fund the design costs to actually lay out the fields and develop good cost estimates for field construction.

VOTE OF THE TOWN MEETING: The vote of the Town Meeting was unanimous in approving the article as written as declared by the Moderator.

**ARTICLE 72
COMMUNITY PRESERVATION – OPERATING AND ADMINISTRATIVE
EXPENSE**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate, from CPA general funds, the sum of FIFTEEN THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$15,000.00) to be allocated for the use of operating and administrative expenses in FY10 of the Community Preservation Committee (CPC); or take any action thereto.

Sponsor: Community Preservation Committee

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:

That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted 9-0.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:

That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted 5-0.

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMUNITY PRESERVATION
COMMITTEE:**

That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted 6-0.

Summary – These funds would be used to provide operating and administrative expenses for the Community Preservation Committee, including legal expenses, appraisal reports and general office supplies as well as other general administrative expenses.

VOTE OF THE TOWN MEETING: The vote of the Town Meeting was unanimous in approving the article as written as declared by the Moderator.

**ARTICLE 73
HEALTH INSURANCE**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer and appropriate from free cash the sum of SEVENTEEN THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$17,000.00) to the Group Insurance Account #19102-51700; or take any action in relation thereto.

Sponsor: Finance Director

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:

That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted 9-0.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:

That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted 5-0.

Summary – For FY09, we had budgeted for 59 families to be on the Town’s health insurance plan. In fact, we have 62 families resulting in the increase.

VOTE OF THE TOWN MEETING: There was a substitute motion made that read, “To see if the Town will vote to amend the amount to \$20,220 and otherwise vote to approve the article as written.” This motion was seconded and passed unanimously. The vote of Town Meeting was unanimous in approving the article as amended as declared by the Moderator.

ARTICLE 74

STURBRIDGE LAKES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

To see if the Town will vote to amend the General Bylaws, Chapter One by adding a new section as follows:

1.90 STURBRIDGE LAKES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

1.91 PURPOSE

To advise the Board of Selectmen on matters regarding the six Great Ponds (Big Alum Pond, Cedar Pond, Lead Mine Pond, Long Pond, South Pond and Walker Pond) in regard to protection, improvements or enhancements, to study and maintain records regarding the lakes and to serve as a mechanism to coordinate between the affiliated lake associations.

The Committee will:

- Serve as a coordinating Committee between various town departments, boards and the lake associations.
- Seek to improve public access to the Great Ponds
- Develop consistent policies throughout each of the Great Ponds in matters of common interest (i.e. boating regulations or “rules of the road”)
- Make recommendations regarding weed control through chemical and non-chemical treatment and prevent spread between lakes through boater education.
- Identify funding opportunities and grants to improve lake and watershed quality.
- Prepare educational packages for town residents on the lakes and watersheds.

1.92 MEMBERSHIP

The Committee shall consist of two members from each of the Lake Associations to be designated by the Lake Association to serve a three year term; one member of the Conservation Commission designated by the Conservation Commission; and one member of the Board of Selectmen designated by the Board of Selectmen and one member that is a representative of either the East Brimfield Dam or abutter to Long Pond.

Or take any action in relation thereto.

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:

That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted 9-0.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:

That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted 5-0.

Summary – During the last year, the Board of Selectmen established an ad-hoc committee to look into coordinating the activities of the lakes in town and to work toward consistent policies, seek grants and to monitor and preserve the six great ponds in Sturbridge. As a result of the discussions over the past year, one of the recommendations is to create a permanent committee comprising of representatives of the various lake associations, the Board of Selectmen and Conservation Commission.

VOTE OF THE TOWN MEETING: The vote of the Town Meeting was to approve the article as written as declared by the Moderator. However, it was not unanimous.