

**TOWN OF STURBRIDGE
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT**



**TANTASQUA REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL
MONDAY, JUNE 1, 2015 @ 7:00 P.M.**

**ARTICLE 1
TOWN REPORTS**

To hear the reports of the several Boards and Town Officials and any other Committee that may be ready; 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: 7 – 0.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:

That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 4 – 0.

<p><i>Summary: This article is the acceptance of all reports as included in the Annual Town Report. The Town Meeting usually defers the actual reading of the reports as they are provided in a printed format.</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 2
COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE REPORT**

To see if the Town will vote to hear and act on the report of the Community Preservation Committee on the Fiscal Year 2016 Community Preservation budget and to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund a sum of money to meet the administrative expenses and all other necessary and proper expenses of the Community Preservation Committee for Fiscal Year 2016; and further to reserve for future appropriation amounts as recommended by the Community Preservation Committee: a sum of money for the acquisition, creation and preservation of open space, a sum of money for acquisition and preservation of historic resources, and a sum of a money for the creation, preservation and support of community housing, 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: 7 – 0.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:

That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 4 – 0.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE:

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

Summary: The CPA Committee is required to submit a report to Town Meeting on the proposed use of CPA Funds. The CPA Committee Report is an appendix to the Finance Committee Handbook.

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 3
COMMUNITY PRESERVATION-ADMINISTRATION**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund, Undesignated Fund Balance, the sum of FOURTEEN THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$14,500.00) to be allocated for the purpose of operating and administrative expenses in FY 2016 for the Community Preservation Committee (CPC); 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: 7 – 0.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:

That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 4 – 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, general office supplies, CPA Coalition Dues, informational brochure and postage relating to locations, features and uses of CPA parcels. Any unused funds appropriated shall revert back to the CPA Undesignated balance at the close of the fiscal year.

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 4

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION – LED LIGHT FIXTURES

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund, Open Space Fund Balance the sum of EIGHT HUNDRED AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$800.00) to be allocated for recreation and open space purposes to the purchase of four LED light fixtures for security lighting for equipment sheds on Riverlands; or to 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: 7 – 0.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:

That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 4 – 0.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE:

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

Summary: The Town has invested in excess of \$50,000.00 in trail equipment & tools currently stored in two sheds located at the Riverlands. These lights will provide security lighting of the area at night, and will be of value when evening “night hikes” are held. Lighted areas will facilitate both ease of observation by police and others traveling by and minimize the potential of vandalism and theft.

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 5

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION –TRAIL ASSESSMENT SOFTWARE

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund Open Space Fund Balance, for recreation and open space purposes, the sum of ONE THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$1,000.00) for a Universal Trail Assessment Process Software and Survey Kit; or to 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: 7 – 0.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:

That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 4 – 0.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE:

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

Summary: Recently developed American with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility guidelines require specific Trail Access Information (TAI) to be posted at trail heads. This kit will allow volunteers, under supervision of a certified UTAP person, to assess trail access. The software will provide an electronic file for trail management and maintenance. This purchase will allow the Trail Committee to meet several of the town's Master Plan and Trail Master Plan goals.

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 6

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION – OLD BURIAL GROUND

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund Undesignated Fund Balance the sum of NINE THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$9,400.00) to be allocated for the purpose of conservation, rehabilitation and restoration of the Old Burial Ground and related administrative costs; 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: 7 – 0.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:

That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 4 – 0.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE:

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

Summary: These funds will be used to continue conservation and restoration work in the Old Burial Ground by Fannin-Lehner Preservation Consultants.

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 7

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION- TOWN RECORDS RESTORATION

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Community Preservation Fund Undesignated Fund Balance the sum of TWENTY FIVE THOUSAND AND 00/100 (\$25,000.00) for the purpose of conservation, rehabilitation and restoration of permanent historic records; or to 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: 6 – 0.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:

That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 4 – 0.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE:

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

Summary: Funds will be used to begin the process of restoring and preserving permanent town records that date back to 1733. Due to the ravages of time, acidic papers, acidic inks, usage, temperature, humidity, UV light, and prior improper storage, our historic records contain broken bindings, loose pages, brittle paper, fading ink, bleeding ink and the presence of adhesives that were used to try and hold them together. These records are unique and are permanent links to the past and document and verify the history of the Town of Sturbridge.

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 8
COMMUNITY PRESERVATION – ACQUISITION OF PLIMPTON FOREST
(2/3 Vote Required)

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire, by purchase, gift, and/or eminent domain, all or a portion of the parcels of land located at New Boston Road and Allen Road, containing approximately 295 acres, shown on Assessor Map 110 as Parcel 655-7 and on Map 455 as Lot 1134-277, and described more particularly in deeds recorded with the Worcester (South) Registry of Deed in Book 26987, Page 251 and Book 42668, Page 209, with approximately 16 acres of such land on Allen Road to be acquired and designated for active recreational use under the provisions of G.L. c.45, §14, including, but not limited to, the installation and maintenance of sports fields and other associated amenities, and the remaining approximately 279 acres of land to be acquired and designated for conservation, forestry, and passive recreation purposes, to be held under the care, custody and control of the Conservation Commission under the provisions of G.L. c. 40, §8C; and to appropriate the total sum of ONE MILLION FIVE HUNDRED ELEVEN THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED FIFTY AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$1,511,950.00) to fund the foregoing acquisition and costs related thereto, with the purchase price of ONE MILLION FOUR HUNDRED EIGHTY-SIX THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED FIFTY AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$1,486,950.00) being funded as follows: ONE MILLION SIXTY-EIGHT THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$1,068,000.00) shall be transferred from the Community Preservation Fund, THREE HUNDRED FORTY-THREE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED FIFTY AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$343,950.00) have been granted to the Town under the Community Forest and Open Space Grant Program, and the remaining SEVENTY-FIVE THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$75,000.00) have been granted to the Town by gifts and grants, and with the remaining TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$25,000.00) of said appropriation to be used for the cost related to the acquisition, including, without limitation, recording fees, closing costs, legal fees, and

granting funds to a qualified organization to monitor a conservation restriction on the property, as set forth below; and to authorize the Board of Selectmen and/or the Conservation Commission or its or their designees, on behalf of the Town, to accept gifts and grants of SEVENTY-FIVE THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$75,000.00) or more for the foregoing purposes, file any and all applications for, and to accept the grants and/or reimbursements that have been awarded to the Town by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts under the Local Acquisitions for Natural Diversity (LAND) grant program (G.L. c. 132A, §11) (a reimbursement grant of FOUR HUNDRED THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$400,000.00), which reimbursement shall be returned to the Community Preservation Fund) and by the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Services under the Community Forest and Open Space Grant Program (grant of THREE HUNDRED FORTY-THREE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED FIFTY AND 00/100 DOLLARS \$343,950.00), and/or any other federal and/or other state programs, including those in aid of the acquisition of conservation and/or recreation land; and, further, to authorize the Board of Selectmen and/or the Conservation Commission to enter into all agreements and execute any and all instruments to effectuate the foregoing acquisition and, further, to grant or accept a perpetual restriction to Opacum Land Trust or any other qualified organization to protect said property for the foregoing purposes, meeting the provisions of G.L. c.184, §§31-33, as required under G.L. c.44B, §12(a), and to grant TEN THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$10,000.00) of the foregoing funds to said organization to monitor compliance with the terms of the restriction, or take any other action relative thereto.

Sponsor: Community Preservation Committee

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:

That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 6 – 1.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:

That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 4 – 0.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE:

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

Summary: The Plimpton Community Forest is a 295 acre parcel on New Boston and Allen Roads in Sturbridge. The proposed acquisition includes 16 acres for new sports fields and active recreation along with 279 acres for open space and passive recreation. This purchase will be funded by a combination of Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds and local, state, and federal grants and donations. When the transaction is completed, the net cost to the Community Preservation Fund will be \$668,000, approximately 42 % of the purchase price. Since this transaction will be funded by already-collected CPA funds, it will not impact the tax rate.

VOTE OF THE TOWN MEETING: There was a substitute motion brought forth by new Town Administrator Leon Gaumont, Jr. that read, “that the Town vote to approve the acquisition of the property described in the article, delete therefrom the words “and/or eminent domain,” and appropriate \$1,511,950 for said acquisition, with \$1,057,000 being transferred from the Community Preservation Fund Balance, \$36,000 being appropriated from the Community Preservation Act FY 2016 estimated annual revenues, and the remaining \$418,950 appropriated from the gift and grant funds received by the Town for such purposes, as set forth in said article.” This motion was moved, seconded. After some discussion, Temporary Moderator, Robert Briere called for a vote. The vote of the Town Meeting was that the article passed by a huge majority, more than 2/3rds, as declared by Temporary Moderator Robert Briere.

**ARTICLE 9
TOWN BUDGET**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money as may be necessary to pay the Town charges for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2015 and vote to fix salary and compensation of all elected officials of the Town in accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 41, Section 108, effective July 1, 2015; 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: 7 – 0.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:

That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 4 – 0.

Summary: This article is for the approval of the Town and School operating budgets for Fiscal Year 2016. The budgets are voted on separately and are categorized using the Uniform Massachusetts Accounting System (UMAS). Sturbridge votes appropriations by line item.

VOTE OF THE TOWN MEETING: The vote of the Town Meeting was to approve the budgets of the Town and School for FY2016.

**ARTICLE 10
WATER DEPARTMENT**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, through the fixing and collection of just and equitable prices and rates set by the Board of Selectmen (acting as Water Commissioners), the sum of ONE MILLION FOUR HUNDRED SIXTY-THREE THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED TWENTY-SIX AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$1,463,626.00), and by transferring the sum of TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$25,000) from Water Reserve Fund Balance, for a total sum of ONE MILLION FOUR HUNDRED EIGHTY-EIGHT THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED TWENTY SIX AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$1,488,626.00), and by for the expenses of Water Department in FY 2016 as follows:

Contract Operations	\$ 641,640.00
Electricity	\$ 145,000.00
DPW Director	\$ 11,604.00
Meter Maintenance	\$ 25,000.00
Billing Expense	\$ 4,900.00
Legal/Administrative Expense	\$ 5,000.00
Debt Service	\$ 563,322.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 23,000.00
Capital Replacement	\$ 69,160.00
 Total:	 <u>\$ 1,488,626.00</u>

Or take any action in relation thereto.

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen/DPW Director

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:

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

RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:

That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 4 – 0.

Summary: This budget represents an increase from the FY15 budget of \$78,118.00 or 5.5%. This budget will require an increase to the water rate from \$6.16 per 100 cubic feet to \$6.93 per 100 cubic feet (increase of \$0.77 per 100 cubic feet or 12.5%). The rate reflects the use of \$25,000.00 from the Water Fund Balance to moderate the rate increase.

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 11
SEWER DEPARTMENT**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, through the fixing and collection of just and equitable prices and rates set by the Board of Selectmen (Acting as Sewer Commissioners), the sum of TWO MILLION EIGHT HUNDRED THIRTY-SIX THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED SIXTY-NINE AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$2,836,769.00), for the expenses of the Sewer Department in FY 2016 as follows:

Contract Operations	\$	842,360.00
Electricity	\$	285,000.00
DPW Director	\$	11,604.00
Billing Expense	\$	4,900.00
Legal/Administrative Expense	\$	5,000.00
Debt Service	\$	1,123,705.00
Southbridge Fees	\$	165,000.00
Liquid Sludge Handling	\$	295,000.00
Miscellaneous Expenses	\$	84,950.00
Capital Replacement	\$	19,250.00
Total:	\$	<u>2,836,769.00</u>

Or take any action in relation thereto.

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen/DPW Director

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:

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

RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:

That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 4 – 0.

Summary: This budget reflects an increase from the FY15 budget of \$135,252.00 or 5%. This budget will require an increase to the sewer rate from \$9.54 per 100 cubic feet to \$9.82 per 100 cubic feet (increase \$0.28 per 100 cubic feet or 2.9%).

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 12 SEWER PROJECT DEBT

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of:

- TWO HUNDRED SIX THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED FIFTY-SEVEN AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$206,957.00) from the F/B Reserved for Phase II Betterment Account #28440-35825 to the Phase II Sewer Debt Account #28440-59100;
- ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEEN THOUSAND EIGHTY-FIVE AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$118,085.00) from the F/B Reserved for Cedar Lake Betterment Account #28440-35827 to the Cedar Lake Sewer Debt Account #28440-59200;
- ONE HUNDRED FIFTY-NINE THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED FIFTY AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$159,150.00) from the F/B Reserved for Big Alum Betterment Account #28440-35823 to the Big Alum Sewer Debt Account #28440-59220; and
- SIXTY THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED FIFTY AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$60,550.00) from the F/B Reserved for Woodside/Westwood Betterment Account #28440-35829 to the Woodside/Westwood Sewer Debt Account #28440-59230

for the purpose of paying the debt service due on these sewer projects for FY16; 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: 6 – 0.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:

That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 4 – 0.

Summary : This warrant article appropriates the funds necessary to pay debt service on the several sewer projects the Town of Sturbridge has undertaken over the past decade. These debt service payments are repaid through betterment assessments from the property owners within the specific sewer projects and are not supported by either general property taxes or other sewer customers through the sewer rate.

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 13
COMMUNITY PRESERVATION – DEBT SERVICE**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the Community Preservation Fund – Undesignated Fund Balance, the sum of:

- ONE HUNDRED TWO THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED EIGHTY-FIVE AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$102,385.00) for the purpose of paying the debt service for the OSV Land Acquisition;
- FIFTY-NINE THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED EIGHTY AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$59,480.00) for the purpose of paying the debt service for the Heins Farm Acquisition;
- ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEEN THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED SEVEN AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$118,107.00) for the purpose of paying the debt service for the Town Hall/Center Office renovation project;
- ONE HUNDRED FIVE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$105,500.00) for the purpose of paying the debt service for the Stallion Hill/Holland Road Land Acquisition;

Or take any action in relation thereto.

Sponsor: Finance Director and CPA Committee

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:

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

RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:

That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 4 – 0.

Summary: This article provides the appropriation to pay the costs for previously approved debt issuances for the acquisition of open space known as the Heins Farm, OSV parcels, Stallion Hill/Holland Road parcels and the renovation of the Town Hall and Center Office Building.

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 14
REVOLVING FUNDS**

To see if the Town will vote to re-establish the following Revolving Funds as provided for in Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 53E½; or to take any action in relation thereto.

<u>Revolving Fund</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Funds to be Deposited From</u>	<u>Authorized to Expend</u>	<u>Maximum Expenditure</u>
Recreation	Costs associated with recreational programs, activities and facilities improvements.	Program fees, donations, gifts, private sponsorship, facilities fees	Recreation Committee	\$30,000.00
HazMat Cleanup	To address hazardous materials spills and provide the Fire Department	Insurance proceeds and other proceeds received by the HazMat Team for	Fire Chief	\$10,000.00

	the means to bill insurance companies and refurbish supplies used in HazMat spills.	services.		
Board of Health	Payment for clerical support and staff required to service large events such as festivals and fairs, initial restaurant consultations and restaurant inspections beyond two per year, public health inspections, engineering, public health nursing and emergencies.	Temporary permits and licenses, fines levied by the BOH and fees for initial restaurant consultations, excess food service inspections, beach testing, and fees from complex Title 5 engineering services.	Board of Health	\$20,000.00
BOH: Pay-As-You-Throw Program	Any and all costs associated with the planning, promoting or implementing the PAYT Program, or the operational expenses, equipment or supplies of the PAYT Program.	Program fees including, but not limited to, receipts for Program bags, stickers or other fees that may be established from time to time by the Board of Health and donations.	Board of Health	\$20,000.00
Senior Center	Payment to instructors, presenters, service providers, supplies for special programs and repairs.	Program fees, private sponsorship, donations and participation fees	Council on Aging	\$10,000.00
Planning Department	Payment for any and all costs associated with the Town's Geographic Information System including the acquisition of software, hardware and maintenance of same and supplies, data and the development and/or conversion of data including the costs of consultant services to develop GIS related products for the town, or other related expenses.	GIS support services including fees collected for the development and printing of maps and other GIS data requests	Town Planner	\$10,000.00

Public Lands	Development and implementation of forestry management plans, trail development & maintenance, signage, trail maps, construction of foot bridges, purchase of supplies and development of access for public use, educational purposes and general maintenance of open space parcels owned by the Town.	Forestry management and donations.	Conservation Commission	\$20,000.00
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Sturbridge Tourist Association	All and any costs associated with planning, promoting or implementing Sturbridge tourist related events; a portion of the operating costs associated with the Tourist Information Center.	Grants for tourism, revenue generated through tourist events and promotions; program fees and donations.	Sturbridge Tourist Association	\$20,000.00
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Or take any action in relation thereto.

Sponsors: Recreation Committee, Fire Department, Board of Health, Council on Aging, Town Planner, Conservation Commission and Town Administrator.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:

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

RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:

That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 4 – 0.

Summary: This article re-establishes and provides spending authority for the Town's Revolving Funds. The annual accounting and balance of the revolving funds is included as an appendix to the Finance Committee's Report.

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 15
STURBRIDGE TOURIST ASSOCIATION

To see if the Town will transfer and appropriate from the Hotel/Motel Special Account to the Sturbridge Tourist Association Account sum of ONE HUNDRED FORTY-FOUR THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED TWENTY-EIGHT AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$144,428.00) for the following items:

Welcome Information Center	\$ 23,500.00
Special Events	\$ 17,928.00
Advertising and Promotion	\$ 70,000.00
Route 20 Restrooms	\$ 15,000.00
Community Support	\$ 18,000.00
Total	<u>\$ 144,428.00</u>

or to 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: 5 – 1 – 1.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:

That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 4 – 0.

Summary: The revenues come from a 6% hotel/motel tax which is split with 67.5% going to the General Fund, 16.25% used for funding the Sturbridge Tourist Association and 16.25% used for the Betterment Committee. This budget is for marketing the community for tourism.

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 16
BETTERMENT COMMITTEE

To see if the Town will vote to transfer and appropriate from the Hotel/Motel Special Account to the Betterment Account the sum of ONE HUNDRED FORTY-FOUR THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED TWENTY-EIGHT AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$144,428.00) for the following items:

Flower Barrels	\$ 3,000.00
Plantings (former by Bloom Committee)	\$ 1,060.00
Landscaping at Senior Center (spring planting)	\$ 500.00
Joshua Hyde Library Landscaping	\$ 2,500.00
Gateway Signage Account	\$ 1,500.00
Tree Maintenance (town-wide)	\$ 7,000.00
Town Common Tree Maintenance	\$ 4,000.00
Tree Planting – Arbor Day Program	\$ 1,000.00
Main Street Tree and Park Maintenance	\$ 1,000.00
Public Restroom Maintenance (Route 20)	\$ 5,000.00
DPW – Sidewalk Maintenance	\$10,500.00
Board of Health – WinWam Food Safety Software (2)	\$ 5,600.00
Recycling Center – Ruggedized Walkie-Talkies	\$ 1,652.00
Fire Dept. Special Event Overtime	\$ 4,300.00
Fire Dept. Cardiac Monitors (2)	\$58,000.00
Police Dept. Special Event Overtime	\$10,000.00
Police Dept. Big Tex 35 SA-10 Trailer with Ramp	\$ 1,600.00
Police Dept. Handgun Cleaner	\$ 635.00
Police Dept. Drug Identification Kit	\$ 332.00
Cedar Lake (Town Beach) Water Treatment	\$ 1,700.00

Town Common Summer Concert Series	\$ 4,000.00
SLAC / Great Ponds Weed & Safety Program	\$ 5,000.00
Decorations for Town Common	\$ 3,550.00
Skating Rink (replacement liner)	\$ 199.00
Turner Field – fertilizer, weed, lime and grub applications	\$ 1,200.00
Town Barn Softball/Soccer Field – fertilizer, weed, lime and grub applications	\$ 1,980.00
Town Barn Soccer/Softball seeding field application	\$ 1,120.00
Town Beach Hydro-raking	\$ 5,000.00
Trail Construction and Maintenance Supplies/ Materials	\$ 1,500.00
TOTAL	\$144,428.00

Or take any action in relation thereto.

Sponsor: Betterment Committee

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:

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

RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:

That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 4 – 0.

Summary: The revenues come from a 6% hotel/motel tax which is split with 67.5% going to the General Fund, 16.25% used for funding the Sturbridge Tourist Association and 16.25% used for the Betterment Committee. Betterment Committee funds are utilized for public safety, recreation and the beautification of the community.

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 17
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from free cash and appropriate the sum of THREE HUNDRED NINETY THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED NINETEEN AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$390,619.00) to the Capital Improvement Account for the purpose of funding the following items from the capital improvement plan to be undertaken for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2015:

Department	Item Approved	Amount
Town Hall, Center Office, Library	Phone System	\$ 68,500.00
Police	(1) Fully Equipped Police Cruiser	\$ 46,646.00
DPW	Replacement Dump Body for 2004 Catch Basin Cleaner	\$ 46,900.00
Finance	Three Station Folder/Inserter	\$ 13,000.00
Fire	Ambulance	\$100,000.00
Recycling/Landfill	Compactor	\$ 30,500.00
Police	(4) Fuel Cell Breathalyzers	\$ 6,600.00
Police	WatchGuard Digital Wireless System Cameras	\$ 9,495.00
DPW	Pickup Truck	\$ 36,060.00
DPW	Pavement Roller and Trailer	\$ 32,918.00
TOTAL		\$390,619.00

Or take any action in relation thereto.

Sponsor: Capital Improvement Committee

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:

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

RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:

That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 4 – 0.

Summary: This budget funds a portion of the highest rated capital needs of the Town. The Town uses a ten-factor rating system where each capital request is rated between 0 and 100. The ten factors are: (1) public safety and health, (2) infrastructure needs, (3) quantity of use, (4) efficiency of services, (5) legal requirements, (6) public support, (7) personnel impacts, (8) service impacts, (9) budgetary constraints and (10) administrative needs. The Capital Plan as presented is consistent with the Comprehensive Fiscal Policies presented to the Selectmen and Finance Committee in 2005 to set goals and guidelines. Under this policy, capital expenditures rated as high priorities but costing under \$5,000 are included in department budgets; capital expenditures over \$5,000 and under \$100,000 are included in this article to be funded using free cash; and capital expenditures over \$100,000 are included and recommended as short-term borrowing or raise articles.

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 18

(2/3 Vote Required)

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE – (18) SELF CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS (SCBA) – DEBT ISSUANCE

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-NINE THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$139,000.00) to purchase (18) Self Contained Breathing Apparatus for the Fire Department, including costs incidental and related thereto, and to determine whether the appropriation shall be raised by borrowing or otherwise; or take any action in relation thereto.

Sponsor: Fire Chief, Board of Selectmen

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:

That the sum of ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-NINE THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$139,000.00) be appropriated for the purpose of purchasing (18) Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus for the Fire Department, including costs incidental and related thereto; and that to raise this appropriation, the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, is hereby authorized to borrow \$139,000.00 under and pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 7(9), of the General Laws, as amended, or any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor. Voted: 6 – 0.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:

That the sum of ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-NINE THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$139,000.00) be appropriated for the purpose of purchasing (18) Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus for the Fire Department, including costs incidental and related thereto; and that to raise this appropriation, the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, is hereby authorized to borrow \$139,000.00 under and pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 7(9), of the General Laws, as amended, or any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor. Voted: 4 – 0.

Summary: Self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) units are required to perform various firefighting duties in order to provide fresh breathing air while working in oxygen deficient or toxic atmospheres. Currently, 24 of our 36 SCBA units are in excess of 15 years old and essentially three to four generations behind in the advancements of technology and safety. These new units will provide firefighters with the most up to date features available and meet the current National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)

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

ARTICLE 19

(2/3 Vote Required)

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE – STREET SWEEPER – DEBT ISSUANCE

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of TWO HUNDRED SEVENTY THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$270,000) to purchase a Regenerative Air Sweeper for the Department of Public Works, including costs incidental and related thereto, and to determine whether the appropriation shall be raised by borrowing or otherwise; or take any action in relation thereto.

Sponsor: DPW Director, Board of Selectmen

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:

That the sum of TWO HUNDRED SEVENTY THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$270,000.00) be appropriated for the purpose of purchasing a Regenerative Air Sweeper for the Department of Public Works, including costs incidental and related thereto; and that to raise this appropriation, the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, is hereby authorized to borrow \$270,000.00 under and pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 7(9), of the General Laws, as amended, or any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor. Voted: 6 – 0.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:

That the sum of TWO HUNDRED SEVENTY THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$270,000.00) be appropriated for the purpose of purchasing a Regenerative Air Sweeper for the Department of Public Works, including costs incidental and related thereto; and that to raise this appropriation, the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, is hereby authorized to borrow \$270,000.00 under and pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 7(9), of the General Laws, as amended, or any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor. Voted: 4 – 0.

Summary: This request is for a vacuum-style Regenerative Air Sweeper. This vacuum sweeper will be used in conjunction with our 10-year old mechanical sweeper. The MA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) recommends that a vacuum sweeper be used to augment our 10-year old mechanical sweeper to reduce suspended solids in the storm water effluent discharged on roadways.

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

ARTICLE 20

AMBULANCE STABILIZATION FUND

(2/3 Vote Required)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate FIFTY THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$50,000.00) to the Ambulance Stabilization Fund for the purpose of reserving funds for the future purchase of an ambulance; or take any action in relation thereto.

Sponsor: Fire Chief, Finance Director, Town Administrator

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:

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

RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:

That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 4 – 0.

Summary: Annually, the Town sets aside a sum of money to assist the Town in replacing its ambulances on a seven-year schedule. These funds will be set aside until a new ambulance is purchased. If the ambulance purchase in Article 24 is approved, the approximate balance in the Ambulance Stabilization Fund will be \$12,705.

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 21
WATER METER REPLACEMENT PROGRAM**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the Water Reserve Fund Balance the sum of THIRTY-FIVE THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$35,000.00) to fund the water meter replacement program; or take any action in relation thereto.

Sponsor: DPW Director; Finance Director

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:

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

RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:

That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 4 – 0.

Summary: This funding request will complete the installation of the radio meter head replacement program. The new system features a common manufacturer for radio reader and existing meter bases, water use data-profiling capability if needed and improved battery life.

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 22
OPEB TRUST FUND**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$100,000.00) to the Other Post-Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund Account; or take any action in relation thereto.

Sponsor: Finance Director, Town Administrator

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:

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

RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:

That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 4 – 0.

Summary: The Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB) has determined that Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) are part of the compensation that employees earn each year notwithstanding that such benefits are not tendered until after employment has ended. These benefits include health insurance, prescription or other related benefits provided to eligible retirees. GASB-45 mandates that municipalities account for and, eventually, fund these benefits. The fund was established and capitalized with \$100,000 at the 2011 Annual Meeting. In accordance with the Town's financial policies, an annual contribution of not less than \$10,000 should be allocated to the fund until such time as the actuarially calculated annual contribution of \$1.7 million can be initiated. The Town of Sturbridge remains proactive relative to other municipalities in addressing this obligation. If approved, Sturbridge will have roughly \$342,000 in the fund.

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 23
TAX RATE RELIEF**

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Assessors to use the amount of TWO HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$250,000.00) from free cash to lower the tax rate for the fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2015; or take any action in relation thereto.

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen, Town Administrator

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:

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

RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:

That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 4 – 0.

Summary: The Town has historically utilized available free cash to reduce the tax rate when finances have allowed.

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 24

TRANSFER OF FUNDS – PURCHASE OF AMBULANCE

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the Ambulance Stabilization Account #83800 the sum of ONE HUNDRED THIRTY THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$130,000.00) to be used to fund a portion of the purchase of a new ambulance; or take any action in relation thereto.

Sponsor: Fire Chief

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:

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

RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:

That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 4 – 0.

Summary: Annually, the Town sets aside a sum of money into the Ambulance Stabilization Account to assist the town in replacing ambulances on a seven-year schedule. This transfer will be combined with \$100,000 in Capital Improvement Funds to replace the 2005 Ambulance.

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 25
PROPOSED ZONING AMENDMENT – SOLAR ZONING BYLAW
(2/3 Vote Required)

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town's Zoning Bylaws by amending Chapter Two by inserting the following definitions in the appropriate locations:

- A. *Large Solar Energy Facility* - A commercial solar facility whose primary purpose is electrical generation for the wholesale electricity market. It includes service and access roads, equipment, machinery and structures utilized in connection with the conversion of solar energy into electrical power with a rated nameplate capacity of greater than 100kW/0.1MW.
- B. *Rated Nameplate Capacity* - The maximum rated output of electric power production equipment. The manufacturer typically specifies this output with a "nameplate" on the equipment.
- C. *Small Solar Energy Facility* - A solar facility that has a total rated nameplate capacity of not more than 100kW/0.1MW. It includes the equipment, machinery and structures utilized in connection with the conversion of solar energy into electrical power.

Amend and renumber Chapter 29, Sections 29.5, and 29.6.1 to remove the strikethrough language and add the language underlined as follows, and delete the existing Section 29.13

29.5 DIMENSION AND DENSITY REQUIREMENTS (adds new language to A., deletes the existing B and C, and replaces that with a new B.)

- A. Setbacks: Ground-mounted solar energy facilities including appurtenant structures (including but not limited to equipment shelters, storage facilities, transformers and substations) shall have a setback from front, side and rear property lines and public ways of at least One Hundred Feet (100') in Special Use District and Industrial Districts. Twenty Percent (20%) of a parcel's total square footage may be used for a solar facility.
- ~~B. Natural Buffer for Large Solar Projects: The site plan shall provide a natural vegetative buffer of Two Hundred Feet (200') between a large solar energy facility and a property in residential use, including houses across a street.~~
- ~~C. Appurtenant Structures: All appurtenant structures, including but not limited to, equipment shelters, storage facilities, transformers, and substations shall be subject to reasonable regulations concerning bulk and height, setbacks, parking, building coverage, and vegetative screening to avoid adverse impacts on the neighborhood or abutting properties.~~
- B. Buffering: The visual impact of large scale solar photovoltaic facilities including all appurtenant structures shall be mitigated. Structures shall be buffered/shielded from view and/or joined and clustered to avoid adverse visual impacts as deemed necessary by the Planning Board using landscaping and natural features as appropriate to accomplish the mitigation. When a proposed project abuts a property in residential use, the minimum width of the buffer area shall be 200' (measured from the proposed solar project to the property line of the property in residential use) and this distance shall supersede the 100' setback as stated in A. above. In all other cases that buffering/shielding shall occur within the stated setback amount.

29.6.1 DESIGN STANDARDS (amends language in B and C and adds a new D and E)

- A. Lighting: Lighting shall be limited to that required for safety and operational purposes, and shall not be intrusive in any way on abutting properties. Lighting shall incorporate full cut-off fixtures to reduce light pollution.
- B. Signage: The site may have a sign not exceeding sixteen (16) sq. ft. in area providing educational information about the facility and the benefits of renewable energy. ~~Large-scale~~ Ground mounted solar photovoltaic facilities shall not be used for displaying any advertising. Safety signage shall be installed as deemed necessary.
- C. Utility Connections: ~~The applicant shall place all wiring from the solar energy facility underground.~~ Reasonable efforts, as determined by the Planning Board, shall be made to place all utility connections from the solar photovoltaic installation underground, depending on appropriate soil conditions, shape and topography of the site and any requirements of the utility provider. Electrical transformer for utility interconnections may be above ground if required by the utility provider.
- D. Land Clearing: Clearing of natural vegetation shall be limited to only what is absolutely necessary as determined during Site Plan Review for the construction, operation, and maintenance of the solar photovoltaic installation or otherwise prescribed by applicable laws, regulations, and bylaws.
- E. Environmental Impacts: Proposed structures (including panels) shall be integrated into the existing terrain and surrounding landscape by minimizing use of and impact to wetlands, steep slopes, and hilltops; protecting visual amenities and scenic views; minimizing tree, vegetation, and soil removal; and minimizing grade changes.

29.13 DEFINITIONS (Deletes all and moves to Chapter 2)

- ~~D. *Large Solar Energy Facility*—A commercial solar facility whose primary purpose is electrical generation for the wholesale electricity market. It includes service and access roads, equipment, machinery and structures utilized in connection with the conversion of solar energy into electrical power with a rated nameplate capacity of greater than 100kW/0.1MW.~~
- ~~E. *Rated Nameplate Capacity*—The maximum rated output of electric power production equipment. The manufacturer typically specifies this output with a "nameplate" on the equipment.~~
- ~~F. *Small Solar Energy Facility*—A solar facility that has a total rated nameplate capacity of not more than 100kW/0.1MW. It includes the equipment, machinery and structures utilized in connection with the conversion of solar energy into electrical power.~~

Or take any action in relation thereto.

Sponsor: Planning Board

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:

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

RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:

That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 4 – 0.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE PLANNING BOARD:

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

Summary: The proposed edits do not modify the intent of the bylaw but clarify sections that have proven to be vague or problematic during the review and approval of two solar facilities using this bylaw. The changes will move the definitions to Chapter 2 as is consistent with other sections of the bylaw, provide clarification on buffering and setbacks, and add additional environmental and design standards to be consistent with the state model.

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 26
POLL VACANCIES**

To see if the Town will vote to accept G.L. c. 54, Section 16A, authorizing the Town Clerk to fill vacancies at elections. General Law Chapter 54, Section 16A provides that in any city or town which accepts this section, if the warden, clerk or inspector, or the deputy of any such officer, if any, is not present at the opening of the polls, the city or town clerk may appoint a person to fill such vacancy who shall be an enrolled voter of the same political party as the absent officer, if any competent person enrolled in such party is present and willing to serve; or take any other action relative thereto.

Sponsor: Town Clerk

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:

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

RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:

That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 4 – 0.

Summary: This article provides the Town Clerk with the authority to appoint poll workers for town-wide elections in the event regular poll workers are unavailable or not present for the opening of the polls.

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 27
TOWN OWNED BUILDINGS – ROOF RENOVATIONS**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate THREE HUNDRED THIRTY-NINE THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED TWENTY AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$339,120.00) from free cash for the purpose of upgrading and repairing Town owned building roofs (Library, Senior Center and the Public Safety Complex), including incidental costs; 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: 7 – 0.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:

That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 4 – 0.

Summary: This article provides funding to repair damage to the Library, Senior Center and Public Safety Complex roofs caused by this winter's weather, resulting in significant structural impairment of these roofs. This article will fund the replacement of the slate roof sections of the Senior Center and Library as well as portions of the Public Safety Complex roof. All three roofs will be outfitted with heat mats to prevent the formation of ice dams.

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 28
PETITION FOR ARTICLE FOR ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
CHARTER CHANGE - DATE OF TOWN MEETING
(2/3 Vote Required)

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town Charter, Section 3-3 to delete the words, the "first Monday in June" and change to the "last Monday in April"; or take any action in relation thereto.

Sponsor: By Petition

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:

That the Town take no action on this article. Voted: 7 – 0.

The Finance Committee considered a similar article for the June 2012 Town Meeting. We still believe it is better to meet in June because the Finance Committee will receive more reliable figures from the State government regarding Town revenues and expenses. For instance, changes in the transportation aid figures required us to adjust the budget as recently as our April 30 meeting for your consideration this evening, taking into account printing deadlines.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:

Recommendation to be provided at the Town Meeting.

Summary: This article would constitute the first step in modifying the Town Charter to change the date of the Annual Town Meeting from its current date to the last Monday in April. If this article is approved at this Town Meeting, the question will also appear on the next annual Town election ballot. If approved on the ballot, the charter would be changed. Such a change will also require modification to the Town's General Bylaws to account for the new date.

VOTE OF THE TOWN MEETING: There was a substitute motion for this article that read, "To approve the article as written". The motion was seconded and the vote of the Town Meeting was that this substitute motion was defeated. Therefore, the recommendation of the Finance Committee was then considered which is that the Town take no action on this article.

ARTICLE 29
PETITION FOR ARTICLE FOR ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
ACCEPTANCE OF MGL CH. 41, SEC. 19K

To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of Chapter 41, Section 19K of the Massachusetts General Laws, added by Chapter 170 of the Acts and Resolves of 1999. Said act provides that a Town Clerk who has completed the necessary courses of study and training and has been awarded a certificate by the Massachusetts Town Clerks Association as a Certified Massachusetts Municipal Clerk shall receive in addition to regular annual compensation an amount equal to ten (10) percent of such regular annual compensation, but not more than \$1,000 per year and transfer from free cash a sum of money to fund the additional compensation provided for under the aforesaid statutes for the current fiscal year, and to act on anything relating thereto.

Sponsor: By Petition

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:

That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 4 – 2.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:

Recommendation to be provided at the Town Meeting.

Summary: This article seeks to award the Town Clerk a \$1,000 payment from Free Cash for attaining the Certified Massachusetts Municipal Clerk designation. Our current Town Clerk has held the designation for many years.

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

**ARTICLE 30
PETITION FOR ARTICLE FOR ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
GENERAL BYLAW AMENDMENT - TOWN MEETING**

To see if the Town will vote to amend the General Bylaws, Chapter One as follows:

By adding:

Section 1.07

(i) Any bylaw or charter change can be voted only at the Annual Town Meeting.

Sponsor: By Petition

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:

That the Town take no action on this article. Voted: 6 – 0.

While the Finance Committee can understand the intent of the petitioner, we believe this course of action would not be in the Town's best interest. The Town should not be restricted to voting on bylaw or charter changes only at the Annual Town Meeting since there could be time sensitive or constrained opportunities that must be addressed during a Special Town Meeting.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:

Recommendation to be provided at the Town Meeting.

VOTE OF THE TOWN MEETING: There was a substitute motion for this article that read, "To approve the article as written". The motion was seconded and the vote of the Town Meeting was that this substitute motion was defeated. Therefore, the recommendation of the Finance Committee was then considered which is that the Town take no action on this article.

Summary: This article would modify the General Bylaws by adding a restriction to the Town Meeting Requirements to only consider and vote upon bylaw or charter changes during the Annual Town Meeting.