

**TOWN OF STURBRIDGE
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT**



**TANTASQUA REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL
MONDAY, JUNE 6, 2016 @ 7:00 P.M.**

**ARTICLE 43
UNPAID BILLS OF A PREVIOUS FISCAL YEAR
(9/10th vote required)**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of THREE HUNDRED NINETY-EIGHT AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$398.00) from Free Cash for the purpose of paying unpaid bills of a prior fiscal year; or take any action relative thereto.

Sponsor: Finance Director

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:

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

RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:

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

<p><i>Summary: An invoice for registration fees for two police officers to attend a Law Enforcement Wellness and Resiliency Course in FY15 was not submitted timely for payment. The officers attended the training and payment is currently due to the vendor.</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 44
TRANSFER OF FREE CASH
SELF-CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS AND STREET SWEEPER**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-SEVEN THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED TWELVE AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$137,212.00) from Free Cash for Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus and TWO HUNDRED FORTY THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED SIXTEEN AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$240,316.00) from Free Cash for a Street Sweeper in lieu of borrowing for both projects; or take any action relative thereto.

Sponsor: Finance Director

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:

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

RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:

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

Summary: These projects were funded through borrowing at the FY16 Annual Town Meeting. It is proposed that these two capital expenditures be paid with Free Cash instead of borrowing; thereby saving the taxpayers the short term interest cost over the next five (5) years.

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.

ARTICLE 45

RESCIND PRIOR BORROWING AUTHORIZATIONS

To see if the Town will vote to rescind the following excess borrowing authorizations:

<u>Amount</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Authorization</u>
\$ 1,916,000.00	WWTP Upgrade/Expansion	Article 10 – 4/28/08
\$ 65,529.34	Well #4	Article F – 10/19/09
\$ 300,000.00	Mountain Brook Rd. project	Article 26 – 6/3/13
\$14,237,232.00	Burgess Elementary	Article C – 10/19/09 & 10/26/09

or take any action relative thereto.

Sponsor: Finance Director

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:

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

RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:

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

Summary: This article will rescind prior borrowing authorizations for completed projects.

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 46

AMEND FISCAL YEAR 2016 SCHOOL BUDGET

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$100,000.00) from Free Cash to the Burgess Elementary School Budget Account #13002-5300 to cover fiscal year 2016 shortages in special needs education costs, both in and out of district, or take any action relative thereto.

Sponsor: School Department

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:

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

RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:

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

Summary: The requested funds will cover higher than expected Special Education costs, both in-house and out-of-district, are the result of a number of unexpected outside placements and students moving into town during the school year.

VOTE OF TOWN MEETING: There was a substitute motion made by the Burgess School Committee that no action be taken on this article. The motion was seconded and we moved onto the next article.

ARTICLE 47
WATER RESERVE FUND REQUEST

To see if the town will vote to transfer the sum of TEN THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$10,000.00) from the Water Reserve Fund Balance for the purpose of funding a review and submittal of the Water Management Act Permit including a review/change of status for the Well #4 site and treatment plant, or take any action relative thereto.

Sponsor: DPW Director

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:

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

RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:

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

Summary: This article is to fund engineering services as required by MA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) in order to ultimately bring Well #4 from seasonal to year-round usage.

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 48
WATER RESERVE FUND REQUEST

To see if the town will vote to transfer the sum of THIRTY-SEVEN THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$37,500.00) from the Water Reserve Fund Balance for the purpose of funding a Water Supply Study regarding source concerns for Well#3 and Well #5, or take any action relative thereto.

Sponsor: DPW Director

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:

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

RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:

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

Summary: This article is to fund the installation of test wells required by the MA DEP to address water source concerns surrounding Wells #3 and #5.

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 49
PERMITTING SOFTWARE UPGRADE

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of FORTY-SIX THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$46,000.00) from Free Cash for all costs necessary to upgrade/migrate the Town's current permitting software; or take any action relative thereto.

Sponsor: Planning Department

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:

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

RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:

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

Summary: This article is proposing to update the Town's permitting software by using \$46,000 from Free Cash to seek competitive bids. In March 2014, the Town's current permitting software company, GeoTMS, was acquired by another company. While the new company has indicated that they will continue to support the GeoTMS product, they will not provide updates or improvements to the current product. It is not in the best interest of the Town to continue to use software that will not receive updates or improvements. In order to improve efficiency and streamline processes relative to permitting, the Town needs to consider all options, which could include new software or a migration to other products. Town departments that utilize this software include Building, Conservation, DPW, Fire, Planning, Board of Health, Town Administrator and Assessor.

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 50
CARON & VALLEY ROAD BETTERMENT PROJECT

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$200,000.00) to pay costs of laying out and constructing a drainage system, storm water treatment and system, including the cost of acquiring land or easements for such purpose, as well as other roadway improvement and the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto; that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectmen, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 7(1) of the General Laws, or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor, or to meet appropriation by a transfer from Free Cash and that the Board of Selectmen is authorized, pursuant to General Laws, Chapter 83, Sections 14 and 23 and General Laws Chapter 80, to assess proportionately as betterments 100% of the cost to the Town of constructing such system, upon each of those properties that receive benefit thereby, or take any action relative thereto.

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen/DPW Director

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$200,000.00) from Free Cash to pay costs of laying out and constructing a drainage, storm water treatment and disposal system, including the cost of acquiring land or easements for such purpose, as well as other roadway improvement and the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto; that the Board of Selectmen is authorized, pursuant to General Laws Chapter 83, Sections 14 and 23 and General Laws Chapter 80, to assess proportionately as betterments 100% of the cost to the Town of constructing such system upon each of those properties that receive benefit thereby.

Voted: 6 – 0 – 0.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$200,000.00) from Free Cash to pay costs of laying out and constructing a drainage, storm water treatment and disposal system, including the cost of acquiring land or easements for such purpose, as well as other roadway improvement and the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto; that the Board of Selectmen is authorized, pursuant to General Laws Chapter 83, Sections 14 and 23 and General Laws Chapter 80, to assess proportionately as betterments 100% of the cost to the Town of constructing such system upon each of those properties that receive benefit thereby.

Voted: 5 – 0 – 0.

Summary: This article would fund drainage improvements in the Caron Road and Valley Road neighborhoods. This expenditure will be recovered through betterment assessments on the properties that will be affected by the project.

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 51

TRANSFER OF FUNDS – WATER MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of TEN THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$10,000.00) from the Water Reserve Fund Balance to Water Miscellaneous Account #29450-55320; or take any action relative thereto.

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen, Department of Public Works

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:

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

RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:

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

Summary: This article seeks \$10,000 from the Water Reserve Fund Balance to support the operations related to the Town’s water supply.

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