

Members Present: Gary Wells, Chair, Lisa Blazejewski, Ed Behn, Peter Allen, Tara Howard, Hank Rauch, Beth Blumberg, Jim Tepper, Sharon Kaiser.

At 7:02 p.m. Mr. Wells called the meeting to order in Room 23 of the Forbes Building.

**Approval of Past Minutes:**

There were no minutes to approve.

**Wastewater Treatment Plant–Jack Goodall and Mike Stanton–ATM–Budget and Operational Update:** Mr. Goodhall informed the Committee that the major increase in their budget was due to contract services, which is included in their expenses line item. He explained that there is additional sludge that is being generated as a result of the added phosphorus removal treatment. Mr. Goodhall said that they didn't put it in their budget last year for this year, but have added it for FY16. He also noted that their electric expenses came in under budget. Mr. Goodhall mentioned that some of the increase was tied to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and also the Producer Price Index (PPI), but mostly the increase was due to the sludge. Mr. Goodhall pointed out the solar array that was installed, and pointed out that this array has helped with their electric costs. Mr. Goodhall also spoke about the permitting process with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). They mostly deal with the EPA, who may be imposing more stringent metal limits in the water, such as for copper, silver, and phosphorus. They are still waiting for a draft of the permit from the EPA. Mr. Goodhall explained that there are legal fees involved in the permitting process, along with treatment costs. Mr. Allen asked for help understanding the permitting process, since the permit they have is several years old. He asked if at some point the EPA says "here's a new permit". Mr. Goodhall and Mr. Stanton went over the permit process. First the treatment plant asks for a new permit and then the EPA and State give them draft permits. If the Wastewater Treatment Board doesn't agree with concerns provided by the EPA, they can provide their comments and re-submit the permit request. Usually the actual permit arrives about 6 months later, but it is during the draft process where concerns are brought forward. It was noted that it is during the draft process when environmental groups can also make their comments and concerns known. The Comprehensive Wastewater Modification Plan was reviewed. Mr. Goodhall and Mr. Stanton discussed capacities and flows. Mr. Goodhall showed a graph with 8 years of precipitation charted (rain, snow, etc.), and wastewater. Mr. Goodhall mentioned that heavy flows will increase costs. Ms. Blumberg asked about the snow and Mr. Goodhall pointed out that warm temperatures will melt the snow fast causing an increase in the flow. However, they look at ground water flow over a 12 month period. Mr. Goodhall mentioned factors that can cause a low flow such as no rain and a water ban. He said that seasonally they see high flows in the spring, the summer dries out, and then flow levels rise in the fall. High flows in the spring are usually due to snow melt and rains, then vegetation grows and summer dries out, then the fall typically sees more rain.

**Town Moderator – John E. Arnold – ATM – Related Items:**

Mr. Arnold met with the Committee and thanked them for their hard work leading up to the Annual Town Meeting (ATM). He reminded everyone that there will be voting tomorrow at the high school. He also wanted to remind everyone about the ATM on March 14<sup>th</sup> at 1pm, which will also take place at the high school. Due to issues with inclement weather in the past, former Governor, Deval Patrick, signed in to law that the Town Moderator can make the decision about postponing a Town Meeting. The Town Moderator shall take the effective means of alerting the public should the Town Meeting be postponed. Mr. Arnold also mentioned that if the meeting comes to an end and we want to continue it to another time, he can recess the meeting without having to post a new meeting, eliminating the 48 hour posting rule. Mr. Arnold thinks that discussion regarding the Gibbons article will be lengthy. He asked the AFC if there were any other issues. Ms. Blumberg mentioned the Spurr House. Mr. Rauch felt that the attention should be kept on the article and not on the disposition of the building.

He noted that the proponents were concerned with the heat too. Mr. Wells pointed out Article 6 in the warrant where it says “2014” but it should say “2015”. Mr. Arnold says he is aware of that mistake and will correct the year in the motion. Mr. Allen asked if Revision E of the handbook was the final copy from Mr. Arnold. He said it was. Ms. Blazejewski referenced the year “2015” in Mr. Arnold’s statement and wondered if that should be deleted. Mr. Arnold said that could be removed – he just wanted it there to explain that is when he wrote his statement. It was noted that there will be a date as to when the handbook was written overall. Mr. Arnold mentioned that he will continue to budget for his \$250/year salary for future moderators, but he has decided not to accept a paycheck. He pointed out the additional paperwork involved on his taxes, along with all of the deductions, ends up creating more of a hassle for him than the \$75 he clears.

**ATM preparation and related items:**

While all AFC members were in attendance, Mr. Wells wanted to vote all unquestioned articles and then move on to vote unquestioned budget line items. He noted that there were a couple of issues that crossed over between the articles and the budget, for example Article 4 and the use of free cash. He also mentioned the decision as to what to do about the Historical Commission.

Mr. Behn read through the motions:

Article 1 – Annual Town Election – Mr. Behn noted that we do not vote on this article.

Article 2 – Town Reports – Mr. Behn made a motion that we recommend that the Town so vote. Voted: 9-0-0.

Article 3 – Prior Years Bills – Mr. Behn made a motion that we recommend that the Town vote to transfer from Free Cash and appropriate the sum of Seventy One Thousand Six Hundred Forty Four (\$71,644) for the purpose of this article. Voted: 9-0-0.

Article 4 – Fiscal Year 2015 Budget Transfers – Skipped

Article 5 – Amend Classification Plan – Mr. Behn made a motion that we recommend that the Town so vote. Voted: 9-0-0.

Article 6 – Amend Wage and Salary Schedule – Skipped

Article 7 – Fiscal Year 2016 Operating Budget – Skipped

Article 8 – Regularly Recurring Articles:

8A – Revolving Funds – Mr. Behn made a motion that we recommend that the Town so vote. Voted: 9-0-0.

8B – Tax Exemption – Mr. Behn made a motion that we recommend that the Town so vote. Voted: 9-0-0.

8C – Reserve Funds (AFC) – Skipped

8D – July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration – Mr. Behn made a motion that we recommend that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Thousand Five Hundred (\$2,500) for the purpose of this article. Voted: 9-0-0.

8E – Reconstruction and Improvements of Town Roads – Mr. Behn made a motion that we recommend that the Town vote to transfer from available funds and appropriate the sum of One Million One Hundred Sixty Four Thousand One Hundred Seventy Two (\$1,164,172) for the purpose of this article. Voted: 9-0-0.

8F – Healthcare Reimbursement Account – Mr. Behn made a motion that we recommend that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Eight Thousand (\$8,000) for the purpose of this article. Voted: 9-0-0.

Article 9 – FY15 Chapter 90 Increase Appropriation – Mr. Behn made a motion that we recommend that the Town vote to transfer from available funds and appropriate the sum of Three Hundred Eighty Eight Thousand Fifty Seven (\$388,057) for the purpose of this article. Vote: 9-0-0.

Article 10 – Gibbons School Building Renovation – Skipped

Article 11 – Mechanical Sweeper Debt Authorization – Mr. Behn made a motion that we recommend that the Town vote to borrow and appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Thousand (\$200,000) for the purpose of this article. Voted: 9-0-0.

Article 12 – Capital Improvement Plan

12A – DPW Dump Truck Replacement – Mr. Behn made a motion that we recommend that the Town vote to transfer from Free Cash and appropriate the sum of Seventy Two Thousand (\$72,000) for the purpose of this article. Voted: 9-0-0.

12B – Replacement of Surveillance Cameras – Mr. Behn made a motion that we recommend that the Town vote to transfer from Free Cash and appropriate the sum of Thirty One Thousand Two Hundred Twenty (\$31,220) for the purpose of this article. Voted: 9-0-0.

12C – Mechanical Sweeper – Mr. Behn made a motion that we recommend that the Town vote to transfer from Free Cash and appropriate the sum of Forty Six Thousand (\$46,000) for the purpose of this article. Voted: 9-0-0.

12D – Utility Crane for Sewer Department – Mr. Behn made a motion that we recommend that the Town vote to transfer from Sewer Retained Earnings and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Thousand (\$100,000) for the purpose of this article. Voted: 9-0-0.

12E – Service Van for Water Department – Mr. Behn made a motion that we recommend that the Town vote to transfer from Water Retained Earnings and appropriate the sum of Thirty Thousand (\$30,000) for the purpose of this article. Voted: 9-0-0.

12F – Radio Replacement – Mr. Behn made a motion that we recommend that the Town vote to transfer from Free Cash and appropriate the sum of Thirty Five Thousand (\$35,000) for the purpose of this article. Voted: 9-0-0.

12G – Carpeting the Lower Level of the Library – Mr. Behn made a motion that we recommend that the Town vote to transfer from Free Cash and appropriate the sum of Thirty Three Thousand Seven Hundred (\$33,700) for the purpose of this article. Voted: 9-0-0.

12H – GPS System – Mr. Behn made a motion that we recommend that the Town vote to transfer from Free Cash and appropriate the sum of Twenty Seven Thousand Five Hundred (\$27,500) for the purpose of this article. Voted: 9-0-0.

12I – Police Cruisers – Mr. Behn made a motion that we recommend that the Town vote to transfer from Free Cash and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Thirty Nine Thousand Three Hundred Forty Eight (\$139,348) for the purpose of this article. Voted: 9-0-0.

12J – High School Hot Water Heater Replacement – Mr. Behn made a motion that we recommend that the Town vote to transfer from Free Cash and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Forty Five Thousand (\$145,000) for the purpose of this article. Voted: 9-0-0.

12K – Upgrade Building Controls to Direct Digital Controls – Mr. Behn made a motion that we recommend that the Town vote to transfer from Free Cash and appropriate the sum of Fifty Five Thousand (\$55,000) for the purpose of this article. Voted: 9-0-0.

12L – Capital Stabilization Fund – Mr. Behn made a motion that we recommend that the Town vote to transfer from Free Cash and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Twenty Thousand (\$120,000) for the purpose of this article. Voted: 9-0-0. It was noted that last year this was a “Raise and Appropriate”, but this year it is a transfer from Free Cash.

Article 13 – Triennial Revaluation – Mr. Behn made a motion that we recommend that the Town vote to transfer from Free Cash and appropriate the sum of Twenty Five Thousand (\$25,000) for the purpose of this article. Voted: 9-0-0.

Article 14 – Improvements to the Country Club Golf Course – Mr. Behn made a motion that we recommend that the Town vote to transfer from Country Club Retained Earnings and appropriate the sum of Fifty One Thousand (\$51,000) for the purpose of this article. Voted: 9-0-0.

Article 15 – Toll Brothers Mitigation Receipts Reserved Account – Mr. Behn made a motion that we recommend that the Town so vote. Voted: 9-0-0.

Article 16 – CSX Mitigation Receipts Reserve Account Amendment – Mr. Behn made a motion that we recommend that the Town so vote. Voted: 9-0-0.

Article 17 – Westborough State Hospital Re-Use Committee Clerical – Mr. Behn made a motion that we recommend that the Town so vote. Voted: 9-0-0.

Article 18 – Town Water System – Mr. Behn made a motion that we recommend that the Town vote to transfer from Water Retained Earnings and appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Eighty Thousand (\$280,000) for the purpose of this article. Voted: 9-0-0.

Article 19 – Town Water Main and Water Source Debt Issuance – Mr. Behn made a motion that we recommend that the Town vote to borrow and appropriate the sum of Two Million One Hundred Thousand (\$2,100,000) for the purpose of this article. Voted: 9-0-0.

Article 20 – Town Sewer System – Mr. Behn made a motion that we recommend that the Town vote to transfer from Sewer Retained Earnings and appropriate the sum of One Million Four Hundred Thousand (\$1,400,000) for the purpose of this article. Voted: 9-0-0.

Article 21 – Kennel Licensing – Mr. Behn made a motion that we recommend that the Town so vote. Voted: 9-0-0.

Article 22 – Municipal Electric Load Aggregation – Mr. Behn made a motion that we recommend that the Town so vote. Voted: 9-0-0.

Article 23 – Acceptance of MGL Ch. 59, Section 5K – Senior Tax Work Off Amendment – Mr. Behn made a motion that we recommend that the Town so vote. Voted: 9-0-0.

Article 24 – Acceptance of MGL Ch. 59, Section 5N – Veterans Tax Work Off Amendment – Mr. Behn made a motion that we recommend that the Town so vote. Voted: 9-0-0.

Article 25 – Acceptance of MGL Ch. 60, Subsection 15B Establishment of a Tax Title Revolving Fund – Mr. Behn made a motion that we recommend that the Town so vote. Voted: 9-0-0.

Article 26 – Request for Special Legislation Validating Voting Equipment and Elections – Mr. Behn made a motion that we recommend that the Town so vote. Voted: 9-0-0.

Article 27 – Spurr House (Citizens Petition) – Mr. Behn made a motion that we recommend that the Town vote to defeat this article. Voted: 7-0-2 (abstention: Pepper, Blumberg)

**FY2016 Budget:**

Mr. Behn read through each department's budget listing off the total for both the Salary & Wages line item, along with the Expenses line item. It was pointed out that the Snow & Ice Salary & Wages line item has a typographical error. The last two numbers were transposed - Salary & Wages for Snow and Ice was listed at \$172,369 and it should be \$172,396. This figure will be corrected in the book. Mr. Behn mentioned that the corrected number will be used in his motion. He also pointed out that we do not vote on the Trust Funds. There was a question on the Sanitary Landfill's budget, and it was noted that the Historical Commission's budget will require further discussion, along with the Schools. Mr. Behn made a motion to recommend that the Town vote to approve the budget numbers as stated for both Salary & Wages and Expenses, excluding the Historical Commission, Sanitary Landfill, and School budgets. Voted: 9-0-0.

**Sanitary Landfill:** There was discussion about the Sanitary Landfill's Expenses line item since Mr. Malloy's recommended figure came in at less than what the department budgeted. The department is requesting \$762,564 in Expenses and Mr. Malloy is recommending \$702,400, which is a difference of \$60,164. It was pointed out that last year the number that was accepted was Mr. Malloy's recommended figure. Committee members noted that if this figure is off slightly, a transfer can be done from the AFC Reserve Fund. Ms. Blazejewski said she would rather use Mr. Malloy's number with a transfer from the AFC Reserve Fund if needed, instead of raising and appropriating the extra \$60,164. Mr. Behn made a motion to recommend that the Town vote to approve the Sanitary Landfill's budget using Mr. Malloy's recommended figure of \$702,400 for Expenses. Voted: 9-0-0.

**Historical Commission:** Ms. Blazejewski started the discussion. She referred to the activity log provided by Ms. Nourse and felt there was more work that their Administrative Assistant does than she originally thought. Mr. Rauch questioned the emails and phone calls since the Historical Commission doesn't issue permits directly, but rather provides advice to the Building Department, Planning Board, and Design Review Board. In looking at permits and signs, Mr. Rauch felt there was very little done over the course of the past year. Ms. Blazejewski thought that the scope of work has changed for the Administrative Assistant. Mr. Rauch wondered if it was okay that they went ahead and changed the scope of work. Mr. Pepper asked who would perform these tasks and Mr. Rauch felt that these tasks could be handled by other Town departments. Mr. Rauch felt that the Historical Commission's scope of work was expanded because they had the resources available. Ms. Blazejewski brought up researching historical properties in town and Mr. Rauch thought that could be moved to the Library's Resource Room that is staffed already by a Resource Assistant. There was discussion over whether the AFC can make the decision on what work is handled by the Administrative Assistant. Mr. Wells said that the AFC needs to determine if the tasks done by the Historical Commission's Administrative Assistant are worth what we are paying that person. Mr. Behn thought that Mr. Malloy felt the Administrative Assistant was being underutilized. He mentioned reviewing the graph Mr. Wells completed from the log we received and figuring out if the nine hours per week is justified. Mr. Behn added that the role of the Historical Commission is to do what is required by law, yet the Town has voted for this service. Mr. Behn felt the role of the Administrative Assistant needs to be clearly defined by the Selectmen. Mr. Allen pointed out that the AFC asked for a log of the Administrative Assistant's activities over the last year, and we received it, so he will support their budget request. Ms. Blazejewski felt it wasn't the AFC's job to make cuts, and felt the Board of Selectmen should handle that task. Mr. Behn suggested adding something in the R&R book that this has been an ongoing issue and the AFC urges the Selectmen, and voters should urge the Selectmen, to put together a study committee to figure out if the work

done by the Historical Commission's Administrative Assistant is justified. Mr. Behn felt this was a management issue. There was a discussion over the number of hours per week/month that Mr. Malloy feels is appropriate for this job. Mr. Behn said that Mr. Malloy felt that the Administrative Assistant only needs to attend monthly meetings and report minutes from those meetings, along with some minor administrative duties. Mr. Rauch suggested that the Town Manager, Selectmen, and Historical Commission figure out what needs to be done and get the scope of work back in line. Mr. Rauch felt that we should fund at the level that Mr. Malloy recommends, and then charge Mr. Malloy with preserving artifacts and helping with permits since he wants to cut the hours. Ms. Blumberg felt that these problems need to be worked out first before cuts are made to the budget. Mr. Behn felt that by reducing their budget, the Historical Commission would have to justify what needs to be done and then ask for funds. It was noted that last year this position was reduced in hours from 15 hours/week to 9/hours/week and the Administrative Assistant's salary went from approximately \$19,145 to \$11,677. Now another reduction is being proposed for 3 hours/week to cover returning messages and emails, attend a monthly meeting, and typing minutes – but the Commission wouldn't be able to have an office open. Mr. Wells felt that if Mr. Malloy's recommendation was supported, we will be closing the Historical Commission's office. Mr. Wells felt another downsize should be considered such as opening 3 hours a day/2 days per week, which would reduce the Admin's salary to about \$8,000/annually. Ms. Blazejewski pointed out that the Selectmen appoint the Historical Commission so they should be the ones to determine how it functions, and the BOS should dictate how the Town deals with historical records and artifacts going forward. Mr. Wells said that he would entertain a variety of motions. Mr. Behn explained voting should begin on the highest amount being requested for Salary & Wages, which was the request by the Historical Commission for \$11,677. Mr. Tepper made a motion to recommend that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$11,677 in Salary & Wages and \$5,725 in Expenses for the Historical Commission's FY16 budget. Vote: 4-3-2 – motion passes.

**Schools:** Mr. Wells noted that the amount proposed for the School's FY16 budget is the only number that can be voted on and it cannot be adjusted. He mentioned that he is disappointed in the School Department's response to the AFC regarding use of excess reserve funds, and he did not receive answers to his questions regarding salary line items. Mr. Wells felt that the school's budget could have been reduced by \$495,000 by using some of the excess in their revolving funds. Mr. Rauch said he would like to support using excess money in the revolving funds but he doesn't know what is allowed legally and which funds can be utilized. Mr. Wells felt that these excess funds have been used in the past by the schools for teacher salaries and for school repairs, and that the schools are aware of the rules and regulations on using these funds. He also noted that he never got a response to his questions on salary line items. Mr. Behn suggested that Mr. Wells remind the School Department that he is still waiting for a response. Mr. Behn was also disappointed with the schools response but he reminded the Committee that the schools are coming in with one of their lowest budget increases, and he felt they worked hard to keep their budget level. He noted the new School Superintendent, Amber Bock, and mentioned that the transparency on their budget has improved tremendously over the last few years. He felt that we should give the new Superintendent time to look at the numbers and be able to come back with a plan. Mr. Tepper agreed with Mr. Wells that perhaps there was money in the reserve funds that could be used toward reducing the school's budget, however he also agreed with Mr. Behn about giving the new Superintendent time to look at what can be done. Mr. Allen agreed with Mr. Tepper and suggested putting a footnote in the R&R book that the AFC hopes to see the release of some of these funds. Mr. Rauch felt that the schools needed a policy and plan in place regarding the reserve funds. The general consensus of the Committee was to give Ms. Bock more time to come up with a plan since the schools have been more willing to work with us. Mr. Behn made a motion that we recommend that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the amount of \$45,107,479 for the Westborough School Department's FY16 budget. Voted 9-0-0.

Mr. Behn wanted to make a couple of points. The AFC is sending a message to the Board of Selectmen regarding having a plan for the Historical Commission. We are also sending a message to the School Department/Committee that there are monies that could be better managed. Mr. Wells said that he dissected what was approved and it amounted to approximately \$800,000 in salaries and about \$200,000 in technology, so we are supporting a million dollar increase to the school's budget. It was noted that Ms. Bock was aggressive in using

circuit breaker funds, which is why there is only a 2.56% increase instead of a 4% increase to the school's budget. Mr. Wells said his point was that we could have used a little more help in reducing the budget and felt we found areas for legitimate utilization with the reserve funds. By using the extra money in the revolving funds, we could have brought taxes down to a 2.2% increase rather than a 3.3% increase on the average household tax bill. Mr. Wells pointed out the articles for the schools and the need to scrutinize the budget or taxes will continue to climb.

**Outstanding Warrant Items:**

**Article 4 – Fiscal Year 2015 Budget Transfers:** Mr. Wells mentioned that he is still waiting on final figures for this article. He also noted the use of Free Cash for the snow and ice authorized deficit spending. Right now the AFC has approved \$375,000 in deficit spending for snow and ice. Mr. Wells said that the DPW requested another \$60,000 today, which will push the total amount to \$435,000. He noted that if the snow and ice deficit spend is ignored, it will flow over to the recap sheet and raise the tax bill by \$48 to almost \$300 per household. Mr. Behn's handout on FY15 Transfers for Snow and Ice Deficit Spending was given to Committee members. He presented different scenarios for funding the \$435,000, assuming that is the final figure for snow and ice, and Mr. Behn suggested using a blend of money from the AFC Reserve Fund along with Free Cash. He felt we should leave enough money in the reserve fund to take care of last minute emergencies and any additional snow. There was discussion over what amount should be put toward snow and ice and what should be left in the AFC Reserve Fund. Mr. Wells also noted that we could cover the snow and ice deficit spend completely out of Free Cash and keep the \$222,000 in the reserve fund. If the \$222,000 is not used by year end, it will be returned to Free Cash. Mr. Behn mentioned that this is the first year he is aware of where we haven't been able to cover the deficit spend for snow and ice out of the reserve fund. Mr. Allen suggested taking the whole \$435,000 out of Free Cash and leaving the reserve fund at \$222,000 for any additional snow and sanding, and that the reasoning is so there's less of an increase to taxes. There was discussion over who was in favor of transferring \$435,000 from Free Cash to snow and ice. Mr. Allen pointed out that this is the Town Manager's article and asked if he was going to get up and adjust it. Mr. Rauch suggested mentioning to Mr. Malloy the AFC's thoughts, or we can amend the article ourselves. Mr. Behn was going to make a motion but Mr. Wells said this article is still open ended. Mr. Rauch wanted to wait on voting until Wednesday evening so we get the actual numbers for Article 4.

**Snow & Ice Deficit Spending Request:** Mr. Rauch made a motion to authorize the DPW to deficit spend in the amount of \$10,000 for salaries and wages and \$50,000 in expenses for snow and ice removal. Voted: 9-0-0.

**Article 6 – Amend Wage & Salary Schedule:** Mr. Wells pointed out that he questioned this article because he came across a variety of issues. He was concerned with the approximate \$10,000 increase to the budget for three employees. Mr. Wells was also concerned with the changes in STEP's, for example he noticed some employees that were graded at an S13 are now graded at an S7, which resulted in a 9% increase in pay. Mr. Rauch mentioned that this could relate to the contract between the employee and the Town and referenced the employee handbook. Mr. Wells said he wasn't trying to change anything but he has enough questions not to approve this article. He'd rather approve the 2% increase for STEP increases only. Mr. Behn wondered if the three employees that account for the \$10,000 increase were reclassified because they were supposed to be at a higher STEP and wages. Mr. Wells wasn't sure and would rather wait and get answers from Assistant Town Manager, Kristi Williams. Mr. Rauch pointed out that if they are reclassifying employees then there should be a transition plan and Ms. Williams will be able to explain. Mr. Behn asked if Ms. Williams had anything printed that she could forward to the Committee. Mr. Allen referenced a 13 page memo dated 12/9/14 that was in the budget books that explains the reclassification.

**Article 8C – AFC Reserve Funds:** Mr. Wells asked the Committee how they felt about using Free Cash to fund the \$250,000 for the AFC Reserve Fund account and not have it raised and appropriated so there's no increase to taxes. If the \$250,000 is raised and appropriated, it would result in an increase of \$32 to the average household tax bill. Ms. Blazejewski doesn't want to raise taxes but she wasn't sure about the policy of using Free Cash. Mr. Behn mentioned that he has always wanted to fund the AFC Reserve Fund with a blend. He'd like to see a raise and appropriate for what was spent out of the fund within a year, and Free Cash for the remaining amount, to get

to the \$250,000. Mr. Wells said that he agrees with Mr. Behn in principle, but because this year is so extraordinary, he feels it should all be funded from Free Cash. Mr. Behn referred to the WRR assessment where the amount came in at \$400,000 instead of what was anticipated of \$70,000. He hopes this was a one-time increase and mentioned that he would check with Mr. Malloy or Ms. Williams if this will continue, or if it will go back down. Mr. Behn would be more supportive asking for \$250,000 out of Free Cash this year because of unanticipated expenses such as snow and ice removal and the WRR assessment. Mr. Tepper and Mr. Allen agreed with Mr. Wells regarding funding the \$250,000 for the AFC Reserve Fund out of Free Cash in order to keep the increase to taxes around 3%. Mr. Allen made a motion that we recommend that the Town vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$250,000 for the Finance Committee General Reserve Fund. Voted: 9-0-0.

Mr. Wells mentioned that Articles 4, 6, and 10 are still open and need to be voted. He should have the values for Article 4 on Wednesday night. Mr. Wells also said that he will try to have Assistant Town Manager, Kristi Williams, in to discuss Article 6 regarding amending the Wage & Salary Schedule for Town employees. Mr. Wells pointed out that Article 10 has to do with the Gibbons School renovations. Mr. Wells will contact Mr. Malloy and Ms. Williams with questions on Article 6, and also regarding the Worcester Regional Retirement assessment and clarification on its implications. Mr. Wells mentioned that the agenda for Wednesday night's meeting will be to continue work on the outstanding articles and review and approve the handbook.

**Chairman, Committee Liaison, and Department Liaison Reports**

None

**Comments and Concerns – Committee Members**

None

**Public Reminders for Viewers**

None

**Adjournment**

Mr. Behn made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:00 p.m. The vote to adjourn was 9-0-0 in favor, with 9 being present.

**Document List**

FY15 Transfers for Snow and Ice Deficit Spending – Ed Behn

Respectfully submitted,  
Jessica Thomas  
AFC Administrative Assistant