

Voter Information Bulletin

Town of Douglas

NOVEMBER 2008

Special Town Meeting

Monday, November 17, 2008 at 7:00 PM

Douglas High School Auditorium

Message from the Finance Committee

The November Special Town Meeting seeks to address requests for additional funding in the FY 09 budget, authorize an increase in the fee for each written demand issued by the Collector, and present an amendment to the Personnel Compensation Plan.

As always, the Finance Committee encourages your attendance and participation at Town Meeting to exercise your voting privileges.

Article 1:	Prior Year Bills
Article 2:	Norfolk County Agricultural Budget Amendment
Article 3:	General Budget Transfers
Article 4:	Route 16 Reconstruction Project – Court Judgment
Article 5:	Demand Fees
Article 6:	Personnel Board – Compensation Schedule Change

Article 1. Prior Year Bills

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$1,286.66 to pay the following prior year bills:

A & B Lawncare	\$1,216.66
Worcester Inspectional Services Laboratory	\$70.00

, or take any other action related thereto.

Explanation: These bills are from fiscal year 2008 and were not paid due to the timing of invoice receipt and processing. The article seeks to transfer from the FY 09 budgets of Cemetery and Board of Health, the amounts of \$1,216.66 and \$70.00, respectively.

Finance Committee: Recommend

Article 2. Norfolk County Agricultural Budget Amendment

To see if the Town will vote to amend the action taken at the Annual Town Meeting of May 5, 2008 by reducing the Norfolk County Agricultural Budget in the amount of \$11,310, from \$62,508 to \$51,198, or take any other action related thereto.

Explanation: At the time of the annual town meeting it was estimated that there would be two students attending the Norfolk County Agricultural School. This article seeks to adjust the budget based upon there being only a single student.

Finance Committee: Recommend

Article 3. General Budget Transfers

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$23,600 to the following accounts:

Debt Service	\$1,600
School Bus Transportation	\$20,000
Veterans' Benefits	\$1,500
Selectmen's Wages	\$500

, or take any other action related thereto.

Explanation: This article seeks to transfer from the Norfolk County Agricultural Budget (as referenced in Article 2) to cover additional expenses for FY 09 including a potential fuel surcharge associated with the school bus transportation contract and additional benefits for our Veterans.

Finance Committee: Recommend

Article 4. Route 16 Reconstruction Project – Court Judgment

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$60,000 to settle a court judgment in connection to the Route 16 Reconstruction Project, or take any other action related thereto.

Explanation: This article seeks to transfer from Free Cash the amount of \$60,000 to settle two court judgments associated with the Route 16 Reconstruction Project. These settlements were finalized in May of this year.

Finance Committee: Recommend

Article 5. Demand Fees

To see if the Town will vote to authorize a charge for each written demand issued by the Collector a fee of \$25 to be added to and collected as part of the tax, as authorized by Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 60, Section 15, effective as of January 1, 2009, or take any other action related thereto.

Explanation: This article seeks to fix the amount to be charged for demands issued by the collector. Under a recent amendment to Massachusetts General Law, cities and towns can set the amount of charge for issuing a demand for delinquent taxes "at not more than \$30." Previously, the charge was \$5.

Finance Committee: Recommend

Article 6. Personnel Board – Compensation Schedule Change

To see if the Town will vote to change the Office Administrative Grades in the Personnel Compensation Plan to the following:

OFFICE ADMINISTRATIVE POSITIONS OFFICE ADMINISTRATIVE Compensation Plan - FY09 Budget			
Grade	Position	Grade	Position
OA-1	Meeting Minute Recorder	OA-3	Asst to the Town Accountant Recording Secretary
OA-2	Adm. Sec Bd Selectmen	OA-4	
		OA-5	Adm. Asst. to Exec Adm./BOS

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1 Hourly	12.30	12.57	12.86	13.15	13.44	13.75	14.05	14.37	14.69	15.02
2 Hourly	14.77	15.10	15.44	15.79	16.15	16.51	16.88	17.26	17.65	18.04
3 Hourly	16.24	16.61	16.98	17.36	17.76	18.15	18.56	18.98	19.41	19.84
4 Hourly	18.67	19.09	19.52	19.96	20.41	20.87	21.34	21.82	22.31	22.81
5 Hourly	20.74	21.21	21.69	22.18	22.68	23.19	23.71	24.24	24.79	25.34

, or take any other action related thereto.

Explanation: This article reflects the recommendation of the Personnel Board earlier in 2008 and seeks to amend the Personnel Compensation Plan to add a Grade, OA-5, and to designate the Administrative Assistant to the Executive Administrator and Board of Selectman to that Grade. There will be some nominal increase to the Board of Selectman budget, as provided in Article 3, to support this action.

Finance Committee: Recommend



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RESIDENT

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