

Voter Information Bulletin

Town of Douglas

November 2003

Special Town Meeting
Monday November 24, 2003
7:00 PM
New Douglas High School Auditorium

Finance Committee Message:

While the Warrant for this Town Meeting is short, there is important business to transact. The lease payments for the Highway Trucks must be paid. The yearly revenue sources should be corrected. Revenue and expense accounts must not be in deficit at the end of the fiscal year. The School request should be acted upon. Finally, a necessary request for additional funds for the Wastewater Project has been brought to the Town by the Water/Sewer Commission.

After reviewing the articles, FY04 budget and Debt Schedule, as well as, meeting with the Board of Selectmen, Water/Sewer Commissioners and Engineering Consultants, Treasurer, Town Accountant, Financial Team and School Committee, the Finance Committee presents it's recommendations to the Town. Our primary function is to give informed recommendations, based upon understanding of fiscal matters, to Douglas citizens at Town Meeting per M.G.L. Chapter 39, Section 16.

Warrant Article Listing

1. Highway Transfer
2. Amend Town Meeting Articles
3. School Appropriation from Municipal Medicaid
4. Water / Sewer

Article 1 - Highway Transfer:

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$35,610 from Capital Outlay to Highway Expense (001-414.500-872.000) or take any other action relative thereto.

Explanation: This amount represents the 4th year payment for a 5 year lease of 2 Highway trucks that was inadvertently removed from the FY04 budget. The Capital Outlay account has funds to cover this transfer.

Finance Committee recommends this article.

Article 2 – Amend Town Meeting Articles:

To see if the Town will vote to amend the funding of the Annual Town meeting articles 1,2 and 3 to change the source of funding by rescinding the transfer of \$50,000 from the Planning Board Revolving Account, and increasing the amounts to be raised and appropriated by \$50,000, or take any other action relative thereto.

Explanation: The new source of revenue should be identified as part of the Town's Local Estimated Receipts. This article changes the expectations of revenue source.

Finance Committee recommends this article.

Article 3 – School Appropriation from Municipal Medicaid:

To see if the Town will vote to increase the appropriation for the Douglas Public Schools by \$60,000 , with the source of funding to be Municipal Medicaid, or to take any other action thereto.

Explanation: The Town funds the School Budget and therefore the school is able to provide reimbursable medical services to Medicaid-eligible special education students. This money must be paid directly to the Town from the Medicaid program per Department of Revenue rules. The Town has collected \$32,000 to date from this source.

The Finance Committee voted to recommend an amended amount of \$30,000.

N.B. *The Finance Committee will review the historical yearly funds collected and meet with the School Committee to better understand this program, the costs of collection and estimated reimbursable amounts before considering the recommendation of additional funding.*

Article 4 – Water / Sewer:

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate an additional \$1,200,000, or some other sum, for the purpose of designing and constructing wastewater treatment facility improvements at the Town's treatment plant and to pay all other costs incidental and related thereto, and to meet this appropriation, the Town Treasurer is hereby authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to Chapter 44 of the General Laws, or any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor, or take any other action relative thereto.

Explanation: The initial design of the Wastewater Treatment Plant began about 5 years ago. The discussions and negotiations regarding design, permitting and funding sources between the DEP (State) and EPA (Federal) agencies were prolonged. The estimated costs for the plant have risen. The State Revolving Fund has approved allowing additional funds to be borrowed (2%interest rate) and the USDA has agreed to provide a combination of Grants/Loans to the Town.

Finance Committee recommends this article.

Message from the Water / Sewer Commission

Funds for the construction of the Wastewater treatment facility were approved at previous Town Meeting and Ballot (\$6,500,000 in June 2002). Due to the delay in the design approval by the D.E.P. bidding for the construction of the plant occurred much later than originally anticipated. Subsequently, all bids received were higher than the 6.5 million approved. The Water/Sewer Commission is seeking approval for an additional 1,200,000 to cover the extra cost.

Joseph Saster, Chairman
Rick Colonero
Robert Josey

Important message from the Douglas Water / Sewer Commission inside.



Town of Douglas
29 Depot Street
Douglas, MA 01516

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RESIDENT

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