

Town of Douglas Voter Information Bulletin

Special Town Meeting

Wednesday, December 15, 1999 At 7:00 PM

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Finance Committee Message

FINCOM supports Articles 1,2,3,4, 6, 7 & 10 with the understanding that monies are coming from existing accounts. The Highway Department heating system is on its last legs and a sander unit is beyond viable repair. Article 6 & and 49k of Article 7 will come from existing school budgets. Health Insurance is on the increase.

Remaining articles, justification and support detail were not available for review prior to warrant being set and this publication. Upon review we will provide our input at the STM. Any article that has "a sum of money" is typically revised at the STM. The amounts to be presented however are usually part of our deliberations and discussions.

Dennis Bishop
Chairman, Finance Committee

Article 1. Douglas Center Cemetery.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$9,800 to the Cemetery Commission to complete the extension of the Douglas Center Cemetery, or to take any other actions related thereto.

Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends this article.

Article 2. Highway Sander.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$6,000 to the Highway Department to replace a sander, or to take any other actions related thereto.

Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends this article

Article 3. Highway Heating System.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$9,620 to the Highway Department to replace the Town Garage heating system, or to take any other actions related thereto.

Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends this article. Heating costs & repair costs issues. System in excess of twenty years old.

Article 4. Highway Prior Year Unpaid Bill.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$3,002 to the Chapter 90 Fund to pay a prior year's bill, or to take any other actions related thereto.

Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends this article. Required due to a budget error.

Article 5. Assessors GIS.

To see if the Town will vote to amend the action taken at the Annual Town Meeting held May 17, 1999 to increase the sum appropriated to the Assessors' Special Mapping account from five thousand dollars (\$5,000) to ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) by a transfer from the Assessors' Expenses account for the purpose of purchasing computer hardware and software for a Geographic Information System (GIS), or to take any other actions related thereto.

Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends this article. Monies are already available but in the wrong

assessor's accounts. Article puts monies in correct accounts.

Article 6. Unemployment Expenses.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$15,062 to the Insurance account to increase the Town's appropriation for unemployment expenses, or to take any other actions related thereto.

Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends this article.

Article 7. Health Insurance Expenses.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$72,078 to the Insurance account and to transfer the sum of \$1,410 from Water & Sewer Enterprise Fund free cash to the Insurance account for increases in Health Insurance expenses, or to take any other actions related thereto.

Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends this article.

Article 8. Debt Service.

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$3,665 from the Debt Interest account to the Debt Principal account and to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$46,335 to the Debt Principal account, or to take any other actions related thereto.

There is no Finance Committee recommendation on this article because supporting documentation or monies were not available for FINCOM meeting prior to warrant being set.

Article 9. Transfer Station.

To see if the Town will vote (a) to rescind its approval of Article 12 of the May 17, 1999 Annual Town Meeting, (b) to amend its approval of Article 4 of the June 28, 1999 Special Town Meeting to change the revolving account fund amount from \$310,000 to \$1,000, and (c) to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money for personnel, contractual services, and expenses to operate the Transfer Station, provided however, that the General Fund shall be credited with any and all fees received in connection with the operation of the Transfer Station, said fees to be set by the Board of Selectmen at levels estimated to fully offset all costs, or to take any other actions related thereto.

The Finance Committee passed over this article because supporting documentation or monies were not available for FINCOM meeting prior to warrant being set.

Article 10. Town Counsel.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$25,000 to the Town Counsel account, or take any other action related thereto.

Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends this article. Access to legal advice as well as pending matters are reasons. Policy required to address access.

Article 11. Architectural Services

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$29,600 for additional Architectural Services to assist the Town in developing proposals for additional classroom space, or take any other action related thereto.

There is no Finance Committee recommendation on this article because it was not available for FINCOM meeting prior to warrant being set.

Article 12. Stabilization Account.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money to the Stabilization Fund, or take any other action related thereto.

The Finance Committee passed over this article because supporting documentation or monies were not available for FINCOM meeting prior to warrant being set.

Article 13. School Operating Budget.

To see if the Town will vote to amend the action taken at the Annual Town Meeting held on May 17, 1999 to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money for the School Department - Personnel Services and Expenses (300,000), or take any other action related thereto.

The Finance Committee passed over this article because supporting documentation or monies were not available for FINCOM meeting prior to warrant being set.

**On the Agenda.... Douglas Center Cemetery Extension, Highway Sander,
Highway Heating System, and Assessors GIS.**

**This Special Town Meeting has several
articles of special interest:**

Article 1: Funding to complete the extension
of the Douglas Center Cemetery.

Article 2: Funding to replace a sander that is
beyond repair.

Article 3: Funding to replace the Town
Garage Heating system.

Article 4: Transfer of funds to pay a prior
year's Highway Department bill.

Article 5: Transfer of funds to purchase
computer software and hardware for a
Geographic Information System (GIS).

Article 6: Funding for increased
unemployment expenses.

Article 7: Funding for increased health
insurance expenses.

Article 8: Transfer of funds from the Debt
Interest account to the Debt Principal account.

Article 9: Amendment funding mechanism
for transfer station fees.

Article 10: Transfer of funds for additional
legal services.

Article 11: Funding for additional school
Architectural Services.

Article 12: Transfer of funds into the
Stabilization Fund.

Article 13: Funding for School Personnel
Services and Expenses.

**Town of Douglas
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Douglas, MA 01516**

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**Special Town Meeting
Wednesday, December 15th, beginning at 7:00PM
Douglas Junior/Senior High School Auditorium**