

# Voter Information Bulletin

Town of Douglas

June 2001

## SPECIAL TOWN MEETING THURSDAY, JUNE 28<sup>th</sup> 7PM at the MUNICIPAL CENTER

### Finance Committee Message

The upcoming end of the year Special Town Meeting will consist of interdepartmental transfers or the appropriation of money from a supplemental lottery distribution. The Town of Douglas has regularly held such meetings to fund accounts that do not have sufficient appropriations for the remainder of the fiscal year (ending June 30, 2001).

As we enter fiscal year 2002, the Finance Committee looks forward to stability in the professional oversight resulting from the hiring of a new Town Accountant and Administrator. We are hopeful that an entire financial review of projected revenues and expenditures will be beneficial as we begin to focus on the FY2003 budget process.

### Article 1. Chapter 90 Funds

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$91,309.47 from the State's allocation of Chapter 90 funds to be expended by the Highway Department under the direction of the Board of Selectmen for the purpose of repairing and improving Town ways, or to take any other action relative thereto.

*Finance Committee voted to recommend this article. This article allows the Town to spend funds received from the State under the Chapter 90 Highway Funds for certain road projects.*

### Article 2. Transfers

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds a sum of money from available funds to the accounts listed below from the accounts listed below in the amounts indicated to meet the current obligations of Town Departments, as follows:

| Amount  | From           | To              |
|---------|----------------|-----------------|
| \$6,900 | Police Expense | Police Salaries |
| \$2,000 | Fire Expense   | Fire Salaries   |

or to take any other action relative thereto.

*Finance Committee voted to recommend this article. The Police Department is in process of replacing an officer who left the department. The salary remaining is requested for use as recruitment costs. The Fire Department has excess in salary account and requests a transfer to expenses for increased gasoline, diesel, and electricity costs.*

### Article 3. Supplemental Appropriations

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds a sum of money to the accounts listed below and in the amounts listed below to pay the current obligations of various Town Departments, as follows:

| Amount  | Department            | Account         |
|---------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| \$2,762 | Town Buildings        | Expenses        |
| \$122   | Town Buildings        | Salaries        |
| \$1620  | Fire Department       | Expenses        |
| \$145   | Community Development | Salaries        |
| \$400   | Community Development | Expenses        |
| \$9172  | Selectmen             | Expenses        |
|         | <b>TOTAL</b>          | <b>\$14,221</b> |

or to take any other action relative thereto.

*Finance Committee voted to Take No Action with the explanation that the "contract was entered into improperly and without full authority". The Town Building, Fire Department and Community Development requests for additional appropriations qualified for Reserve Fund transfers and were approved by the Finance Committee on June 18, 2001. The Selectmen expense request relates to a contract with Camp, Dresser and McKee Inc. (an engineering firm) to provide cost estimates for water and sewer lines and resulting charges with the Town of Webster for the Economic Development of the Webster Road area of Douglas. The contract amount appears to be for \$20,000, but was entered into without an appropriation and without Board approval. The conditions surrounding this contract have left the Finance Committee with no choice but to take NO ACTION.*

#### **Article 4. Prior Year's Bills**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds the sum of \$130.11 to the Selectmen's Expenses account to pay a prior year's bill, or to take any other action relative thereto.

*Finance Committee voted to recommend this article; services were provided. This request derives from a final pick-up charge made by BFI upon termination of the services that had been provided free-of-charge for a period of years.*

#### **Article 5. Repair and Straightening of Gravestones**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer the amount of \$5,000 to be spent under the authority of the Cemetery Commissioners for the purpose of repairing and straightening gravestones in the Town's cemeteries, or to take any other action relative thereto.

*Finance Committee voted to recommend this article. The Cemetery Commission has identified an extraordinary number of gravestones that require repair. In the future, continuing maintenance will be discussed and included in the Annual budget process.*

**Town of Douglas  
29 Depot Street  
Douglas, MA 01516**

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US POSTAGE PAID  
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PERMIT No. 12

**RESIDENT  
DOUGLAS, MA 01516**

**Special Town Meeting Thursday, June 28th, beginning at 7:00PM  
At the Municipal Center**