

VOTER INFORMATION BULLETIN		
TOWN OF DOUGLAS		NOVEMBER 14, 2016
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING Monday, November 14, 2016 at 7:00 pm Douglas High School Auditorium 33 Davis Street		

FINANCE COMMITTEE MESSAGE

The Finance Committee strongly encourages you to attend the Special Town Meeting. Come and have a voice in the decisions that directly affect your community!

This year's fall Special Town Meeting will be held on November 14th at Douglas High School. The Town Meeting will be considering several articles that will directly impact our community. There is an article to extend EMT/Fire coverage in the community to include overnight and weekend coverage. An article to purchase land that would provide protection for our town wells will also be voted on. The town will also be considering minor amendments in the Fiscal Year 2017 budget and whether to transfer funds to replace some of the windows in the Municipal Center. Please see below for a further description of all of the warrant articles and recommendations by the Finance Committee.

ARTICLES

Article 1.	Fiscal Year 2017 Budget Transfers/Amendments
Article 2.	Ratify Amendment to Firefighters' Collective Bargaining Agreement
Article 3.	Transfer from Free Cash to the OPEB Account
Article 4.	Transfer from Free Cash to Stabilization Account (Ambulance Payment)
Article 5.	Amend Article 8 of the ATM 5-5-14 Capital Projects
Article 6.	Debt Exclusion – Purchase of Rescue Pumper
Article 7.	Debt Exclusion – Purchase of Catch Basin Cleaner Truck with Plow & Sander
Article 8.	Amend Article 8 of the ATM 5-5-14 Water Booster Station
Article 9.	Land Acquisition – Water & Sewer Department
Article 10.	Sullivan Property – Gift of Land/Order of Taking

Article 1. Fiscal Year 2017 Budget Transfers/Amendments

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$46,574**, and transfer from ambulance receipts reserved for appropriation the sum of **\$125,000**, to fund the following amendments to Article 2 of the Annual Town Meeting of May 2, 2016:

Increase Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Assessment by	\$16,304
Increase Ambulance Wages by	\$125,000
Increase Council on Aging Wages by	\$1,360
Increase Douglas Schools - Personnel & Expenses by	\$85,326
Decrease Property & Liability Insurance by	\$25,000
Decrease Library Fire Door by	\$1,500
Decrease Building Department Wages by	\$2,300
Decrease Health Insurance by	\$27,616

Or take any other action related thereto.

Explanation: This article amends the budget voted at the May Annual Town Meeting, including BVT contractual agreements.

• **FinCom recommends.**

Article 2. Ratify Amendment to Firefighters' Collective Bargaining Agreement

To see if the Town will vote to ratify the amendment to the Douglas Firefighters' Collective Bargaining Agreement and to amend Article 2 of the Annual Town Meeting of May 2, 2016 by raising and appropriating an additional **\$39,000** for Fire Department Wages/Salaries, or take any other action relative thereto.

***Explanation:** This article seeks to change coverage for Paramedic/EMT schedules to provide 24/7 Ambulance coverage for the Town. The Collective Bargaining Agreement has been agreed upon and altered to adjust for the necessary changes to make this financially possible for the remainder of this fiscal year.*

• **FinCom recommends.**

Article 3. Transfer from Free Cash to the OPEB Account

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of **\$73,322** from Free Cash to the Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Account, or take any other action related thereto

***Explanation:** This article uses the remaining balance in the Health Insurance account from the prior Fiscal year to continue the program of Auditor-recommended funding for future retiree health benefits.*

• **FinCom recommends.**

Article 4. Transfer from Free Cash to the Stabilization Account (Ambulance Payment)

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of **\$11,664** from Free Cash to the Stabilization Account, or take any other action related thereto.

***Explanation:** This article transfers the remaining balance from the Ambulance account in the prior Fiscal year to the Stabilization Account for purposes of paying the Capital costs of the Ambulance.*

• **FinCom recommends.**

Article 5. Amend Article 8 of the ATM 5-5-14 Capital Projects

To see if the Town will vote to amend Article 8 of the Annual Town Meeting of May 5, 2014 by transferring the sum of **\$70,000** from Free Cash to the Municipal Center HVAC Replacement, Gym Roof Replacement, and 1st Floor Window Replacement – Capital Projects, for additional project costs, or take any other action related thereto.

***Explanation:** This article increases funding for repairs to the building. These repairs will help stabilize heating costs of the Municipal Center. Furnace and window replacement costs were much higher than anticipated due to cost of compliance with environmental regulations.*

• **FinCom recommends.**

Article 6. Debt Exclusion – Purchase of Rescue Pumper

To see if the Town will appropriate, contingent on the passage of a Proposition 2-1/2 Debt Exclusion, **\$475,000** or any other amount, to pay costs of purchasing and equipping a rescue pumper truck for the use of the Fire Department, and for the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, and to determine whether this amount shall be raised by taxation, transfer from available funds, borrowing or otherwise, or take any other action relative thereto.

***Explanation:** This article, which was approved at a prior town meeting but failed at the ballot, seeks to purchase a new Rescue Pumper for the Fire Department.*

• **FinCom recommends.**

Article 7. Debt Exclusion – Purchase of Catch Basin Cleaner Truck with Plow & Sander

To see if the Town will appropriate, contingent on the passage of a Proposition 2-1/2 Debt Exclusion, **\$235,000** or any other amount, to pay costs of purchasing and equipping a catch basin cleaner truck, with plow and sander, for the use of the Highway Department, and for the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, and to determine whether this amount shall be raised by taxation, transfer from available funds, borrowing or otherwise, or take any other action relative thereto.

***Explanation:** This article, which was approved at a prior town meeting but failed at the ballot, seeks to purchase a catch basin cleaner truck for the Highway Department.*

• **FinCom recommends.**

Article 8. Amend Article 8 of the ATM 5-5-14 Water Booster Station

To see if the Town will vote to amend Article 8 of the Annual Town Meeting of May 5, 2014 – Water Booster Station Replacement, by transferring the sum of **\$35,340.47** from Article 16 of the Annual Town Meeting of May 18, 1996 - Franklin Street/Water Tank Capital Account, or take any other action relative thereto.

***Explanation:** The funds discussed in this article were authorized over 20 years ago. That project has been completed and the Auditor recommends transferring finished Capital project funds to current projects.*

• **FinCom recommends.**

Article 9. Land Acquisition- Water & Sewer Department

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer the sum of **\$400,000** to purchase real property located at 104 Main Street (Route 16), and as further described in a filing located in the Office of the Town Clerk, or take any other action relative thereto.

***Explanation:** This is land that will protect the Town's water resources. The funding is partly from money set-aside in Stabilization from a past legal settlement of MBTE contaminated property in Douglas; plus a transfer from the Water/Sewer retained earnings.*

• **FinCom recommends.**

Article 10. Sullivan Property – Gift of Land/Order of Taking

To see if the Town will vote to take by eminent domain 9+/- acres of land located at 286 Webster Street and shown on the Douglas Tax Assessors Maps as Map 205, Parcels 2 and 3, and as further described in a filing in the office of the Town Clerk, and further, to raise and appropriate, and/or transfer a sum of up to **\$1.00** to pay for such confirmatory taking, and to place such land in the custody of the Board of Selectmen for the purpose of sale, and finally, to authorize the Board of Selectmen to dispose of said land, or take any other action relative thereto.

***Explanation:** This article is recommended by Town Counsel and amends an article on the 2015 Annual Town Meeting. The past deed transactions need to be clarified, and using the eminent domain law will provide legal definition to ownership. The owner is in agreement to applying this method to the land transfer.*

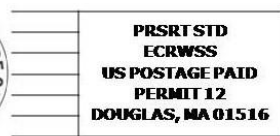
• **FinCom recommends.**

Finance Committee

Pam Holmes – Chair	Ryan Hogan – Vice Chair
Brett Argall	Michael Hutnak
Howard D'Amico	Jerome Kocur
Carol Gogolinski	Cynthia Shurick

DOUGLAS

Town of Douglas
29 Depot Street
Douglas, MA 01516



**CURRENT RESIDENT
DOUGLAS, MA 01516**