

VOTER INFORMATION BULLETIN**TOWN OF DOUGLAS****NOVEMBER 13, 2018**

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
Tuesday, November 13, 2018 at 7:00 pm
Douglas High School Auditorium
33 Davis Street

FINANCE COMMITTEE MESSAGE

The fall Town Meeting is part of standard budget process for the Town. It is an opportunity to bring our fiscal budget into closer adjustment than was possible in May. Unanticipated needs that have arisen or that may have disappeared account for some small increases and decreases to our budget. Both the Municipal Energy and Charter contracts promise to save the Town money over this longer 5 year term. The supplemental funding to the Green Communities Grant adds exponentially to the benefit the Town has enjoyed from this Grant. We gain over \$65,000 more than originally anticipated.

Other important articles in the Warrant that will impact our Town over many years involve the lease of land by Soccer Club and adding the authority to the Board of Selectmen for Marijuana licensing.

We are happy to recognize our newest members Dick Vandenberg, Lynne Mussulli and Heather Morin. They bring their individual skills and precious time to our Finance Committee. We recognize and thank former Chairman Ryan Hogan, Cynthia Shurick, and Leigh Lahousse for their years of service to our Finance Committee.

Pamela Holmes, Chairman
Howard D'Amico, Vice-chairman
Carol Gogolinski
Lynne Mussulli

Michael Hutnak
Heather Morin
Dick Vandenberg

Article 1.	Fiscal Year 2019 Budget Transfers / Amendments
Article 2.	Prior Year Bills
Article 3.	Transfer from Free Cash to the OPEB Account
Article 4.	Transfer from Free Cash to the Stabilization Account (Closeout from Insurance Reimb. Account < \$150K)
Article 5.	Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District FY19 Budget
Article 6.	Ratify Fire Fighter / EMT Union Contract
Article 7.	Enter Into a Five (5) Year Contract with Charter
Article 8.	Enter Into a Municipal Energy Purchase Contract for a Term Up To Five (5) Years
Article 9.	Enter Into a Long Term Lease of Martin Road Park
Article 10.	Supplement Green Communities Funding
Article 11.	Amend General Bylaw - Board of Selectmen as Licensing Authority for Marijuana
Article 12.	Accept MGL c64N(3) – Local Tax Option on Marijuana Sales

Article 1. - Fiscal Year 2019 Budget Transfers / Amendments:

To see if the Town will vote to amend the action taken on Article 2 of the Annual Town Meeting of May 7, 2018, by transferring from available funds the following sums of money to the following budget line items in the Fiscal Year 2019 Budget:

Increase Assessor's Wages	\$1,500	Decrease Library Expense	\$2,701
Increase Civil Defense Expense	\$2,000	Decrease Building Wages	\$6,000
Increase Treasurer / Collector Wages	\$8,000		
Increase Cemetery Expense	\$12,000		
Increase Fire Wages	\$16,000		
Increase Ambulance Wages	\$48,350		
Increase Fire Expense	\$3,000		
Increase Landfill Maintenance	\$800		
Increase Total Insurance & Emp. Benefits	\$35,000		
Increase Building Department Expenses	\$26,000		
Increase Technology Expenses	\$55,000		
Increase Public Building Maint. Expenses	\$15,000		

Or take any other action related thereto.

Explanation: This article amends the 2019 budget voted at the May Annual Town Meeting.

Finance Committee recommends.

Article 2. - Prior Year Bill

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds, the following sums of money to pay the following prior year's bills, or take any other action relative thereto.

School – Koopman Lumber	\$29.99
IT – GovConnect	\$129.75
W /S – Charter Communications	\$181.00
Cable – Charter Communications	\$175.18

Explanation: The Town of Douglas has acknowledged that these charges are for agreed upon amounts and payment is due.

Finance Committee recommends.

Article 3. - Transfer from Free Cash to the OPEB Account

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of **\$17,500** from Free Cash to the Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Account, or take any other action related thereto.

Explanation: This amount is a portion of the remaining Health Insurance Account from 2018 and contributed to Free Cash. It has been the policy to use these sums to address the OPEB deficiency.

Finance Committee recommends.

Article 4. - Transfer from Free Cash to the Stabilization Account (Closeout from Insurance Reimbursements Account < \$150K)

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of **\$32,390** from Free Cash to the Stabilization, or take any other action related thereto.

Explanation: The Town received proceeds from Insurance Claim(s) which were not spent prior to June 30, 2018. This amount closed to Free Cash. We are recommending these funds be transferred to the Stabilization Account.

Finance Committee recommends.

Article 5. - Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District FY19 Budget

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$70,518** for its operating and capital assessment by the Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District for the Fiscal Year commencing July 1, 2018, or take any other action related thereto.

Explanation: The Town of Douglas voted to reduce the request from BVT at our Annual Town Meeting by an amount of the Additional Assessment imposed by the school. Since we were alone in this reduction, we must live up to the Agreement and pay the original request.

Finance Committee recommends.

Article 6. - Ratify Fire Fighter / EMT Union Contract

To see if the Town will vote to ratify the collective bargaining agreement executed by the Board of Selectmen and the Fire Fighter / EMT Union on October 23, 2018, or take any other action relative thereto.

Explanation: The Town has negotiated a three (3) year contract with the Fire Fighter / EMT Union. The contract will take effect if ratified by Town Meeting.

Finance Committee recommends.

Article 7. - Enter Into a Five (5) Year Contract with Charter

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Town Administrator to enter into a five (5) year contract with Charter Communications for internet services, or take any other action related thereto.

Explanation: The Town's internal Charter services are in process of reconfiguration in an ongoing effort to control expenses. A 5 year contract further enhances this savings for an extended period.

Finance Committee recommends.

Article 8. - Enter Into a Municipal Energy Purchase Contract for a Term Up To Five (5) Years

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Town Administrator to enter into a Municipal Energy purchase contract for a term up to five (5) years, or take any other action related thereto.

Explanation: The Town purchases electricity under the terms of three-year contracts with national power companies, awarded after competitive bidding. The Town is aware that new charges will be added to the cost of energy by the Commonwealth effective the end of this year. The Town's consultant has tested the market to determine if it will be cost effective to enter into a longer term contract, up to five years to avoid those charges. This authority will only be used upon recommendation of the energy consultant. (by Town Administrator & the Finance Director)

Finance Committee recommends.

Article 9. – Enter Into a Long Term Lease of Martin Road Park

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Recreation Commission to enter into a long term lease agreement with Douglas AxMen Soccer Club for the Martin Road Park, or take any other action related thereto.

Explanation: The AxMen Soccer Club has been providing the Town with Team services for many years. They have indicated a need for more field space. The Town is attempting to assist this Club.

Finance Committee will Vote at their meeting prior to Town Meeting.

Article 10. - Supplement Green Communities Funding

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash, for all associated costs, the sum of **\$60,000**, for the purpose of funding the following:

LED Street Light Account – Article 4 of STM 5/7/18 & All Associated Costs	\$25,000
Library Heating & Weatherization & All Associated Costs	\$35,000

And same to be spent under the direction of the Town Administrator, or take any other action related thereto.

Explanation: These funds will be used to finance energy conservation projects approved by the State. State grant funds and utility incentives will reimburse the Town after the projects are complete.

Finance Committee recommends.

Article 11. - Amend General Bylaw - Board of Selectmen as Licensing Authority for Marijuana

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Douglas General By-laws, by adding the following Section 9: Marijuana, to Article 4: Licenses and Permits, or take any other action relative thereto:

SECTION 9: MARIJUANA

(a) No person shall carry on the business cultivate, process, package, deliver, obtain, manufacture, process, package, brand, sell or otherwise transfer, or test marijuana or marijuana products, or otherwise operate a Marijuana Establishment as defined by Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 94G within the Town unless first duly licensed thereof by the Board of Selectmen, to be renewed annually.

(b) The number of Marijuana Retail Licenses issued in the Town of Douglas shall be limited to the greater of three (3) or twenty (20%) percent of licenses issued in the Town of Douglas for retail sale of alcoholic beverages not to be drunk on the premises where sold, which shall be calculated by rounding up to the next whole number.

(c) The Board may adopt reasonable rules and regulations related to the issuance of such licenses, including the fees to be paid therefore and the conditions to be satisfied by any applicant for such a license.

(d) Applicants for a license annually shall file an application on a form provided by the Board of Selectmen, signed under the penalties of perjury by the applicant, containing such information as the Board of Selectmen may reasonably require from time to time. Each applicant shall pay an application fee as may be reasonably determined from time to time by the Board of Selectmen.

(e) The Board of Selectmen must act upon the application at one of their next three regularly scheduled meetings, holding a public hearing thereon, with due written notice provided to the applicant of the time, date and location where such hearing will be heard.

(f) The Board of Selectmen may approve, deny or approve the application with conditions. Such decision shall be based on the evidence taken at the public hearing, consistent with the protection of the health, safety and welfare of the public, and consistent with the regulations promulgated by such board.

(g) The Board of Selectmen or its agents may at any time enter upon the premises of a person who is licensed by them under this Section, to ascertain the manner in which the person conducts the business carried on under such license.

(h) The Board of Selectmen may issue orders as appropriate to aid in the enforcement of this regulation and may enforce these provisions in equity, including the request for injunctive relief, in a court of competent jurisdiction. Any failure to comply with any Order issued hereunder shall result in the issuance of a formal warning. Any failure to comply with such a warning shall result in a fine of \$100.00. Any failure to comply after the issuance of said initial fine may be punishable by a subsequent fine of \$300.00. Each day of a continued non-compliance shall constitute a separate violation. Further, the Board of Selectmen may hold a hearing, with notice to the licensee, to determine if such license should be modified, suspended or revoked.

Home Rule Amendment [art. 89 of the Amendments to the Massachusetts Constitution]; Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 94G, § 3, 935 CMR 500.000.

Explanation: The Board of Selectmen have chosen this method to address Marijuana retail operations in the Town of Douglas.

Finance Committee voted to give no recommendations.

Article 12. - Accept MGL c64N(3) – Local Tax Option on Marijuana Sales

To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 64N, Section 3 to impose a 3% local sales tax on the sale or transfer of marijuana or marijuana products by a marijuana retailer operating within the Town of Douglas, or take any other action relative thereto.

Explanation: By accepting MGL c64N(3), the Town of Douglas may impose a local sales tax upon the sale or transfer of marijuana or marijuana products by a marijuana retailer operating in Douglas, bringing added revenue to the Town.

Finance Committee recommends.



Town of Douglas
29 Depot Street
Douglas, MA 01516



**CURRENT RESIDENT
DOUGLAS, MA 01516**