

**TOWN OF DOUGLAS
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
VOTER INFORMATION BULLETIN
Monday, November 18, 2019 at 7:00 PM
Douglas High School Auditorium
33 Davis Street**

FINANCE COMMITTEE MESSAGE

The Fall Town Meeting is part of a 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 account for the increases to our budget. The supplemental funding to the Green Communities Grant adds to the benefit the Town has enjoyed from this Grant.

Other important articles in the Warrant that will affect our Town over many years involve funding relating to engineering costs related to a possible extension project, and additional funding for projects.

We are happy to recognize our newest members Sandy Kuipers and Phil Landry. They bring their individual skills and precious time to our Finance Committee. We also would like to recognize and thank former Chairman Pamela Holmes for her years of service to our Finance Committee.

Howard D'Amico, Chairman
Michael Hutnak, Vice Chairman
Carol Gogolinski
Lynne Mussulli

Heather Morin
Dick Vandenberg
Sandy Kuipers
Phil Landry

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| Article 1. | Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Transfers / Amendments |
| Article 2. | Transfer from Free Cash to the OPEB Account |
| Article 3. | Prior Year Bills |
| Article 4. | Amend FY2020 – FY24 Capital Improvement Plan – Article 10 ATM May 6, 2019 |
| Article 5. | W/S Extension Project - Engineering |
| Article 6. | Amend FY2020 Water / Sewer Enterprise Fund Article 6, ATM May 6, 2019: |
| Article 7. | Shady Knolls Subdivision Highway Bounds Appropriation |
| Article 8. | Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System Compliance – Year 2 Funding |
| Article 9. | Supplement Green Communities Funding |

Article 1: Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Transfers/Amendments

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds such sums of money as are necessary to fund the following amendments to Article 2 of the Annual Town Meeting of May 6, 2019:

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| Increase Tree Warden Expense | \$50,000 |
| Increase Treasurer/Collector Expense | \$5,000 |
| Increase Assessors' Expenses | \$10,000 |
| Increase Fire Wages | \$25,000 |
| Increase Ambulance Wages | \$71,000 |
| Increase Insurance/Employee Benefits (Prop/Liability) | \$10,000 |
| Increase Building Wages | \$3,300 |
| Increase Public Building Maintenance (for Dam Inspection) | \$8,500 |
| Increase Selectmen's Expenses | \$3,500 |

, or take any other action related thereto.

Explanation: The accounts listed above require an increase to the original budget to satisfy FY2020 operational needs.

Finance Committee recommends

Article 2: Transfer from Free Cash to the OPEB Account

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of **\$50,000** 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 2019 and contributed to Free Cash. It has been the policy to use these sums to address the OPEB deficiency.

Finance Committee recommends

Article 3: Prior Year Bills

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 bills; or take any other action relative thereto.

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| Verizon – Water/Sewer | \$53.58 |
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Explanation: The Town of Douglas has acknowledged that these charges are for agreed upon amount and payment is due.

Finance Committee recommends

Article 4: Amend FY2020 – FY24 Capital Improvement Plan – Article 10 ATM May 6, 2019

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of **\$5,000** from the Cable Receipts Reserved for Appropriation Account to the Municipal Center Resource Room Sound System Upgrades, ADA Compliance Account, and any associated costs, or take any other action related thereto.

Explanation: The transfer is being sought, to move available funds, to fund improvements at the Municipal Center

Finance Committee recommends

Article 5: W/S Extension Project - Engineering

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer **\$501,200** from available funds, or borrow a sum of money for engineering services relative to the design of a water and sewer extension project encompassing approximately 8,000 linear feet of water main, and approximately 3,500 linear feet of sewer main, to extend services to the southeastern part of the Town, including all incidental or related costs, or take any other action related thereto.

Explanation: The Finance Committee held a meeting, on October 29, 2019, during which it discussed the Article 5 language, presented, above. After considerable consideration, the Finance Committee chose NOT to hold a vote on that language.

After further discussion, the following language MAY be advanced Finance Committee recommends on the issue at the November 18, 2019 Town Meeting:

I move that the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$250,000 from Free Cash, for engineering services relative to the design of a water and sewer extension project encompassing approximately 8,000 linear feet of water main and approximately 3,500 linear feet of sewer main running under or alongside portions of Davis and Monroe Streets, including all incidental or related costs, and that the expenditure of the funds provided for in this Article shall occur after an affirmative vote of the

Board of Selectmen in accordance with a written policy of that Board governing the terms and conditions of expenditures funded by this article’.

The Finance Committee has not seen this new language yet, but will be holding a meeting, on the evening of November 18, 2019, before the Annual Town Meeting, to review, discuss, and take a position on the new proposed motion language, relating to Article 5.

Article 6: Amend FY2020 Water / Sewer Enterprise Fund Article 6, ATM May 6, 2019:

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Water / Sewer Retained Earnings the sum of **\$60,000** to operate and maintain the Water / Sewer Department, or take any other action related thereto.

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| Expenses | \$60,000 |
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Explanation: The transfer request seeks to provide additional funds for the operating of the Water and Sewer Department.

Finance Committee recommends

Article 7: Shady Knolls Subdivision Highway Bounds Appropriation

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$12,500**, for the purpose of surveying and installing Highway bounds throughout Shady Knolls Estates subdivision, or take any other action related thereto.

Explanation: The purpose of this article is to look to appropriate monies with regard to highway bounds for the Shady Knolls project.

Finance Committee recommends

Article 8: Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System Compliance – Year 2 Funding

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$52,000** for funding Year 2 of the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System Compliance Services, or take any other action related thereto.

Explanation: These funds will be used to continue the project for the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System Compliance Services.

Finance Committee recommends

Article 9. Supplement Green Communities Funding

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash, for all associated costs, the sum of \$18,155; for the purpose of funding the following:

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| LED Lighting – Primary School | \$18,155 |
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, 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 utilities incentives will reimburse the Town after the projects are complete.

Finance Committee recommends

DOUGLAS

Town of Douglas
29 Depot Street
Douglas, MA 01516



**CURRENT RESIDENT
DOUGLAS, MA 01516**