

VOTER INFORMATION BULLETIN

**TOWN OF DOUGLAS
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
Monday November 8, 2021
Douglas High School Auditorium
7:00 PM**

FINANCE COMMITTEE MESSAGE

Throughout the year the Finance Committee meets with the representatives of the various town boards, committees, departments, and agencies, as well as with our staff within the Town Hall. We work on the budget for the Annual Town Meeting in the spring as well as the Special Town Meeting in the fall, which occurs this year on November 8, 2021.

As we work on the budget, we are aware of both the limits on spending that we have as a town as well as the needs of our town. The challenge for our committee is navigating through the needs of our town as well as the limits we have in meeting those needs, and establishing a budget that is both realistic and practicable. We present these recommendations to you in that spirit.

The Finance Committee welcomes your comments at any time as we prepare the budgets for the special and annual town meetings.

Dick Vandenberg, Chair
Sandy Kuipers, Vice Chair
Howard D'Amico
Carol Gogolinski

Michael Hutnak
Phil Landry
Heather Morin
Lynne Mussulli

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

- Article 1. Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Transfers / Amendments
- Article 2. Simon Fairfield Public Library – Ceiling Repairs
- Article 3. Transfer from Free Cash to the OPEB Account
- Article 4. Supplement AFG (Assistance to Firefighters Grant) – Brush Truck
- Article 5. Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System Compliance – Year 4
- Article 6. Personnel Bylaw Amendment – Vacation
- Article 7. Personnel Compensation Chart Amendments
- Article 8. Municipal Center Oil Spill - New Day Tank and Pump
- Article 9. Zoning Bylaw Amendment – Zoning Use Regs – Appendix A, Subsection C Change
- Article 10. Capital Article
- Article 11. Gift of Town Land
- Article 12. Eminent Domain – Gilboa Street Property

• Article 1. Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Transfer / Amendments:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, and 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 15, 2021, or take any other action related thereto.

Increase Tree Warden Expenses	\$50,000
Increase Treasurer/Collector Expenses	\$10,000
Increase Highway Wages	\$15,000
Increase Highway Maintenance Expenses	\$17,000
Increase Highway Admin. Expenses	\$11,000
Increase Fire Expenses	\$5,000
Increase Cemetery Expenses	\$2,900
Increase Town Counsel Expenses	\$15,000
Increase Economic Development Wages	\$17,500
Increase Community Development Wages	\$37,500
Increase Audit Expenses	\$6,500
Increase Selectmen Expenses	\$5,000
TOTAL:	\$192,400

Finance Committee Recommends

• Article 2. Simon Fairfield Public Library – Ceiling Repairs:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, the sum of **\$75,000**, for the purpose of ceiling repairs and all associated costs at the Simon Fairfield Public Library; or take any other action related thereto.

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 **\$35,000** from Free Cash to the Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Account, or take any other action related thereto.

Finance Committee Recommends

• Article 4. Supplement AFG – (Assistance to Firefighters Grant) – Brush Truck:

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds, the sum of **\$40,000** for the purpose of funding the purchase of a Brush Truck, and all associated costs of equipping the vehicle, which shall supplement the AFG funding of **\$238,095.24**, the same to be spent under the direction of the Fire Chief, or take any other action related thereto.

Finance Committee Recommends

• Article 5. Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System Compliance – Year 4 Funding:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer the sum of **\$46,800** for funding Year 4 of the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System Compliance Services, or take any other action related thereto.

Finance Committee Recommends

• Article 6. Personnel Bylaw Amendment - Vacation:

To see if the Town will vote to add the following language to the Douglas Personnel Bylaw as follows, beginning in Fiscal Year 2022, add to Section VII as a new subsection (A) with all following subsections re-numbered/lettered as needed to read the following: A newly hired full time employee and regular part time employee shall be awarded the pro-rated share of one week of vacation beginning with the end of their 90 day probationary period to the beginning of the next fiscal year, rounded to the next highest half day increment, or take any other action related thereto.

Finance Committee Recommends

• Article 7. Personnel Compensation Chart Amendments:

To see if the Town will vote to change the Personnel Compensation Chart effective July 1, 2021, by

- Reclassify System Manager Water & Sewer, from M-4 to M-5
- Add COA Administrative Assistant/Outreach Assistant to MS-2

or take any other action related thereto.

Finance Committee Recommends

• Article 8. Municipal Center Oil Spill - New Day Tank and Pump:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of **\$200,000** for the purpose of cleanup costs arising from an oil spill in the Municipal Center basement, to include replacement day tank and pump system, and all associated costs; or take any other action related thereto.

Finance Committee Recommends

• Article 9. Zoning Bylaw Amendment – Zoning Use Regs – Appendix A, Subsection C Change:

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Zoning By-Law, ZONING USE REGS – APPENDIX A, Subsection C. Commercial, as follows; or take any other action related thereto.

USE	DISTRICTS							
	R-A	RC-1	RC-2	VR	VB	Comm	IND	SFOS
8. Restaurant	N	SP	SP	SP	Y	Y	Y	N

Y – Allowed Use

BA – Allowed by Special Permit from the Zoning Board of Appeals

SP – Allowed by Special Permit from the Planning Board

N – Not Allowed

Finance Committee Recommends

• Article 10: Capital:

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of **\$367,200** to fund the following Capital Projects, or take any other action related thereto.

Project	Total Project Cost	
Fire Station electrical upgrade and replacement generator; and all associated costs.	\$292,200	
Fire Station roof replacement and building weatherization; and all associated costs.	\$75,000	
Total	\$367,200	
The funds shall include the following transfers from previously approved capital projects which have been completed and closed for accounting purposes with the following balances, with the remainder coming from free cash as noted:		
Post Office Int/Ext Painting	Art 11 09/12/20	\$11,000.00
Highway Dump Truck w/ Sander	Art 10 05/06/19	\$9,482.05
Total transfer from completed projects	\$20,482.05	
Transfer from free cash	\$346,717.95	
Total transfer from all sources	\$367,200.00	

Explanation: The Capital Improvement Committee voted to fund these items based on the needs and funds available.

Finance Committee Recommends**• Article 11. Gift of Land to Town:**

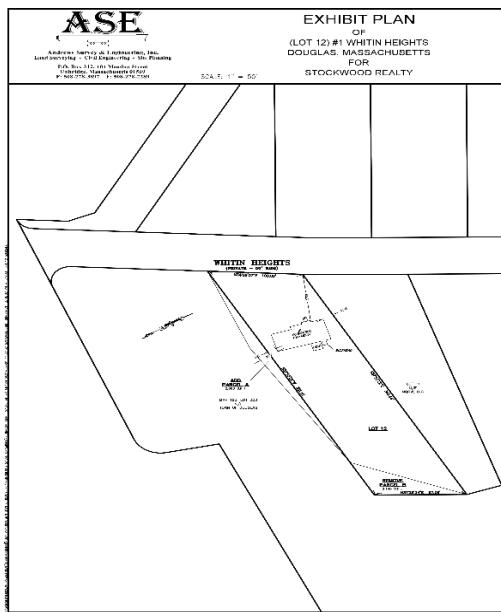
To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to convey a piece of land identified in a filing in the office of the Town Clerk as “Article 11 Land Being Conveyed”, and to ratify all necessary predicate actions regarding transfer of custody and change of purpose; and to further authorize the Board of Selectmen to receive a gift of land(s) to be held for conservation purposes, said property being as described in a filing in the office of the Town Clerk as “Article 11-Land Being Received”, or take any other action relative thereto.

Finance Committee Recommends**• Article 12. Eminent Domain – Gilboa Street Property:**

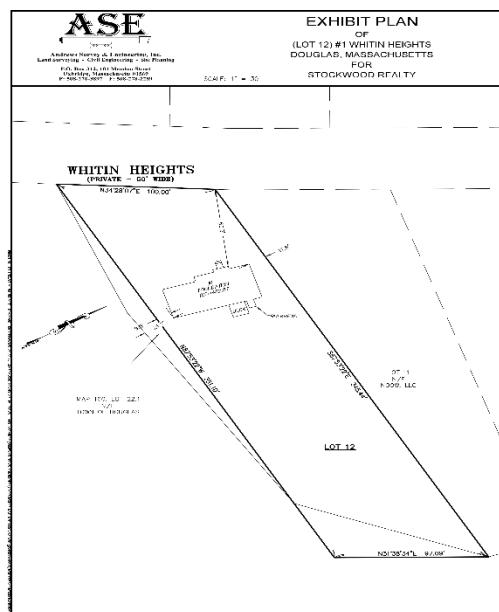
To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer and or borrow a sum of money to acquire by gift, purchase or eminent domain the “Gilboa Street” property, so called, as described in a filing in the office of filing the Town Clerk titled “Gilboa Street acquisition-Article 12”, and to take any other action relative thereto.

Finance Committee Recommends 7 yes / 1 no.

Article 11 – Figure 1
Gift of Land to Town



Article 11 – Figure 2
Gift of Land to Town

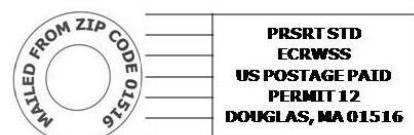


Article 12
Eminent Domain – Gilboa Street Property



DOUGLAS

Town of Douglas
29 Depot Street
Douglas, MA 01516



**CURRENT RESIDENT
DOUGLAS, MA 01516**