

## Event Details

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### Finance Committee

Tuesday, September 10, 2024

**Date:** September 10, 2024

**Time:** 7:00 PM

**Location:** Resource Room

Douglas Finance Committee Agenda

Town Hall

Douglas MA

September 10, 2024

7:00 p.m.

**Address:** Douglas Municipal Center  
29 Depot Street  
Douglas, MA 01516

1. Call to order
2. Reorganization for the upcoming year
3. Town administrator report
  1. Update on town's current financial condition
  2. Discussion of the Warrant, Nov 18, 2024, Special Town Meeting
  3. other
4. Reserve Fund transfers
5. Review minutes of June 25, 2024
6. Hand in Code of Conduct signatures
7. Stormwater bylaw review committee: Mike H has expressed an interest
8. Calendar:
  1. October 8
  2. October 22
  3. November 18: Special Town Meeting
9. Open session for topics not reasonably anticipated 48 hours in advance
10. Adjournment

Douglas Cable is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

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Meeting ID: 846 0967 5867

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Meeting ID: 846 0967 5867

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kdpe7DsAG>

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<https://douglas-ma.gov/530/Remote-Meetings>

# Douglas

## MASSACHUSETTS

### *CONTACT*

The Town of Douglas

Municipal Center

29 Depot Street

Douglas, MA 01516

[Contact Us](#)

**FINANCE COMMITTEE  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2024  
RESOURCE ROOM**

Attendance: Chair Dick Vandenberg, Vice chair Sandy Kuipers, Heather Morin, Carol Gogolinski, Lynne Mussulli, Howard D'Amico, Matt Wojcik Town Administrator

Absent: Mike Hutnak, Ryan Hogan (excused)

Dick Vandenberg called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

1. (0:25 TS) Reorganization for the upcoming year  
Matt Wojcik opened the floor for nominations for chair of the Finance Committee. Sandy Kuipers nominated Dick Vandenberg for chair and Carol Gogolinski 2<sup>nd</sup> the nomination. There were no other nominations for chairperson, roll call vote – Heather Morin, Lynne Mussulli, Carol Gogolinski, and Sandy Kuipers all in favor. Carol Gogolinski nominated Sandy Kuipers for vice chair, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Heather Morin. Roll call vote – Heather Morin, Lynne Mussulli, Carol Gogolinski, and Sandy Kuipers all in favor.
2. (2:20 TS) Town Administrator Report
  - a. Update on town's current financial condition  
The town is entering into a stage of due diligence regarding purchase of real estate with frontage on Riedell Road and Main Street for a possible highway barn. Mr. Wojcik stated that this piece of property would have value for the town regardless of how the town determines to use the property. Mr. Wojcik explained what funds are set aside for the highway barn project and as it stands right now there is about \$450k set aside for overlay that the finance director has to release if the abatements aren't awarded. The overlay amount added to the unbudgeted budget capacity may not satisfy the complete purchase price of the property. It won't require the town to raise and appropriate anything additional above and beyond what was planned in the revenue budget, the amount above and beyond the estimated \$700k set aside would come from free cash to finance the property. The Selectboard has reached a tentative agreement with the seller for a price that is in excess of the appraised value due to certain circumstances with the property that lent additional value. Mr. Wojcik explained how this will appear in the warrant for town meeting.  
(9:30 TS) Howard D'Amico joined the meeting  
Mr. Wojcik discussed the adjustments to certain budgets that include the IT budget increase, Community Development department allocation for the conservation agent, Police salaries. Mr. Wojcik also talked about the discussion between the town and the school about a shared facilities director for all the town buildings and what the plan is for bringing this to fruition and explained the need for this position for the town. The other thing he brought up was to start focusing on bringing the town into compliance with its own bylaws. Mr. Wojcik talked about the new law passed that allows homeowners to have a detached accessory dwelling unit with the need for a special permit so Douglas will have to change their accessory dwelling zoning bylaws. Through October the free cash number will be certified and we will find out about the successfulness of the towns Economic Development grant writing efforts. Mr. Wojcik discussed the town's health insurance regarding the shared health plan group the town is currently participating in and the issues evolving. The Selectboard has authorized Mr. Wojcik to go back out to bid for Property and Casualty Insurance. The town of Douglas was chosen out of the 5 or 6 communities to tell the town's



story about the economic development in the town and the town can get a preview of it at the Select boards meeting.

- b. Discussion of the Warrant, Nov 18, 2024, Special Town Meeting  
Jeanne Lovett stated that the Depot Street water project is partially funded with ARPA funds and there will be an article from the water/sewer department for the remainder of the funding.
3. (52:25 TS) Review minutes of June 25, 2024  
(52:30 TS) Motion to accept the June 25, 2024, meeting minutes as presented made by Sandy Kuipers, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Heather Morin. Roll call vote – Heather Morin, Howard D’Amico, Sandy Kuipers, Dick Vandenberg, Carol Gogolinski, and Lynne Mussulli all in favor.
4. (53:15 TS) Hand in Code of Conduct signatures
5. (53:25 TS) Stormwater bylaw review committee: Mike Hutnak has expressed an interest. There are no objections from the members.
6. (53:40 TS) Upcoming Meetings: October 8, 2024 & October 22, 2024  
Jeanne Lovett stated that they should have a draft warrant by October 8 and she will ask those that have articles to be at that meeting.

(55:15 TS) Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 pm made by Sandy Kuipers, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lynne Mussulli. Roll call vote – Heather Morin, Howard D’Amico, Sandy Kuipers, Dick Vandenberg, Carol Gogolinski, and Lynne Mussulli all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,



Stephenie Gosselin