

Event Details

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Finance Committee

Tuesday, October 22, 2024

Douglas Finance Committee

Agenda

Town Hall

Douglas MA

October 22, 2024

7:00 p.m.

Date: October 22, 2024

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: Resource Room

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

Link: [Join Zoom Meeting](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85032285314)
(<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85032285314>)

1. Call to order
2. Community Preservation Act: general discussion
3. Review warrant articles for the Special Town meeting
4. Calendar: November 18: Special Town Meeting; we will meet early to go over loose ends
5. Review minutes of Oct. 8, 2024
6. Reserve Fund transfers
7. Open session for topics not reasonably anticipated 48 hours in advance
8. Adjournment

Douglas Cable is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Finance Committee: October 22

Time: Oct 22, 2024 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

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Meeting ID: 850 3228 5314

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For information about the Zoom platform, including how-to videos and forms for requesting a Zoom meeting:

Douglas MASSACHUSETTS

CONTACT

The Town of Douglas

Municipal Center

29 Depot Street

Douglas, MA 01516

[Contact Us](#)

APPROVED
January 14, 2025

FINANCE COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2024
RESOURCE ROOM

Attendance: Chair Dick Vandenberg, Vice chair Sandy Kuipers, Howard D'Amico, Ryan Hogan, Lynne Mussulli, Carol Gogolinski, Mike Hutnak, Matt Wojcik Town Administrator, Jeanne Lovett Finance Director

Absent: Heather Morin

Dick Vandenberg called the meeting to order.

1. (0:30 TS) Community Preservation Act: General Discussion
Sue Perkins, Chair of the Open Space Committee talked about the Committees plans which include getting the Community Preservation Act voted in town which will bring in grants. Sue Perkins answered the Finance Committee members questions about the CPA like the cost for the taxpayers and the role of the matching from the Registry of Deeds. There was a lengthy discussion about what the CPA funds would be used for if this was voted. Chris Pupka the Town Assessor answered committee member questions on tax bills and surcharges and the software that would handle these transactions and the potential impact on his office.
2. (35:15 TS) Review warrant articles for the Special Town meeting
 - Article 1 (\$289,900) - Matt Wojcik and the Committee members discussed the recent budget changes.

(41:35 TS) Motion to recommend approval of article 1 as presented for a grant total of \$289,900.00, made by Sandy Kuipers, 2nd by Mike Hutnak. The vote passed unanimously.

 - Article 2 Capital Improvement (\$438,533) – Matt Wojcik talked about the school security system project and the funding sources for \$304,342.00. Jeanne Lovett the Finance Director stated the estimated free cash amount this year is about \$3,730,252.

(51:15 TS) Motion to recommend to the town meeting to pass article 2 as presented for \$438,533.00, made by Lynne Mussulli, 2nd by Mike Hutnak. The vote passed unanimously.

 - Article 3 Personnel Compensation Chart – Nothing has changed in this article since last meeting.

(52:40 TS) Motion to recommend article 3 as presented, made by Howard D'Amico, 2nd by Sandy Kuipers. The vote passed unanimously.

 - Article 4 Depot Street Project – Bob Sullivan stated that they don't final numbers until the bids come in and explained that it is a multifaceted funded project. The Committee is going to pass on voting tonight until they get the numbers and vote the night of town meeting.
 - Article 5 Eminent Domain – Carol Gogolinski mentioned her reservations about purchasing this property, Matt Wojcik stated that they would be able to pull out of the purchase if they find that it is not what they expected.

(1:17:35 TS) Motion to recommend to town meeting to pass article 5 as presented, made by Lynne Mussulli, 2nd by Ryan Hogan. The vote passed with an abstention from Howard D'Amico.

 - Article 6 Property purchase on Riedell Road – The only thing has changed on this is from free cash instead of raise and appropriate.

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(1:24:10 TS) Motion to recommend article 6 as presented, made by Ryan Hogan, 2nd by Carol Gogolinski. The vote passed with an abstention from Howard D'Amico.

- Article 7 General Bylaw Scenic Roads – This gives the Tree warden authority to take dangerous or damaged trees down without having to file and application.

(1:26:05 TS) Motion to recommend article 7 as presented, made by Carol Gogolinski, 2nd by Howard D'Amico. The vote passed unanimously.

- Article 8 Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) – Matt Benoit spoke about the change to this article about family not being a component of this bylaw any longer.

(1:28:50 TS) Motion to recommend the approval of article 8 as presented, made by Howard D'Amico, 2nd by Mike Hutnak. The vote passed unanimously,

- Article 9 Lighting for the Douglas Middle School Green Communities Grant (\$28,000) – The project total is \$127k and \$28k from the town.

(1:30:10 TS) Motion to recommend article 9 as presented made by Sandy Kuipers, 2nd by Lynne Mussulli. The vote passed unanimously.

- Article 10 Old Webster Road ownership – The name of the road is the only change.

(1:31:00 TS) Motion to recommend article 10 as presented, made by Mike Hutnak, 2nd by Sandy Kuipers. The vote passed unanimously.

- Article 11 & 12 – Matt Wojcik explained these articles for the benefits of leave without loss of pay for paramedics for article 11. Article 12 provides indemnification for the reasonable hospital medical and related expenses and charges incurred as a result of a injury sustained during duty.

(1:36:00 TS) Motion to recommend article 11 as presented, made by Lynne Mussulli, 2nd by Howard D'Amico. The vote passed unanimously.

(1:36:20 TS) Motion to recommend article 12 as presented, made by Howard D'Amico, 2nd by Mike Hutnak. The vote passed unanimously.

- Article 13 Gleason Court Transfer –

(1:38:15 TS) Motion to recommend approval of article 13 as presented, made by Howard D'Amico, 2nd by Lynne Mussulli. The vote passed unanimously,

- Article 14 Fire Station repairs or improvements – Matt Wojcik explained what they are looking to get done at the fire station and the changes from the original project to keep the cost down to what the town can afford.

(1:44:20 TS) Motion to recommend article 14 for approval as presented, made by Mike Hutnak, 2nd by Howard D'Amico. The vote passed unanimously.

(1:44:45 TS) Sandy Kuipers asked about the EV chargers and Matt Wojcik gave an update on them working great.

3. (1:47:00 TS) Review Minutes of October 8, 2024

(1:47:00 TS) Motion to approve the meeting minutes of October 8, 2024, as amended made by Howard D'Amico, 2nd by Lynne Mussulli. The vote passed unanimously.

(1:49:25 TS) Matt Wojcik wanted to clear a misconception up about the CPA that the town's decision-making bodies are not proposing this and that a group of citizens have petitioned for this to be on the ballot and that they successfully collected all the signatures needed and more to accomplish this. This was not a recommendation or a function of the Selectboard or the Planning Board to take this step.

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4. (1:52:15 TS) Calendar: November 18: Special Town Meeting: meet earlier to go over loose ends. The Committee members agreed on meeting at 6:30 pm.
(1:53:50 TS) Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:56 pm, made by Sandy Kuipers, 2nd by Mike Hutnak. The vote passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Stephenie Gosselin