

Event Details

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Finance Committee

Tuesday, October 8, 2024

Date: October 8, 2024

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: Resource Room

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

Douglas Finance Committee Agenda

Town Hall

Douglas MA

October 8, 2024

7:00 p.m.

1. Call to order
2. Town administrator report: general update
3. Reserve Fund transfers
4. Review minutes of Sept. 10 2024
5. Review warrant articles for the Special Town meeting
6. Calendar:
 - a. October 22

- b. November 18: Special Town Meeting
- 7. Open session for topics not reasonably anticipated 48 hours in advance
- 8. Adjournment

Douglas

MASSACHUSETTS

CONTACT

The Town of Douglas

Municipal Center

29 Depot Street

Douglas, MA 01516

[Contact Us](#)

APPROVED
October 22, 2024

FINANCE COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2024
RESOURCE ROOM

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

Absent: Heather Morin (excused)

Dick Vandenberg called the meeting to order.

1. (0:45 TS) Review warrant articles for the Special Town Meeting
 - Article 1 – Matt Wojcik the Town Administrator went over the highlights of this article for the budget by line items and what has changed due to staff/positions, projects, etc. Police chief Nick Miglionico went over the police budget changes. Fire Chief John Furno went over the fire budget changes. Matt Wojcik spoke about the fire station project and putting off the major overhaul of the fire station and do the most immediate necessary items due to the cost coming too high and reallocating that ARPA money to other projects. Mr. Wojcik went over the new growth revenue.
 - (31:30 TS) Article 2 – Matt Wojcik went through the capital projects: specifically, the Fire Station electrical and HVAC upgrade that \$300k dollars was allocated for and the vendor just told the town that the cost will be around \$1 million, so Mr. Wojcik is going in another direction. Matt Benoit discussed the LED lighting project at the Post Office and municipal center.
 - (49:30 TS) Article 3 Changes to personnel compensation chart – To add the adult social center cook position job description and title to chart that is in miscellaneous.
 - (52:00 TS) Article 4 Water/Sewer Department Depot Street – Bob Sullivan spoke about the Depot Street project to replace the water pipes which is partially funded by ARPA funds. This project will be able to get the municipal center fire safe and improve the water quality on the street. Bob Sullivan is waiting for his estimate to come in after going out to bid.
 - (59:50 TS) Article 5 Eminent domain - Matt Wojcik explained what this process looks like and why they are going the avenue of eminent domain with the seller. He spoke to this site being an ideal site for the highway barn. There was discussion about the right of way from Main Street to the property.
 - (1:16:25 TS) Article 7 General Bylaw amendment Scenic Road – Matt Benoit stated that this gives the tree warden authority to take down dangerous trees without having to go through the long permit process.
 - (1:18:06 TS) Article 8 Accessory Dwelling Units – Matt Benoit discussed the new law that the Governor recently passed for ADUs by right and the town is looking to update the bylaw to give the town a mechanism of control to regulate the ADU's and to make sure they abide by the legal standards. The language that Town Counsel asked Matt Benoit to add “any restricted use on existing legal ADUs upon effective date of this bylaw null and void.”
 - (1:21:15 TS) Article 9 Green Communities Middle School – This is the LED lighting project and Matt Benoit went over the details of the funding amount through Green Communities and utility incentive.

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- (1:23:00 TS) Article 10 Old Douglas Road abandoned rights and ownership – Matt Wojcik explained that the owner of the parcels this road runs through is requesting this to be done at Town Meeting.
- (1:30:35 TS) Article 11 – This is for injured on duty benefits apply to paramedics.
- (1:31:35 TS) Article 12 Gleason Court transfer of land – Matt Benoit showed the picture of the property and showed where the land they are seeking to add to this parcel to make it a more conforming lot to sell.

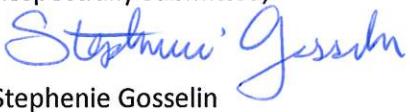
The Board and Matt Wojcik discussed the Community Preservation Act and getting the information out to the public about this item that will be on the ballot. They agreed to put this on the agenda to discuss and ask the Open Space Committee to join the meeting to speak to it and answer questions the Board may have.

2. (1:51:05 TS) Review minutes of September 10, 2024

(1:51:55 TS) Motion to approve the meeting minutes of September 10, 2024, as written, made by Sandy Kuipers, 2nd by Lynne Mussulli. Mike Hutnak and Ryan Hogan abstained, Sandy Kuipers, Lynne Mussulli, Carol Gogolinski, Howard D'Amico, and Dick Vandenberg all in favor.

(1:53:30 TS) Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 pm, made by Sandy Kuipers, 2nd by Lynne Mussulli. The vote passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,


Stephenie Gosselin