

2015
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
MOTIONS



Saturday, March 28, 2015 10:00AM
Abbot School Gymnasium

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REPORTS

ARTICLE 1: Accept Town Reports

Town Manager

Motion: *(Majority Vote Required)*

That the Town accept the Reports of Town Officers, Boards and Committees for the Fiscal Year 2014.

Selectmen recommend (5-0) and Finance Committee recommends (7-0)

FINANCIAL - FISCAL YEAR 2015

ARTICLE 2: Approve Unpaid Bills from Previous Fiscal Year(s)

Town Manager

Motion: *(4/5 Majority Vote Required)*

That the Town appropriate from Free Cash the sum of \$432.78 (FOUR HUNDRED THIRTY TWO DOLLARS AND SEVENTY EIGHT CENTS) to pay for unpaid bills of prior fiscal years from Comcast for services incurred by the Technology department in accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 64.

Selectmen recommend (5-0) and Finance Committee recommends (7-0)

ARTICLE 3: Approve Fiscal Year 2015 Supplemental Appropriations

Town Manager

Motion: *(Majority Vote Required)*

That the Town appropriate from Free Cash the sum of \$681,500 (SIX HUNDRED EIGHTY ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS) in order to supplement the following operating budgets in Fiscal Year 2015:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| 220 Fire Department Personal Services | \$25,000.00 |
| 423 Snow & Ice | \$650,000.00 |
| 610 Library Expenses | \$0 |

And further

That the Town appropriate from Recreation Enterprise Retained Earnings the sum of \$50,000 (FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS) to supplement the following Fiscal Year 2015 Operating Budgets:

| | |
|---------------------------------------------|-------------|
| 630 Recreation Enterprise Personal Services | \$50,000.00 |
|---------------------------------------------|-------------|

Selectmen recommend (4-0) and Finance Committee recommends (8-0)

ARTICLE 4: Approve Fiscal Year 2015 Budget Transfers

Town Manager

Motion: *(Majority Vote Required)*

That the Town transfer the following sums between and among various accounts for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2015:

| <i>FROM</i> | <i>TO</i> | <i>AMOUNT</i> |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| Insurance Receipts Reserved | Abbot School Building Maintenance | \$51,205.66 |

Selectmen recommend (4-0) and Finance Committee to make recommendation at Town Meeting

ARTICLE 5: Appropriate for Perchlorate Expenses*Town Manager***Motion:** *(Majority Vote Required)*

That the Town appropriate from Free Cash the sum of \$200,000 (TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS) for the purpose of providing funds to address associated issues regarding perchlorate contamination.

Selectmen recommend (4-0) and Finance Committee recommends (7-0)

CAPITAL APPROPRIATIONS - FISCAL YEAR 2015**ARTICLE 6: Approve Capital Appropriations***Capital Planning Committee***First Motion:** *(Majority Vote Required)*

That the Town appropriate from Free Cash the sum of \$2,233,199 (TWO MILLION TWO HUNDRED THIRTY THREE THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED NINETY NINE DOLLARS) to provide for the following capital requests and costs incidental and related thereto:

| <i>DEPARTMENT</i> | <i>AMOUNT</i> | <i>PURPOSE</i> |
|-------------------|---------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| Technology | \$410,000 | School computer replacement |
| Technology | \$34,000 | Town computer replacement |
| Technology | \$40,000 | Network upgrades |
| Technology | \$40,000 | Server & storage replacements |
| Technology | \$10,000 | Replacement of Police/Fire Avaya Phones |
| Public Buildings | \$44,000 | Town-wide roofing study |
| Public Buildings | \$400,000 | General Building Repairs & Maintenance |
| Public Buildings | \$10,000 | Parkerville School House Repairs |
| Police | \$18,064 | Defibrillators |
| Schools | \$220,000 | Phase 1 System wide Security Cameras |
| Schools | \$60,000 | WA Restroom/Visitor Bleacher Feasibility Study |
| Schools | \$40,000 | 1-Ton Utility Truck |
| Engineering | \$28,000 | ½-Ton SUV |
| Engineering | \$105,500 | Study & Design for three (3) municipal dams |
| Highway | \$45,000 | One (1) ¾-Ton Truck |
| Highway | \$100,000 | Two (2) 1-Ton Trucks |
| Highway | \$220,000 | Ten-wheel dump truck |
| Highway | \$225,000 | Excavator |
| Highway | \$44,770 | Pleasant St. Drainage Improvements |
| Highway | \$24,365 | Graniteville Rd. Drainage Improvements |
| Library | \$35,000 | Library Feasibility Study Supplemental Appropriation |
| Recreation | \$25,500 | Tennis court repairs & maintenance |
| Parks & Grounds | \$54,000 | Wide area mower and trailer |

And further

That the Town appropriate from Free Cash the sum of \$233,441.98 (TWO HUNDRED THIRTY THREE THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED FORTY ONE DOLLARS AND NINETY EIGHT CENTS) and that the town reauthorize and transfer the sum of \$413,959.02 (FOUR HUNDRED THIRTEEN THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED FIFTY NINE DOLLARS AND TWO CENTS) from the following capital accounts in the following amounts:

| <i>PROJECT</i> | <i>TOWN MEETING VOTE</i> | <i>AMOUNT</i> |
|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------|
| Town Hall Renovation | Article 17 ATM May, 2009 | \$134,047.89 |
| Senior Center Renovation | Article 16 ATM May, 2009 | 229,128.82 |
| Senior Center Design | Article 12 ATM May, 2007 | 5,048.65 |
| Street Sweeper | Article 16 ATM March, 2011 | 106.80 |
| Police Base Radio | Article 17 ATM March, 2011 | 5,740.71 |
| Middle School Construction - Stony Brook | Article 20 STM November 2000 | 36,711.03 |
| Perchlorate Remediation | Article 1 STM July, 2009 | 3,175.12 |

to provide for the following capital request:

| <i>DEPARTMENT</i> | <i>AMOUNT</i> | <i>PURPOSE</i> |
|-------------------|---------------|------------------------------|
| Engineering | \$647,401 | Keyes culvert reconstruction |

And further

That the Town appropriate from Water Enterprise Retained Earnings the sum of \$176,000 (ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY SIX THOUSAND DOLLARS) to provide for the following capital requests and costs incidental and related thereto:

| <i>DEPARTMENT</i> | <i>AMOUNT</i> | <i>PURPOSE</i> |
|-------------------|---------------|-------------------------------|
| Water Enterprise | \$20,000 | Lab Equipment Replacement |
| Water Enterprise | \$80,000 | Master Plan Update |
| Water Enterprise | \$60,000 | Valve Maintenance Trailer |
| Water Enterprise | \$16,000 | Water buildings roofing study |

And further

That the Town appropriate from Ambulance Enterprise Retained Earnings the sum of \$340,000 (THREE HUNDRED FORTY THOUSAND DOLLARS) to provide for the following capital requests and costs incidental and related thereto:

| <i>DEPARTMENT</i> | <i>AMOUNT</i> | <i>PURPOSE</i> |
|-------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|
| Ambulance Enterprise | \$80,000 | EKG monitors |
| Ambulance Enterprise | \$246,000 | Replace Ambulance #12 |
| Ambulance Enterprise | \$14,000 | Radios for New Ambulance |

Selectmen recommend (4-0) and Finance Committee recommends (8-0)

ARTICLE 7: Appropriate Funding to Design and Construct a Combined Police and Fire Dispatch Center at the Police Training Room

Board of Selectmen

Motion: *(2/3 Majority Vote Required)*

That the Town appropriate the sum of \$1,029,000 (ONE MILLION TWENTY NINE THOUSAND DOLLARS) for the purpose of designing and constructing a combined police and fire dispatch facility to be located in the Police Department Training Room, including the costs of equipment and furnishings and all other costs incidental and related thereto; and that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer with the approval of the Board of Selectmen is hereby authorized to borrow the sum of \$1,029,000 (ONE MILLION TWENTY NINE THOUSAND DOLLARS) pursuant to General Laws Chapter 44, Section 7(3) or any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds and notes therefor.

Selectmen recommend (4-0) and Finance Committee recommends (8-0)

ARTICLE 8: Authorize the Transfer of a Parcel Located on Boston Road and Appropriate Funding to Design and Construct a New Center Fire Station on Boston Road

Board of Selectmen

Motion: *(2/3 Majority Vote Required)*

That the Town transfer the care, custody, and control of land from the Board of Selectmen currently held for the purposes of recreation, and to convey to the Board of Selectmen to be held for general municipal purposes said land identified as Parcel A in a deed recorded with the Middlesex North Registry of Deeds in Book 7366, Page 211, and shown on a plan entitled "Definitive Subdivision Plan of Land Boston Road Westford, MA," dated August 27, 1993, recorded with the Middlesex North Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 187, Plan 86, on file with the Town Clerk and identified as Parcel No. 22-3-4; and to appropriate the sum of \$12,772,200 (TWELVE MILLION SEVEN HUNDRED SEVENTY TWO THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS) for the purpose of designing and constructing a new Center Fire Station on land located on Boston Road; including the costs of equipment and furnishings and all other costs incidental and related thereto; and that to meet this appropriation the sum of \$1,000,000 (ONE MILLION DOLLARS) be transferred from free cash, and the Treasurer with the approval of the Board of Selectmen be authorized to borrow the sum of \$11,772,200 (ELEVEN MILLION SEVEN HUNDRED SEVENTY TWO THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS) pursuant to General Laws Chapter 44, Section 7(3) or any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds and notes therefor; provided that the total appropriation under this vote shall be contingent on the passage of a Proposition 2 and ½ debt exclusion vote.

Alternate Motion in the event that Article 7 fails: *(2/3 Majority Vote Required)*

That the Town transfer the care, custody, and control of land from the Board of Selectmen currently held for the purposes of recreation, and to convey to the Board of Selectmen to be held for general municipal purposes said land identified as Parcel A in a deed recorded with the Middlesex North Registry of Deeds in Book 7366, Page 211, and shown on a plan entitled "Definitive Subdivision Plan of Land Boston Road Westford, MA," dated August 27, 1993, recorded with the Middlesex North Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 187, Plan 86, on file with the Town Clerk and identified as Parcel No. 22-3-4; and to appropriate the sum of \$13,493,550 (THIRTEEN MILLION FOUR HUNDRED NINETY THREE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS) for the purpose of designing and constructing a new Center Fire Station on land located on Boston Road; including the costs of equipment and furnishings and all other costs incidental and related thereto; and that to meet this appropriation the sum of \$1,000,000 (ONE MILLION DOLLARS) be transferred from free cash, and the Treasurer with the approval of the Board of Selectmen be authorized to borrow the sum of \$12,493,550 (TWELVE MILLION FOUR HUNDRED NINETY THREE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS) pursuant to General Laws Chapter 44, Section 7(3) or any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds and notes therefor; provided that the total appropriation under this vote shall be contingent on the passage of a Proposition 2 and ½ debt exclusion vote.

Selectmen recommend (4-0) and Finance Committee recommends (7-1)

ARTICLE 9: Authorize Clare Circle Improvements/Betterments*Board of Selectmen***Motion:** *(Majority Vote Required)*

That the Town transfer from Free Cash the amount of \$33,000 (THIRTY THREE THOUSAND DOLLARS) for the purpose of resurfacing Clare Circle, performing drainage work, installing bounds and preparing street acceptance plans; the cost thereof to be assessed proportionately against those persons who shall receive a benefit or advantage thereof, using such assessment method as the Board of Selectmen shall determine, any such assessments to bear interest at a rate not to exceed two per cent above the rate of interest chargeable to the Town.

Selectmen recommend (5-0) and Finance Committee recommends (7-0)

ARTICLE 10: Authorize Transfer of Parcels Located at 12 North Main Street From the Tax Possession Sale Committee to the Board of Selectmen, Authorize Disposition of the Parcels Under Terms and Conditions Determined by the Board of Selectmen, and Appropriate Funds for Environmental Insurance
*Board of Selectmen***Motion:** *(2/3 Majority Vote Required)*

That the Town transfer the care, custody, and control of the land described herein and the structures and buildings located thereon from the Tax Possession Sale Committee as held or to be acquired by the Tax Possession Sale Committee for the purpose of tax foreclosure disposition, to the Board of Selectmen to be held for the purpose of disposition of a fee or lesser interest therein, **said transfer being contingent upon the parcels being determined to be surplus by the Tax Possession Sales Committee**; said property consisting of parcels 69, 70, 71 and 73 as shown on Assessors Map Number 30 and located at 12 North Main Street; and further to authorize the Board of Selectmen to convey said property pursuant to the provisions of General Laws Chapter 30B, §16 on such terms and conditions as the Board of Selectmen shall determine, and for such consideration as the Board of Selectmen shall deem appropriate, including nominal consideration; and further to appropriate from Free Cash the sum of \$27,960 (TWENTY SEVEN THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED SIXTY DOLLARS) for the purpose of providing funds for environmental insurance premiums and related costs.

Selectmen recommend (4-0) and Finance Committee recommends (8-0)

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUNDS

ARTICLE 11: Approve Community Preservation Committee Recommendations
*Community Preservation Committee***Motion:** *(Majority Vote Required)*

That the Town, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, or any other enabling authority, in accordance with the recommendations of the Westford Community Preservation Committee, appropriate from Community Preservation Funds the sum \$717,584 (SEVEN HUNDRED SEVENTEEN THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED EIGHT FOUR DOLLARS) as follows:

| | | |
|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| \$149,026 | From Undesignated Fund Balance To the Historic Resources Reserve This allocation more than covers the required 10% for Historic Resources. | Historic Resources Reserve |
| \$19,200 | From Undesignated Fund Balance For the installation of informational kiosks at the Stony Brook Conservation Land and East Boston Camps and any other related costs. | Westford Friends of East Boston Camps |
| \$42,500 | From Undesignated Fund Balance For the development of a community garden at the Day Field and any | Agricultural Commission |

| | | |
|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | other related costs. | |
| \$234,158 | From Undesignated Fund Balance To the Affordable Housing Trust for the creation, preservation, support, rehabilitation or restoration of affordable housing and any other related costs. This allocation more than covers the required 10% for Community Housing. | Affordable Housing Trust |
| \$139,700 | From Undesignated Fund Balance For the Healthy Lakes & Ponds Restoration Year 1 Plan and any other related costs. | Healthy Lakes & Ponds Collaborative |
| \$28,000 | From Fund Balance Reserved for Historic Resources For the design and installation of a fire alarm system and the design of a sprinkler system at the Parkerville Schoolhouse and any other related costs. | Parkerville Schoolhouse Committee |
| \$75,000 | From Fund Balance Reserved for Historic Resources For a feasibility study on the rehabilitation and development for the former Abbot Worsted Mill located at 12 N. Main Street and any other related costs. | 12 North Main Street Task Force |
| \$18,000 | From Fund Balance Reserved for Historic Resources For the preservation and historic improvement study on the Arch Bridge, Stony Brook Bridge, and Bridge Street Bridge and any other related costs. | Historical Commission |
| \$12,000 | From Fund Balance Reserved for Historic Resources For the architectural and engineering services study of the museum cottage located at 4 Boston Rd. and any other related costs. | Historical Commission |

Selectmen recommend (4-0) and Finance Committee recommends (8-0)

FINANCIAL-FISCAL YEAR 2016

ARTICLE 12: Amend the Wage and Classification Plan

Town Manager

Motion: *(Majority Vote Required)*

That the Town amend the Pay Classification Plan for non-unionized municipal employees, effective July 1, 2015 as follows:

| Position | Current Band | Min | Mid | Max | New Band | Min | Mid | Max |
|-------------------|--------------|-----|-----|-----|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Deputy Fire Chief | New Position | N/A | N/A | N/A | Band 7 | \$68,130 | \$82,797 | \$97,463 |

Selectmen recommend (4-0), Finance Committee recommends (8-0), Personnel Advisory Committee recommends (3-0)

ARTICLE 13: Authorize Revolving Funds

Town Manager

Motion: *(Majority Vote Required)*

That the Town authorize revolving funds for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016, under the provisions of [Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53E ½](#) for the following:

| Revolving Account | Spending Authority | Revenue Source | Allowed Expenses | Expenditure Limits | Year End Balance |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Lease of Town Buildings: 65 & 73 Main St & 170 Plain Rd | Board of Selectmen | Lease payment and other revenues from leased properties | Costs associated with maintenance, repairs and improvements to the leased properties | \$150,000 | Available for expenditure next year |
| Recycling Revolving | Recycling Commission | Sale of bins | Purchase of recycling supplies | \$20,000 | Available for expenditure next year |
| Recreation Field Maintenance | Recreation Commission | Field user fees/permits | Field maintenance, hiring of necessary personnel and consulting services | \$150,000 | Available for expenditure next year |
| Senior Center Fitness Room | Council on Aging | Fees and gifts received for the Fitness Room | Fitness room maintenance supplies, equipment warranties, training, monitoring and purchase of replacement fitness equipment | \$75,000 | Available for expenditure next year |
| Senior Center Programs | Council on Aging | Program fees | Costs associated for the operation of activities for Cameron to include supplies and wages | \$50,000 | Available for expenditure next year |
| School Parking | School Department | Parking fees | Maintenance and expansion of parking facilities | \$30,000 | Available for expenditure next year |
| School Bus/Transportation | School Department | User bus fees | Student transportation costs | \$648,438 | Available for expenditure next year |
| East Boston Camps Maintenance | Conservation Commission | Revenue received for the lease, rental or licensing of camp facilities and donations received for the support of the East Boston Camps property | Costs associated for the operation and maintenance of the East Boston Camps property located in the Stony Brook Conservation Land | \$50,000 | Available for expenditure next year |
| Immunizations and Clinical Services | Board of Health | Fees received for immunizations and clinical services | Costs of supplies and technical services for immunization and clinical programs | \$45,000 | Available for expenditure next year |
| Community Gardens | Agricultural Commission | Fees and gifts received for use of community gardens | Costs associated with maintenance, improvements, supplies and tools for the community gardens | \$10,000 | Available for expenditure next year |

Selectmen recommend (4-0) and Finance Committee recommends (8-0)

ARTICLE 14: Approve Fiscal Year 2016 Operating Budget

Town Manager

Motion: *(Majority Vote Required)*

That the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$104,832,693 (ONE HUNDRED FOUR MILLION EIGHT HUNDRED THIRTY TWO THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED NINETY THREE DOLLARS) for the operation and maintenance of Town Departments for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016, such sums to be expended for such purposes under the direction of the respective town officers, boards and committees and further that all items be raised and appropriated except for the following:

Fund 240 Community Preservation Fund: \$885,610 shall be appropriated from Community Preservation Fund Fiscal 2015 Revenue;

Fund 270 Receipts Reserved for Appropriation: \$5,500 shall be appropriated from Conservation Wetlands Fees;

Fund 280 Town Revolving Funds: \$15,000 shall be appropriated from Recreation Field Maintenance Revolving 53 E ½;

Fund 600 Water Enterprise Fund: \$3,872,438 shall be appropriated from Water Enterprise Revenue and \$342,235 shall be appropriated from Water Enterprise Retained Earnings;

Fund 630 Recreation Enterprise Fund: \$1,139,000 shall be appropriated from Recreation Enterprise Revenue and \$50,000 shall be appropriated from Recreation Enterprise Retained Earnings;

Fund 640 Ambulance Enterprise Fund: \$750,000 shall be appropriated from Ambulance Enterprise Revenue.

Selectmen recommend (4-0) and Finance Committee recommends (8-0)

ARTICLE 15: Appropriate Chapter 90 Local Transportation Funds for Roadway Maintenance

Board of Selectmen

Motion: *(Majority Vote Required)*

That the Town appropriate the proceeds due to the Town under the provisions of [Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 90](#).

Selectmen recommend (5-0) and Finance Committee recommends (7-0)

ARTICLE 16: Appropriate Funds from Water Enterprise Other Post Employment Benefits Stabilization Fund

Water Commissioners

Motion: *(2/3 Vote Required)*

That the Town transfer the sum of \$20,704 (TWENTY THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED FOUR DOLLARS) from the Water Enterprise Other Post Employment Stabilization Fund to the Water Enterprise Expenses to pay for the FY16 retiree benefits.

Selectmen recommend (5-0) and Finance Committee recommends (7-0)

ARTICLE 17: Accept Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 73, Section 4 of the Acts of 1986, as Amended by Chapter 126 of the Acts of 1988 Related to Property Tax Exemption Increase by 100% for the Blind, Elderly and Disabled Veterans *Board of Assessors*

Motion: *(Majority Vote Required)*

That the Town accept the provisions of [Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 73, Section 4 of the Acts of 1986, as amended by Chapter 126 of the Acts of 1988](#), by providing for additional property exemptions for qualified residents who may be blind, elderly, surviving spouses or minors, or who are disabled veterans, and to continue the present percentage increase of 100%.

Selectmen recommend (5-0) and Finance Committee recommends (7-0)

ADMINISTRATIVE

ARTICLE 18: Accept the Provisions of MGL Chapter 40 Section 8J to Create a Disability Commission *Board of Selectmen*

Motion: *(Majority Vote Required)*

That the Town accept the provisions of [Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40, Section 8J](#) and create a disability commission to cause the full integration and participation of people with disabilities in the Town.

Selectmen recommend (4-0)

ARTICLE 19: Authorize Board of Selectmen to Initiate a Municipal Electricity Aggregation Program for Residents and Businesses *Town Manager*

Motion: *(Majority Vote Required)*

That the Town vote pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 164, section 134 to authorize the Board of Selectmen to initiate the process to aggregate the electricity load of the residents and businesses in the Town and for other related services, independently, or in joint action with other municipalities, retaining the right of individual residents and businesses to opt-out of the aggregation.

Selectmen recommend (5-0) and Finance Committee recommends (7-0)

ARTICLE 20: Authorize Board of Selectmen to Lease Former Westford Landfill Site for a Solar Project *Town Manager*

Motion: *(2/3 Majority Vote Required)*

That the Town transfer to the Board of Selectmen for the purpose of leasing and granting easements the care, custody and control of a parcel of land containing 17.02 acres, more or less, located off of Cold Spring Road, commonly referred to as the former Westford Landfill, identified by the Board of Assessors as Map 25 Lot 15, which parcel of land will continue to be held for landfill purposes and such other purposes for which said parcel is currently held; and to authorize the Town Manager with the approval of the Board of Selectmen to lease such portion for a 20-year term commencing on the date on which the facility achieves commercial operations, and to grant such access and/or utility easements on said portion as necessary or convenient to serve said facility, and, further, to authorize the Town Manager with the approval of the Board of Selectmen to enter into a power purchase or net metering credit purchase agreement with the owner of said facility for a 20-year term running concurrently with the lease, which lease, easements, and agreements are to be on such terms and conditions, and for such consideration, as the Town Manager deems to be in the best interests of the Town, and to authorize the

Town Manager to take any actions and execute any documents necessary or appropriate to accomplish the foregoing.

Selectmen recommend (4-0) and Finance Committee recommends (7-1)

ARTICLE 21: Accept the provisions of MGL Chapter 71 Section 71F to Establish a Revolving Fund for Tuition Payments from Non-Resident Students *School Committee*

Motion: *(Majority Vote Required)*

That the Town accept the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 71 Section 71F to authorize the School Committee to establish a revolving fund for tuition payments from non-resident students.

Selectmen recommend (4-0) and Finance Committee recommends (7-1)

ARTICLE 22: Accept the provisions of MGL CH 200A, Section 9A Disposition of Abandoned Property Including Unclaimed Checks *Board of Selectmen*

Motion: *(Majority Vote Required)*

That the Town accept the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 200A, Section 9A to establish an alternative procedure for disposing of abandoned funds including unclaimed checks held in the custody of the town.

Selectmen recommend (5-0) and Finance Committee recommends (7-0)

ARTICLE 23: Authorize Board of Selectmen to Accept Easements *Board of Selectmen*

Motion: *(Majority Vote Required)*

That the Town authorize the Board of Selectmen, during Fiscal Year 2016, to accept any and all easements for sidewalk, drainage, or other utility purposes, as they may deem in the Town's best interests.

Selectmen recommend (5-0) and Finance Committee recommends (7-0)

ARTICLE 24: Promotion and Support of Affordable Housing Initiatives *Citizen Petition*

Motion: *(Majority Vote Required)*

That Town Meeting will vote to form a committee formed for the expressed purpose of examining current zoning by-laws and to consider new zoning by-laws insofar as they relate to appropriate affordable housing in Westford. Said changes and new bylaws to define, promote, and direct appropriate affordable housing opportunities in Westford, shall consider but not be limited to:

- 1) existing zoning by-laws,
- 2) an Inclusionary Housing Bylaw,
- 3) a Multi-use Overlay Zones Bylaw,
- 4) a Multi-Family Overlay Zones Bylaw,
- 5) a Restoration and a Redevelopment Bylaw;

Said committee shall consist of seven members: one member from the Planning Board, one member from the Zoning Board of Appeals, one member from the Board of Selectmen, one member from the Affordable Housing Committee, one member from the Affordable Housing Trust Fund Committee, one citizen-at-large chosen by Paul Cully, the petitioner, and Paul Cully, the petitioner.

and further, that the committee will present their findings and recommendations at the next Annual Town Meeting, in March of 2016.

Petitioner's wording of a proposed amendment to the above motion, to be made by the petitioner:

In the second to last paragraph delete the words, "one citizen-at-large chosen by Paul Cully, the petitioner, and Paul Cully, the petitioner" and insert the words, "two at-large members, chosen jointly by the Affordable Housing Committee and the Board of Selectmen."

Selectmen did not recommend (3-1)

ARTICLE 25: More Openness and Transparency in local government

Citizen Petition

Motion: *(Majority Vote Required)*

That Article 25 relative to More Openness and Transparency in local government, written below, be dismissed.

To see if the Town will vote that the Town Manager shall expand the notification, accessibility, openness, transparency, and content of the agendas, minutes, and conduct of all meetings of town Committees, Boards, Commissions, Sub-committees, Working Groups, et cetera (hereafter referred to as "Committee" or "Committees") to provide a more accessible, transparent, and complete record of their meetings than the minimum requirements of the State's Open Meeting Law by having the Town Manager and all Committees provide the following:

1. A system of automated electronic notification of meetings and minutes for all Committees, such that residents may submit their name and electronic address to any Committee's list of notification recipients, and thereafter the resident will electronically receive notifications of agendas (that include meeting times, dates, and locations), as well as minutes as they become available and are posted to the town's website;
2. Each Committee is to have its own "home page" on the town's website which will contain, at the minimum:
 - email links/addresses of members,
 - links/addresses to each of the following folders for each Committee:
 - a. agendas,
 - b. minutes (draft and final versions),
 - c. documents pertinent to the organization's activities and deliberations;
3. Meeting minutes sent to the Town Clerk's office, in accordance with the State's Open Meeting Law, will be posted appropriately to each Committee's folder for minutes on the town's website in a timely manner;
4. Meeting minutes containing information that exceeds the minimum requirements of the State's Open Meeting Law, will include, but will not be limited to, a brief summary of positions, advocacies, arguments, et cetera on all issues discussed and/or voted on in meetings by the participants, as well as the "why" of Committee decisions;
5. All meetings of Committees shall provide for an "open forum" where non-members can bring before the Committee issues, opinions, and information they feel are relevant to that Committee's deliberations;
6. Non-members who attend an Open Meeting of any Committee, shall be permitted to address deliberations that are discussed and/or acted upon that are relevant, and of interest to, the non-member;

Or act in relation thereto.

Selectmen recommend dismissal (4-0) and Finance Committee did not recommend previous motion presented on 2/26/2015 (8-0)

STREET ACCEPTANCES

ARTICLE 26: Accept Rome Drive Extension as Public Way

Board of Selectmen

Motion: *(Majority Vote Required)*

That the Town accept the layout of Rome Drive Extension as a Town public way pursuant to [Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 82](#).

Selectmen recommend (4-0), Finance Committee recommends (8-0), and Planning Board recommends (5-0)

CARE AND CUSTODY OF TOWN LAND

ARTICLE 27: Authorize the Selectmen to Dispose of the Former Fire Sub Station Located at 54 Broadway Street

Board of Selectmen

Motion: *(2/3 Majority Vote Required)*

That the Town transfer the care, custody, and control of that certain property, consisting of land containing .25 acres, more or less, and the improvements located thereon, known as the Graniteville Fire Station, and described in a deed recorded with the Middlesex North Registry of Deeds in Book 1045, Page 411, from the Board of Selectmen for fire station purposes, to the Board of Selectmen for the purpose of conveyance, and to further authorize the Board of Selectmen to convey said property pursuant to General Laws Chapter 30B, §16 on such terms and conditions as the Board of Selectmen shall determine, and for such consideration as the Board of Selectmen shall deem appropriate, including nominal consideration.

Selectmen recommend (5-0) and Finance Committee recommends (8-0)

ARTICLE 28: Transfer Custody of Six Parcels Containing Storm Water Facilities on Rome Drive, Gifford Drive, Tyngsborough Road, Randolph Circle, and Pine Tree Trail from the Tax Possession Sale Committee to the Board of Selectmen

Board of Selectmen

Motion: *(2/3 Majority Vote Required)*

That the Town transfer the care, custody, control and management of the following parcels from the Tax Possession Sale Committee presently held for the purpose of tax title sale to the Board of Selectmen for general municipal purposes:

| Parcel ID | Acres | Street Address |
|---------------|-------|--------------------|
| 021 0003 0026 | 0.7 | PARCEL A2 ROME DR |
| 022 0003 0011 | 0.4 | LOT 5 ROME DR |
| 037 0003 0006 | 0.4 | GIFFORD DR |
| 047 0029 0000 | 2.9 | TYNGSBORO RD |
| 059 0007 0004 | 1.41 | 8 RANDOLPH CIRCLE |
| 078 0075 0000 | 0.1 | 20 PINE TREE TRAIL |

Selectmen recommend (4-0) and Finance Committee recommends (8-0)