

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

TOWN OF GRAFTON

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

WARRANT

Worcester, ss:

To Any of the Constables of the Town of Grafton, in the County of Worcester

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Grafton qualified to vote in elections and Town affairs to meet in their respective precincts at the Grafton Municipal Center Gymnasium, 30 Providence Road, on Monday the Third day of May, A.D., 2010 at 8:00 AM to cast their votes for the following Town Offices:

Two Members of the Board of Selectmen, Two Members of the School Committee, One Town Clerk, Two Members of the Planning Board, Two Members of the Library Trustees all for three year terms, One Member of the Planning Board, One Member of the Library Trustees for a term of one year and one Member of the Housing Authority for a term of five years.

The polls will be open to receive votes for the above-named offices at Eight O'clock AM and will close at Eight O'clock PM.

And you are further directed to notify and warn said inhabitants qualified to vote in Town affairs, to meet in the John Fitzgerald Kennedy Memorial Auditorium at the Grafton Memorial Senior High School on Monday, the Tenth day of May, A.D., 2010 at Seven Thirty O'clock PM and act on the following articles, to wit:

ARTICLE 1. HEAR REPORTS OF OFFICES, BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

To accept the reports of the several Town Officers, Boards, and Committees as printed in the 2009 Town Report without ratification of any action or authorization of any action, and to hear any additional reports not contained in the Town Report, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Board of Selectmen

Finance Committee recommends acceptance of the printed annual and any other reports.

ARTICLE 2. APPOINT TRUSTEE OF NELSON PARK AND LIBRARY

To see if the Town will vote to appoint a Trustee of the Nelson Park and Memorial Library and Building Fund for a term of three years, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Nelson Park and Memorial Library Trustees

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 2.

Finance Committee supports the appointment of the nominee to the Nelson Park and Memorial Library Trustees position.

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ARTICLE 3. TOWN'S SHARE OF NET OPERATING COSTS – BLACKSTONE VALLEY VOCATIONAL REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of One Million Twenty-one Thousand Sixty-six Dollars (\$1,021,066), or any other sum, for the purpose of paying the Town's share of the net operating costs of the Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District (the "District") for the Fiscal Year commencing July 1, 2010, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District
Committee

Finance Committee recommends passage of this article in the amount of \$1,021,066.00.

Grafton's enrollment is now 102, an increase of 10 students over last year.

ARTICLE 4. BLACKSTONE VALLEY VOCATIONAL SCHOOL – PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the Blackstone Valley Vocational School Stabilization Fund the sum of Seventy-one Thousand Eighty-nine Dollars (\$71,089), or any other sum, to fund the principal and interest costs for FY11 to be incurred by the Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District for its capital expansion project, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Blackstone Valley Vocation Regional School District
Committee

Finance Committee recommends passage of this article in the amount of \$1,021,066.00.

Grafton's enrollment is now 102, an increase of 10 students over last year.

ARTICLE 5. AMEND TOWN OF GRAFTON – PERSONNEL BY-LAW

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Grafton By-laws – Article 20 – PERSONNEL BY-LAW, as follows:

1) In Section 4-25, Classification Plan – Supervisory, Professional, Clerical Positions, delete the entire text therein and insert in its place, the following (addition in bold):

The Town Administrator shall create and maintain a classification and compensation plan for all Town employees covered by this Personnel By-law, which shall be subject to the approval of the Board of Selectmen.

and

2) In Section 4-1, Title – Personnel By-Law, amend the second sentence to read as follows (deletions in strikethrough/additions in bold):

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Said Town Administrator's responsibilities shall include, but not be limited to, administering and interpreting the provisions of this By-Law and the ~~usage~~ **creation, maintenance** and administration of any classification and compensation plan which **shall be subject to approval of the Board of Selectmen** ~~may be adopted by the Board of Selectmen~~ for all employees of the Town of Grafton except those in positions which are exempt under Section 4-2.

and

3) In Section 4-3, Definitions, delete the terms "Step Rate" and "Wage and Classification Plan" and their associated definitions in their entirety.

and

4) In Section 4-5(b), Promotion and Reclassification to a Position in a Higher Grade, amend the first sentence to read as follows (deletions in strikethrough/additions in bold):

When an employee is promoted or reclassified to a higher grade, he shall ~~enter it at the minimum rate of the range for the classification grade, or at the step rate above his present rate, whichever is higher~~ **receive a rate of pay consistent with the classification and compensation plan.**

and

5) In Section 4-5(c), Transfer and Reclassification to a Position in Lower Grade, amend the first sentence to read as follows (deletions in strikethrough/additions in bold):

Any employee transferred to a position in a lower grade shall receive ~~the same rate of pay of his previous position~~ **a rate of pay consistent with the classification and compensation plan for that position.**

and

6) In Section 4-22, Performance Review, amend the last paragraph to read as follows (deletions in strikethrough/additions in bold):

~~Progression through the rate ranges in not automatic but based on merit and ability to meet agreed upon goals. Any employee, who has successfully completed his probationary period, shall be eligible for a step increase on July 1 of each year, subject to a satisfactory annual performance review by the department head, and subsequent review of the Town Administrator. However, any employee denied a step increase has the right of appeal to the Board of Selectmen, which shall confer with both the employee, the department head, and the Town Administrator.~~ **Base wage increases are based on merit and ability as determined through the annual performance review process. They are not automatic. The department head shall perform the evaluation. The Town Administrator shall review it. Employees who receive a satisfactory (or better) evaluation shall be eligible for a base wage increase. The Town Administrator shall determine the amount of any increase in light of the availability of appropriated funds and the employee's overall performance. If**

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the employee receives a satisfactory (or better) review from his department head and funds have been appropriated, the employee may appeal the Town Administrator's decision to award a below average (on a percentage basis) base wage increase (including the decision to award the employee no base wage increase) to the Board of Selectmen, which shall confer with the employee, the department head and the Town Administrator. The Board of Selectmen's decision on the appeal shall be final.

or to take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Town Administrator

Finance Committee opposes passage of Article 5.

This article would change the process of adding personnel positions from Town Meeting to the Board of Selectmen. The Finance Committee prefers that the authorization remain with Town Meeting.

ARTICLE 6. FY11 BUDGETS

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds in the Treasury the sum of money recommended by the Town Administrator as shown in the Finance Committee's printed report for the several Town Departments for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2010, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Town Administrator

Finance Committee supports passage of Article 6 in the amount of \$40,849,665.00.

The proposed budget is funded by anticipated revenues and available funds and represents the result of significant effort and review among the Town Administrator, Board of Selectmen, Department Heads and Committees. The Finance Committee believes that this process has produced a responsible budget that supports all town departments and services. The recommended amount includes funding for an Assistant Town Administrator, which will be a new position, and increases for several positions whose responsibilities have been revised.

ARTICLE 7. POSITION CLASSIFICATIONS AND COMPENSATION PLAN

To see if the Town will vote to amend Article 20 of the Personnel By-Law SECTION 4-25 by adding or changing position classifications and create a compensation plan, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Town Administrator

Finance Committee opposes passage of Article 7.

Finance Committee endorses the intent of this article. The specific changes to the By-Law are being prepared at this time. We understand that this information will be available at Town Meeting. The Finance Committee will reconsider its position at that time.

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ARTICLE 8. PURCHASE OF POLICE CRUISERS

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money to purchase two (2) Police Cruisers for the Police Department, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Town Administrator

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 8 in the amount of \$52,710.00.

Approval of this article specifically provides for the purchase and outfitting of two (2) replacement police cruisers in conjunction with the on-going fleet maintenance program.

ARTICLE 9. FUND FY11 CAPITAL EXPENDITURE BUDGET

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, borrow, or transfer from available funds in the Treasury a sum of money for the purposes of funding the FY11 Capital Expenditure Budget, said sum to be spent under the direction of the Board of Selectmen, Town Administrator and various other departments, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Town Administrator

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 9 in the amount of \$1,079,000.00.

This article funds necessary capital projects for the Municipal Center, School and Highway Departments. \$615,000.00 of the Highway Department capital expenses will be funded from Chapter 90 funds. The remaining \$464,000.00 will come from Free Cash.

ARTICLE 10. ZONE CHANGE CREEPER HILL ROAD

To see if the Town will vote to change and amend the existing applicable Town of Grafton Zoning By-Law as it now applies for all of property that lies within the area defined and known generally as 109 Creeper Hill Road, Grafton, Massachusetts, as petitioned for by more than ten (10) registered voters of the Town, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Citizen Petition

Finance Committee opposes passage of Article 10.

The Finance Committee concurs with the Planning Board not to recommend acceptance of this article based on the fact that no compelling testimony was presented to justify the rezoning as well as the Planning Board's concerns regarding spot zoning.

ARTICLE 11. CAPITAL STABILIZATION FUND

To see if the Town of Grafton will vote to establish under Chapter 40, Section 5B of the Massachusetts General Laws, a Stabilization Fund for the purpose of accepting funds

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from a variety of sources to be used exclusively for the annual capital expenditures by Town departments, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Town Administrator

Finance Committee supports passage of Article 11 in the amount of \$150,000.00.

This article will reserve the existing Stabilization Fund for expenses incurred under catastrophic circumstances by creating a second, similar fund for future capital expenditures. Use of monies from this fund will require a 2/3 vote at Town Meeting.

ARTICLE 12. \$10/HALF DAY; \$20/WHOLE DAY ATTENDANCE AT HEARINGS OR MEETINGS – BOARD MEMBERS

To see if the Town will vote that any persons, except full-time employees of the Town who are being paid a salary or hourly compensation and anyone else collecting from the Town an hourly rate at the time of attendance, all as determined by the Town of Grafton personnel policies, who have been authorized by a vote of the multiple member body so requesting their presence, who is subsequently approved by the Board of Selectmen to attend any meeting or hearing in the interest of the Town, to be paid out of the budget of the multiple member body so requesting their presence at the rate of not less than Ten Dollars (\$10) for half day and not more than Twenty Dollars (\$20) for a whole day of attendance plus expenses for such attendance, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Board of Selectmen

A Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 12.

This article is routine annual business. There is no change in the rate from last year.

ARTICLE 13. AUTHORIZE BOARD TO ACCEPT & ENTER INTO CONTRACTS

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept, and enter into contracts for the expenditure of any funds allotted by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for the construction, reconstruction or improvements of public roads, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Board of Selectmen

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 13.

This article allows the Board of Selectmen to conduct routine Town business.

ARTICLE 14. FIRE DEPARTMENT INSURANCE SUPPLEMENT

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000), or any other sum, to Account #1-800-6220-5861 Fire Department Insurance Supplement established under Article 15 of the March 16, 1987 Special Town Meeting, which is used for the purposes of paying not more than 75.00% of a firefighter's gross pay in case of injury while on duty as specified in Article

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15 of the March 16, 1987 Special Town Meeting, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Board of Selectmen

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 14.

Since we are so fortunate as to have a Call Fire Department, it is important the Town protect the wages of our fire fighters in case of injury while in service to the Town by paying them, while disabled, 75% of the regular wages. The Finance Committee concurs with the Board of Selectmen that the cost of this article not to exceed \$1,000.00.

ARTICLE 15. FUNDING FOR TRANSPORTATION SERVICES FROM WRTA

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to request funding of transportation services from the WRTA, and to contract for and provide elderly bus services for the Town of Grafton for the period of July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Board of Selectmen

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 15. This article is an annual authorization that provides senior citizens with vital transportation that they would otherwise be unable to secure on their own.

ARTICLE 16. AUTHORIZE TREASURER/COLLECTOR TO BORROW MONEY

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Town Treasurer/Collector, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to borrow money from time to time in anticipation of the revenue of the financial year beginning July 1, 2010, in accordance with the provisions of the General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 4, and amendments thereto, and to issue a note or notes as may be given for a period of less than one year in accordance with General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 17, and amendments thereto, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Board of Selectmen

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 16.

This article allows the Treasurer/Collector to conduct routine Town business and implement authorized short term borrowing in Fiscal Year 2011.

ARTICLE 17. SALE OF SURPLUS EQUIPMENT

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen, per Article 4, Section 9 of the Town By-Laws, to sell under such terms and conditions deemed appropriate, surplus equipment and vehicles no longer needed by the Department of Public Works,

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Police Department, Fire Department, Sewer Department, Recreation Commission and School Department, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Board of Selectmen

Finance Committee opposes passage of Article 17.

Finance Committee understands that this article will be passed over at Town Meeting as no surplus equipment with value requiring Town Meeting authorization has been identified.

ARTICLE 18. ONE GRAFTON COMMON

To see if the Town will reauthorize the Town Accountant to continue the revolving account pursuant to General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 53E½ entitled "One Grafton Common" for the purposes of receiving rents from the Old Town Hall at One Grafton Common and to expend the same for the maintenance and upkeep of the building under the supervision of the Town Administrator and that expenditures from same shall not exceed Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000) or to take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Board of Selectmen

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 18.

This article reauthorizes the revolving fund that will allow the Town to receive rents and pay expenses connected with managing the "Old Town Hall".

ARTICLE 19. TOWN COMMON REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds in the Treasury the sum of Two Thousand Seven Hundred Dollars (\$2,700) to a continuing appropriation account entitled "Town Common Repairs and Maintenance" to be expended by the Parks and Cemetery Department, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Board of Selectmen

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 19 in the amount of \$2,700.00.

These funds will be used to maintain the Grafton Town Common. Maintenance is an ongoing project for the Town's Common, and the passage of this article allows for its fiscal year 2011 funding.

ARTICLE 20. UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money, said sum to be added to Account #84-145-623 "Unemployment Compensation" for the purposes of paying Unemployment Compensation expenses of the Town, or to take any other action relative thereto.

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Submitted by: Town Administrator

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 20 in the amount of \$80,000.00.

This article will allow the Town to meet the cost of continuing anticipated unemployment compensation.

ARTICLE 21. SCHOOL DEPARTMENT – REVOLVING ACCOUNT – STAFF DEVELOPMENT

To see if the Town will vote to reauthorize the Town Accountant to continue the School Department revolving account pursuant to General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 53E½ entitled “Staff Development” for the purposes of receiving payments from outside sources for cooperative training workshops and to be used to pay all expenses related to said workshops including but not limited to consultant, material supply, and meal expenses with a limit of this account to be no more than Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000), or to take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: School Committee

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 21.

This article allows the School Department to maintain a revolving account for the purpose of receiving payments from other school districts interested in attending our Staff Training Workshops.

ARTICLE 22. SCHOOL DEPARTMENT – REVOLVING ACCOUNT – EARLY CHILDHOOD

To see if the Town will vote to reauthorize the Town Accountant to continue the School Department revolving account pursuant to General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53E½ entitled “Early Childhood” for the purposes of receiving payments for tuition and to be used to pay expenses related to early childhood programs, including but not limited to personnel costs, materials, books, and supplies with a Ninety Thousand Dollars (\$90,000) limit that may be spent from such account in the ensuing fiscal year, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: School Committee

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 22.

This article allows the School Department to maintain a revolving account for the purpose of receiving payments for tuition collected from participants in the Early Childhood Program.

ARTICLE 23. SCHOOL DEPARTMENT – REVOLVING ACCOUNT – OUT-OF-DISTRICT STUDENT TRANSPORTATION

To see if the Town will vote to reauthorize the Town Accountant to continue the School Department revolving account pursuant to General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53E½ entitled “Out-of-District Student Transportation” for the purposes of receiving payments

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for out-of-district student transportation, with a Thirty Thousand Dollar (\$30,000) limit or any other sum, said funds to be expended by the School Committee, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: School Committee

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 23.

This article allows the School Department to maintain a revolving account to receive payments for out-of-district student transportation.

ARTICLE 24. COUNCIL ON AGING REVOLVING FUND – ELDER BUS TRANSPORTATION

To see if the Town will vote to reauthorize the Town Accountant to continue the Council on Aging revolving fund pursuant to General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53E ½ entitled “Elder Bus Transportation” for the purposes of receiving outside payments for elder bus transportation with a limit that may be spent from such account in the ensuring year of Thirty-five Thousand Dollars (\$35,000), or to take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Council on Aging

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 24.

This article is a routine authorization that allows the Council on Aging to meet the transportation requirements of senior citizens.

ARTICLE 25. CONSERVATION COMMISSION – REVOLVING ACCOUNT – FILING FEES

To see if the Town will vote to reauthorize the Town Accountant to continue the revolving account pursuant to General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53E ½ entitled “Conservation Revolving Fund” for the purposes of administering the filing fee provision of the Wetlands Protection By-Law, and further that the Conservation Commission may expend same without appropriation for expenses reasonably related to its duties and responsibilities as provided therein and that expenditure from same shall not exceed Twenty-five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) in the fiscal year, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Conservation Commission

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 25.

This article reauthorizes a revolving fund necessary for the Conservation Commission to conduct routine business.

ARTICLE 26. AMEND PERSONNEL BY-LAW – PERSONAL TIME

To see if the Town will vote to amend ARTICLE 20 PERSONNEL BY-LAW, SECTION 4-15. Paid Personal Leave. to add a sentence to the end of the paragraph, “Personal

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leave may be taken in minimum increments of one (1) hour”, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Board of Selectmen

The Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 26.

This article will enable more effective administration of the Paid Leave Policy for Municipal employees.

ARTICLE 27. FIRE DEPARTMENT REVOLVING FUND – FIRE SPRINKLER SYSTEM REVIEW

To see if the Town will vote to reauthorize the Town Accountant to continue the revolving fund pursuant to General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53E½ entitled “Fire Sprinkler System Review” for the purpose of receiving outside payments for fire sprinkler system review with a Ten Thousand Dollar (\$10,000) limit, or any other sum said funds to be expended by the Grafton Fire Department, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Fire Department

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 27.

This article reauthorizes a revolving fund to receive outside payments for Fire Sprinkler System reviews.

ARTICLE 28. BOARD OF HEALTH REVOLVING ACCOUNT – MEDICARE REIMBURSEMENT

To see if the Town will vote to reauthorize the Town Accountant to continue the Board of Health revolving account pursuant to General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53E½ entitled “Vaccine Administration Reimbursement” for the purposes of receiving payments from Medicare Part 855B and other third party providers for the distribution of influenza and pneumococcal vaccines with a Three Thousand Dollar (\$3,000) limit that may be spent from such account for immunization administration in the ensuing fiscal year, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Board of Health

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 28.

This article reauthorizes a revolving fund to receive payments from Medicare or a third party provider for the distribution of influenza and pneumococcal vaccines.

ARTICLE 29. LONG RANGE SIDEWALK

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds in the Treasury the sum of Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000) to Account #1-800-6420-5865 Long Range Sidewalk Account, or to take any other action relative thereto.

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Submitted by: DPW Advisory Committee

The Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 29 in the amount of \$20,000.00.

This article will increase the funding available for a sidewalk project(s) in the future.

ARTICLE 30. LONG RANGE DRAINAGE

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds in the Treasury the sum of Twenty thousand Dollars (\$20,000) to Account #1-800-6420-5863 Long Range Drainage Account, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: DPW Advisory Committee

The Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 30 in the amount of \$20,000.00.

This article will increase the funding available for a drainage project(s) in the future.

ARTICLE 31. TRANSPORTATION BOND BILL

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate as an available source a sum of money for State-Aid Highway purposes as requested by the Board of Selectmen to be reimbursed from the Commonwealth under the provisions of the Transportation Bond Bill so-called and amendments thereto for construction, reconstruction and improvements including surface treatments and other work incidental to the above, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Board of Selectmen

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 31 in the amount of \$382,233.00.

This article allows the Town to receive Chapter 90 funds as a reimbursement for projects accepted by the provisions of the Transportation Bond Bill.

ARTICLE 32. REAUTHORIZATION OF EXCESS BORROWING PROCEEDS – FIRE STATION TO HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECT

To see if the Town will vote a sum of money for constructing, equipping, and furnishing a new Grafton Memorial High School to be located at 24 Providence Road and to determine whether this appropriation shall be raised by a transfer from unexpended bonds or note proceeds, and to reduce the borrowing authorized under Article 1, October, 2009, by the amount of said transfer, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Board of Selectmen

The Finance Committee opposes passage of Article 32 as written.

While the Finance Committee agrees with the intent of this Article, sufficient information is not available at this time. The Finance Committee may reconsider its vote should additional information become available.

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ARTICLE 33. COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE – OPERATING BUDGET

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the use of Eighteen Thousand Seven Hundred Dollars (\$18,700) in the fiscal year 2011 Community Preservation revenues for the purpose of funding the operating budget of the Community Preservation Committee (CPC), or to take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Community Preservation Committee

Finance Committee opposes passage of Article 33 in the amount of \$18,700.00.

Finance Committee anticipates that the motion that will be presented at Town Meeting will request \$10,000.00 and it will reconsider its vote at that time.

ARTICLE 34. COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE – PELL FARM BOND PAYMENT

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of Ninety-nine Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty-five (\$99,825) from available funds for the purpose of making the second year interest payment on the \$1.2 million bond issued for the purchase of the Pell Farm property, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Community Preservation Committee

Finance Committee opposes passage of Article 34 in the amount of \$99,825.00.

Finance Committee anticipates that the motion that will be presented at Town Meeting will request \$19,913.00 and will reconsider its vote at that time. This amount will provide for the interest payment on the \$1.2 million bond on the Pell property. It is our understanding that the CPC will be requesting an additional amount for the principal payment at the October Town Meeting. The Finance Committee suggests that the CPC plan for a single payment in FY12 rather than splitting it into two payments as is being done for FY11.

ARTICLE 35. COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE – GRAFTON TOWN HOUSE

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of Four Hundred Thirteen Thousand Two Hundred and Sixty-seven Dollars (\$413,267) from available funds for the purposes of making the Grafton Town House handicap accessible while preserving the historic structure in accordance with Massachusetts Historical Commission requirements as requested by the Grafton Town House Oversight Committee with such funds to be offset by any outside grant funding obtained for the purpose of this project and with such approval to expire on June 30, 2012, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Community Preservation Committee

Finance Committee opposes passage of Article 35 in the amount of \$413,267.00.

Finance Committee anticipates that the motion that will be presented at Town Meeting will request \$393,267.00 and will reconsider its vote at that time. This amount will

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help bring the Grafton Town House into compliance with the American with Disabilities Act. We continue to support the renovation of this building, and look forward to the economic activity that will accompany the fully renovated building.

ARTICLE 36. COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE – AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST

To see if the Town will vote to transfer Thirty-nine Thousand Three Hundred Four Dollars (\$39,304) from the CPA Affordable Housing Reserve account to the Grafton Affordable Housing Trust, such funds to be used in accordance with the CPA guidelines for community housing, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Community Preservation Committee

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 36 in the amount of \$39,304.00.

These funds are being added to an existing fund so that the Grafton Affordable Housing Trust can act quickly when affordable housing becomes available.

ARTICLE 37. COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE – FISHERVILLE PARK

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of Three Hundred Seventy-five Thousand Dollars (\$375,000) from available funds for the purposes of creating the Fisherville Park as requested by the Fisherville and Farnumsville Streetscape Committee with such funds to be expended only after any outside grant funds and with such approval to expire on June 30, 2012, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Community Preservation Committee

Finance Committee opposes passage of Article 37 in the amount of \$375,000.00.

The Finance Committee anticipates that the motion that will be presented at Town Meeting will request \$300,000.00 and will reconsider its vote at that time. Construction of this park will fulfill a commitment made by the Town in 2006. The total cost of the park is projected to be \$575,000.00 – at this time the first \$200,000.00 is being funded from a state grant. This article would fund the next \$300,000.00 and, if the final \$75,000.00 is needed, it will be funded at a future Town Meeting from CPC funds. The plan calls for a two acre park to be used for passive recreation (no playing fields) to be built across the street from the former Fisherville Mill.

ARTICLE 38. COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE – DOCUMENT CONSERVATION AND STORAGE

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of Twenty-five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) from available funds for the purposes of preserving historic maps, plans, and newspapers as requested by the Grafton Historical Society with such funds to be expended only after any outside grant funds and with such approval to expire on June 30 2012, or to take any other action relative thereto.

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Submitted by: Community Preservation Committee

Finance Committee opposes passage of Article 38.

Finance committee opposes passage of this article as presented and expects it to be passed over at Town Meeting. The CPC has indicated that there will not be sufficient funds for this article. CPC expects to resubmit this article at the Fall Town Meeting.

ARTICLE 39. CITIZEN PETITION - EASEMENT – FISHERVILLE REDEVELOPMENT COMPANY, LLC

To see if the Town will vote to accept an easement on land owned by Fisherville Redevelopment Company, LLC to be used for creation of a public park at the former Fisherville Mill Site, as petitioned for by more than ten (10) registered voters, or to take any other action relative thereto

Submitted by: Fisherville & Farnumsville Streetscape Committee

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 39.

Acceptance of this easement will allow for the building of the Fisherville Park described in Article 37. Per the easement agreement the space can only be used for passive recreation (no playing fields) and has a five year sunset provision – if the town does not build a park within this period, the land will revert back to the party granting the easement.

ARTICLE 40. CITIZEN PETITION - GRAFTON 275TH CELEBRATION

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of Thirteen Thousand Dollars (\$13,000) for the Grafton 275th Celebration Committee, as petitioned for by more than ten (10) registered voters, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Grafton 275th Anniversary Committee

The Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 40.

This article will provide funding for the July 3 Concert on the Common (\$5,000), Old Home Day on October 2 (\$4,000) and for the 275th Birthday Parade on October 3 (\$4,000). This is a one-time expense related to the celebration of Grafton's 275th Birthday.

ARTICLE 41. CHANGEABLE ELECTRONIC VARIABLE MESSAGE SIGNS

To see if the Town will vote to change and add to the Grafton Zoning By-Law as follows:

A sign having light and illumination features that allow for the message, advertisement or other information displayed thereon to be changed by mechanical, or electronic means.

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Amend Section 4.4.2.1 by adding:

CHANGEABLE ELECTRONIC VARIABLE MESSAGE SIGNS (CEVMS)

Notwithstanding the prohibitions set forth herein, CHANGEABLE ELECTRONIC VARIABLE MESSAGE SIGNS (CEVMS) shall be permitted in all districts where any illuminated sign(s) as otherwise defined in this By-Law are allowed. Said CEVMS shall be subject to all of the size, shape and placement standards as are set forth in this By-Law and shall in addition to any other regulation affecting signs be further regulated as follows:

(a) Duration of message: Any message, advertisement, announcement or display (except time and temperature) shall remain fixed on the CEVMS for a period of no less than one (1) minute.

(b) Transition Time: When changing the message, advertisement, announcement or display, there shall be a minimum of five (5) seconds delay between changes.

(c) Brightness: All CEVMS shall be equipped with a light detector/photocell, a scheduled dimming timer, or a manual control by which the sign's brightness can be dimmed when ambient light conditions darken. The Inspector of Buildings shall have the authority to enforce reasonable standards upon any owner of a CEVMS regarding the brightness of the CEVMS. The authority granted herein shall be deemed to be in addition to and not exclusive of the Building Inspector's enforcement authority as set forth in Section 4.4.3.1.

(d) Flashing and Scrolling: No CEVMS shall have any message, advertisement, announcement or display flash, scroll, or otherwise move across the surface of the sign.

(e) Temperature and Time: All CEVMS shall be allowed to display the time and temperature. In that regard, the time and temperature shall be fixed for a period of one minute, and the change may be made without regard to the ten (10) second delay set forth in Section 4.4.2.1 (b).

Submitted by: Board of Selectmen

The Finance Committee opposes passage of Article 41.

Based on input received by the Finance Committee, it believes that it would be appropriate for the town to carry out a review and update of the entire signage by-law, such review to incorporate provisions related to this type of signage. The Finance Committee further suggests that the Town continue the moratorium that allows the operation of such existing signs to continue during this review and update period.

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ARTICLE 42. CITIZEN PETITION – ROAD ACCEPTANCE - GLENWOOD LANE

To see if the Town will vote to decree, layout and make public the roadway known as Glenwood Lane in Glenwood Estates subdivision in Grafton, as petitioned for by more than ten (10) registered voters in the Town, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Citizen Petition

The Finance Committee opposes passage of Article 42.

The Committee understands that this article will be passed over at Town Meeting.

ARTICLE 43. CITIZEN PETITION – ROAD ACCEPTANCE – MAGNOLIA LANE

To see if the Town will vote to decree, layout and make public the roadway known as Magnolia Lane in Magnolia Farms subdivision in Grafton, as petitioned for by more than ten (10) registered voters in the Town, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Citizen Petition

The Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 43.

The Committee concurs with the Planning Board and Board of Selectmen on the acceptance of this roadway.

ARTICLE 44. CITIZEN PETITION – ROAD ACCEPTANCE – NORTH GRAFTON ESTATES I AND II

To see if the Town will vote to decree, layout and make public the roadways known Appaloosa Drive, Bridle Ridge Drive, Morgan Drive and Saddle Hill Circle in North Grafton Estates I and II subdivision in Grafton, as petitioned for by more than ten (10) registered voters, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Citizen Petition

The Finance Committee opposes passage of Article 44.

The Committee understands that this article will be passed over at Town Meeting.

ARTICLE 45. CITIZEN PETITION –AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

To see if the Town will vote to adopt a new By-Law for the establishment of an AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION as described below.

PURPOSE: The mission of the Agricultural Commission, hereinafter “the Commission”, is to represent the Town of Grafton’s agricultural community and interests. The Commission once appointed shall develop a work plan to guide its activities. Such activities include, but are not limited to the following: serve as facilitators for encouraging the pursuit of agriculture in Grafton; promote agriculture-based economic

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opportunities in the Town; act as mediators, advocates, educators, and/or negotiators on farming issues for established Town Committees and Departments; and pursue all initiatives appropriate to creating a sustainable agricultural community.

MEMBERSHIP: The Commission shall consist of five members who shall be Grafton residents, appointed by the Board of Selectmen. The initial term of two members shall be three years, of two members shall be two years, and of one member shall be one year. After the initial term, the term of a member shall be three years. The Board of Selectmen may appoint two alternates and any number of non-voting advisory members without residency restrictions. The term of an alternate member shall be one year. The Board of Selectmen shall fill a vacancy based on the unexpired term of the vacancy in order to maintain the cycle of appointments. The Commission may recommend appointees to fill vacancies, or to the any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Citizen Petition

The Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 45.

The Finance Committee concurs with the Board of Selectman. The agricultural commission petition does not request Town funding and does provide informational resources and advocacy for Town farmers and agricultural businesses.

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And you are directed to serve this Warrant by posting up an attested copy thereof in some conspicuous place in each of the precincts of the town at least fourteen day before said meeting.

Hereof fail not, and make due return of this Warrant with your doings thereon, to the Town Clerk, at the time and place of meeting as aforesaid.

Given under our hands this Thirteenth day of April in the year of our Lord Two Thousand Ten.

GRAFTON BOARD

Christopher R. LeMay, Chairman

OF

Mary Ann Cotton, Vice Chairman

SELECTMEN

Peter J. Adams, Clerk

Brook A. Padgett

Craig V. Dauphinais

A TRUE COPY
ATTEST:

April , 2010

I have complied with the requirements of the above Warrant and with the Town of Grafton By-Laws by posting up an attested copy of the Warrant in some conspicuous place in each of the precincts of the Town on the above date.

Constable, Town of Grafton