



RECEIVED TOWN CLERK
GRAFTON, MA

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Town of Grafton 1

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Minutes

Finance Committee

Public Meeting/Public Hearing

Finance Committee Conference Room

Monday, April 27, 2015

7:00 P.M.

Public Meeting

The public meeting of the Finance Committee was called to order by Chair Dave Libbey at 7:03 P.M.

Continue the public hearing to time and place

Motion: Sue Robbins moved that the Finance Committee continue their public hearing.

Seconded: Don Davison. All in favor. Motion carries.

The public hearing began at 7:04 P.M.

Finance Committee

Present

Dave Libbey, Lisa Rice (7:50 P.M.), Denise Nault, Don Davison, Jennifer Dorazio, Sue Robbins, Joel Schwendemann (7:19 P.M.)

Absent

Heather McCue, Lisa Brovelli Kelley

Present: Town Administrator Tim McInerney, John Lapoint (briefly) See public hearing sign in sheet

Sewer Enterprise Articles

Superintendent of Sewers Paul Cournoyer and Sewer Commissioner Board member Dave Therrien are present to review the Sewer Enterprise articles

- Special Warrant Article 2

This article will be passed over at Town Meeting

- Annual Warrant Article 14

The acceptance of Massachusetts General Laws relative to adopting a pricing system.

Annual Warrant Article 30

Michael Urban is present to discuss the CPC article relative to Churchill Meadows

- Summarized the purpose and validated the purchase price
- 5.45 acres were carved off for conservation purposes balancing development and conservation
- The odd shape of the parcel creates a buffer for Miscoe Brook to support the habitat
- The Merriam Road portion of the parcel can be used for non conservation purposes- picnic etc.

Finance Committee April 27, 2015 public meeting/public hearing

Annual Warrant Article 19

The Town Administrator stated that he would like to go forward with this article to subdivide and sell the front portion of 104 Creeper Hill Road

Annual Warrant Article 20

The Town Administrator stated that the negotiations should be finalized prior to May 11, 2015. Details are still being worked out with the Grafton Water District.

Annual Warrant Article 5

Relative to the FY16 budget, the Town Administrator stated that the School will likely reduce its budget by the \$93,000.00.

Special Warrant Article 3

FY15 Balance of the Snow and Ice account discussion relative to the provisions of the Financial Management policy

- It is a Direct priority to provide reimbursement from the Snow and Ice account to the Stabilization Fund which will be received after July 1, 2015(FY16).

Special Warrant Articles 5 and 6

Fundamental issues in comparing the Follette St. contract versus the SunEdison and Blue Wave contract were discussed with the Town Administrator.

- The Town owns the land on Follette Street and there is one agreement that compensated the town for all revenues: use of land, value of energy, real estate and property taxes-
- Articles 5 and 6 refer to a solar power and tax agreement on commercial property and the land owner is compensated for the use of the land.
- The Town is compensated for the land involved via real estate tax on the property and on the equipment generating the electricity.
- The Follette Street transaction and Special warrant articles 5 and 6 are not comparable.
- There will be a Continued discussion on Articles 5 and 6 on Wednesday, April 29, 2015 with the Board of Assessors.

Close the Public Hearing

Motion: Sue Robbins moved that the Finance Committee close its public hearing.

Seconded: Don Davison. All in favor. Motion carries.

The public hearing of the Finance Committee adjourned at 7:38 P.M.

May 2015 Town Meeting

A compilation of all articles reviewed to date along with recommendations that will be reviewed this evening(April 27, 2015)

Special Town Meeting

Article 1

Reviewed: 4/22/2015

4/27/2015 prepared Blurb: Heather McCue

Article 1

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 1 in the amount of \$91,672.

Article 1 requests the transfer from accounts having unspent funds to accounts requiring additional funds to cover unforeseen expenses as follows:

\$6,000 from Town Administrator Expenses to Legal Expenses

\$4,000 from Veterans Personnel Services to Veterans Benefits

\$8,812 from Assessor Personnel Services to Assessor's Expenses

\$4,800 from Planning Board Personnel Services to Planning Board Expenses

\$20,000 from Town Administrator Expenses to Municipal Center Expenses

\$11,850 from IT Expenses to IT Personnel Services
 \$13,000 from Police Personnel Services to Police Expenses
 \$18,000 from Library Personnel Services to Library Expenses
 \$3,210 from Town Administrator Expenses to Xerox Copier Expenses
 \$2,000 from Treasurer/Collector to Board of Health

These transfers result in no additional spending and adjust the FY15 budget to reflect updated estimates and spending within the departments noted. The Finance Committee believes that these transfers appropriately reflect changing circumstances.

Article 1

Voted on: 4/27/2015

Motion: Sue Robbins moved that the Finance Committee recommend passage of Article 1 as presented in the amount of \$91,672.00.

Seconded: Don Davison. All in favor. Motion carries.

Blurb: Heather McCue

4/27/15 The Blurb was amended and finalized on 4/27/2015

Article 1

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 1 in the amount of \$91,672.00.

These transfers result in no additional spending and adjust the FY15 budget to reflect updated estimates and spending within the departments noted. The Finance Committee believes that these transfers appropriately reflect changing circumstances.

Article 2

Reviewed on: 4/22/2015

Reviewed on 4/27/2015 with Sewer Superintendent Paul Cournoyer and Board of Sewer Commissioner David Therrien

4/27/2015 prepared Blurbs: Susan

Article 2 A

The Finance Committee opposes passage of Article 2.

The Committee understands that there are no adjustments required to the FY15 Sewer Enterprise Fund budget and that the motion at the Special Town Meeting will be to pass over this article.

Article 2 B

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 2.

This is routine business that requires Town Meeting action.

Voted on: 4/27/2015

Motion: Don Davison moved that the Finance Committee oppose passage of Article 2 as presented.

Seconded: Sue Robbins All in favor. Motion carries.

Blurb: Susan

Blurb reviewed on 4/27/2015 and finalized

Article 2

The Finance Committee opposes passage of Article 2.

The Committee understands that there are no adjustments required to the FY15 Sewer Enterprise Fund budget and that the motion at the Special Town Meeting will be to pass over this article.

Article 3

Reviewed on: 4/22/2015 more information needed- Financial Management Policy review

Prepared Blurb: Lisa Brovelli Kelley

Article 3

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 3.

Finance Committee supports Article 3 to balance the FY15 Snow and Ice Account.

Article 3

Reviewed on: 4/22/2015 more information needed- Financial Management Policy review

Voted on: 4/27/2015

Motion: Sue Robbins moved that the Finance Committee recommend passage of Article 3 as presented.

Seconded: Don Davison.

Discussion: review of other possible ways to pay the Snow and Ice Deficit.

Financial Management guidelines and the use of the Stabilization Fund- would have preferred a Multi board discussion prior to using the Stabilization Fund.

Bond rating and plan to replenish the Stabilization fund needed.

All in favor. Motion carries.

Blurb: Lisa Brovelli Kelley. Blurb was reviewed on 4/27/15 Keep it simple since the article has the detail.

Blurb reviewed on 4/27/2015 and finalized

Article 3

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 3.

Finance Committee supports Article 3 to balance the FY15 Snow and Ice Account.

Article 4

Reviewed on: 4/22/2015

Prepared Blurb: Susan

Article 4

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 4 in the amount of \$1,121.46.

This article authorizes the payment of FY2014 bills through the transfer of funds from the FY2015 IT Expense line.

This action requires a nine-tenths vote at Town Meeting.

Voted on: 4/27/2015

Motion: Sue Robbins moved that the Finance Committee recommend passage of Article 4 in the amount of \$1,121.46.

Seconded: Joel Schwendemann. All in favor. Motion carries.

Blurb: Susan. Blurb reviewed and modified on 4/27/2015

Blurb reviewed on 4/27/2015 and finalized

Article 4

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 4 in the amount of \$1,121.46.

This action requires a nine-tenths vote at Town Meeting.

Article 5

Reviewed on: 4/22/2015 and 4/27/2015

Will be reviewed with Assessors on Wednesday, 4/29/2015

Prepared Blurb: Dave Libbey

Article 5

The Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 5.

This agreement provides a predictable tax revenue pattern for both the facility operator and the Town.

The duration and tax rate follow practices recommended by the Department of Revenue, are consistent with those employed in other towns, have been recommended by the Board of Assessors and have been approved by the Board of Selectmen.

Vote needed on : 4/29/2015

Motion:

Seconded:

Blurb:

Article 6

Reviewed on: 4/22/2015 and 4/27/2015

Will be reviewed with Assessors on Wednesday, 4/29/2015

Prepared Blurb: Dave Libbey

Article 6

The Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 6.

This agreement provides a predictable tax revenue pattern for both the facility operator and the Town. The duration and tax rate follow practices recommended by the Department of Revenue, are consistent with those employed in other towns, have been recommended by the Board of Assessors and have been approved by the Board of Selectmen.

Voted on:

Motion:

Seconded:

Blurb:

Article 7

Reviewed on 4/22/2015

Prepared Blurb: Susan

Article 7

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 7 as written.

This article transfers \$9,000.00 from Fire Department Personnel Services to fund the Fire Department Retirement account.

Voted on: 4/27/2015

Motion: Sue Robbins moved that the Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 7 in the amount of \$9,000.00

Seconded: Don Davison. All in favor. Motion carries.

Blurb: Susan

Blurb reviewed on 4/27/2015 and finalized

Article 7

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 7 in the amount of \$9,000,000.

This article transfers funds from Fire Department Personnel Services to the Fire Department Retirement account.

Article 8

Reviewed on 4/22/2015

Prepared Blurb: Don Davison

Article 8

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 8.

This article will open an account for the School Department to maintain its iPad program by allowing for sales of older equipment and purchase of newer.

Voted on: 4/27/2015

Motion: Sue Robbins moved that the Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 8 not to exceed \$50,000.00

Seconded: Don Davison. All in favor. Motion carries.

Blurb: Don Davison

Blurb reviewed and finalized 4/27/2015

Article 8

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 8 not to exceed \$50,000.00

This article will open an account for the School Department to maintain its iPad program by allowing for sales of older equipment and purchase of newer.

Article 9

Reviewed on 4/22/2015

Reviewed with Beth Gallaway and Diane Libbey on 4/23/2015

Prepared Blurb: Don Davison

Article 9

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 9.

This article will allow the Library Department to open an account for the purchase of materials sold to library users.

Voted on: 4/27/2015

Motion: Sue Robbins moved that the Finance Committee recommend passage of Article 9 not to exceed \$10,000.00

Seconded: Don Davison. All in favor. Motion carries.

Blurb: Don Davison reviewed 4/27/2015

Blurb reviewed and finalized 4/27/2015

Article 9

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 9 not to exceed \$10,000.00.

This article will allow the Library Department to open an account for the purchase of materials sold to library users.

Article 10

Reviewed on 4/22/2015

A member of the Lions Club will speak to this article at Town Meeting

Prepared Blurb: Sue Robbins

Article 10

Finance Committee recommends passage of this article.

This is required in order to comply with the terms of the contract between the Town and the Grafton Lions Club for the use of the Lions Club property for the Lake Ripple Dredging Project.

Voted on: 4/27/2015

Motion: Sue Robbins moved that the Finance Committee recommend passage of Article 10 in the amount of \$92,000.00

Seconded: Don Davison. All in favor. Motion carries.

Blurb: Sue Robbins.

Blurb reviewed and finalized 4/27/2015

Article 10

Finance Committee recommends passage of this article in the amount of \$92,000.00.

This is required in order to comply with the original restoration terms of the contract between the Town and the Grafton Lions Club for the use of the Lions Club property for the Lake Ripple Dredging Project.

Article 11

Reviewed on 4/22/2015

Prepared Blurb: Susan

The Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 11.

This article amends an amount for State-Aid Highway funding. It is the result of an additional amount of funding from the State's Transportation Bond Bill.

Voted on: 4/27/2015

Motion: Don Davison moved that the finance Committee recommends passage of Article 11 in the amount of \$753,321.00

Seconded: Sue Robbins. All in favor. Motion carries.

Blurb: Susan Blurb reviewed, amended and finalized 4/27/2015

Article 11

The Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 11 in the amount of \$753,321.00. This article amends an amount for State-Aid Highway funding. It is the result of an additional amount of funding from the State's Transportation Bond Bill.

Article 12

Reviewed on 4/22/2015

Reviewed with CPC on 4/23/2015

Prepared Blurb: Susan

Article 12

The Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 12 in the amount of \$2,814.00. This article satisfies the Community Preservation Act requirement to reserve 10% of Community Preservations Act funds for affordable housing purposes. It is the result of a larger than expected State match.

Voted on: 4/27/2015

Motion: Sue Robbins moved that the Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 12 in the amount of \$2,814.00.

Seconded: Don Davison. All in favor. Motion carries.

Blurb: Susan

Blurb reviewed and finalized on 4/27/2015.

Article 12

The Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 12 in the amount of \$2,814.00. This article satisfies the Community Preservation Act requirement to reserve 10% of Community Preservations Act funds for affordable housing purposes. It is the result of a larger than expected State match.

Article 13

Reviewed on 4/22/2015

Reviewed with CPC on 4/23/2015

Prepared Blurb: Susan

Article 13

The Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 13 in the amount of \$2,814.00. This article satisfies the Community Preservation Act requirement to reserve 10% of Community Preservations Act funds for open space purposes. It is the result of a larger than expected State match.

Voted on: 4/27/2015

Motion: Sue Robbins moved that the Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 13 in the amount of \$2,814.00.

Seconded: Don Davison. All in favor. Motion carries.

Blurb: Susan

Blurb reviewed and finalized 4/27/2015

Article 13

The Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 13 in the amount of \$2,814.00. This article satisfies the Community Preservation Act requirement to reserve 10% of Community Preservations Act funds for open space purposes. It is the result of a larger than expected State match.

Article 14

Reviewed on 4/22/2015

Reviewed with CPC on 4/23/2015

Prepared Blurb: Susan

Article 14

The Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 14 in the amount of \$2,814.00. This article satisfies the Community Preservation Act requirement to reserve 10% of Community Preservations Act funds for historical preservation purposes. It is the result of a larger than expected State match.

Reviewed with CPC members Joann Duncan and Jennifer Thomas on 4/23/2015

Voted on: 4/27/2015

Motion: Sue Robbins moved that the Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 14 in the amount of \$2,814.00.

Seconded: Don Davison. All in favor. Motion carries.

Blurb: Susan. Blurb reviewed 4/27/2015

Blurb reviewed on 4/27/2015 and finalized

Article 14

The Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 14 in the amount of \$2,814.00. This article satisfies the Community Preservation Act requirement to reserve 10% of Community Preservations Act funds for historical preservation purposes. It is the result of a larger than expected State match.

Annual Town Meeting**Article 1**

Reviewed on 4/22/2015

Voted on: 4/27/2015

Motion: Don Davison moved that the Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 1 as presented.

Seconded: Joel Schwendemann. All in favor. Motion carries.

Blurb review on will be on 4/29/2015

Prepared Blurb: Susan

Article 1

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

Article 2

Reviewed on 4/22/2015

Voted on: 4/27/2015

Motion: Don Davison moved that the Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 2.

Seconded: Sue Robbins. All in favor. Motion carries.

Blurb review will be on: 4/29/2015

Prepared Blurb: Susan

Article 2

The Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 2.

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

Article 3

Reviewed on 4/22/2015

Voted on: 4/27/2015

Motion: Sue Robbins moved that the Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 3 in the amount of \$722,353.00

Seconded: Don Davison. All in favor. Motion carries

Blurb review will be on: 4/29/2015

Prepared Blurb: Sue Robbins

Article 3

Finance Committee recommends passage of this article in the amount of \$772,353.

This is the Town's share of the net operating cost of the Blackstone Valley Regional School District, and reflects a slight decrease in enrollment from last year of Grafton students.

Article 4

Reviewed on 4/22/2015

Voted on: 4/27/2015

Motion: Don Davison moved that the Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 4 in the amount of \$57,067.00.

Seconded: Sue Robbins. All in favor. Motion carries.

Blurb review will be on: 4/29/2015

Prepared Blurb: Sue Robbins

Article 4

Finance Committee recommends passage of this article in the amount of \$57,067.

This appropriation will fund the principal and interest cost for the FY16 Blackstone Valley Regional School District capital expansion project.

Article 5

Reviewed on 4/22/2015

Continued review and discussion on 4/27/2015 with Dr. Cummings following School Committee vote on their FY16 budget.

The School Committee voted to pass their FY16 budget less the \$93,000.00 plus by a 3-1 vote.

The new figure for the FY16 School budget is \$30,242,955.00

Discussion

- **The budget cuts are not a direct impact on students**
- **The School is keeping to the spirit of the override**
- **Concerns about the future State aid situation**
- **A Plan is needed to resolve this fundamental problem**

Voted on: 4/27/2015

Motion: Sue Robbins moved that the Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 5 in the amount of \$50,804,305.00.

Seconded: Don Davison. All in favor. Motion carries.

Blurb review will be on: 4/29/2015

Prepared Blurb: Dave Libbey

Article 5

[Language depends on School Ctte action April 27 and TA/BOS response.]

The Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 5 in the amount of \$50,898,022.00.

Article 5 funds the operating budget of the various town departments through anticipated operating revenue such as property taxes, local receipts, and state aid. It represents a \$1,834, 985 or 3.7% increase over the FY2015 budget. The budget proposed in this Article is the result of significant effort and review among the Town Administrator, Board of Selectmen, Department Heads and Committees. This process has produced a responsible budget that fully supports all town departments and services[with one exception: The School Department requested a budget of \$xx,xxx,xxx. Article 5 provides a School Budget of \$30,336,872.00 or \$93,xxx.00 less than requested. This School budget represents a 4.95%

increase over the FY15 budget. This exception is not funded because anticipated FY2015 ongoing revenue is insufficient to do so].

Article 6

Reviewed on 4/22/2015 with Bob Nault CIPC Chair

Voted on: 4/27/2015

Motion: Denise Nault moved that the Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 6 in the amount of \$1,511,270.00.

Seconded: Joel Schwendemann

Blurb review will be on: 4/29/2015

Prepared Blurb: Dave Libbey

Article 6

The Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 6 in the amount of \$1,511,270.00.

Article 6 funds the capital expense budget for FY2016. The projects proposed in this article are those recommended by the Capital Improvement Planning Committee (CIPC) using an established evaluation and rating process.

Article 7

Reviewed on 4/22/2015

Voted on: 4/27/2015

Motion: Joel Schwendemann moved that the Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 7 as presented.

Seconded: Don Davison. All in favor. Motion carries.

Blurb review will be on: 4/29/2015

Prepared Blurb: Susan

Article 7

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 7 as written.

This article permanently reduces the age eligibility to qualify for certain exemptions beginning July 1, 2015.

Article 8

Reviewed on 4/22/2015

Voted on: 4/27/2015

Motion: Joel Schwendemann moved that the Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 8 as presented.

Seconded: Don Davison. All in favor. Motion carries.

Blurb review on: 4/29/2015

Prepared Blurb: Susan

Article 8

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 8 as written.

This article will permanently provide for additional real estate exemption for taxpayers for blind persons, veterans, surviving spouses and seniors beginning July 1, 2015.

Article 9

Reviewed on 4/22/2015

Voted: 4/27/2015

Motion: Lisa Rice moved that the Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 9 as presented.

Seconded: Joel Schwendemann

Discussion. All in favor. Motion carries.

Blurb review on: 4/29/2015

Prepared Blurb: Susan

Article 9

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 9 as written.

This article will permanently provide a real estate exemption for taxpayers who are members of the National Guard or Military Reservists serving on active duty outside of the United States beginning July 1, 2015.

Article 10

Reviewed on 4/22/2015

Voted: 4/27/2015

Motion: Lisa Rice moved that the Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 9 as presented.

Seconded: Joel Schwendemann

Discussion. All in favor. Motion carries.

Blurb review will be on: 4/29/2015

Prepared Blurb: Susan

Article 10

The Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 10 in an amount not to exceed \$1,000.00.

It is important that the Town protect the wages of our Call Fire Department fire fighters in case of injury while in service to the Town by paying them, while disabled, 75% of their regular wages.

Article 11

Reviewed on 4/22/2015

Voted on: 4/27/2015

Motion: Don Davison moved that the Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 11.

Seconded: Lisa Rice. All in favor. Motion carries.

Blurb review will be on: 4/29/2015

Prepared Blurb: Susan

Article 11

The Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 11.

This article allows the Treasurer/Collector to conduct routine Town business and implement authorized short term borrowing in Fiscal Year 2016.

Article 12

Reviewed on 4/22/2015

Voted on: 4/27/2015

Motion: Don Davison moved that the Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 12 in the amount of \$45,000.00.

Seconded: Sue Robbins.

Discussion: Funds will be raised and appropriated. Annual cost for unemployment has been averaging between \$50,000.00 and \$100,000.00. Currently there is \$80,000.00 in this account.

Blurb review will be on: 4/29/2015

Prepared Blurb: Susan

Article 12

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 12 in the amount of \$45,000.00.

This article allows funds to be added to the Unemployment Compensation Account for the purposes of paying Unemployment Compensation expenses of the Town.

Article 13

Reviewed on 4/22/2015

Voted on: 4/27/2015

Motion: Don Davison moved that the Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 13.

Seconded: Sue Robbins. All in favor. Motion carries.

Blurb review will be on: 4/29/2015

Prepared Blurb: Susan

Article 13

The Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 13.

This article reauthorizes revolving accounts necessary for the various departments listed in this article to conduct routine business in FY16.

Article 14

Reviewed on 4/22/2015

Reviewed on 4/27/2015 with Sewer Superintendent Paul Cournoyer and Board of Sewer Commissioner Dave Therrien.

Voted on: 4/27/2015

Motion: Joel Schwendemann moved that the Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 14.

Seconded: Don Davison. All in favor. Motion carries.

Blurb review will be on: 4/29/2015

Prepared Blurb: Don Davison

Article 14

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 14.

This article will accomplish three goals:

1. Put in writing what the department is already doing.
2. Brings the Sewer Department within State guidelines.
3. Allows the Town to apply for no interest funding for the expansion project.

Article 15

Reviewed on 4/22/2015

Voted on: 4/27/2015 Motion: Don Davison moved that the Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 15.

Seconded: Lisa Rice.

Discussion followed relative to fees and the elder bus revolving account.

All in favor. Motion carries.

Blurb review will be on: 4/29/2015

Prepared Blurb: Susan

Article 15

The Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 15.

This article is an annual authorization to request FY16 funding of transportation services from the WRTA. These services provide senior citizens with vital transportation that they would otherwise be unable to secure on their own.

Article 16

Reviewed on 4/22/2015

Voted on: 4/27/2015

Motion: Don Davison moved that the Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 16 in the amount of \$500,043.00.

Seconded: Joel Schwendemann.

Discussion. All in favor. Motion carries..

Blurb review will be on: 4/29/2015

Prepared Blurb: Susan

Article 16

The Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 16 in the amount of \$500,043.00.

This article allows the Town to receive Chapter 90 funds as a reimbursement for projects accepted by the provisions of the Transportation Bond Bill. The spending of these funds is under the direction of the Board of Selectmen.

Article 17

Reviewed on 4/22/2015

Voted on: 4/27/2015

Motion: Don Davison moved that the Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 17.

Seconded: Lisa Rice. All in favor. Motion carries.

Blurb review on: 4/29/2015

Prepared Blurb: Susan

Article 17

The Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 17.

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

Article 18

Reviewed on 4/22/2015

Motion: Don Davison moved that the Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 18.

Seconded: Lisa Rice.

Discussion. This article will be passed over since there are no surplus items to sell at this time.

All in favor. Motion carries.

Blurb review on: 4/29/2015

Prepared Blurb: Susan

Article 18

Finance Committee opposes passage of Article 18.

Finance Committee understands that there are no surplus items to sell at this time.

Article 19

Reviewed on 4/22/2015

Voted on: 4/27/2015

Motion: Don Davison moved that the Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 19.

Seconded: Joel Schwendemann .

Discussion with the Town Administrator. Tim McInerney stated that he would like to go through with this article

All in favor. Motion carries.

Blurb review on: 4/29/2015

Prepared Blurb: Lisa Brovelli Kelley

Article 19

Possible passover of this article

Article 20

Reviewed on 4/22/2015

Voted on: 4/27/2015

Motion: Don Davison moved that the Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 20.

Seconded: Joel Schwendemann. All in favor. Motion carries.

Blurb review on: 4/29/2015

Prepared Blurb: Heather McCue

Article 20 (A)

Finance Committee opposes passage of Article 20.

It is our understanding that negotiations between the Town and Grafton Water District are still ongoing.

A final offer has not been approved. Finance Committee will reconsider its recommendation at Town

Meeting if there is a final offer to consider at that time.

Article 20 (B)

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 20.

The Grafton Water District wants to develop a well on a parcel they own, but the site is not suitable for a

pump station. The Town owns a nearby parcel on Powerline Drive that the Grafton Water District would

like to lease for 30 years to build a pump station with construction to begin later this summer. It is our

understanding that the parcel is not suitable for building more than the pump station. The Grafton Water District would pay the Town a lump sum of \$100,000, an amount above the assessed value of the land. In addition the Water District is willing to cap the fire hydrant fees to \$50,000 a year, a \$15,000 savings from our current fee structure. The Finance Committee believes that this lease agreement is a prudent arrangement for the Town.

Article 21

Reviewed on 4/22/2015

Reviewed on 4/23/2015 with Ed Prisby, Affordable Housing Trust Chair

Voted on: 4/27/2015

Motion: Don Davison moved that the Finance committee recommends passage of Article 21 in the amount of \$899,626.53.

Seconded: Joel Schwendemann. All in favor. Motion carries.

Blurb review on: 4/29/2015

Prepared Blurb: Don Davison

Article 21

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 21.

The intent of this article is to move settlement money to the Affordable Housing Trust account.

Article 22

Reviewed on 4/22/2015

Voted on: 4/27/2015

Motion: Sue Robbins moved that the Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 22 as presented.

Seconded: Lisa Rice.

Discussion. All in favor. Motion carries.

Blurb review on: 4/29/2015

Prepared Blurb: Dave Libbey

Article 22

The Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 22.

Article 22 corrects the language contained in the existing easement document, thereby clarifying the Town's access to the dam at Lake Ripple. No funding is required for this article.

Article 23

Reviewed on 4/22/2015

Voted on: 4/27/2015

Motion: Denise moved that the Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 23 as written.

Seconded: Joel Schwendemann.

Discussion. Motion carries.

Aye	Nay
Dave Libbey	Don Davison

Lisa Rice

Denise Nault

Jennifer Dorazio

Sue Robbins

Joel Schwendemann

Blurb review on: 4/29/2015

Prepared Blurbs: Don Davison

Article 23

Finance Committee opposes passage of Article 23.

Grafton cemeteries have been open land for dogs for many years, and while there have been minor problems it seems to be overly zealous to limit the many for the wrongs of a few.

Article 23

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 23.

Grafton cemeteries are not parks or “just open space”. The Grafton cemeteries are burial grounds, hallowed and set aside for one specific purpose. That purpose is NOT to provide a playground for canines with no concept of what a cemetery is.

Article 24

Reviewed with CPC on 4/23/2015

Voted on: 4/27/2015

Motion: Don Davison moved that the Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 24 in the amount of \$10,000.00

Seconded: Lisa Rice. All in favor. Motion carries.

Blurb review on: 4/29/2015

Prepared Blurb: Susan

Article 24

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 24 in the amount of \$10,000.00.

This article is a required transfer of funds from Community Preservation Committee (CPC) revenues into an Operating budget account. This is necessary for the CPC to conduct routine business in FY16.

Article 25

Reviewed with CPC on 4/23/2015

Voted on: 4/27/2015

Motion: Don Davison moved that the Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 25 in the amount of \$90,825.00.

Seconded: Lisa Rice. All in favor. Motion carries.

Blurb review on: 4/29/2015

Prepared Blurb: Susan

Article 25

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 25 in the amount of \$90,825.00.

This article authorizes the CPC to make the FY16 principle and interest payment on the bond issued for the Pell Farm property.

Article 26

Reviewed with CPC on 4/23/2015

Voted on: 4/27/2015

Motion: Don Davison moved that the Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 26 in the amount of \$73,617.00.

Seconded: Lisa Rice. All in favor. Motion carries.

Blurb review on: 4/29/2015

Prepared Blurb: Susan

Article 26

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 26 in the amount of \$73,617.00.

This article authorizes the CPC to make the FY16 principle and interest payment on the \$1.1 million bond issued for the renovation of the Grafton Town House.

Article 27

Reviewed with CPC and Affordable Housing Trust Authority on 4/23/2015

Voted on: 4/27/2015

Motion: Don Davison moved that the Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 27 in the amount of \$44,958.00.

Seconded: Lisa Rice. All in favor. Motion carries.

Blurb review on: 4/29/2015

Prepared Blurb: Susan

Article 27

The Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 27 in the amount of \$44,958.00. The Grafton Affordable Housing Trust has begun to develop properties in Town. The funds to support these activities have been provided by transfers from the CPA Affordable Housing Reserve over several years. The transfer requested in Article 27 would continue to fund the Trust's efforts.

Article 28

Reviewed with CPC and Library Department/Trustee on 4/23/2015

Voted on: 4/27/2015

Motion: Don Davison moved that the Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 28 in the amount of \$18,000.00

Seconded: Lisa Rice. All in favor. Motion carries.

Blurb review on: 4/29/2015

Prepared Blurb: Heather McCue

Article 28

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 28 in the amount of \$18,000. These funds will be used to restore the original main entrance doors and the exterior boiler room door. The Grafton Public Library has been an important asset to the Town for the past 88 years. The front entrance doors are in dire need of repair for both security and aesthetics purposes. The doors will be restored to their original historical period style. The boiler room door requires attention for safety purposes. This expenditure is in keeping with the intention of the Community Conservation Act.

Article 29

Reviewed with CPC on 4/23/2015

Voted on: 4/27/2015

Motion: Don Davison moved that the Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 29 in the amount of \$3,640.00.

Seconded: Lisa Rice. All in favor. Motion carries.

Blurb review on: 4/29/2015

Prepared Blurb: Heather McCue

Article 29

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 29 in the amount of \$3,640. These funds will be used to bring back the original swing out garage doors. The Farnumsville Firehouse is an important asset to the Town. By bringing back the original historical period style doors, we are preserving a piece of history. This expenditure is in keeping with the intention of the Community Conservation Act.

Article 30

Reviewed with CPC on 4/23/2015

Reviewed on 4/27/2015 with Michael Urban from Grafton Land Trust

Voted on: 4/27/2015

Prepared Blurb: Dave Libbey

Blurb review on: 4/29/2015

Article 30

The Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 30 in the amount of \$60,000.00. The Finance Committee understands that the land to be acquired through Article 30 will improve protection of ecologically significant wetlands, will protect important animal habitat, and will connect existing Town and Land Trust properties. No new taxpayer funding is required.

Article 31

Reviewed with CPC on 4/23/2015

Reviewed with Grafton Super Park member Jennifer Thomas

Voted on: 4/27/2015

Motion: Lisa Rice moved that the Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 31.

Seconded: Don Davison.

Discussion. Agrees with the CPC process. This project is clearly a Board of Selectmen priority.

Concerns about creating another park

Motion carries with a 4-3 vote.

Aye	Nay	Absent
Dave Libbey	Denise Nault	Lisa Brovelli Kelley
Lisa Rice	Sue Robbins	Heather McCue
Don Davison	Joel Schwendemann	

Jenn Dorazio

Blurb review on: 4/29/2015

Prepared Blurb: Don Davison

Article 31

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 31.

Grafton has missed the super park it once enjoyed and the Board of Selectmen in its wisdom has seen fit to reestablish this opportunity for our children. This article is CPC money to foster that program

Article 32

Reviewed on 4/22/2105

Reviewed on 4/23/2015 with Grafton Super Park member Jennifer Thomas and ATA Doug Willardson

Voted on: 4/27/2015

Motion: Joel Schwendemann moved that the Finance Committee oppose passage of Article 32.

Seconded: Sue Robbins.

Discussion. Requirements to receive these funds. How did the Super Park project make it to the top of the list to receive these funds? Additional funds will be needed to support the Super Park project.

Motion carries.

Aye	Nay	Absent
Dave Libbey	Don Davison	Lisa Brovelli Kelley
Lisa Rice		Heather McCue
Denise Nault		
Jennifer Dorazio		
Sue Robbins		
Joel Schwendemann		

Blurb review on: 4/29/2015

Prepared Blurb: Don Davison

Article 32

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 32.

This article is the town's commitment of matching funds for CPC in the previous article.

Article 33

Reviewed on 4/22/2015

Voted on: 4/27/2015

Motion: Don Davison moved that the Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 33.

Seconded: Lisa Rice. All in favor. Motion carries.

Blurb review on: 4/29/2015

Prepared Blurb: Susan

Article 33

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 33.

Finance Committee agrees with the acceptance of the new hydrant installed by the South Grafton Water District.

Article 34

Reviewed on 4/22/2015

Voted on: 4/27/2015

Motion: Don Davison moved that the Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 34.

Seconded: Joel Schwendemann. All in favor. Motion carries.

Blurb review on: 4/29/2015

Prepared Blurb: Susan

Article 34

The Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 34.

Finance Committee agrees with the acceptance of new hydrants installed by the Grafton Water District.

Article 35

Reviewed on 4/22/2015

Voted on: 4/27/2015

Motion: Don Davison moved that the Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 35 in the amount of \$36,637,021.00.

Seconded: Sue Robbins. All in favor. Motion carries.

Blurb review on: 4/29/2015

Prepared Blurb: Dave Libbey

Article 35

The Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 35.

The borrowing capacity discussed in this article was created for the new High School building project to cover the State's contribution to the project's cost as required by law. Since the State has paid for its portion of the project, this capacity is no longer needed. It is good financial practice to rescind unneeded borrowing capacity.

Article 36

Reviewed on 4/22/2015 with Town Planner Joe Laydon and Planning Board Chair Dave Robbins

Received voting results of the Planning Board on 4/27/2015.

Voted on: 4/27/2015

Motion: Sue Robbins moved that the Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 36.

Seconded: Don Davison. All in favor. Motion carries.

Blurb review on: 4/29/2015

Prepared Blurb: Sue Robbins

Article 36

Finance Committee recommends passage of this article.

This change will eliminate a conflict between state law and the Grafton ZBL. The change allows riding stables and similar uses in all zones with site plan review, provided that the lot is at least 5 acres and certain other conditions are satisfied.

Article 37

Reviewed on 4/22/2015 with Town Planner Joe Laydon and Planning Board Chair Dave Robbins

Received voting results of the Planning Board on 4/27/2015.

Voted on: 4/27/2015

Motion: Sue Robbins moved that the Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 37 as presented.

Seconded: Don Davison. All in favor. Motion carries.

Blurb: Sue Robbins

Blurb review on: 4/29/2015

Prepared Blurb: Sue Robbins

Article 37

Finance Committee recommends passage of this article.

This updates the ZBL to refer to the current GIS-based zoning map for all zoning districts other than Flood Plain.

Although the GIS-based zoning map that replaced the paper-based map in 2008 included the four overlay districts, the ZBL continues to reference the paper-based maps of the overlay districts. The Flood Plain district boundaries are still defined by the FEMA maps.

Article 38

**Reviewed on 4/22/2015 with Town Planner Joe Laydon and Planning Board Chair Dave Robbins
Received voting results of the Planning Board on 4/27/2015.**

Voted on: 4/27/2015

Motion: Sue Robbins moved that the Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 38 as presented.

Seconded: Don Davison. All in favor. Motion carries.

Blurb review on: 4/29/2015

Prepared Blurb: Sue Robbins

Article 38

Finance Committee recommends passage of this article.

This clarifies sign requirements for which the Planning Board may grant relief by special permit.

In the section allowing the Planning Board to grant relief from certain sign requirements (i.e. dimensional and placement limits), this adds language clarifying what requirements the Board can grant relief from. It does not change the circumstances under which the Board can grant relief.

Article 39

**Reviewed on 4/22/2015 with Town Planner Joe Laydon and Planning Board Chair Dave Robbins
Received voting results of the Planning Board on 4/27/2015. The Planning Board vote passed with a 3-2 vote.**

Voted on: 4/27/2015

Motion: Sue Robbins moved that the Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 39 as presented.

Seconded: Don Davison. All in favor. Motion carries

Blurb: Sue Robbins

Blurb review on: 4/29/2015

Prepared Blurb: Sue Robbins

Article 39

Finance Committee recommends passage of this article.

This amends the zoning map to add a 96-acre industrial parcel at 105 Westboro Road to the Chapter 43D Priority Development Site Overlay District, and to rezone from industrial to R-20 another parcel of the same owner, at 36 Nelson Street. This will provide increased incentives for commercial development of the 105 Westboro Road parcel.

Article 40

**Reviewed on 4/22/2015 with Town Planner Joe Laydon and Planning Board Chair Dave Robbins
Received voting results of the Planning Board on 4/27/2015. The Planning Board vote passed with a 3-2 vote.**

Voted on: 4/27/2015

Motion: Sue Robbins moved that the Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 40 as presented.

Seconded: Don Davison. All in favor. Motion carries

Blurb: Sue Robbins

Blurb review on: 4/29/2015

Prepared Blurb: Sue Robbins

Article 40

Finance Committee recommends passage of this article.

This amends the zoning bylaw to incorporate, as stated in Article 39, the addition of 105 Westboro Road to the Chapter 43D Priority Development Site Overlay District. This provides economic development incentives including expedited permitting and access to state grants and resources.

Article 41

Reviewed on 4/22/2015 with Town Planner Joe Laydon and Planning Board Chair Dave Robbins

Received voting results of the Planning Board on 4/27/2015.

Voted on: 4/27/2015

Motion: Sue Robbins moved that the Finance Committee opposes passage of Article 41.

Seconded: Denise Nault.

Discussion. Planning Board will be holding their public hearing to vote on this article on may 04, 2015. All in favor. Motion carries.

Blurb review on: 4/29/2015

Prepared Blurb: Sue Robbins

Article 41

Finance Committee opposes passage of this article.

Finance Committee understands that the Planning Board will hold a public hearing on this article on May 4, 2015.

Article 42

Reviewed on 4/22/2015 with Mike Scully, representing Lead Petitioner, Town Planner Joe Laydon and Planning Board Chair Dave Robbins

Received voting results of the Planning Board on 4/27/2015.

Voted on: 4/27/2015

Motion: Sue Robbins moved that the Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 42 as presented.

Seconded: Don Davison. All in favor. Motion carries.

Blurb review on: 4/29/2015

Prepared Blurb: Sue Robbins

Article 42

Finance Committee recommends passage of this article.

This will rezone 65 N. Main St. from residential to neighborhood business, to be consistent with properties abutting and across the street, which are already zoned neighborhood business

Warrant Articles update

- All articles have been voted on with the exception of Special Town Meeting Warrant Articles 5 and 6.
- All recommendations have been finalized for the Special Town Meeting warrant with the exception of Articles 5 and 6.
- Recommendations for the Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles will be reviewed and finalized on Wednesday, April 29, 2015.
- Thursday, April 30, 2015 may be needed for the Finance Committee to finalize voting and recommendation preparation.

Special Town Meeting Warrant Article 3

- Discussion relative to the Financial Management policy and the use of the Stabilization Fund.

State of the Town Message

Topics

Override

Long Term Planning

Capital project and back logged list

Roads update

Dave Libbey will review the finished Message with the Superintendent of Schools and Town

Administrator prior to Town Meeting.

Term Renewal

- Don Davison and Joel Schwendemann will be reviewing their 3 year Term as members of the Finance Committee.
- Dave Libbey will not be renewing his 3 year Term and will be leaving Finance Committee effective July 1, 2015. The principal reason for leaving the Finance Committee is to be there for his grandchildren.

Adjournment

Motion: Sue Robbins moved that the Finance Committee close its public meeting.

Seconded: Don Davison. All in favor. Motion carries.

The public meeting of the Finance Committee adjourned at 9:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan M. Fiacco



FINANCE COMMITTEE

Town of Grafton
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(508) 839-5335 x 1167
www.grafton-ma.gov

PLEASE SIGN IN
Monday, April 27, 2015

Public Hearing Sign in Sheet

Name	Address	Warrant article that you are interested in:
Paul Conway	20 Meadowbrook Rd	
DAVE THORSEN	14 Masonry Rd	
M. Urban	41 Old Grafton Rd	