



**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**Town of Grafton**

30 Providence Road  
Grafton, MA 01519  
(508) 839-5335 x 1167

[www.grafton-ma.gov](http://www.grafton-ma.gov)

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**Recommendations of the Finance Committee  
for the articles prepared for the  
Warrant of the Annual Town Meeting  
scheduled for  
Monday, October 17, 2016**

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### **Recommendations of the Finance Committee for the articles prepared for the warrant of the Annual Town Meeting scheduled for Monday, October 17, 2016:**

#### **Article 1**

Finance Committee recommends acceptance of the reports presented.

#### **Article 2**

Finance Committee opposes passage of Article 2 as written.

This article transfers FY17 funds between departments in part to increase certain department salaries and in part in to increase expenditures. This approach is not in the Town's long-term financial interest. Ideally, this article would be brought through as several separate articles, thereby giving voters a clearer understanding of what is proposed.

### Article 3

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 3 in the amount of \$14,559.11. The bills listed below were incurred in a prior fiscal year and were not submitted in time for payment. They will be funded using each specific department's FY17 operating budget. This article requires a nine-tenths vote.

Department	Vendor	Amount
Planning	Apple Inc.	\$150.00
Cemetery	Chase-Harris Corp.	\$540.00
SGCH	National Grid	\$532.52
IT	Akuity	\$413.75
IT	Akuity	\$1,680.00
Library	Findaway	\$139.96
Highway	Verizon	\$38.80
Sewer	Koopman	\$31.98
Sanitation	Weston & Sampson	\$3,800.00
Engineering	VHB Inc.	\$2,937.12
Engineering	Lenard Engineering	\$3,842.95
Recreation	Marine Rescue	\$6.00
Cemetery	TruGreen	\$234.00
Nelson Park	Gauvin Supply	\$47.03
Town Administrator	Citizen's Bank	\$165.00

### Article 4

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 4 as written in an amount not to exceed \$2,000.00.

This article partially funds a one-time retirement benefit by raising and appropriating \$2,000.00 for those members of the Fire Department who will retire in the next several years. This benefit provides \$100.00 per year of service. Currently, the balance in this account is approximately \$3,000.00.

### Article 5

The Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 5 as written in the amount of \$3,000.00.

This article raises and appropriates \$3,000.00 to fund the reimbursement of retiring employees for unused sick and vacation time per Town By-Laws.

**Article 6**

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 6 as written in the amount of \$100,000.00.

The Finance Committee agrees that we need to analyze the Town's exposure to liabilities resulting from retirees' health insurance and other post retirement costs. OPEB (Other Post-employment Benefits) are benefits that an employee (Municipal and School) begins to receive at the start of retirement. This does not include pension benefits paid to the retired employee.

**Article 7**

The Finance Committee opposes passage of Article 7 as written.

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

Funding for the Follette Street Well Project for FY2017 to continue the DEP mandate to monitor this well for groundwater contamination will be a Spring 2017 Town Meeting article.

**Article 8**

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 8 in the amount of \$46,220.00.

This article satisfies the Community Preservation Act requirement to reserve 10% of Community Preservation Act funds for affordable housing purposes.

**Article 9**

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 9 in the amount of \$46,220.00.

This article satisfies the Community Preservation Act requirement to reserve 10% of Community Preservation Act funds for open space purposes.

**Article 10**

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 10 in the amount of \$46,220.00.

This article satisfies the Community Preservation Act requirement to reserve 10% of Community Preservation Act funds for historical preservation purposes.

**Article 11**

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 11 in the amount of \$149,225.00.

This article is a routine procedural article necessary to set aside Community Preservation Act funds for future use.

**Article 12**

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 12 in the amount of \$1,510,320.09.

Funds raised plus interest for road repair through the 2014 override are accumulated in the Roads Stabilization Fund. These funds cannot be put to work repairing roads until they are transferred out of this Stabilization Fund to the Road Improvement Capital Expenditures Fund at a town meeting. Article 12 transfers \$1,500,000.00 plus the interest of \$10,320.09 to the Road Improvement Capital Expenditures fund. Passage of Article 12 requires a two-thirds majority vote.

**Article 13**

Finance Committee opposes passage of Article 13.

Finance Committee understands that the Stowe Road Article 13 will be passed over on Town Meeting floor.

The Town has begun working with Graves Engineering and the engineering work for the job should be completed for Spring 2017.

The funding source needed for the repairs and restotation of the properties on Stowe Road may be provided by the use of Chapter 90 Funds.

**Article 14**

Finance Committee opposes passage of Article 14 as written.

Finance Committee agrees with the report of the Planning Board which recommends that this article be referred back to the Town Administrator and Town Staff to consider language that breaks out the various municipal uses and reflects which permitting process would be appropriate for the various zoning districts.

### **Article 15**

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 15 as written.

Finance Committee concurs with the Planning Board's written report:

“The purpose of the article is to specify as part of the special permit review process that Registered Marijuana Dispensaries and off-Site Medical Marijuana Dispensaries must demonstrate compliance with Mass Department of Public Health siting requirements. The Planning Board is of the opinion that reference to State siting requirements will expressly permit the Board to require documentation demonstrating compliance as part of its special permit process.”

### **Article 16**

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 16 as written.

Finance Committee concurs with the Planning Board's written report:

“The purpose of the article is to specify that Registered Marijuana Dispensaries and Off-Site Medical Marijuana Dispensaries are not considered pharmaceutical uses under the Campus Development Overlay District.

### **Article 17**

Finance Committee opposes passage of Article 17 as written.

Finance Committee is concerned that Section 4 of the proposed by-law places too much legal and administrative burden on the Town and the homeowner with regards to yearly notifications and policy declaration during home sales. These points were discussed with the Agricultural Commission during the public hearing and the Commission was going to discuss these items within their organization prior to Town Meeting.

Finance Committee will reconsider their recommendation if Article 17, Section 4 is removed or amended on the floor during Town Meeting.