



## **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

### **Town of Grafton**

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Recommendations of the Finance Committee for the Warrant Articles of the Annual Town Meeting scheduled for Monday, May 09, 2016:

#### **Article 1**

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

#### **Article 2**

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 2.

#### **Article 3**

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 3 in the amount of \$689,507.00.

This article provides the Town's share of the net operating cost of the Blackstone Valley Regional School District for FY17 and reflects a slight decrease in enrollment of Grafton students.

#### **Article 4**

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 4 in the amount of \$54,837.00. This appropriation will fund the principal and interest cost for the FY17 Blackstone Valley Regional School District capital expansion project.

Recommendations of the Finance Committee for the Warrant Articles of the Annual Town Meeting scheduled for Monday, May 09, 2016 continued:

**Article 5**

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 5 in the amount of \$53,183,597.00.

The proposed budget is funded by anticipated revenues and available funds. It represents a \$2,165,987.00 or 4.2% increase over the FY2016 budget. This budget is 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.

**Article 6**

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 6 as written.

Finance Committee approves appropriating funds from Free Cash and transfers from other noted sources to fund the listed Capital Projects.

**Article 7**

Finance Committee opposes passage of Article 7 as written.

Finance Committee understands that Article 7 will be passed over on Town Meeting floor.

**Article 8**

Finance Committee opposes passage of Article 8 as written.

Finance Committee understands that Article 8 will be passed over on Town Meeting floor.

Recommendations of the Finance Committee for the Warrant Articles of the Annual Town Meeting scheduled for Monday, May 09, 2016 continued:

**Article 9**

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 9 as written.

The current DPW building is more than 70 years old and realistically is at least 20 years past its useful life. It is not sized to house today's equipment nor is it designed to meet the current and future requirements of the town's vehicle fleet. The DPW Building Facilities Committee has engaged the services of a reputable design firm with extensive experience in building these types of facilities across Massachusetts. This firm has designed the new facility based on a detailed assessment of the Town's needs over the next 30-50 years. Delaying replacement of the facility is not practical from a functional standpoint nor is it fiscally responsible as building costs will only continue to rise.

**Article 10**

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 10 in the amount of \$126,900.74.

The excess funds from the Central Fire Station project would be applied to a similar project that addresses a need of the Town.

**Article 11**

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 11 as written.

This article will provide operational funding for the maintenance of Town veteran memorials and other Trust projects.

**Article 12**

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 12 as written.

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.

**Article 13**

The Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 13 as written.

This article allows the Treasurer/Collector to conduct routine Town business.

**Article 14**

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 14 in the amount of \$45,000.00.

This article allows funds to be added to the Unemployment Compensation Account.

Recommendations of the Finance Committee for the Warrant Articles of the Annual Town Meeting scheduled for Monday, May 09, 2016 continued:

**Article 15**

The Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 15 as written. The Wastewater Treatment Facility is currently undergoing a major upgrade. These funds will be used to pay a portion of the project that will offset the costs associated with this project. Town meeting vote is required to transfer the money between accounts.

**Article 16**

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 16 as written. These funds will be used to purchase a new sludge truck. Currently the Town contracts these services out. The contract is up for re-negotiation this year and it has been determined that it is cheaper to buy the truck and transport the sludge ourselves than have the material transported out by a third party. Town meeting vote is required to transfer the money between accounts.

**Article 17**

The Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 17 as written. This article is an annual authorization to request FY17 WRTA funding of transportation services.

**Article 18**

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 18 as written. Currently the storage space in the Town's vault and storage areas are near maximum capacity. This purchase would increase the amount of storage in the vault by 57 % and by 87 % for the other storage space currently in use. This will improve the Town's ability to effectively store and retrieve required documents.

**Article 19**

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 19 as written. This article provides additions to the Town's hydrants list from the Grafton Water District.

Recommendations of the Finance Committee for the Warrant Articles of the Annual Town Meeting scheduled for Monday, May 09, 2016 continued:

**Article 20**

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 20 as written. Passage of this article will allow the Police Department to function more efficiently in the hiring and promoting of its police officers. Finance Committee concurs with the recommendation of our Chief of Police and local Police Union.

**Article 21**

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 21 in the amount of \$500,310.00. 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 22**

The Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 22 as written. This article allows the Board of Selectmen to conduct routine Town business.

**Article 23**

Finance Committee opposes passage of Article 23 as written. Finance Committee supports the environmental initiative of the Lake Quinsigamond Commission for this extensive project. Additional information is needed to better understand the role of Grafton's Conservation Commission and the impact that this ongoing project will have on our ponds prior to funding this project.

**Article 24**

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 24. Finance Committee understands that there are may be one surplus item to sell at this time.

**Article 25**

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 25 as written. This article establishes a standard revolving account in order to receive PEG Access and Cable related funds.

Recommendations of the Finance Committee for the Warrant Articles of the Annual Town Meeting scheduled for Monday, May 09, 2016 continued:

**Article 26**

The Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 26 as written. This is the annual reauthorization of revolving accounts.

**Article 27**

Finance Committee opposes passage of Article 27 as written. The TIF agreement has not been reached prior to Finance Committee's publication of their recommendations. It is anticipated that Finance Committee will have the information needed to make their recommendation at Town Meeting.

**Article 28**

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 28 as written. 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 FY17.

**Article 29**

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 29 as written. This article authorizes the CPC to make the FY17 principle and interest payment on the bond issued for the Pell Farm property.

**Article 30**

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 30 as written. This article authorizes the CPC to make the FY17 principle and interest payment on the \$1.1 million bond issued for the renovation of the Grafton Town House.

**Article 31**

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 31 as written. The funds to support Grafton Affordable Housing Trust activities have been provided by transfers from the CPA Affordable Housing Reserve over several years.

Recommendations of the Finance Committee for the Warrant Articles of the Annual Town Meeting scheduled for Monday, May 09, 2016 continued:

**Article 32**

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 32 as written.  
This article provides historical preservation funds for the purpose of restoring the Cisco Homestead.

**Article 33**

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 33 as written.  
This article extends the time allotted for the Textile and Shoe Conservation Project to be completed.

**Article 34**

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 34 as written.  
This article allows Silver Lake Beach improvements funded by CPC funds.

**Article 35**

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 35 as written.  
The purpose of this article is to provide an open space plan which will help guide future investment for the Town on open space projects. Establishment of the plan will also enable the Town to apply for grants and State funding.

**Article 36**

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 36 as written.  
This article provides the funds needed to preserve the Stone Arch Bridge area from CPC funds.

**Article 37**

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 37 as written  
This article provides CPC funds for a feasibility study to review a River Walk area at the Fisherville Mill site.

**Article 38**

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 38 as written.  
This article ensures that seniors in the work off tax program will earn a discount on their property tax bill.

Recommendations of the Finance Committee for the Warrant Articles of the Annual Town Meeting scheduled for Monday, May 09, 2016 continued:

**Article 39**

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 39 as written.  
This article adds three new uses to the use table.

**Article 40**

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 40 as written.  
The article allows Other Eating and Drinking Establishments in two zoning districts by Special Permit.

**Article 41**

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 41 as written.  
This article allows brewpubs, microbreweries, and similar uses in certain zoning districts.

**Article 42**

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 42 as written.  
This article requires that all future medical marijuana establishments are subject to review by the Planning Board, including a public hearing process.

**Article 43**

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 43 as written.  
This article expands the Water Supply Protection Overlay District to include all of the Zone II of the Trinity Avenue well.

**Article 44**

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 44 as written.  
This article clarifies the definition of lot frontage, and defines the rear yard for a corner lot in order to clarify setback requirements.

**Article 45**

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 45 as written.  
This article is required in order to set the boundaries of Institute Road as a public way.

Recommendations of the Finance Committee for the Warrant Articles of the Annual Town Meeting scheduled for Monday, May 09, 2016 continued:

**Article 46**

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 46 as written. This article provides more flexibility for development within the Fisherville Smart Growth District.

**Article 47**

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 47 as written. This article improves the review process, adds an affordability requirement and increases flexibility for development within the Village Mixed Use District.

**Article 48**

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 48 as written. This article allows access along the edge of a lot, which otherwise must be vegetated.

**Article 49**

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 49 as written. This is a housekeeping article that allows the Town Clerk to make clerical changes where allowed by State Law.

**Article 50**

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 50 as written. The article provides relief to residents over 70 from fee payment for dog licenses. The financial impact of the policy change will be negligible.

**Article 51**

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 51 as written. The article will amend Article 16 of the General By-Laws relating to Dogs Running at Large to comport with recent changes to State Law.

