

Finance Committee Recommendations for Spring 2016 Town Meeting

Article	Title	FinCom	Notes
1	Town Report Acceptance	Yes	Procedural article to get reports from various committees
2	Obsolete Equipment, Material	Yes	Allows selectman to sell or dispose of surplus equipment in accordance with state law. Nothing major planned.
3	Authorize Revolving Funds Chapter 44, Section 53E 1/2	Yes	Annual article provides a vehicle for the town to take in various fees and expend them.
4	Fiscal Year 2017 Salary Administration Plan	Yes	Provides approval for rates of pay and policies for various non-contract employees. Few employees are actually covered. This is a deliberately simplified version, ending step increasing and providing a broad range of pay rates. The TA sets the actual rate when hiring.
5	Town General Fund Budget Fiscal Year 2017	Yes	Provides authorization for the General Fund expenses of the town. The Finance Committee believes the budget is in balance, and provides a reasonable allocation of scarce resources for town needs. See more detailed committee analysis on the town website
6	Optional Additional Exemption	Yes	Allows increases to property tax exemptions for various sets of people. The saved taxes are spread out to other taxpayers, but result in a very small increase in taxes.
7	Sewer Enterprise Fund Budget Fiscal Year 2017	Yes	Budget increases \$123,000. Largest increase is \$40,000 for the operation of the WWTP, plus \$22,000 for a new Sewer dept staffperson split with the Water department.
8	Water Enterprise Fund Budget Fiscal Year 2017	Yes	Budget increases \$95,000, spread out over a number of line items including a new staffperson split with Sewer department for \$32,000.
9	Finance Committee Reserve Fund	Yes	Provides a reserve for unexpected expenses.
10	Community Preservation Fund Budget Fiscal Year 2017	Yes	Annual designation of CPA funds for various purposes. This is largely predetermined now as the amounts for golf course debt and the three designated funds are required allocations.
11	Establish Tax Title Collection Revolving Fund	Yes	Creates a fund for the expenses of collecting delinquent taxes, to be paid by fees assessed for delinquent taxes. Newly allowed by Mass state law.
12	By-Law Change in Chapter I and II	Yes	Minor updates to references and language
13	By-Law Change in Chapter XVIII	Yes	Updates by-law provisions for by-law committee
14	By-Law Change in Chapter XX	Yes	Updates by-law provisions for Council on Aging
15	By-Law Change in Chapter XIII	Yes	Updates by-law provisions for appointment of boards and positions
16	Citizens Petition-Request to BOA and BOS	No	The Finance Committee doesn't believe the proposed shift of taxes from businesses to residents is a good idea at this time.
S-1	Certified Free Cash Appropriation	Yes	The allocation of free cash is a reasonable use of scarce resources. 46% is going to reserves, 10% to snow and ice, and 44% to needed capital expenditures.
S-2	Reserve for Overlay Release Appropriation	Yes	The article allocates 62% to reserves, and 38% for downtown enhancement.
S-3	CPC Fund - Close out Undesignated Fund Balance	Yes	Article appropriates undesignated CPC funds at the required allocation of 10% to each of three funds, and 70% to Budgeted Reserve.
S-4	Water Retained Earnings	Yes	Article funds needed capital expenses for the water and sewer department
S-5	Sewer Stabilization Fund	Yes	Article funds needed capital expenses for the water and sewer department
S-6	CPC Fund - Close out Unexpended Funds	Yes	This article rescinds unused spending authorization and is good financial practice
S-7	Community Preservation Fund Reserve	Yes	The CPC projects outlined are worthwhile and an appropriate use of CPC funds.
S-8	Street Acceptance: Cutting Dr, Dettling Rd, Vose Hill Rd, Karlee Dr, and Gabrielle Cir	Yes	Street acceptance has been a need for the town. This article accepts one new development, with the process working as it should, and one older development, starting to address the backlog.