



Town of Maynard, Massachusetts
Finance Committee

October 23, 2018

To Maynard Town Meeting Voters:

The **Maynard Finance Committee (FinCom)** is unique among the various boards and committees that comprise our Town's municipal government. The FinCom is appointed by the Town Moderator and serves Town Meeting voters—in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws (Chap. 39, Sec. 16) and Maynard's Town Charter and By-laws—in three important ways:

1. Work throughout the year on behalf of Town Meeting voters and in collaboration with the Board of Selectmen (BoS), School Committee, Town Administrator, and others to (a) research impartially and understand the Town's finances and important financial trends, and (b) take proactive steps to make this understanding more accessible to Town Meeting voters.
2. Provide independent oversight of Town finances, representing the interests of Town Meeting voters.
3. Review and analyze the Town Meeting warrant articles and make informed recommendations for consideration of Town Meeting voters as they decide how to vote.

Prior to all Town Meetings, the FinCom is required to "hold one or more public hearings to permit public discussion of the subject matter of all articles contained in the warrant." In preparation for the November 8 Special Town Meeting, the FinCom held a public hearing on **Monday, October 22**.

Maynard's Town Charter also requires the FinCom to "report, in writing, its recommendations on every article contained in a town meeting warrant together with a statement of the reasons for each such recommendation." These recommendations and reasons behind them are provided below.

Article 1: A vote to Prohibit the sale of Town of Maynard water and sewer services; not located within the boundaries of the Town of Maynard.

FinCom voted (6-0) NOT to recommend.

Statement of Reasons:

1. The Finance Committee is aware that Town Counsel issued an opinion on October 3 stating that, if this article is approved by Town Meeting vote:
 - a. The measure would be "a non-binding measure" and
 - b. The BoS would remain "authorized to determine whether such a sale [of water and wastewater services] would be appropriate, and to negotiate and execute an Intermunicipal Agreement or an agreement with a developer or resident of another town."
2. Beyond those reasons given in the Town Counsel's legal opinion, the FinCom believes for the following reasons that passage of this article is not in the best interests of the Town:

- a. First, it appears that the measure would prohibit all sales of water and/or wastewater services even to those who are already receiving them from the Town.
 - b. Second, it appears that the measure would apply to all future applications for water and/or wastewater services, even those that might prove advantageous to the Town.
 - c. Third, it appears that these prohibitions would remain in place unless and until another Town Meeting vote reversed this measure, which may inappropriately delay action on future applications, even those that might prove advantageous to the Town.
3. In the FinCom’s view, the BoS—in its roles as Water and Sewer Commissioners—is the proper forum for decisions to be made regarding the sale of water and wastewater services to those outside the Town boundaries. That said, in light of the significant potential risks and costs involved, the FinCom believes that such decisions should be informed by:
- a. A “roadmap” that lays out clearly the essential steps in the decision process (especially those involving opportunities for community input), including an estimated timeline and an initial plan of information to be gathered and analyzed to reach a decision that is in the best interests of the Town.
 - b. A strategic plan to manage these finite resources for the long-term,
 - c. A thorough near-term and long-term cost-benefit analysis of any agreements,
 - d. Full transparency in all deliberations relating to any agreements, and
 - e. Opportunities at appropriate times throughout the decision process for the Maynard community to provide meaningful input on any agreements.

In closing, the FinCom encourages all Maynard voters to attend meetings of the various municipal bodies—including the Board of Selectmen, the School Committee, the Planning Board, and the FinCom—throughout the year to become more informed and express their views about various matters affecting our Town.

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Estabrook (Chair)
Peter Campbell

Jill Prendergast (Vice Chair)
Bob McCarthy

P.J. Gauthier (Clerk)
Laura Weinstein

Tom Black