

NORFOLK, ss.

To either Constable in the Town of Norfolk, in said County:

GREETINGS:

You are required in the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to notify and warn the inhabitants of Norfolk, qualified to vote in Town affairs residing in Precincts 1, 2, and 3, to assemble in the designated polling places in the Freeman-Kennedy School, 70 Boardman Street, Norfolk, Massachusetts, on Tuesday, May 3, 2016, at 7:00 a.m., for the election of town officers under ARTICLE 1 of the Annual Town Meeting; and thence to meet on Tuesday, May 10, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at the King Philip Middle School, 18 King Street, Norfolk, Massachusetts 02056, for the adjourned business session of the Annual Town Meeting, then and there to act on the following articles commencing with Article 2, *viz*:

ARTICLE 1

Submitted by the Town Clerk

To choose by ballot, the following Town officers: One Moderator for a three year term; one Selectman for a three year term; one Assessor for a three year term; one Board of Health member for a three year term; one Constable for a three year term; one member of the Housing Authority for a five year term; one Library Trustee for a three year term; two Planning Board members for three year terms; two Recreation Commission members for three year terms; and one Norfolk School Committee member for a three year term.

Town Administrator's Comment

Norfolk's annual election is technically Article 1 of the Town Meeting. The Election is held on May 3th and the remaining articles are considered at Town Meeting on May 10th.

ARTICLE 2

Submitted by the Board of Selectmen

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from any available source of funds, a sum of money to pay unpaid bills of a prior year pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 64; or take any other action relative thereto.

Town Administrator's Comment

This article requests authority to pay a bill from a prior year, as of April 28, 2016, we were not aware of any unpaid bills.

The Advisory Committee recommends indefinite postponement of this article.

After the close of any fiscal year, no bills incurred in that year can be paid without the approval of Town Meeting. We have been advised that there are no such bills to be considered at this Town Meeting, although our recommendation may change if any such bills are received between the time our recommendation was made and Town Meeting.

ARTICLE 3

Submitted by the Board of Selectmen

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from any available source of funds, a sum of money to be added to departmental budgets and appropriations for the fiscal year ending on June 30, 2016; or take any other action relative thereto.

Town Administrator's Comment

This article requests authority for the Town Accountant to transfer funds from an available source, typically free cash or another departmental budget, to a budget line that requires additional funding.

The Advisory Committee will make its recommendation at Town Meeting for this article.

All transfers between budget line items must be approved at Town Meeting. The details of the proposed transfers were still in process at the time of printing. The Town Administrator will present a list of those recommended transfers and additions to the Advisory Committee at our meeting immediately prior Town Meeting.

ARTICLE 4

Submitted by the Town Administrator

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Norfolk Board of Selectmen's Human Resource Policy, Schedule B. COMPENSATION SCHEDULE by applying a general increase of 1.5% to all Steps on the COMPENSATION SCHEDULE effective July 1, 2016; or take any other action relative thereto.

Town Administrator's Comment

This is an annual request that authorizes a Cost of Living Adjustment to the annual salary schedule for non-union personnel.

The Advisory Committee recommends approval of this article.

The 1.5% increase in the Compensation Schedule referenced by this article applies to a small number of Town employees who are not covered by either a union contract or an individual contract. The Advisory Committee has been informed that this proposed increase is comparable to the increases that union and contract employees are scheduled to receive this year.

ARTICLE 5

Submitted by the Board of Selectmen

To see if the Town will vote to fix the salary and compensation of all elected officers of the Town as provided for by Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 41, Section 108; and further to see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate, transfer from any available source of funds, borrow or bond, to defray the departmental and incidental expenses of the Town not otherwise provided for, for the fiscal year commencing on July 1, 2016; or take any other action relative thereto.

Town Administrator's Comment

In this article we seek approval of the next fiscal year budget. The town's budget will be available on www.virtualnorfolk.org on 4/3/16, available at Town Hall and available as a handout at Town Meeting

The Advisory Committee recommends approval of this article.

The proposed budget (non-excluded budget sources) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017 (FY17) reflects a \$1,233,000 increase, or 3.6%, in operating expenses and revenue compared to the budget for the current fiscal year (FY16). The estimates for the sources of the anticipated increase in revenue are:

- 1) \$1,206,000 for real estate taxes, of which \$656,000 is attributable to the increase allowed under Proposition 2 ½, and \$550,000 is expected from new growth in FY17.
- 2) \$62,000 for increases in state aid.
- 3) \$86,000 for other miscellaneous sources, consisting of increases in motor vehicle excise taxes and changes in various other items.

The three items above total \$1,354,000. The difference of \$121,000 is a decrease in the amount of free cash utilized in the FY17 budget as compared to the FY16 budget.

The budget proposes to spend this \$1,233,000 increase as follows:

- 1) \$434,000 for Norfolk Elementary Schools, representing a 4.0% increase. The budget represents a level service budget with most of the increase for contractual staffing costs, additional spending on new state education mandates and other small cost increases.
- 2) \$323,000 for fixed costs, representing a 7.3% increase. The most significant increase was a higher assessment from the Norfolk County Retirement Fund of \$165,000 for our share of employee retirement benefits, as well as increases in various other employee benefit costs and insurance costs.
- 3) \$248,000 for the King Philip Middle and High Schools, representing a 3.2% increase in our assessment. This funding level would result in a level service budget for the King Philip Regional School District for FY17. As always, our actual contribution is contingent upon the funding decisions of Wrentham and Plainville. As was the case last year, it appears unlikely that the other two towns will agree on a higher percentage. Our percentage increase is lower than the actual budget increase for the King Philip due to changes in the required minimum local contribution, as calculated by the State's formula – which benefited the Town this year. State aid (representing about a quarter of the King Philip budget) is up only slightly. The minimum local contribution is an unpredictable variable for each of the three towns, and the effect can be a swing of several hundred thousand dollars in either direction from one year to the next.
- 4) \$190,000 for public safety, representing a 4.2% increase. This primarily represents contractual salary increases and the impact of a mid-year transfer.

- 5) \$38,000 for the remaining departments and activities of the Town, including General Government, Department of Public Works, the Transfer Station, the Library and other departments. Contractual salary increases and other increases in spending have been offset by the removal of one-off or nonrecurring items in FY16 from various line items. In addition, the DPW administers a budget item included in this portion of the summary called "Shared Fixed Services." That budget item includes the Snow and Ice budget which is being held constant this year.
- 6) An additional note on a budget driver for FY17 is that all of the above budgets with personnel-related costs were slightly impacted in a favorable manner in comparison to FY16 due to the removal of the "53rd" week (due to the number of payroll weeks in FY16) in this budget year compared to last year.

ARTICLE 6

Submitted by the Board of Selectmen

To see what sum of money the Town will vote to transfer from Department of Public Works Water Division revenues to fund the Water Division maintenance and operating expenses; or take any other action relative thereto.

Town Administrator's Comment

In this article we seek approval of the next fiscal year budget for the Water Enterprise Fund. The Water budget will be available on www.virtualnorfolk.org on 4/3/16, available at Town Hall and available as a handout at Town Meeting

The Advisory Committee recommends approval of this article.

This budget is voted separately from the main operating budget as the Water Division is its own enterprise fund and its sources of revenue are fees collected from the users of the Town water system.

In this Article the Town would like to transfer the sum of \$1,587,718 from The Department of Public Works Water Division revenues to the Water Enterprise Fund. The purpose of the transfer is to pay the Water Division maintenance and operating expenses for the next fiscal year. This year's budget of \$1,587,718 for the Water Division is about \$10,000 lower than last year's budget (a decrease of 0.6%). This decrease consists of an \$11,000 reduction in expenses, a \$7,000 increase in salaries and a \$6,000 decrease in debt service. Of the total budget, about \$500,000 is debt service, and the rest is operating expenses.

ARTICLE 7

Submitted by the Board of Selectmen

To see what sum of money the Town will vote to transfer from Department of Public Works Sewer Division revenues to fund the Sewer Division maintenance and operating expenses; or take any other action relative thereto.

Town Administrator's Comment

In this article we seek approval of the next fiscal year budget for the Sewer Enterprise Fund. The sewer budget will be available on www.virtualnorfolk.org on 4/3/16, available at Town Hall and available as a handout at Town Meeting

The Advisory Committee recommends approval of this article.

This budget is voted separately from the main operating budget as the Sewer Division is its own enterprise fund and its sources of revenue are fees collected from the users of the Town water system.

In this Article the Town seeks to transfer the sum of \$105,000 from the Sewer Division of the Department of Public Works revenues to the Sewer Enterprise Fund. The purpose of this transfer is to pay the Sewer Division maintenance and operating expenses for the next fiscal year. This year's budget of \$105,000 for the Sewer Division is about \$8,000 higher than last year's budget (an increase of 8.5%). The increase is for some additional maintenance expense for the system.

ARTICLE 8

Submitted by the Finance Director

To see if the Town will vote to rescind the following amount that was authorized to be borrowed, but which is no longer needed for the purpose for which it was initially approved; or take any other action relative thereto:

Date of Vote	Warrant Article	Unissued Amount	Purpose
5/12/2015	#9	\$235,000	Ambulance

Town Administrator's Comment

This article rescinds an authorization to borrow money for a new Ambulance. The Town was able to secure a grant from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for an ambulance, so this funding is no longer necessary.

The Advisory Committee recommends approval of this article.

In this Article the Town seeks to rescind the borrowing authorization of \$235,000 for the purchase of an ambulance. This amount was approved at Town Meeting last May. However, the Town received a grant for this purchase so the borrowing is no longer needed.

ARTICLE 9

Submitted by the King Philip Regional School Committee

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the expenditure of a sum of \$63,182 by the King Philip Regional School District from the District's own funds, being whatever source, including its excess and deficiency fund, as being the Town's share (constituting 34.62 percent) of the total cost of the FY 2017 Capital Plan for repairs to the HVAC systems and security systems, said total cost being approximately \$182,500, at the King Philip Middle School and King Philip High School within the King Philip Regional school District, of which the Town of Norfolk is a

member, said amount to be expended at the direction of the King Philip Regional School District School Committee; or take any other action relative thereto.

Town Administrator's Comment

This article requests Town Meeting to give authority to the King Philip Regional School District to spend \$182,500 from their available funds for Capital Projects

The Advisory Committee recommends approval of this article.

This article is for approval of capital spending by the King Philip Regional School District. The amount of \$63,182 is Norfolk's share of their FY 2017 capital plan. This amount will not require any additional spending by the Town as it will be funded out of the E&D balance of King Philip. All spending from E&D (the regional school district's equivalent of Free Cash) requires approval by the three member towns.

ARTICLE 10

Submitted by the Board of Selectmen

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from any available source of funds, borrow or bond pursuant to any applicable statute a sum of money to fund capital and other expense items; or take any other action relative thereto. (Capital Budget – Debt Funded)

Town Administrator's Comment

This article requests authority to borrow money and use the proceeds to purchase capital items. The list of items, approximately \$350,000 worth, will be available on the town's website, www.virtualnorfolk.org on 5/3/16, as well as at Town Hall and at Town Meeting.

The Advisory Committee recommends approval of this article.

This represents the debt-funded capital plan for the Town. The full list of the proposed items will be presented at Town Meeting. The Advisory Committee recommends approval of the authorization to borrow up to \$350,000 for these projects. The largest project is the urgently needed replacement of the oil tank at the H. Olive Day School. The remaining items are primarily replacement equipment for DPW.

ARTICLE 11

Submitted by the Board of Selectmen

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from any available source of funds, borrow or bond pursuant to any applicable statute a sum of money to fund capital and other expense items; or take any other action relative thereto. (Capital Budget – Debt Funded, Road Projects)

Town Administrator's Comment

The DPW Director has developed a plan using Chapter 90 funds along with several Water Department projects to complete this year's road projects. The Selectmen have requested the Advisory Board to IP this article this year to avoid creating additional debt burden on the Town.

The Advisory Committee recommends indefinite postponement of this article.

There are no additional road projects currently proposed under this article at this time. The Town is working through several projects with the monies received from Chapter 90 road funds. The status of the various projects and budget capacity to add non-exempt debt funded projects will be reviewed either in the fall or next spring.

ARTICLE 12

Submitted by the Board of Selectmen

To see if the Town will vote to appoint any committee, or hear or act on the report of any committee or town officer, or instruct any committee or town officer; or take any other action relative thereto.

Town Administrator's Comment

This article allows for committees to present prepared reports and for participants to ask questions of committee members or Town officials.

No Advisory Committee recommendation is needed for this article.

ARTICLE 13

Submitted by the Board of Selectmen

To see if the Town will vote to accept and authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into contracts for the expenditure of Chapter 90 funds allocated by the Commonwealth for the construction, reconstruction, or improvements of public roads and other improvements within the Town, as requested by the Selectmen, and to authorize the Treasurer to borrow or bond, pursuant to any applicable statute in anticipation of reimbursement; or take any other action relative thereto.

Town Administrator's Comment

This "boiler plate" article authorizes the Selectmen to accept MGL Chapter 90 "Road Funds" from the State and to make improvements and repairs to existing Town roadways with those funds.

The Advisory Committee recommends approval of this article.

This standard article authorizes the Board of Selectmen to use the Chapter 90 funds received from the State (approximately \$390,000 this year) for the maintenance, improvement and construction of Town roads.

ARTICLE 14

Submitted by the Board of Selectmen

To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, §53 E ½, to reauthorize the following revolving funds for Fiscal Year 2017 at the limits set forth below:

Town Administrator's Comment

This article seeks the reauthorization of previously approved revolving funds. Revolving funds that have been set up by prior Town Meetings allow departments to take in specific funds and spend them without additional authorization for the specific purposes defined in the article.

- (1) The revolving fund for the purpose of paying expenses related to the collection of parking ticket violations; said fund to be credited with parking ticket receipts and expended under the direction of the Board of Selectmen (limit \$1,000); or take any other action relative thereto.
- (2) A revolving fund for the purpose of paying the expenses of snow removal, including maintenance and replacement of equipment, from private property to include the King Philip Regional School and subdivision roads as required by the Planning Board rules and regulations; said fund to be credited with receipt of fees charged for this service and expended under the authority and direction of the Board of Selectmen (limit: \$20,000); or take any other action relative thereto.
- (3) A revolving fund for the purpose of paying the expenses of Recreational Field Maintenance, including materials, replacement and rental of equipment and contract labor; said fund to be credited with receipt of fees charged for this service and expended under the authority and direction of the Recreation Commission (limit: \$50,000.); or take any other action relative thereto.
- (4) A Conservation Management Revolving Fund to be credited with monies from timber harvesting on Conservation Land and expended under the direction of the Conservation Commission to develop and oversee management activities and projects on Town-owned conservation land (limit: \$5,000); or take any other action relative thereto.
- (5) A revolving fund to receive wetland hearing application fees to be expended under the direction of the Conservation Commission for payment of legal advertisements for such hearings (limit: \$5,000); or take any other action relative thereto.
- (6) A Planning Board Revolving Fund to receive subdivision performance inspection fees, as established by the Planning Board, to be expended under the direction of the Planning Board for services related to the inspection and approval of subdivisions (limit: \$5,000); or take any other action relative thereto.
- (7) A Planning Board Revolving Fund to receive mitigation funds required by the Planning Board under the Shade Tree Act and Scenic Roads Act, to be expended under the direction of the Planning Board for the purchase and planting of replacement trees (limit: \$10,000), or take any other action relative thereto.
- (8) A Planning Board Revolving Fund to receive mitigation funds required by the Planning Board relative to off-site improvements due to the approval of subdivisions and site plans to be expended under the direction of the Planning Board for such off-site improvements (limit: \$91,000); or take any other action relative thereto.
- (9) A Planning Board Revolving Fund to receive funds required by the Planning Board relative to the cleaning and maintenance of unaccepted subdivision roadways and drainage structures as may be required by the Planning Board for subdivision approvals, to be expended under the direction of the Planning Board for such cleaning and maintenance (limit: \$30,000); or take any other action relative thereto.

(10) A revolving fund for the Board of Assessors to receive funds required by the Board of Assessors for the processing of abutters lists to be expended under the direction of the Board of Assessors for expenditures associated with generating such lists, including the acquisition, operation and maintenance of technologies used for preparing and issuing abutters lists and mapping (limit: \$2,000); or take any other action relative thereto.

(11) A revolving fund for the Board of Library Trustees to receive funds required by the Board of Library Trustees to replace or repair lost or damaged library materials, to be expended under the direction of the Board of Library Trustees to replace or repair such lost or damaged materials (limit: \$7,500); or take any other action relative thereto.

(12) A revolving fund for the Public Library to receive funds remitted for the processing of passports, to be expended under the direction of the Board of Library Trustees for fees and expenses associated with processing of passports and other related purposes deemed appropriate by the Trustees (limit: \$5,000); or take any other action relative thereto.

(13) A revolving fund to be credited with receipts collected from charges to private parties or entities for police details involving the use of a police vehicle at construction sites, to be expended for the express purpose of vehicle replacement within the Police Department, under the authority of the Police Chief of the Town of Norfolk (limit: \$50,000); or take any other action relative thereto.

The Advisory Committee recommends approval of this article.

This is a standard article authorizing the continuation of various revolving funds for the next fiscal year. The individual revolving funds and each's fund limit is unchanged from previous years.

The purpose of these funds is to allow various Town boards and departments to collect revenue from sources such as program fees and mitigation funds and to pay expenses associated with the activities necessary for the collection of those fees. These sources of revenue are often relatively small, unpredictable and variable. As such, they are best handled through a revolving fund rather than through the general fund and the regular budget process. To avoid excess accumulation of funds outside of the regular budget process, balance limits are established on the amounts for each revolving fund. Any amounts received that would cause the fund balance to exceed the limit are added to the general receipts of the Town.

ARTICLE 15

Submitted by the Board of Selectmen

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept any monies received through grants applied for by various Town Departments or Boards; or take any other action relative thereto.

Town Administrator's Comment

In this article we seek authority to accept grants on behalf of the Town and expend those funds in a manner authorized by the grant.

The Advisory Committee recommends approval of this article.

ARTICLE 16

Submitted by the Board of Selectmen

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by gift, purchase or otherwise, such easements as may be necessary for drainage purposes and the laying out of public ways, and to raise and appropriate or transfer from any available source of funds, a sum of money for said purposes; or take any other action relative thereto.

Town Administrator's Comment

When roadways are developed the Town needs to acquire easements on properties surrounding the roadways to maintain conduits, outflows and other drainage equipment. This article allows the Selectmen to acquire those easements, typically at no cost. If funding is required it will be stated in the motion.

The Advisory Committee recommends approval of this article.

ARTICLE 17

Submitted by the Board of Selectmen

To see if the Town will vote to grant the Board of Selectmen permission to sell surplus property of the Town, exclusive of buildings and land, no longer needed by the Town; or take any other action relative thereto.

Town Administrator's Comment

This article seeks authorization to allow the Selectmen to sell, per public procurement laws, surplus property other than land or buildings.

The Advisory Committee recommends approval of this article.

ARTICLE 18

Submitted by the Community Preservation Committee

To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44B, Section 5, to appropriate and transfer the sum of \$20,000 from the annual revenues in the Community Preservation Fund for the purpose of funding the Administrative and Operating Budget for the Community Preservation Committee; or take any other action relative thereto.

Town Administrator's Comment

In this article the Community Preservation Committee seeks authority to spend funds for normal operating costs including salary for their clerical staff and other miscellaneous expense items.

The Advisory Committee recommends approval of this article.

This standard, annual article funds the Community Preservation Committee's (CPC's) administrative and operating budget. This \$20,000 transfer covers routine CPC operating costs and expenses. Any unused amounts are automatically returned to the Community Preservation Fund at the end of the year.

ARTICLE 19

Submitted by the Community Preservation Committee

To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44B, to reserve a sum of money equal to the state-mandated minimum amount of 10% from FY2017 Community Preservation Fund revenues for the future appropriation of Open Space creations, acquisition and preservation; 10% from FY2017 Community Preservation Fund revenues for the future appropriation of Affordable Housing creations, acquisition and support; and 10% from FY2017 Community Preservation Fund revenues for future appropriation towards the acquisition, preservation, rehabilitation and restoration of Historic Resources; or take any other action relative thereto.

Town Administrator’s Comment

This article mirrors State Law and instructs the Town Accountant to reserve 10% of annual revenues for future appropriations, by Town Meeting, for each of the Community Preservation purposes; Open Space, Affordable Housing and Historical Preservation. By doing this, we know that we are spending at least 10% of our CPA funds on each of the three CPA purposes. The remaining 70% of the funds remain in the “Undesignated Reserves” and are available to be appropriated for any of the three purposes.

The Advisory Committee recommends approval of this article.

This standard, annual article reserves funds from the Community Preservation Act revenues equal to the state mandated minimums of 10% for Open Space, 10% for Affordable Housing, and 10% for Historic Resources. The remainder is placed in Undesignated and can be used for any allowable purpose.

ARTICLE 20

Submitted by the Community Preservation Committee

To see if the Town will vote to allocate from the Community Preservation Fund, \$25,000 from the Undesignated Reserves to be transferred to the Norfolk Conservation Fund, to be used exclusively to pay for due diligence expenses related to land acquisition, including but not limited to appraisal fees, wetlands flagging, and legal fees. Said money can only be expended at the request of the Norfolk Community Preservation Committee (CPC), and expended at the direction of the Norfolk CPC, and is subject to the rules of the Community Preservation Act. This money is to be kept separately from any other deposits in the Conservation Fund, and any requests for money by the CPC may not be denied by the Conservation Commission; or take any other action relative thereto.

Town Administrator’s Comment

This article seeks an appropriation of funds from the CPC for the purpose of studying potential land acquisitions and related activities.

The Advisory Committee recommends approval of this article.

This article funds activities to assess and evaluate potential land purchase opportunities. This \$25,000 transfer the Conservation Fund allows due diligence by the Community Preservation Committee when specific opportunities arise (which otherwise would require a vote of town meeting when time may be of the essence). Any unused funds are carried over year-to-year.

ARTICLE 21

Submitted by the Community Preservation Committee

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund, \$28,000 from the Affordable Housing Reserve and \$372,000 from Undesignated Reserves, to be transferred to the Norfolk Affordable Housing Trust Fund, to be used to create affordable housing in the Town of Norfolk; or take any other action relative thereto.

Town Administrator’s Comment

In this article the Community Preservation Committee recommends an appropriation of funds from the CPC fund, to be transferred to the Affordable Housing Trust so the Trustees may continue their work in creating affordable housing opportunities in Norfolk.

The Advisory Committee recommends approval of this article.

This article transfers money from the Community Preservation Fund to the Affordable Housing Trust. This provides general funding for the Trustees to create future affordable housing opportunities rather than any specific property/project. The money has typically been used to purchase and renovate homes to increase our stock of affordable homes in the Town.

ARTICLE 22

Submitted by the Community Preservation Committee

To see if the Town will vote to:

- (a) authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire, by gift, purchase, or eminent domain, a parcel of land containing approximately 18 acres, identified as Assessors Map 2 Lot 3-1, and known as 387 Main Street, for the purposes of open space, passive recreation, and/or active recreation, as such terms are defined in G.L.c. 44B, Section 1, to be within the custody of the Recreation Commission for active recreation purposes, and of the Conservation Commission for open space and passive recreation purposes;
- (b) vote to appropriate and transfer a total of \$277,000 with \$69,000 coming from the Community Preservation Fund Open Space Reserves and \$208,000 from the Undesignated Reserves for said purchase at \$230,000 and any costs and fees incidental thereto up to \$47,000;
- (c) authorize the Board of Selectmen and/or such other boards as may be appropriate to file on behalf of the Town any and all applications for funds in any way connected with the scope of this acquisition, and
- (d) further authorize the Board of Selectmen, Conservation Commission, and/or Recreation Commission to convey restrictions in the portions of the parcels to be acquired by the Town for open space, and passive and active recreational purposes; or take any other action relative thereto.

Town Administrator’s Comment

In this article the Community Preservation Committee recommends an appropriation of funds from the CPC fund, to be used for purchasing land for open space, passive recreation and / or active recreation.

The Advisory Committee recommends approval of this article.

This article authorizes the Board of Selectmen to purchase a parcel of land off of Main Street that abuts Comey's Pond near the Franklin town line. The parcel is approximately 18 acres. Some of the land was formerly used as farmland. This parcel has a number of potential uses, including open space and access to trails around the pond (passive recreation), and has potential for more active recreation uses in the future; including the potential for fields should there be a need.

With an attractive purchase price of \$230,000, the Town has the opportunity to purchase this land below the appraised value. The remaining funds, up to \$47,000, are designated for testing soil samples, some limited signage to mark the end of the property, and expenses for a gate or other way to limit vehicle access to various cart paths on the land.

Passage of this article approves the purchase of the land, but the Town is not obligated to purchase the property if any concerns, such as soil contamination, should become known, although none are anticipated.

ARTICLE 23 **Submitted by the Community Preservation Committee**
To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer from the Community Preservation Fund, Open Space Reserves, \$61,500 for the creation of a combination baseball and softball field to be located at the Freeman Kennedy School complex in conformance with the Town of Norfolk's Athletic Field Master Plan including all associated procurement and construction related costs; or take any other action relative thereto.

Town Administrator's Comment

In this article the Community Preservation Committee recommends an appropriation of funds from the CPC fund, to be used to create a combination baseball and softball field at the Freeman Kennedy School.

The Advisory Committee recommends approval of this article.

This article approves the transfer of \$61,500 from the Open Spaces Reserve of the Community Preservation Fund to build a new combination baseball and softball field at the Freeman Kennedy School. The field will help satisfy significant demand for additional baseball and softball fields and is part of the town's Athletic Field Master Plan.

ARTICLE 24 **Submitted by the Board of Selectmen**
To see if the Town will vote to create a revolving fund for the use of the Board of Selectmen to accept revenue from lot rental fees at the Community Gardens, which shall be used to purchase goods, tools and services, including water resources, for the use of the gardeners at the Community Gardens, with a limit of \$5,000; or take any other action relative thereto.

Town Administrator's Comment

In this article the Selectmen are asking for the creation of a revolving fund for the purpose of operating the community gardens located at Community Gardens (formerly Gumps Farm).

The Advisory Committee recommends approval of this article.

The passage of Article 24 will create a revolving fund, with a limit of \$5,000 for the Board of Selectmen to accept revenue from lot rental fees at the Community Gardens. The funds shall be used to goods, tools, and other services, including water resources, for the use of residents at the Community Gardens.

ARTICLE 25

Submitted by the Board of Assessors

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to negotiate and enter into a Payment In Lieu Of Tax (“PILOT”) Agreement pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59, Section 38H with one or more renewable energy generation companies operating one or more community solar systems, including the installations at 42 Pine Street and 33 Medway Branch; or take any other action relative thereto.

Town Administrator’s Comment

In this article Town Meeting is being asked to allow the Selectmen to negotiate a PILOT agreement with two different companies regarding solar installations. A new installation is being installed on Jofran Inc. (42 Pine Street) and the other is the existing ground mounted installation located at 33 Medway Branch.

The Advisory Committee will make its recommendation at Town Meeting for this article.