

**SPECIAL TOWN MEETING**

**OCTOBER 10, 2018**

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

**ARTICLE 1.** Since the current Fiscal Year 2019 WPCF budget was adopted, the state has required an increase in staffing. Additionally, the cost of solid waste disposal has been higher than anticipated. **See Supplemental handout showing long term trends affecting the WPCF budget**

| Revised Schedule IV, WPCF Budget |                                  |                |                |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Dept.                            |                                  | #9 5/5/18      | Revised        |
| No.                              |                                  | FY19           | FY19           |
|                                  | Water Pollution Control Facility |                |                |
| 440                              | Wages & Expenses                 | 1,314,508      | 1,689,656      |
| 700                              | Debt Service                     | 390,221        | 390,221        |
| 910                              | Employee Benefits                | <u>261,702</u> | <u>265,702</u> |
|                                  | Subtotal WPCF                    | 1,966,431      | 2,345,579      |
| 449                              | WPCF Subsidiary                  |                |                |
|                                  | Wages & Expenses                 | 42,800         | 42,800         |
|                                  | Capital Outlay                   | <u>8,000</u>   | <u>8,000</u>   |
|                                  |                                  | 50,800         | 50,800         |
| Total WPCF                       |                                  | 2,017,231      | 2,396,379      |

**ARTICLE 2** is a housekeeping article to rescind unneeded borrowing authority and the related appropriation balance now that the intended component of the Towns sewer relining project has been completed.

**ARTICLE 3** is a housekeeping article to rescind an article that is no longer needed to construct a 750' driveway on the dioceses undeveloped parcel off Turners Falls Road in exchange for land abutting the town landfill.

**ARTICLE 4** will allow an on premises wine and malt beverages license at 104 Avenue A, Turners Falls (Mystic Pinball).

**ARTICLE 5** will transfer the care, custody, and control of a parcel of land containing 3.192 acres of land, more or less, located on 8 Canal Road and identified on the Town Assessor's Maps as Map 2, Lot 06 to the Selectboard for the purpose of conveyance, and further to authorize the Selectboard to convey all or a portion of said parcel. **See Supplemental handout for lot location.**

**ARTICLE 6** will transfer the care, custody, and control of three parcels of land containing 6.13 acres of land, more or less, located along the Canalside Bike Path from Rastallis Street to Sixth Street and identified on the Town Assessor's Maps as Map 5 Lot 153, Map 6 Lot 358, and Map 3 Lots 82 and 83, to the Selectboard for the purpose of conveyance. **See Supplemental handout for lot location.**

**ARTICLE 7** will appropriate \$3,500 to develop a subdivision plan and preparation of legal documents associated with the conveyance approximately 6.13 acres of land located along the Canalside Bike Path.

**ARTICLE 8** will appropriate \$19,750 from an existing article to be used for a technical review of the proposed plan for capping and installing a solar power generating facility on the burn dump.

**ARTICLE 9** will use the unused insurance funds from the Shea roof repair, which have been closed to Free Cash, to improve "green room" facilities for performers in the Shea Theater. Said improvements to be made by FCTS students. NOTE: All necessary repairs were completed under budget leaving this balance.

**ARTICLE 10** will appropriate \$6,000 to pay for the vacation and sick leave buyout for a retiring employee in the Town Clerk's office.

**ARTICLE 11.** Comcast provides the town with \$12,500 of Public/Education/Government funds annually to provide cable related equipment for MCTV. Town meeting recently accepted the provision of the Municipal Modernization Act that allows these funds to be segregated as Receipts Reserved for Appropriation. It is now also necessary for town meeting to specifically appropriate these funds for use by MCTV.

**ARTICLE 12.** During the Fiscal Year 2019 budget process, the Finance Committee and Selectboard voted to allocate the Kearsarge lease payments to the town, with 50% of the total going to capital purposes and 50% going to operating budgets. Each 50% was further split using the Affordable Assessment allocation of 51.5% to the town and 48.5% to the GMRSD. The intent was to appropriate both pieces of the town's share to the Town Capital Stabilization Fund, but one piece of that was inadvertently left out of the budget process. This article corrects that oversight.

**ARTICLE 13.** This article brings the Town up to date for all borrowing prior to November 7, 2016 and brings these older borrowings in line with the current laws which afford more options to municipalities when bonding (securing long term debt for any previously approved funds that may have been originally short term debt).

Prior to the Municipal Modernization Act implemented on November 7, 2016, any premiums offered on a bond purchase **had** to go into general fund revenue which could not be spent without appropriation from Town Meeting members.

If the debt was excluded the premium had to either be:

1. Reserved for appropriation to offset budgeted debt payments in future years for the loan or
2. Appropriated to pay project costs.

With the changes effective 11/7/2016, the premiums must be used one of two ways:

1. To pay project costs and to reduce the amount of the borrowing authorization by the same amount when the vote to borrow so authorizes or
2. Reserved for appropriation for capital projects for which a loan has been, or may be, authorized for an equal or longer period of time than the loan for which the premiums were received.

If the debt is excluded the premium **MUST** be used to pay project costs and reduce the amount of the borrowing authority. **See supplemental handout**