

TOWN OF WRENTHAM
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

of the

FINANCE COMMITTEE

for the

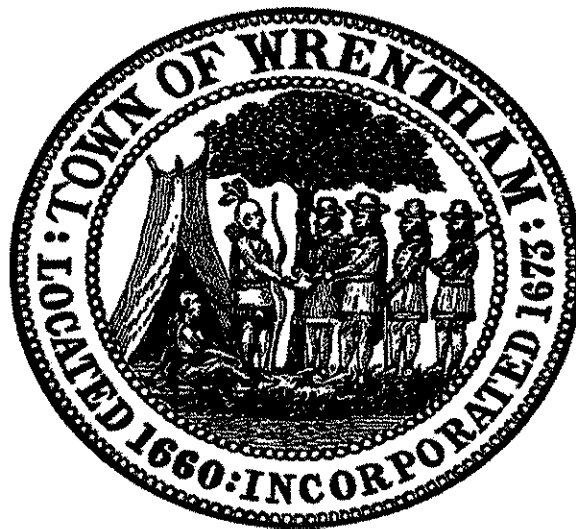
Annual Town Meeting

and

Special Town Meeting

Monday, April 25, 2011

King Philip High School
Wrentham, Massachusetts



This report provides the motions and associated recommendations that the Finance Committee will make for the Annual Town Meeting and the Special Town Meeting conducted on April 25, 2011. The Chart below provides a recap of our motions and recommendations. The details are provided on the pages that follow.

Annual Town Meeting, 25 April 2011

Article	Department	Request	Cost	Free Cash	Other Source	Recommendation
1		Reports				
2	Various	Fix Elected Officials Salary	None			Recommend Table
3	All	FY 2012 Operating Budget	TBD			Recommend Table
4	DPW	Transfer from Water Enterprise Retained Earnings Reserved for Capital to Water Enterprise Operating Budget Capital	\$57,500.00		Transfer	Recommend Table
5	DPW	Accept Chapter 90 Funds	None			Recommend Approval
6	Library	Dispose of Books	None			Recommend Approval
7	Various	Renew Revolving Accounts	None			Recommend Table
8	Finance	Actuarial Analysis of Post Retirement Benefit Liability	\$13,000.00			Recommend Table
9	Pers Board	Amend Personnel By Laws	None			Recommend Table
10		Fund Stabilization				Recommend Table
		ATM Total				

Special Town Meeting

1		Unpaid Bills				
	Police	WEST Payment Center	\$77.37	\$77.37		Recommend Approval
	Finance	IPREO	\$1,000.00		\$1,000.00	Recommend Approval
	Police	Joseph Galvao	\$500.00	\$500.00		Recommend Approval
	Fire	Dr Andrew Geller	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00		Recommend Approval
		Total Unpaid Bills		\$3,077.37	\$1,000.00	
2		FY 11 Supplementals				
	DPW	Snow and Ice	\$331,538.00	\$331,538.00		Recommend Approval
	DPW	Haz Waste Day	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00		Recommend Approval
	Veterans	Benefits	\$7,000.00	\$7,000.00		Recommend Approval
	Fire	Matching Grant	\$3,780.00	\$3,780.00		Recommend Approval
	Assessor	Car Maintenance	\$568.00	\$568.00		Recommend Approval
	Town Clerk	Special Election	\$3,041.00	\$3,041.00		Recommend Approval
	Planning Bd	Transfer Salary to Expenses	\$645.00		Transfer	Recommend Approval
		Total Supplementals		\$355,927.00		
3	Fire	ALS	TBD			Vote to IP
4		Fire and Police Retiree Co Pay	\$1,000.00			Vote to IP
5	Comm	Auxiliary Receiving Station	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00		Recommend Approval
6	Finance	Septic Upgrade Loan Program	\$20,200.00		Transfer	Recommend Approval
7	BOS	Fund Weed Control	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	Free Cash	Recommend Approval
8	BOS	Sell Surplus Materials	None			Recommend Approval
9	Pers Board	Amend Personnel By Laws	None			Vote to IP
10	BOS	Change Date of ATM	None			
11	BOS	Delete Req:mt for Performance Bonds	None			
12	BOS	Adopt MGL Gov't Preference for Procurement of Products and Services	None			
13	BOS	Eminent Domain	None			
		STM Total		\$379,004.37	\$1,000.00	

Free Cash Starting \$637,249.64
 Free Cash Ending \$258,245.27

Town of Wrentham, Massachusetts
Motions and Recommendations of the Finance Committee
Annual Town Meeting
Monday, April 25, 2011

ARTICLE 2:

Move that the Town vote to table articles 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9 and 10.

Discussion: These articles will be taken up when the Annual Town Meeting continues in June. The focal point of these articles is Article 3 which addresses the FY 2011 operating budget that is still being prepared. The other articles are generally tabled in order to ensure consistency with the developing operational budget.

The Finance Committee recommends that the Town vote to approve tabling these articles.

ARTICLE 5: Move that the Town vote to accept and authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into contracts for the expenditure of Chapter 90 funds certified at \$421,111 by the Commonwealth, upon the passage of the Transportation Bond Bill, 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.

Discussion: Each year the state appropriates funds for construction, maintenance and repair of roads in the Commonwealth. The funds are allocated to the cities and towns based on a formula. Over time, these funds have become known as Chapter 90 Funds. Cities and towns are required to appropriate their annual allocation of Chapter 90 funds in order to be able to make use of the money. The appropriation approval that is requested in this article is for the acceptance and use of the Chapter 90 funds for FY2012 in the amount of \$421,111.

The Finance Committee recommends that the Town vote to approve Article 5.

ARTICLE 6: Move that the Town vote to authorize the Library Trustees to dispose of books and materials in the best interest of the Town.

Discussion: This article allows the Trustees of the Library to dispose of excess and/or surplus books and other materials, as necessary to operate efficiently and reduce the demands on available space. The article requires the annual approval of Town Meeting.

The Finance Committee recommends that the Town vote to approve Article 6.

Town of Wrentham, Massachusetts
Motions and Recommendations of the Finance Committee
Special Town Meeting
Monday, April 25, 2011

ARTICLE 1: Move that the Town vote to appropriate the by transfer from unappropriated funds in the treasury the sum of \$3077.37 to pay for Fiscal Year 2010 unpaid bills. Said sum to be distributed as follows:

Payee	Amount	Explanation
WEST Payment Center	77.37	Monthly subscription for law books
Dr Andrew Geller	2,500.00	For EMT training
Joseph Galvao	500.00	For Hazardous Duty pay
And to appropriate by transfer from Water Retained Earnings the following sum to IPREO:	\$1000.00	Bonding for Taunton St water project

Discussion: Unpaid bills are bills for goods and services provided in the previous fiscal year and which were not received by the Town until the current fiscal year. These are normally addressed at the November Special Town Meeting. The bills for the four items cited here were received after the November STM and the town has an obligation to pay them.

The Finance Committee recommends that the Town vote to approve Article 1.

ARTICLE 2: Move that the Town vote to appropriate by transfer from unappropriated funds in the treasury the sum of \$355,927 to supplement the current Fiscal Year 2011 operating budgets and to be distributed as follows:

Expense	Amount	Explanation
To Snow and Ice	\$331,538.00	Historically the Town purposely under funds the Snow & Ice budget and supplements the money as needed at a Town meeting after the winter. This amount will supplement the budgeted \$150,000, bringing the total requirement for this winter to \$481,538.
To DPW Expenses	\$10,000.00	This funds the Hazardous Waste Day to be conducted on May 14.
To Veteran's Agent Expenses	\$7,000.00	Current economic conditions continue to cause an increase in benefits

Expense	Amount	Explanation
		requests. We are obligated to distribute benefits to those qualified and are reimbursed 75% of the outlay by the state.
To Fire Expenses	\$3,780.00	The Town appropriated \$5000 at the Nov 09 STM to support a grant the fire department received for critical equipment. In June 10, only a portion of that funding had been expended and the remainder (\$3,780) was inadvertently closed out to Free Cash. In order to complete the grant obligation requirements, the \$3,780 needs to be reinstated for expenditure.
To Assessor's Expenses	\$568.00	This funds maintenance required for the Assessor's town owned vehicle, an expense not in their budget.
To Town Clerk Expenses	\$3,041.00	This amount is required to augment funding for the May special election for the debt exclusion.
And to transfer from Planning Board Salary to Planning Board Expenses the sum of \$645.00		This is an intradepartmental transfer. No new funding is required, but the transfer from salary to expenses requires approval.

Discussion: The total funding requirement for this article (\$355,927) will be funded from Free Cash (unappropriated funds in the treasury).

The Finance Committee recommends that the Town vote to approve Article 2.

ARTICLE 3: Move that the Town vote to indefinitely postpone action on this article.

Discussion: When our ambulance is unavailable to respond to an emergency in town, we must rely on assistance from other towns via a mutual aid agreement which is then reimbursed. However there are currently no reimbursements due.

The Finance Committee recommends that the Town vote to indefinitely postpone Article 3.

ARTICLE 4: Move that the Town vote to indefinitely postpone action on this article.

Discussion: The Fire and Police Retiree prescription co-pays are a contractually obligated expense that is funded at Town Meeting as needed. Currently, this account is funded adequately to meet projected requirements through next November. No new funding is required at this time.

The Finance Committee recommends that the Town vote to indefinitely postpone Article 4.

ARTICLE 5: Move that the Town vote to appropriate by transfer from unappropriated funds in the treasury the sum of \$5,000.00 to purchase or lease and to install an auxiliary receiving station for Public Safety Communications, to be expended under the direction of the Board of Selectmen.

Discussion: When the communications tower was moved from the Morse property to Rhodes Drive in the west end of town, we lost line of sight to the mall and we have very limited portable talk back at the mall. The funding is for the town to put up a receiver at Knuckup Hill which is the recommendation of the Public Safety Communications Review Committee. The project is expected to cost \$10,000 and we received a donation in the amount of \$5,000 to cover half of the cost.

The Finance Committee recommends that the Town vote to approve Article 5.

ARTICLE 6: Move that the Town vote to transfer \$20,020.00 from the account established under Article 25 of the Special Town Meeting of November 12, 2002 (septic system upgrade loan program) to the General Fund in order to offset the Town's payments to the Massachusetts Water Pollution Abatement Trust (MWPAT) in connection with that program.

Discussion: The Water Pollution Abatement Trust is a septic upgrade loan program that provides a means for homeowners to borrow money from the Commonwealth via the town to upgrade their septic systems. When the homeowner pays the town back, this money must be transferred from the November 2002 Article 25 account to the general fund so that the Town can then repay the MWPAT. No new funding is required for this article.

The Finance Committee recommends that the Town vote to approve Article 6.

ARTICLE 7: Move that the Town vote to appropriate by transfer from unappropriated funds in the treasury the sum of \$15,000.00 to fund the milfoil and tapegrass aquatic weed control program at Lake Pearl. Said sum to be expended under the direction of the Board of Selectman.

Discussion: This funding is required to continue the very successful milfoil and tapegrass aquatic weed control program for Lake Pearl.

The Finance Committee recommends that the Town vote to approve Article 7.

ARTICLE 8: Move that the Town vote to grant the Board of Selectmen permission to sell surplus property or materials of the Town, exclusive of buildings and land, no longer needed by the Town.

Discussion: This is an annual procedural action that requires approval of Town Meeting. This authority is required for actions such as when the town purchases a new police cruiser to replace an older vehicle. The older vehicle becomes surplus and this authority is required to dispose of that vehicle.

The Finance Committee recommends that the Town vote to approve Article 8.

ARTICLE 9: Move that the Town vote to indefinitely postpone action on this article.

Discussion: The Finance Committee has received a set of recommended changes to the Personnel By Law Salary Schedule from the Personnel Board. Our recommendation at this time is to postpone action on these changes and address them in conjunction with the Annual Town Meeting continuation in June so that our recommendations are consistent with other budgetary recommendations that will be put forward at that time. (Article 9 of the ATM addresses Personnel By Law changes and is among the articles tabled until June.)

The Finance Committee recommends that the Town vote to indefinitely postpone Article 9.

