

TOWN OF WRENTHAM  
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

of the

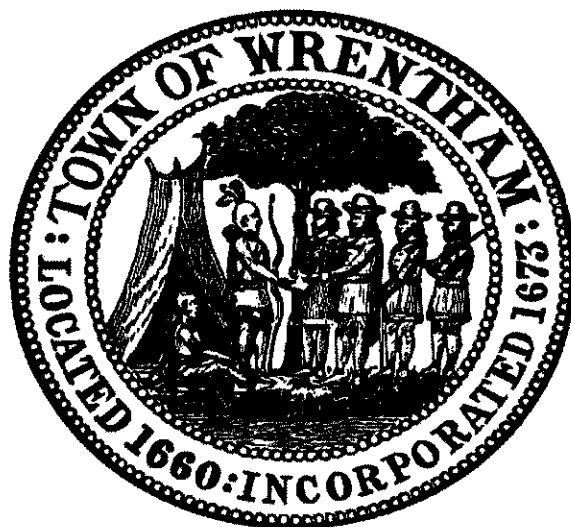
FINANCE COMMITTEE

for the

Special Town Meeting

**Tuesday, March 18, 2014**

King Philip High School  
Wrentham, Massachusetts



Submitted by the Wrentham Finance Committee  
Jerome McGovern, Chair; Andrea Sweed, Secretary;  
Ken Arnold, Marjorie Immonen, Mark Keilen, Arthur Robison, and Kelly Williams,  
Members

**Town of Wrentham, Massachusetts**  
**Motions and Recommendations of the Finance Committee**  
***Special Town Meeting***  
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Articles 2 and 3 seek funding for recently completed collective bargaining agreements between the Town and the Police (Article 2) and the Clerical (Article 3) Unions. The specifics of each are contained below the motions. Per Chapter 150E of the Massachusetts General Law, an appropriation request to fund a collective bargaining agreement must be presented to Town Meeting within 30 days of the agreement.

If approved by Town Meeting, the source of the appropriation will be the Town's Reserve Fund. The Reserve Fund is a budgeted line item approved and appropriated as part of the Town's operating budget at the Annual Town Meeting in June. The Reserve Fund is normally used to address relatively small funding requirements that arise during the fiscal year and cannot wait until the next Town Meeting, or to make some fiscal year-end adjustments that arise after the Annual Town Meeting. Appropriations from the Reserve Fund can be made with approval from both the Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee. However, as this is an appropriation to fund collective agreements, even as a transfer from the Reserve Fund it must be done by Town Meeting.

For this Fiscal Year 2014, the Town Meeting approved a Reserve Fund appropriation that was specifically bumped up to meet union contracts that were not anticipated to be finalized until sometime in the fiscal year. By doing this we would not be reliant on using Free Cash, a non-recurring source, to fund the contracts which would be a recurring use.

The total recommended funding from the Reserve Fund is \$60,911. This leaves \$140,329 in the Reserve Fund for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2014.

**ARTICLE 2:** Move that the Town vote to appropriate by transfer from the Reserve Fund the sum of \$47,678 to Police Department salaries to fund the Wrentham Police Union contract retroactively for Fiscal Years 2013 and 2014.

**Discussion:** The Police Union contract is a one year contract with a 2% raise for FY 2013. The retroactive pay for that year amounts to \$23,253. Negotiations for FY 2014 (and potentially beyond) are ongoing. However, the impact of the increase for FY 2013 has an effect on the current fiscal year (FY 2014) in the amount of \$24,425. This amount was not included in the current budget because it was unknown at the time the budget was approved last June. These two amounts together equal the total sum of \$47,678 sought in the motion.

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

**Article 3:** Move that the Town vote to appropriate by transfer from the Reserve Fund the sum of \$13,093 to fund the Wrentham Clerical Union contract retroactively for Fiscal Year 2014. Said sum to be appropriated as follows:

To Finance Department salaries	\$2,561
To Assessors Department salaries	\$ 854
To Town Clerk salaries	\$ 777
To Fire Department salaries	\$ 854
To Building Department salaries	\$ 576
To Communications Department salaries	\$3,585
To Public Health Nurses salaries	\$1,545
To Library salaries	\$2,341

**Discussion:** The Clerical Union contract is a two year contract starting with Fiscal Year 2014 with a 2% raise for each of the two years. The impact for FY 2014 is \$13,093 above what was approved at Town Meeting last June because there were no raises budgeted for at that time. The motion contains the breakdown of how the requested amount is to be appropriated across eight departments that have clerical union employees.

***The Finance Committee recommends that the Town vote to approve Article 3.***

**Article 4:** Move that the Town vote to appropriate by transfer from the Reserve Fund the sum of \$140 to Insurance and Employee Benefits, said sum to be used for Fire and Police Retiree prescription co-pays.

**Discussion:** This is to replenish a contractually obligated fund. Because the action could have been accomplished via the Reserve Fund, to be consistent we recommend this as the source for Town Meeting as well.

***The Finance Committee recommends that the Town vote to approve Article 4.***