

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Norfolk, ss.

To either of the Constables in the Town of Needham in said County, Greetings:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Needham qualified to vote in elections and in Town affairs to meet at the Newman Elementary School in said Town on

MONDAY, THE EIGHTH DAY OF MAY, 2000

at seven-thirty in the afternoon, then and there to act upon the following articles, viz:

ARTICLE 1: APPROPRIATE FOR HIGH SCHOOL REPAIRS

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,350,000 for extraordinary repairs at the High School, to be spent under the direction of the Permanent Public Building Committee or Municipal Building Maintenance Board, as provided by Town bylaw, and to meet this appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, is authorized to borrow up to \$5,350,000 for a period of up to 20 years for the bonds under G. L. Chapter 44, Section 7 or Chapter 645 of the Acts of 1948 as amended; or take any other action relative thereto.

INSERTED BY: Board of Selectmen

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THAT: Article be Adopted

Article 1 Explanation: An emergency preamble will be requested for this Article to allow a contract to be signed and work to begin this summer. This project has five elements:

High School Parking Lot Rehabilitation (\$635,500): At the 1999 Annual Town Meeting, \$40,000 was appropriated for the engineering design for the rehabilitation of parking lots at the High School. This request is for construction funds for resurfacing the High School north lot, reconstructing the High School south lot, and resurfacing or reconstructing walkways and curbing. An additional 70 spaces will be created as a result of the rehabilitation. Construction is proposed to occur during the summers of 2000 and 2001. This project will be under the direction MBMB.

High School HVAC Improvements (\$3,050,000): The ventilation equipment currently serving the High School art classrooms, certain components of the science lab classrooms, and several administrative areas, is configured with no outside make-up air to ventilation units, and/or does not comply with current ASHRAE (American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Engineers) standards. This triggered the appropriation of \$25,000 at the 1999 Annual Town Meeting for an HVAC System Assessment/Feasibility Study. This appropriation was followed by an additional appropriation of \$225,000 at the November, 1999 Special Town Meeting for design and engineering of HVAC improvements. This request is for the estimated cost of these improvements. This project will be under the direction of the PPBC.

High School Gym and Auditorium Renovation (\$1,474,500): At the 1999, Annual Town Meeting, \$25,000 was appropriated for the Gym design work of this project under the jurisdiction of the Permanent Public Building Committee. Renovations will include replacement of the ceiling damaged during the severe storm of October, 1996, which caused the gym ceiling to collapse and warped the gym floor. While the floor was repaired, the ceiling has not been replaced. In addition, work will entail upgrading the 1950's ventilation system and upgrading lighting that is barely acceptable for the interscholastic varsity sports program. At the 1999, Annual Town Meeting, \$25,000 was appropriated for the Auditorium design work. The High School Auditorium was scheduled for renovation as part of the 1988 building

renovation project at the High School. Due to unanticipated asbestos removal costs, the Auditorium work was dropped from the project. Many of the components of the auditorium have not been modified or upgraded since they were installed in 1930. This request is for funds for renovation to include: refinishing the stage; re-upholstering 586 seats; replacing the stage curtain, door hardware and carpeting; painting the walls and ceiling, updating sound and light systems; and rehabilitating the ventilation system and temperature controls. This project will be under the direction of the PPPC.

High School Phones (\$40,000): Though the telephone system at the High School was upgraded two years ago, handsets were not installed in the classrooms at that time as has been done in the newly upgraded systems at the Eliot, Broadmeadow, Pollard and Hillside Schools. This request is prompted by a need to provide phone access to each classroom for educational and administrative efficiencies and to enhance school-wide safety. The costs are for cabling, phones and their installation. This project will be under the direction of the MBMB.

High School Window Repairs (\$150,000): The window treatments in the Needham High School "C" wing date to 1953. The window treatments in the Needham High School "B", "D" and "E" wings date to 1967. In all cases, the existing window treatments are two-inch venetian blinds. The tapes that hold the blinds together and the pull ropes that operate the blinds are severely worn. Many blinds do not work at all or are missing, which affect classroom curriculum and comfort level. Old blinds will be systematically replaced with clutch driven roller shades at an estimated cost of \$800 per classroom. This program will allow for all window treatments to be replaced. This item was a failing one in the recently completed 10 year High School accreditation.

Town Meeting Actions (7:41 pm 5/10/00 - 8:32 pm)

Disposition

Approved

Amendments

1. Emergency Preamble
Aye
2. Walter remove parking lot money.
Nay

Discussion

Mr. Irwin Silverstein, chairman, School Committee, and Mr. John Connolly, PPBC. In response to accreditation. Parts of job to be directed by MBMB, rest by PPBC.

Mr. John Connolly described PPBC In general. High School HVAC project being worked on for a year, Design done since November. Gym and auditorium projects in parallel. Expected bids by now. Gym and auditorium bids ready for acceptance. HVAC bid too high; will do HVAC for only gym and auditorium plus "A" building. Rebid in fall for next summer. A better time for good price. Don't know if more funds will be needed later.

Mr. Michael Crawford, Finance Committee. Support the project and the revised plan.

Mr. Julio Ferrulo. Questions bid size. Connolly answers contractors busy and we were asking late.

Mr. Marvin Walter. Hard to support parking lot as an accreditation issue. Moves to strike it. 1/3 of the size of the whole town road budget.

Mr. Daniel Matthews. Selectmen considered doing this. But it is a redesign for safety. Can't use this bonding authority for something else.

Mr. Robert Larsen. Worries that this kind of overrun could happen in elementary school projects. Asks Finance Committee. Answer by Mr. Milligan. Must plan carefully.

Mr. Jerry Browne. Do we have the ability to do anything to this. Mr. Fee. Town Meeting has spending authority. Mr. David Tobin, town counsel. Would this amendment affect bond counsel? Don't know.

Mr. Connolly. PPBC trying to avoid Mr. Larsen's problem.

Mr. Goldberg. Will parking money lot be deleted in that amendment? Moderator yes.

Mr. Paul Denver. Chairman, School Committee. Were told by accreditation in no uncertain terms that certain work, including parking lot, must be done.

Mr. Morrison. When HVAC? Answer. Summer 2001. He used to work in occupied buildings as a contractor. Policy needs to be reevaluated. Costs time and money.

Mr. J. H. Powers. Would be a mistake to micromanage.

Mr. George Tarallo. Why reducing number of playing fields?

Ms. Meredith Page. Supports PPBC's plan and parking lot work.

ARTICLE 2: APPROPRIATE FOR MEMORIAL PARK FIELD HOUSE ADA IMPROVEMENTS

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$90,000 for the modifications needed at Memorial Park for ADA compliance, to be spent under the direction of the Municipal Building Maintenance Board and raised from the tax levy; or take any other action relative thereto.

INSERTED BY: Board of Selectmen

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THAT: Article be Adopted

Article 2 Explanation: This request will fund the modifications needed to bring the restrooms and snack bar concession area at Memorial Park into compliance with the requirements of the Americans for Disabilities Act (ADA). The development of design specifications was funded at the 1999 Annual Town Meeting.

Town Meeting Actions (5/10/00 8:32 pm - 8:38 pm)

Disposition

Approved

Discussion

Mr. Jerry Wasserman. Selectmen. Bids in. More to it than bathrooms and a window because of ADA.

Mr. Ford Peckham. Finance Committee supports. De facto exclusion of handicapped.

Mr. Ron Romeo. Second floor. Answer. No public meetings on that floor.

Mr. Bill Dermody. Meetings that might occur there are prepared to happen downstairs.

ARTICLE 3: APPROPRIATE FOR SCHOOL FLOOR REPLACEMENT

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$75,000 to replace flooring in school buildings, to be spent under the direction of the direction of the Municipal Building Maintenance Board and raised from the tax levy; or take any other action relative thereto.

INSERTED BY: Board of Selectmen

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THAT: Recommendation to be made at Town Meeting

Article 3 Explanation: This request is for the second year of a multi-year plan to systematically address the need to replace asbestos flooring in school buildings. In most cases, the worn flooring is comprised of asbestos, or carpeting glued directly to tiles that contain asbestos. In all cases, the asbestos floor tile is a minimum of 30 years old and would be due for replacement even if it did not contain asbestos. The cost of removing asbestos tile, or carpeting resting on asbestos tile, and replacing it with vinyl is estimated at \$4,000 for the average sized classroom. At an annual appropriation of \$60,000 it is estimated that it will take 20 years to remove and replace all asbestos flooring in Needham classrooms. This effort will be directed toward those schools not slated for renovation work in the near future, or for emergency repair areas.

Town Meeting Actions (5/10/00 8:38 pm - 8:40 pm)

Disposition

Approved

Discussion

Ms. Colleen Schaller. Selectmen. Asbestos tile removal.

Mr. Crawford. Finance Committee. Not a health and safety issue until work done, then special venting.

ARTICLE 4: APPROPRIATE FOR INTERIOR PAINTING

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$75,000 for interior painting of town and school buildings, to be spent under the direction of the Municipal Building Maintenance Board and raised from the tax levy; or take any other action relative thereto.

INSERTED BY: Board of Selectmen

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THAT: Recommendation to be made at Town Meeting

Article 4 Explanation: This request, which was deferred in the FY2000 Capital Plan, is for the first year of a multi-year plan to systematically address the need for the maintenance of interior spaces in town and school buildings. The amount appropriated in the annual operating budget of the Municipal Building Maintenance Department has been insufficient to address the total work needed. This has resulted in the deferral of many projects that merit attention. At present, all schools as well as the interior of the Police/Fire Station warrant attention.

Town Meeting Actions (5/10/00 8:40 pm -8:50 pm)

Disposition

Approved as amended

Amendments

1. Schaller. to 35,000.

Aye

Discussion

Ms. Colleen Schaller. Selectmen. Deferred once already.

Mr. Ron Ruth. Unspent reserve funds.

Mr. Michael Goldberg. What more is being deferred. Mr. LaFleur. Some areas removed from High School. Also some would have been at Eliot and Broadmeadow.

Mr. Milligan. Money divided.

Mr. Jeff Kristeller. How many years? LaFleur. Expect some every year.

ARTICLE 5: APPROPRIATE FOR BROOK / CULVERT REPAIRS

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$100,000 for repairs to brooks and culverts, to be spent under the direction of the Board of Selectmen and raised from the tax levy; or take any other action relative thereto.

INSERTED BY: Board of Selectmen

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THAT: Recommendation to be made at Town Meeting

Article 5 Explanation: The severe storms of October, 1996 and June, 1998 resulted in numerous incidents of flooding in residential areas. The flooding conditions were largely the result of blockages of waterways due to the failure of

retaining walls and the clogging of waterways with vegetation and silt. The conditions have occurred due to the lack of manpower for routine maintenance of these waterways. A major effort is now needed to begin to address this problem. This project will be a multi-year effort and will, due to staff limitations, require issuing contracts to clean the waterways and repair retaining walls. The total multi-year cost has yet to be determined but \$100,000 is being requested for FY2001 to initiate the project. The first areas to be addressed will be along Fuller Brook in the Great Plain Avenue, Fuller Brook Avenue and Mackintosh Avenue neighborhoods and the Rosemary Brook Area.

Town Meeting Actions (5/10/00 8:52 pm - 9:12 pm)

Disposition

Approved

Discussion

Mr. William Powers. Selectmen. Similar to Lincoln Street project since it involves flooding. Some neglect of culverts etc. in recent years. Pictures shown. Amount of work for this cost is uncertain. DPW estimated, helped by contractors. Conservation Commission agrees.

Mr. Crawford. Finance Committee. Supports.

Mr. Michael Bond. What are property owners obligations? Remains town's responsibility.

Mr. Everett Hicks. Wellesley does theirs.

Mr. Matthews. New laws make it harder to do.

Ms. Michelle Ardini. High School Students to reduce costs. Powers. Too extensive a job for that kind of labor.

Ms. Cynthia Countourie. Mosquito Control knows how to do this well. Reuihd people to not duly.

Mr. Eric Leskowitz. Reason. Larger houses? Mr. Rick Merson. DPW. Yes.

ARTICLE 6:

APPROPRIATE FOR SIDEWALK RECONSTRUCTION

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriated the sum of \$85,000 for sidewalk repair and resurfacing, to be spent under the direction of the Board of Selectmen and raised from the tax levy; or take any other action relative thereto.

INSERTED BY: Board of Selectmen

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THAT: Article be Adopted

Article 6 Explanation: The School Department's busing policy has resulted in more school age children walking to school. This has placed a greater emphasis on the condition of sidewalks along designated walking routes. As a result of level funding of the operating budget for street and sidewalk maintenance during the last several years, however, little work on sidewalks has been undertaken. Steps to remedy this situation were taken two years ago with the appropriation of \$65,000 at the May, 1998 annual town meeting for the repair of sidewalks on high priority walking routes. Funding for this program was deferred in FY2000. This current request would fund repairs to sidewalks on additional high priority routes, specifically on both sides of Lindbergh Avenue from Paul Revere Road to Manning Street.

Town Meeting Actions (5/10/00 9:35 pm - 9:37 pm)

Disposition

Approved

Discussion

Mr. William Powers. Selectmen.

Mr. Edward Nickles. Finance Committee. Support.

ARTICLE 7:

APPROPRIATE FOR FIRE DEPARTMENT BRUSH TRUCK

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$44,000 to replace the Fire Department Brush Truck/Tank Vehicle, to be spent under the direction of the Board of Selectmen and raised from the tax levy; or take any other action relative thereto.

INSERTED BY: Board of Selectmen

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THAT: Recommendation to be made at Town Meeting

Article 7 Explanation: This vehicle is a pick-up truck used for utility purposes year round. In addition, it has a slide in brush fire unit and serves as the forestry brush fire vehicle. The current pick-up is a 1993 Ford F-350 and will be seven years old at the time of replacement. The current slide-in brush fire unit will be 14 years old at the time of replacement and is unreliable due to age, and wear and tear. It has far exceeded its service, as it has been installed on three pick-up trucks. Estimated replacement cost is \$36,000. Estimated replacement cost of the slide-in brush fire unit is \$8,000.

Town Meeting Actions (5/10/00 9:37 pm - 9:46 pm)

Disposition

Approved as amended

Amendments

1. \$8,000.

Aye

2. remove "truck"

Aye

Discussion

Mr. Jerry Wasserman. Same truck, new pump unit.

Mr. Ford Peckham. Finance Committee. Supports. Don't take big, expensive firetrucks into woods!
This unit will move to a new truck in another year.

Ms. Nancy McCarthy. What is the process for truck replacement in the Fire department?

Mr. Cogswell. Plan being developed.

Ms. Jane Howard. Limit words in amendment.

ARTICLE 8: APPROPRIATE FOR POLICE DEPARTMENT RADIO EQUIPMENT

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$76,000 to purchase portable radios for police department personnel, to be spent under the direction of the Board of Selectmen, and raised from the tax levy; or take any other action relative thereto.

INSERTED BY: Board of Selectmen

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THAT: Article be Adopted

Article 8 Explanation: This request is for 55 portable radios, chargers, batteries (2 per radio) and carrying cases. The Police Chief's goal is to issue a radio to each officer, thereby expanding his/her communication capabilities with the Police Station. Like a service weapon, each officer will be responsible for the use, care and maintenance of this equipment.

Town Meeting Actions (5/10/00 9:46 pm - 10:00 pm)

Disposition

Approved

Discussion

Ms. Colleen Schaller. Selectmen. On job and travel.

Mr. Ford Peckham. Technology has been around for years but we are just getting to it. Safety too. Operate on details. Support.

Mr. Connors. Any ongoing costs? Is new technology better? Chief William Slowe. Good value. Part of a large police radio community.

ARTICLE 9: APPROPRIATE FOR ROAD MAINTENANCE

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$160,000 for road maintenance and repairs, to be spent under the direction of the Department of Public Works and raised from the tax levy; or take any other action relative thereto.

INSERTED BY: Board of Selectmen

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THAT: Article be Adopted

Article 9 Explanation: These funds will be used to address deferred maintenance (crack sealing, stone sealing, asphalt overlay) on a variety of local roads throughout Town.

Town Meeting Actions (5/10/00 10:00 pm- 10:13 pm)

Disposition

Approved

Discussion

Mr. John Cogswell. Selectmen. Minimum \$1 million annually. Roads fail exponentially. Have already lost a cheaper solution since last year on Ardmore, Larkin, and Taylor.

Mr. Paul Smith. Finance Committee. Support.

Mr. George Tarallo. Those 3 Streets are bad.

Mr. Michael Greis. Is there a way of reporting road priorities? Cogswell. yes. List exists.

Mr. Steve Rosenstock. What roads? Don't know which exactly.

Mr. Jeff Kristeller. Gaining or falling behind? Cogswell. Load is immense. Not sure if catching up. Kristeller Suggests bond to save money.

Mr. John Genova. Post road info on internet. Mr. Powers. Asked public to share.

ARTICLE 10: APPROPRIATE FOR WEBSTER STREET UTILITY IMPROVEMENTS

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 for improvements to the water systems in Webster Street, to be spent under the direction of the Board of Selectmen, with \$50,000 raised from the Water Enterprise Fund Retained Earnings; or take any other action relative thereto.

INSERTED BY: Board of Selectmen

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THAT: Article be Adopted

Article 10 Explanation: As part of the planned reconstruction of Webster Street, from Central Avenue to Highland Avenue, the Engineering Division has determined that 48lead, iron, or steel water services should be replaced.

Town Meeting Actions (5/10/00 10:16 pm - 10:16 pm)

Disposition

Approved

Discussion

Mr. John Cogswell. Iron connections from main to shutoff. Before street construction.
Mr. James Masterson. Finance Committee. Support.

ARTICLE 11: AMEND THE FISCAL YEAR 2000 BUDGET

To see if the Town will vote to amend and supercede certain parts of the Fiscal Year 2000 Operating Budget, adopted under Article 19 of the 1999 Annual Town Meeting and amended at the November 15, 1999 Special Town Meeting under Article 8, by deleting the amounts of money appropriated under some of the line items and appropriating new amounts;

<u>Line Item</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Changing From</u>	<u>Changing To</u>
107	Selectmen, Purchase of Service	\$ 148,828	\$ 147,328
108	Selectmen, Expenses	19,370	20,870
211	Reserve Fund	928,596	517,596
401	Police, Salaries	3,450,775	3,454,410
404	Police, Capital Outlay	129,295	125,660
506	Bldg. Maint., Salaries	1,935,899	1,910,899
507	Bldg. Maint., Purchase of Service	1,405,161	1,430,161
605	Veteran's Services, Salaries	42,840	43,055
607	Veteran's Services, Expenses	3,050	2,835
701	Planning, Salaries	106,745	104,745
702	Planning, Purchase of Service	3,160	5,160

Or take any other action relative thereto.

INSERTED BY: Finance Committee

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THAT: Article be Adopted

Town Meeting Actions (5/10/00 10:17 pm - 10:19 pm)**Disposition**

Approved as amended

Amendments

1. Line 211 to **299,596**
Aye

Discussion

Mr. Paul Milligan. Dollar for dollar adjustments. Plus earlier article costs.

ARTICLE 12: AMEND FISCAL YEAR 2000 SOLID WASTE / RECYCLING ENTERPRISE FUND BUDGET

To see if the Town will vote to amend and supersede certain parts of the FY2000 Solid Waste / Recycling Enterprise Fund Budget adopted under Article 22 of the 1999 Annual Town Meeting and amended under Article 11 of the November 15, 1999 Special Town Meeting, by deleting the amounts of money appropriated under some line items and appropriating new amounts; under the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 44 Section 53 ½;

Line Item		Changing From	Changing To
915	Salaries	\$365,603	\$330,603
916	Purchase of Service	675,700	737,000
917	Expenses	97,600	105,100

INSERTED BY: Board of Selectmen

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THAT: Recommendation to be made at Town Meeting

Article 12 Explanation: The decrease in the salary line item is the result of various vacancies during the year. The increase in the purchase of service line item is due to additional tonnage being received at our RTS facility from a commercial customer. The cost of processing this additional waste, however, is offset by the tipping fees paid by this customer. The increase in expenses is to restock our pay-per-throw yellow bags.

Town Meeting Actions (5/10/00 10:20 pm - 10:24 pm)

Disposition

Approved

Discussion

Mr. Jerry Wasserman. Selectmen. General adjustments for end of year.

Mr. Milligan. Explains further.

Hereof fail not and make due return of this Warrant with your doings thereon unto our Town Clerk on or after said day and hour.

Given under our hands at Needham aforesaid this Eleventh day of April 2000.

Daniel P. Matthews, Chairman
John H. Cogswell
Gerald A. Wasserman
William M. Powers
Colleen F. Schaller

Selectmen of Needham

A TRUE COPY

Attest:

Constable:

stm532000a.wpd