

# **Northborough Appropriations Committee Report**

**Northborough Annual Town Meeting  
April 25, 2016**

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The Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Proposed Budget & Capital Improvement Plan is available online at [www.town.northborough.ma.us](http://www.town.northborough.ma.us). In the *On Our Site* column on the left side of the screen, click *Reports and Documents*, scroll down to *Annual Budget Documents*, then click on *FY2017 Proposed Budget*.

Copies are also available for your reference at the entrance to the auditorium, at Town Hall on the table outside the Town Clerk's Office, the Library, and the Senior Center.

# Northborough Appropriations Committee Report

## Annual Town Meeting - April 25, 2016

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The Northborough Appropriations Committee consists of six (6) members appointed by the Town Moderator for three-year terms.

The role of the Appropriations Committee, by statute and charter, is that of advisory to Town Meeting. All articles in the Town Meeting Warrant involving the appropriation or expenditure of money must be considered by the Appropriations Committee. It must recommend approval or disapproval of same, in whole or in part. Immediately after the presentation of such article at Town Meeting, the Committee must report to the Meeting its recommendation of approval or disapproval of such appropriation or expenditure, together with the reasons thereof.

As required by the Charter and Municipal Code and Bylaw of the Town of Northborough, we have made our recommendations on each financial article to you based on the information available to us at the time of our deliberation and may be modified or changed on Town Meeting floor if additional information is forthcoming. Votes on these articles were taken at our open meeting on Thursday, April 7, 2016. Five members were present and voted at this meeting. Town Meeting is the Legislative Body of the Town of Northborough; and the final decision of approval or disapproval of each warrant article is ultimately up to you, the voters.

The Town of Northborough through the efforts of our Town Administrator and his outstanding financial team has once again been awarded the prestigious Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for its annual budget for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2015. The award is given by the Government Finance Officers Association to communities whose budgets meet program criteria as a policy document, as an operations guide, as a financial plan, and a communications device.

The Appropriations Committee encourages all taxpayers to peruse the above-referenced documents. The budget is well documented and all-inclusive. Questions are anticipated, answered and fully explained. It continues to be a marvelous tool with which to work and is of great assistance in expediting the vetting process when we meet with department heads in preparing for our role as advisory to Town Meeting.

Use of Free Cash in the operating budget has been systematically phased down over the past several years from \$700,000 in FY2010, down to \$600,000 in FY2011, and ultimately, reaching the Free Cash policy target amount of \$500,000 in FY2012, where it remains in FY2017. By decreasing the use of free cash to fund operating expenses, the Town has moved to a sound financial policy of appropriating free cash to the Stabilization Fund Reserves if necessary; to fund one-time expenses, i.e., capital projects; and to avoid incurring additional debt. FY2017 marks the sixth implementation of the Town's Free Cash Policy.

In keeping with the Town's Free Cash Policy (*Appendix A, Pages 2-3 FY2016-2017 Proposed Budget and Capital Plan*), the FY2017 budget allocates \$1,813,460 million in pay-as-you go (free cash) capital investment with no additional tax impact. These are non-recurring capital expenditures. In addition, \$500,000 is used to offset the operating budget. Since FY2012, the town has invested \$11.7M in pay-as-you go capital investments with no additional general fund tax impact—\$7.6M in Free Cash and \$4.1M in other funding sources. The FY2017 Proposed Free Cash Plan can be found in *Section 9-2 of the FY2016-2017 Proposed Budget and Capital Plan*. These decisions are made to maintain the integrity of the Town's Financial Policies to minimize tax increases, maintain level services and to provide a sustainability factor, which is critical to protect the Town's ability to finance its services on a continuing basis. As always, any use of Free Cash remains subject to Town Meeting approval and appropriation.

Revenue Assumptions in this budget reflect an increase in tax receipts of 5.15% (\$2.3M): New Growth at \$30M value (\$515,100 in new revenue); Includes Debt Exclusions for Zeh School, Colburn Street, ARHS, Library, Senior Center and Lincoln Street School projects. Free Cash policy target of \$500,000 maintained; Local Receipts increase \$150,000 to \$3.7M and includes the second of eight \$212,000 ARHS settlement payments; and State Aid funded at \$5.07M based on the Governor's Budget released on January 27, 2016 indicating a 1.5% increase in local aid.

Please keep in mind that projected tax impact numbers referenced within this report are **estimates only** and are made independent of any market adjustments to individual property values that the Board of Assessors may make for FY2017. Also, keep in mind that 2016 was a revaluation year. Any such market adjustments would modify the estimated tax impact on individual properties. The actual Tax Rate will be set by the State Department of Revenue in the fall of 2016 using the FY2017 Assessed Valuation for Properties.

At this time, the FY2017 tax impact is **estimated** to be \$272 on the average single family home valued at \$398,960. The Operating Budget impact is \$217; the Lincoln Street Debt impact is \$55 (\$6.8M bond resulting in FY2017 debt service increase of \$469,882). The Lincoln Street Renovation Project was approved at the April 27, 2014 Annual Town Meeting and the debt exclusion passed at the May 12, 2014 Town Election. This estimate is based on current values, and keep in mind that residential values are increasing.

**Health Insurance:** Prior to FY2010, it was common to experience health insurance increases of 8-10% each year, which would consume \$450,000 or more of new revenues. For the period FY2007 to FY2009, the average annual increase was 10.20%. For the period, FY2010 through the proposed FY2017 Budget is just 2.57%. The FY2017 increase is 3.0%. Due to plan design changes, the adoption of Chapter 32B, Section 18 in 2010 and through the efforts of the Town Administrator and the cooperation of Municipal and School bargaining units it was possible to mitigate these costs. However, current market trends seem to indicate a return to higher health insurance increases necessitating additional plan design changes. To this end, the Town has again successfully negotiated modifications with the cooperation of Municipal and School employees to largely mitigate the previously anticipated 7-9% increase in FY2017. As a result, the Town's health benefits remain affordable.

**Key budgets in FY2017 are:** Northborough K-8 Schools reflect an increase of \$768,304 or 3.5% to \$22,719,843; General Government (Town) increases \$680,971 or 3.5% to \$20,137,277; Algonquin Regional High School (ARHS) operating assessment increases \$656,800 or 6.97% to \$10,078,475 due to increased enrollments. The ARHS Debt Assessment is now virtually level at \$661,206 until final payment in FY2027. Assabet Vocational High School combined Operating Assessment and new debt service is an overall decrease of \$2,989: Operating Assessment decreases by \$180,118, or 20.74% to \$688,313 as enrollment of Northborough students declines by 13 students; Debt service associated with the recently completed renovation project increases from \$15,006 to \$192,135.

The FY2017 budget is a balanced budget within the confines of Proposition 2½ as required by statute; maintains core departmental services and missions; protects long-run solvency by addressing unfunded liabilities; invests in equipment, facilities and infrastructure by not deferring capital costs due to the Town's Free Cash Policy; and minimizes the tax impact on residents. This enviable position has evolved through due diligence on the part of the Town Administrator, the Financial Team and Department Heads to reduce expenditures and to identify cost savings wherever possible without cutting services and impacting negatively on employees.

The Financial Team has developed a Financial Trend Monitoring System (FTMS) for the Town, which is updated annually. Its purpose is to analyze key financial indicators in order to assess where the financial direction of the Town appears to be headed in an effort to help local officials better assess and protect the Town of Northborough's overall financial condition. Financial condition is broadly defined as the ability of a Town to maintain existing service levels; withstand local and regional economic disruptions, and meet the demands of natural growth, decline, and change. The aspects of financial condition are: cash solvency, budgetary solvency, long-run solvency and service-level solvency. This document may be found in its entirety in *Appendix C* of the *FY2016-2017 Proposed Budget*.

We are indeed fortunate to have in our employ these dedicated and committed individuals and thank them for their efforts on our behalf. We also wish to thank all departments and committees with whom we interact during this budgetary process – Municipal and School – for without their cooperation and collegiality during the budgetary process, it would not have been possible to affect such a positive outcome.

As always, if you have any questions on our recommendations, we will be pleased to answer them either collectively or individually during debate on any specific article.

Respectfully submitted,

NORTHBOROUGH APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

Elaine L. Kelly, Chair, (2018)  
Richard Nieber, Vice-Chair (2016)  
Robert D'Amico (2016)  
Janice Hight (2017)  
Anthony Poteete (2017)  
Vacant Seat (2018)

Article	Purpose of Article	Committee Vote and Recommendation
☆ NOTE: ALL PROPOSED BUDGET REQUESTS ARE WITHIN THE CONFINES OF PROPOSITION 2½ ☆		
4	<b>Town Budget</b>	Moved by Ms. Hight - Seconded by Mr. Nieber
	<b>\$21,398,468</b>	With all five (5) current members present and voting, the Appropriations Committee unanimously recommends approval of this article.
	<b>Less transfers*      1,508,581</b>	
	<b>Raised by taxation      \$19,889,887</b>	
	<b>*Includes \$500,000 Free Cash</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please refer to Page 13 of the Annual Town Meeting Warrant for the FY2017 General Fund Budget Summary for this article.</li> <li>• Total General Fund Expenditures represent a 4.65% increase, due to an increase in one-time Pay-As-You-Go (<i>Free Cash</i>) Capital Projects, a one-time contribution to the Stabilization Fund, and the new debt service for the voter approved Lincoln Street School project. <b>The one-time Pay-As-You-Go Capital Projects have no direct tax impact and are detailed in the capital section of the warrant.</b> (<i>Annual Town Meeting Warrant, Page 19</i>)</li> <li>• <b>Operating Budget/General Government (Town)</b> reflects an increase of \$680,971 or <b>3.50%</b> and meets Town's objectives for both services and spending control. (<i>Page 14, Calculation of Net Total Town and Calculation of Town Appropriation</i>)</li> <li>• Budget conforms to Town's Financial Policies. (<i>Appendix A, FY2017 Proposed Budget Document</i>)</li> <li>• Department budgets are primarily level service budgeted with no significant changes to current services; and modest revenue projections due to limited State Aid and New Growth.</li> <li>• Appropriations met with the department heads of all significant cost centers (Police, Fire, DPW, etc.).</li> <li>• Phase 2 of the \$14.2M Lincoln Street School Project debt service hits in this budget cycle.</li> </ul>		

5	<b>Water, Sewer &amp; Solid Waste Funds</b>  <b>\$ 4,738,245</b>	Moved by Ms. Hight - Seconded by Mr. Nieber  With all five (5) current members present and voting, the Appropriations Committee unanimously recommends approval of this article.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To be financed from Water, Sewer and Solid Waste Revenues (User Fees).</li> <li>• Operates as an Enterprise Fund.</li> <li>• Property Tax not impacted by Water and Sewer Enterprise Funds.</li> <li>• Solid Waste General Fund Subsidy of \$217,160 to be raised and appropriated by taxation.</li> <li>• Enterprise Fund Detail may be found on Page 15 of Annual Town Meeting Warrant.</li> </ul>		
Article	Purpose of Article	Committee Vote and Recommendation
☆ NOTE: ALL PROPOSED BUDGET REQUESTS ARE WITHIN THE CONFINES OF PROPOSITION 2½ ☆		
6	<b>Northborough K-8 Public Schools</b>  <b>\$22,719,843</b>	Moved by Ms. Hight - Seconded by Mr. D'Amico  With all five (5) current members present and voting, the Appropriations Committee unanimously recommends approval of this article.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Budget increase of \$768,304 or 3.50%.</li> <li>• Superintendent of Schools, Christine Johnson, has presented a reasonable budget while maintaining services.</li> <li>• The Appropriations Committee appreciates the efforts of the Northborough School Committee and the Superintendent of Schools in working in a cooperative and collegial manner with the Northborough Town Administrator and Appropriations Committee to ensure the continued delivery of excellent educational services to our students within the guidelines of the community's budget objectives.</li> <li>• Please reference Superintendent's FY2017 Budget handout for more detail.</li> <li>• Please reference Page 16 in Annual Town Meeting Warrant for FY2017 Public Education Budget Summary (Warrant Articles 6, 7 and 8).</li> <li>• Please reference Section 7, Public Education, in the <i>Proposed Budget &amp; Capital Improvement Plan for Fiscal Year 2016-2017</i></li> </ul>		

7	<b>Northborough-Southborough Regional School District Assessment (Algonquin)</b>  <b>\$ 10,739,681</b>	Moved by Ms. Hight - Seconded by Mr. D'Amico  With all five (5) current members present and voting, the Appropriations Committee unanimously recommends approval of this article.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Operating budget <u>assessment</u> increases \$656,800 or 6.97% to \$10,078,475 due to increased enrollments. As of October 1, 2015, a total of 855 Northborough students attend ARHS. This represents 58.84% of the total 1,458 student enrollment in grades 9-12. The actual budget is only increasing by 3.8%.</li> <li>Superintendent of Schools, Christine Johnson, has presented a reasonable budget while maintaining services</li> <li>Debt budget assessment virtually level at \$661,206 until final payment in FY2027.</li> <li>The Appropriations Committee appreciates the efforts of the Regional School Committee and the Superintendent of Schools in working in a cooperative and collegial manner with the Northborough Town Administrator and Appropriations Committee to ensure the continued delivery of excellent educational services to our students within the guidelines of the community's budget objectives.</li> <li>Please reference the Superintendent's FY2017 Budget handout for more detail.</li> <li>Please reference Page 16 in Warrant for FY2017 Public Education Budget Summary (Warrant Articles 6, 7 and 8).</li> <li>Please reference Section 7, Public Education, in the <i>Proposed Budget &amp; Capital Improvement Plan for FY2016-2017</i>.</li> </ul>		
Article	Purpose of Article	Committee Vote and Recommendation
☆ NOTE: ALL PROPOSED BUDGET REQUESTS ARE WITHIN THE CONFINES OF PROPOSITION 2½ ☆		
8	<b>Assabet Valley Regional Vocational School District Assessment</b>  <b>\$880,448</b>	Moved by Ms. Hight - Seconded by Mr. Poteete  With all five (5) current members present and voting, the Appropriations Committee unanimously recommends approval of this article.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Combined Operating Budget Assessment and new debt service represents an overall decrease of \$2,989 due to a decreased enrollment of Northborough students.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Operating Budget Assessment: \$688,313 -- decrease of \$180,118 or 20.74% -- decrease of 13 students</li> <li>Debt Service Assessment for Building Renovation Project: <u>\$192,135</u> – increase from \$ 15,006 \$880,448</li> </ul> </li> <li>Please reference the Superintendent's FY2017 Budget handout for more detail.</li> <li>Please reference Page 16 in Warrant for FY2017 Public Education Budget Summary (Warrant Articles 6, 7 and 8).</li> <li>Please reference Section 7, Public Education, in the <i>Proposed Budget &amp; Capital Improvement Plan for FY2017</i>.</li> </ul>		



9	<b>Library Grants</b>	<p>Moved by Ms. Hight - Seconded by Mr. Poteete</p> <p>With all five (5) current members present and voting, the Appropriations Committee unanimously recommends approval of this article.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No appropriation or expenditure of Town funds.</li> <li>• Allows Trustees to accept funds available from outside sources.</li> <li>• Must be voted on each year – housekeeping article.</li> </ul>		
10	<b>Authorization for Grant Applications</b>	<p>Moved by Mr. Nieber - Seconded by Mr. Poteete</p> <p>With all five (5) current members present and voting, the Appropriations Committee unanimously recommends approval of this article.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No appropriation or expenditure of Town funds.</li> <li>• Allows application by Town for available federal and/or state grants.</li> <li>• Must be voted on each year – housekeeping article.</li> </ul>		
11	<b>Combine Articles 12-16 for Reauthorization of Revolving Accounts</b>	<p>Moved by Mr. Nieber - Seconded by Mr. Poteete</p> <p>With all five (5) current members present and voting, the Appropriations Committee unanimously recommends approval of this article.</p>
<p>Revolving accounts must be reauthorized annually pursuant to provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 53E½.</p>		

Article	Purpose of Article	Committee Vote and Recommendation
☆ NOTE: ALL PROPOSED BUDGET REQUESTS ARE WITHIN THE CONFINES OF PROPOSITION 2½ ☆		
<b>12-16</b>	<b>Revolving Accounts Combined under Article 11</b>	<p>Moved by Mr. Nieber - Seconded by Ms. Hight</p> <p>With all five (5) current members present and voting, the Appropriations Committee unanimously recommends approval of this article.</p>
All Revolving Accounts authorized under vote on Article 11 for Northborough Fire Department, Animal Control, Community Affairs Committee, Family & Youth Services, Council on Aging.		
<b>17</b>	<b>Appropriations Committee Reserve Fund</b>  <b>\$175,000</b>	<p>Moved by Mr. Nieber - Seconded by Mr. Poteete</p> <p>With all five (5) current members present and voting, the Appropriations Committee unanimously recommends approval of this article.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides Town and K-8 Schools operations with an option for funding of extraordinary or unforeseen expenditures during the year.</li> <li>Most recently, this fund has been used to offset the deficit in the DPW Snow &amp; Ice Account.</li> <li>Unexpended funds remaining in this account at the end of the fiscal year revert to Free Cash.</li> <li>Authorized by state statute, Chapter 40, Section 6.</li> <li>Transfers from this account require Appropriations Committee approval.</li> <li>No impact on tax rate. Appropriated from Free Cash under the Town's Free Cash Policy.</li> </ul>		

Article	Purpose of Article	Committee Vote and Recommendation
☆ NOTE: ALL PROPOSED BUDGET REQUESTS ARE WITHIN THE CONFINES OF PROPOSITION 2½ ☆		
<b>18</b>	<b>Stabilization Fund Contribution</b>  <b>\$200,000</b>	<p>Moved by Mr. D'Amico - Seconded by Mr. Poteete</p> <p>With all five (5) current members present and voting, the Appropriations Committee unanimously recommends approval of this article.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Also referred to as a “rainy day” fund, the stabilization fund is designed to accumulate amounts for capital and other future spending purposes, although it may be appropriated for any lawful purpose (MGL, Ch. 40 §5B).</li> <li>Communities may establish one or more stabilization funds for different purposes and may appropriate into them in any year an amount not to exceed ten percent of the prior year’s tax levy. The total of all stabilization fund balances shall not exceed ten percent of the community’s equalized value, and any interest shall be added to and become a part of the funds. A two-thirds vote of town meeting or city council is required to establish, amend the purpose of, or appropriate money from the stabilization fund.</li> <li>Until fiscal 1992, stabilization funds could be used only to finance capital expenditures for which a community could borrow. As stated above, the funds <b>may now be used for</b> “any lawful municipal purpose,” enabling communities to use the funds for general operating expenses if needed.</li> <li>The Town has been unable to make a contribution to the Stabilization Fund since FY2008; however in FY2016 the contribution to this fund was restored. Future contributions to this account will require a yearly review of the Town’s financial position.</li> <li>Please refer to Appendix B, pages 9 and 10 of the FY2016-2017 Proposed Budget Document for additional information regarding the level of reserves.</li> </ul>		
<b>19</b>	<b>Lincoln Street School Bond Premium Appropriation</b>  <b>\$664,000</b>	<p>Moved by Mr. D'Amico - Seconded by Mr. Poteete</p> <p>With all five (5) current members present and voting, the Appropriations Committee unanimously recommends approval of this article.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To provide for the second and final permanent bonding for the Lincoln Street School addition/renovation project.</li> <li>The total amount financed for the Town’s share of the \$25.5M project was \$14.2M which added approximately \$1.14M in total debt service over FY2016 and FY2017.</li> </ul>		

20	PEG Access and Cable Related Fund	<p>Moved by Mr. D'Amico - Seconded by Mr. Poteete</p> <p>With all five (5) current members present and voting, the Appropriations Committee unanimously recommends approval of this article.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No appropriation required. Vote is to accept the provisions of MGL, Chapter 44, Section 53F <sup>3/4</sup> only.</li> <li>• PEG is an acronym for Public, Education, and Government.</li> <li>• Establishes a separate revenue fund to reserve cable franchise fees and other cable-related revenues for appropriation to support Public, Education, and Government access services and oversight of the cable franchise agreement.</li> </ul>		
21	<p>CIP: Police – Police Cruiser Replacement</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>\$85,000</b></p>	<p>Moved by Mr. D'Amico - Seconded by Mr. Poteete</p> <p>With all five (5) current members present and voting, the Appropriations Committee unanimously recommends approval of this article.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Replaces a 2011 Ford Crown Victoria and a 2012 Ford Expedition.</li> <li>• No impact to tax rate. Funded from Free Cash.</li> <li>• Concur with Financial Planning Committee recommendation, Page 23, Annual Town Meeting Warrant.</li> </ul>		
22	<p>CIP: Police – Police Station Roof</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>\$90,000</b></p>	<p>Moved by Mr. Poteete - Seconded by Ms. Hight</p> <p>With all five (5) current members present and voting, the Appropriations Committee unanimously recommends approval of this article.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Replaces a 1989 original roof.</li> <li>• No impact to tax rate. Funded from free cash.</li> <li>• Concur with Financial Planning Committee recommendation, Page 23, Annual Town Meeting Warrant.</li> </ul>		

Article	Purpose of Article	Committee Vote and Recommendation
☆ NOTE: ALL PROPOSED BUDGET REQUESTS ARE WITHIN THE CONFINES OF PROPOSITION 2½ ☆		
23	<b>CIP: DPW – Church Street Culvert Replacement</b>  <b>\$2,000,000</b>	Moved by Mr. Poteete - Seconded by Ms. Hight  With all five (5) current members present and voting, the Appropriations Committee unanimously recommends approval of this article.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Located over Cold Harbor Brook which provides a critical link between major routes such as Route 20 to the south and I-290 to the north.</li> <li>• Current structure is in fair condition, but is failing; granite support under the sidewalk has severely cracked and has been temporarily braced pending construction.</li> <li>• Project also includes the widening of this portion of Church Street to accommodate an extra traffic lane approaching the Route 20 intersection.</li> <li>• Funding for this project will be provided as follows: (1) \$943,460 transfer from Free Cash; (2) \$ 29,540 transfer from unexpended bond proceeds in accordance with MGL Chapter 4, Section 20; (3) \$1,027,000 to be raised by borrowing in accordance with provisions of MGL, Chapter 4, Section 7(4) or any other enabling authority, and the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen be authorized to issue bonds or notes therefor,</li> <li>• Concur with Financial Planning Committee recommendation, Page 23, Annual Town Meeting Warrant.</li> </ul>		
24	<b>CIP: DPW – Six-Wheel Dump Truck with Spreader &amp; Plow</b>  <b>\$215,000</b>	Moved by Mr. Poteete - Seconded by Mr. Nieber  With all five (5) current members present and voting, the Appropriations Committee unanimously recommends approval of this article.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Replaces a 1997 International truck with a dump truck with a plow and spreader.</li> <li>• The existing 1997 vehicle has surpassed its useful life expectancy of about 15 to 20 years.</li> <li>• Funded from free cash - no impact to tax rate.</li> <li>• Concur with Financial Planning Committee recommendation, Page 23, Annual Town Meeting Warrant.</li> </ul>		
25	<b>CIP: DPW – Sidewalk Machine</b>  <b>\$180,000</b>	Moved by Mr. Poteete - Seconded by Ms. Hight  With all five (5) current members present and voting, the Appropriations Committee unanimously recommends approval of this article.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Replacement of 2002 sidewalk machine to supplement the Town's newer 2012 sidewalk machine</li> <li>• Concur with Financial Planning Committee recommendation, Page 24, Annual Town Meeting Warrant.</li> </ul>		

Article	Purpose of Article	Committee Vote and Recommendation
☆ NOTE: ALL PROPOSED BUDGET REQUESTS ARE WITHIN THE CONFINES OF PROPOSITION 2½ ☆		
<b>26</b>	<b>CIP: DPW – Road Improvements and Maintenance</b>  <b>\$300,000</b>	<p>Moved by Mr. Poteete - Seconded by Mr. Nieber</p> <p>With all five (5) current members present and voting, the Appropriations Committee unanimously recommends approval of this article.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Town completed a comprehensive Pavement Management study in 2013 to assess the condition of the Town's roadways. The result of the study showed that the overall pavement condition index (PCI) score is 71 out of 100 and concluded that the Town needs to invest at least \$1.1M annually to prevent the overall PCI from declining,</li> <li>• Funding for roadway improvements include combining two components: State Chapter 90 transportation funds and local funding. During FY2016, Chapter 90 funds were increased to approximately \$800,000 which combined with the DPW appropriation of \$300,000 to provide the minimum requisite funding.</li> <li>• In FY2017, however, Chapter 90 funds were reduced to approximately \$500,000 and resulted in a deficit in the minimum requisite funding.</li> <li>• If this request is approved, Free Cash will be used to maintain the plan at \$1.1M while the Town continues to lobby the State for increased future Chapter 90 funding,</li> <li>• No additional tax impact.</li> <li>• Concur with Financial Planning Committee recommendation, Page 23, Annual Town Meeting Warrant.</li> </ul>		
<b>27</b>	<b>CIP: Sewer – Inflow &amp; Infiltration (I&amp;I) Study</b>  <b>\$500,000</b>	<p>Moved by Ms. Hight - Seconded by Mr. Nieber</p> <p>With all five (5) current members present and voting, the Appropriations Committee unanimously recommends approval of this article.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inflow is from flowing stormwater and runoff making its way into manhole covers and grates.</li> <li>• Infiltration is the seeping of groundwater into the system through pipe connections, cracks in the manholes or other small openings in the system below grade.</li> <li>• This request would fund a mandated comprehensive study and implement a detailed Operations and Maintenance Plan to mitigate inflow and infiltration into the Town's sanitary sewer system,</li> <li>• Funded from Sewer Enterprise Fund debt service.</li> <li>• Concur with Financial Planning Committee recommendation, Page 24, Annual Town Meeting Warrant.</li> </ul>		

Article	Purpose of Article	Committee Vote and Recommendation
☆ NOTE: ALL PROPOSED BUDGET REQUESTS ARE WITHIN THE CONFINES OF PROPOSITION 2½ ☆		
28	<b>(CIP): Water – Water Gate Valve Maintenance Trailer</b>  <b>\$75,000</b>	<p>Moved by Ms. Hight - Seconded by Mr. Nieber</p> <p>With all five (5) current members present and voting, the Appropriations Committee unanimously recommends approval of this article.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Satisfies a mandate by the State DEP to perform and annual gate valve exercise program throughout Town.</li> <li>Funded from Water Enterprise Fund</li> <li>Concur with Financial Planning Committee recommendation, Page 24, Annual Town Meeting Warrant.</li> </ul>		
29	<b>(CIP): Water/Sewer – One Ton Dump Truck with Plow</b>  <b>\$95,000</b>	<p>Moved by Ms. Hight - Seconded by Mr. Nieber</p> <p>With all five (5) current members present and voting, the Appropriations Committee unanimously recommends approval of this article.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Replacement of 2006 dump truck.</li> <li>Funding: \$57,000 from Water Enterprise Free Cash; \$38,000 from Sewer Enterprise Free Cash.</li> <li>One-ton dump trucks are the most used equipment in the fleet. Useful life of these vehicles is 10 to 12 years</li> <li>Concur with Financial Planning Committee recommendation, Page 24, Annual Town Meeting Warrant.</li> </ul>		
30	<b>250<sup>th</sup> Town Celebration</b>  <b>\$20,000</b>	<p>Moved by Ms. Hight - Seconded by Mr. Nieber</p> <p>With all five (5) current members present and voting, the Appropriations Committee unanimously recommends approval of this article.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Free Cash funds for the Town's 250<sup>th</sup> Town Celebration.</li> <li>One time revenues and not part of recurring operating budget.</li> </ul>		

31	<b>Open Space – Transfer of Town Owned Land to Conservation Committee</b>	<p>Moved by Ms. Hight - Seconded by Mr. Nieber</p> <p>With all five (5) current members present and voting, the Appropriations Committee unanimously recommends approval of this article.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protection of the identified parcels from development</li> <li>• Add to acreage of existing Edmund Hill Woods conservation land.</li> <li>• Remedy encroachment of Senior Center onto conservation land.</li> </ul>		
32	<b>Municipal Aggregation</b>	<p>Moved by Ms. Hight - Seconded by Mr. Nieber</p> <p>With all five (5) current members present and voting, the Appropriations Committee unanimously recommends approval of this article.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Authorizes Town to enter into aggregation program whereby Town buys electric power on behalf of those living within its boundaries at discounted rate; thereby passing savings on to its residents.</li> <li>• Program participation not required; residents may “opt out” at their discretion.</li> </ul>		
33	<b>Consolidate Personnel Bylaw</b>	No Vote Required by Appropriations Committee
34	<b>Election – Date of Annual Town Election</b>	No Vote Required by Appropriations Committee



Articles 35-42 are Community Preservation (CPA) articles totaling \$3,112,700 in CPA allocations. Each article represents an allowable spending purpose under the Community Preservation Act enacted in 2000 and adopted by ballot vote in Northborough in November 2004 at a surcharge of 1.5%. The first \$100,000 of a residential property's assessed value is exempt from the surcharge.		
<b>35</b>	<b>Community Preservation Fund – Historical Site Signage</b>  <b>\$4,900</b>	<p>Moved by Mr. Nieber - Seconded by Ms. Hight</p> <p>With all five (5) current members present and voting, the Appropriations Committee unanimously recommends approval of this article.</p>
<b>36</b>	<b>Community Preservation Fund – Old Brigham Street Survey</b>  <b>\$2,000</b>	<p>Moved by Mr. Nieber - Seconded by Ms. Hight</p> <p>With all five (5) current members present and voting, the Appropriations Committee unanimously recommends approval of this article.</p>
<b>37</b>	<b>Community Preservation Fund – First Parish Unitarian Church</b>  <b>\$54,000</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moved by Mr. Nieber - Seconded by Ms. Hight</li> <li>• Mr. Poteete recused himself from discussion and voting.</li> <li>• With five (5) current members present and four (4) voting, the Appropriations Committee unanimously recommends approval of this article.</li> </ul>
<b>38</b>	<b>Community Preservation Fund – Transfer to NAHC (Northborough Affordable Housing)</b>  <b>\$100,000</b>	<p>Moved by Mr. Nieber - Seconded by Ms. Hight</p> <p>With all five (5) current members present and voting, the Appropriations Committee unanimously recommends approval of this article.</p>
<b>39</b>	<b>Community Preservation Fund – Green Street Debt Service</b>  <b>\$46,800</b>	<p>Moved by Mr. Nieber - Seconded by Ms. Hight</p> <p>With all five (5) current members present and voting, the Appropriations Committee unanimously recommends approval of this article.</p>
<b>40</b>	<b>Community Preservation Fund – Town Common</b>  <b>\$480,000</b>	<p>Moved by Mr. D'Amico - Seconded by Mr. Poteete</p> <p>With all five (5) current members present and voting, the Appropriations Committee unanimously recommends approval of this article</p>

<b>41</b>	<b>Community Preservation Fund – CPA Administration</b> <b>\$25,000</b>	<p>Moved by Mr. D’Amico - Seconded by Mr. Poteete</p> <p>With all five (5) current members present and voting, the Appropriations Committee unanimously recommends approval of this article</p>
<b>42</b>	<b>Community Preservation Fund – White Cliffs Mansion</b> <b>\$2,400,000</b>	No Recommendation at this time. The Committee is awaiting additional information
<b>43</b>	<b>Reports</b>	