

FIRST DRAFT



Natick Finance Committee

Pursuant to Chapter 40, Section 3 of the Town of Natick By-Laws, I attest that the attached copy is the approved copy of the minutes for the following Meeting:

Town of Natick Finance Committee

Meeting Date: March 25, 2021

The minutes were approved through the following action:

Motion: XXXX
Made by: xxxx
Seconded by: xxxx
Vote: x - x - x
Date: <date>, 2021

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Evans

Clerk

Natick Finance Committee



TOWN OF NATICK

Meeting Notice

POSTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF M.G.L. CHAPTER 30A, Sections 18-25

Natick Finance Committee

PLACE OF MEETING

Virtual Meeting accessed via Zoom:
ps://us02web.zoom.us/j/81404627596
Meeting ID: 814 0462 7596 Passcode:
715717 One tap mobile
+19292056099,,81404627596# US
(New York) Dial by your location +1
929 205 6099 US (New York)

DAY, DATE AND TIME

March 25, 2021
at 7:00 PM

Notice to the Public: 1) Finance Committee meetings may be broadcast/recorded by Natick Pegasus. 2) The meeting is an open public meeting and interested parties can attend the meeting. 3) Those seeking to make public comments (for topics not on the agenda or for specific agenda items) are requested to submit their comments in advance, by 2:00 PM on the day of the meeting, to the Chair: phayes.fincom@natickma.org. Comments will be posted on NovusAgenda and read aloud for the proper agenda item. Please keep comments to 350-400 words. 4) The Chat function on Zoom Conferencing will be disabled.

Posted: Tuesday March 23, 2021 4:15 PM

Revised and Posted: Wednesday March 24, 2021 12:35 PM

MEETING AGENDA

1. **Call to Order**
 - a. Pledge of Allegiance & Moment of Silence
 - b. Advisement of Pegasus Live Broadcast and Recording for On-Demand Viewing
 - c. Review of Meeting Agenda and Ordering of Items
2. **Announcements**
3. **Public Comments**
 - a. [Committee policy & procedures available via this link and also at the meeting location](#)
4. **Meeting Minutes:** Review & Approve Meeting Minutes for March 18, 2021 and March 23, 2021
5. **Old Business:**
 - a. [Possible reconsideration of Article 22 Home Rule Petition: Authorization to Issue 3 Wine and Malt Beverages Licenses](#)
6. **Town Administrator's FY2022 Budget - Public Hearing**
 - a. [Budget Update](#)
 - b. [Forecast Update](#)
7. **2021 Spring Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles - Public Hearing**
 - a. [Article 3 Elected Officials Salary](#)
 - b. [Article 5 Collective Bargaining](#)
 - c. [Article 6 Fiscal 2021 Omnibus Budget](#)
 - d. [Article 8 Fiscal 2021 Morse Institute Library Budget](#)
 - e. [Article 9 Fiscal 2022 Morse Institute Library Budget](#)
 - f. [Article 10 Fiscal 2021 Bacon Free Library](#)
 - g. [Article 11 Fiscal 2022 Bacon Free Library](#)
 - h. [Article 12 School Bus Transportation Subsidy](#)
 - i. [Article 16 Capital Equipment](#)
 - j. [Article 17 Capital Improvement](#)
 - k. [Article 18 Appropriate Contingency Funds for Phase 2 of the West Natick Fire Station Building Project](#)
 - l. [Article 20 PEG Access and Cable Related Fund Appropriation or Transfer of Funds](#)
 - m. [Article 29 Amend Zoning By-Laws: Adult Use Marijuana Establishments](#)
8. **Committee and Subcommittee Scheduling and Process**
 - a. [Update on upcoming Committee and Subcommittee meetings](#)
 - b. [Subcommittee Updates](#)
9. **Committee Discussion (for items not on the agenda)**
10. **Adjourn**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dirk Coburn, Member
Cathy Coughlin, Member
Linda Wollschlager, Chairperson
Jeff DeLuca, Member
Bruce Evans, Clerk
Bill Grome, Member
Todd Gillenwater, Vice-Chairman
Julien LaFleur, Member
Mike Linehan, Member
Richard Pope, Member
Phil Rooney, Member
Jim Scurlock, Member

MEMBERS ABSENT:

David Coffey, Member
Jerry Pierce, Member
Chris Resmini, Member

Town Administration

Mr. James Errickson, Deputy Town Administrator - Operations
Mr. John Townsend, Deputy Town Administrator – Finance
Ms. Juiling de los Reyes, Assistant Director, Finance
Ms. Diane Packer, Town Clerk
Mr. Jeremy Marsette, DPW Director

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Linda Wollschlager, Chairperson.

Announcements

Ms. Packer reminded listeners that the annual town election is next Tuesday, March 30th. The polls will be open from 7am to 8pm and all of the polls will be open. Precincts 1, 2, & 3 vote in the High School gym, Precincts 4 & 5 are at Wilson School, Precinct 6 is at Lilja School, Precincts 7, 9, & 10 are at the Community Senior Center, and Precinct 8 is at the Morse Institute Library. It is too late to get a ballot by mail - the deadline for applications closed yesterday at five o'clock.

Mr. Linehan moved to open the public hearing on the Town Administrator's FY 22 budget and the 2021 Spring Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles, seconded by Mr. Grome, voted 12 – 0 – 0.

Roll-call vote:

Mr. Coburn = yes	Mr. LaFleur = yes
Ms. Coughlin = yes	Mr. Linehan = yes
Mr. DeLuca = yes	Mr. Pope = yes
Mr. Evans = yes	Mr. Rooney = yes
Mr. Gillenwater = yes	Mr. Scurlock = yes
Mr. Grome = yes	Ms. Wollschlager = yes

Public Comments - None

Article 12 School Bus Transportation Subsidy

Presenter: Dr. Peter Gray, Assistant Superintendent, Finance, NPS

Dr. Gray said this is the standard warrant article that we present each year to Town Meeting. The bus subsidy was established in FY 2006 to help support parents who pay our bus fee. This year's subsidy is \$421,416, the same as in FY 21. While the bus subsidy has always been very important to the school department, it is ever more so this because our buses have not been allowed to go to capacity for various reasons. Therefore, we have not collected the fees that we have in the past.

Questions from the Committee

Mr. Gillenwater noted that it's been past practice or policy that the bus subsidy is the last budget that is spent on bus transportation. However, as recently as last night, it has been suggested that it should be the first budget spent. Dr. Gray said during his tenure here, it's only been a practice, not a policy. At one point, there was a question of whether or not it was embedded within a warrant article or was directed by Town Meeting. We will probably come up with a deficit in the transportation line if we go back to full school, depending on the number of students we have on the buses. In reality most of the three revenues that support transportation (budget, bus fees, & bus subsidy) will be fully expended. The intent from the discussion at last night's Select Board meeting was to give NPS the flexibility to utilize those funds in the appropriate manner. The bus fee revolving account that holds the fees collected from riders is pretty much empty, whatever we collect between now and the opening of school in September will be a pittance of what we usually collect. Normally, we have about 2300 riders and right now we only have about 1800 riders who have registered for the system and there is a lot of uncertainty about what's going to happen. I think the reason that this was mentioned at that meeting is that we anticipate that the money raised from this warrant would be the first we'd like to utilize before we then go to the general fund, and then the bus fees. At this point in time, we'll do it in whatever order that the taxpayers wish, but we would prefer to have some flexibility as we go forward.

Mr. Gillenwater said there is no set policy. Dr. Gray said his understanding is that a couple years ago, it was requested that we research this, so we went to 2006 and follow the trail of the bus subsidy and became aware that there was discussion a couple of years ago about eliminating the bus subsidy and blending it into the general fund and that is something that still should probably be discussed in the future.

Mr. Evans noted that, at the Education Subcommittee, Dr. Gray told us that when the schools closed in the spring, parents whose children weren't graduating as seniors and were planning to come back to school when school reopens were given a credit against what they prepaid in bus fees, so that carries over to the fall decreases the bus fee revenues. Dr. Gray said Mr. Evans is correct, NPS refunded a prorated share of bus fees from last year and, since the announcement of re-entering school full time, the school has had 70 additional bus registrations and 20 people requesting a refund. Dr. Gray added that NPS is not sure what their bus ridership is going to be. The School Committee is still in the process of determining how the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) three foot distancing rules apply to seating on the bus and what additional safeguards may be required.

Mr. Linehan asked if there was a de facto difference in appropriating \$421,416 of tax levy for the purpose of funding the bus transportation system vs. putting that same appropriation into the school budget, since both are fungible dollars and expended under the direction of the School Committee and the School Committee could underfund transportation in this budget and use the entire bus subsidy first. Dr. Gray said, from a practical standpoint, the only purpose this serves is for Natick taxpayers, to follow how the money is being used specifically for the day-to-day bus transportation. Within the school system, we would not have the ability to underfund the bus system. He said that NPS treats this as a separate warrant article and then we blend it into the overall expenses of the providing bus

transportation. From an accounting standpoint, it doesn't serve any purpose to have a separate warrant article. I know there was discussion on the original intent was to ensure that these funds went directly to offset bus fees and I would be remiss if I didn't think that that would continue, regardless of whether it was a separate warrant article or blended into the regular school budget. I think in the in-depth analysis that the Education subcommittee does in looking at transportation, it is apparent that we need to fully fund bus transportation, regardless of the source of funding. Dr. Gray said NPS has a set contract with our bus provider and, normally, we are relatively assured of what we would receive for bus fees from parents. There typically haven't been monies left on the table from this transportation subsidy, except as a result of COVID closures.

Ms. Coughlin followed up on Mr. Linehan's question about why the bus subsidy is a separate warrant article, doesn't the school have the right to reallocate and spend the money as they wish? Dr. Gray said, from a purely accounting standpoint, you're correct. Mass. General Law allows the school to take any tax levy funds and allocate them appropriately in order to educate the children as they wish. However, this article historically has been a way for the taxpayers of data to identify some additional support they were providing to families that paid a bus fee, and to keep that fee reasonable.

Mr. Rooney asked for an overview of what the purpose of the transportation revolving fund is. Dr. Gray said this is the fund where the collected bus fees go and the revolving fund may only be used on transportation. We report that to the education subcommittee Chair and show what monies were received, what monies were expended and what the precise balances are.

Mr. Pope asked what the transportation mandates are. Dr. Gray said, by law, NPS is required to provide transportation for children from kindergarten until fifth grade who live more than two miles from their designated school. Likewise, what we've done, for as long as I'm sure the Natick public schools have been in existence is we provide bus services for anyone that wants to ride it and the parents of those students pay the bus fees.

Mr. Pope asked whether the town had reached a new contract with its transportation provider. Dr. Gray said he just finished signing a contract that covers the next three years and that contract stipulates 24 bus routes to serve Natick students.

Mr. Pope asked if there were an uptick in usage from the re-opening of schools in the spring would it affect the FY 22 budget, Dr. Gray said that it would affect the FY 23 budget. We sometimes do the budget 18 months in advance so we always utilize the previous year's fee collections to support the upcoming budget. In this case, this would support the FY 22 budget and then if we had an uptick in the fall, and we were back to whatever normal will be in the future, those fees would then be attributable to the FY 23 budget.

Mr. Coburn moved to recommend Favorable Action on Article 12 – School Bus Transportation Subsidy, seconded by Mr. Scurlock, voted 12 – 0 – 0.

Roll-call vote:

Mr. Coburn = yes	Mr. LaFleur = yes
Ms. Coughlin = yes	Mr. Linehan = yes
Mr. DeLuca = yes	Mr. Pope = yes
Mr. Evans = yes	Mr. Rooney = yes
Mr. Gillenwater = yes	Mr. Scurlock = yes
Mr. Grome = yes	Ms. Wollschlager = yes

Debate

Mr. Coburn provided background on the bus subsidy evolution. It was created in 2005 to close a considerable gap between the town appropriation and the school budget needs that happens periodically, so a bunch of fees were initiated, including the bus fees. One of the not fully anticipated effects of initiating the bus fee (which had a steep price) was that it results in horrific traffic around the schools at rush hour. This subsidy was intended to reduce the amount that families would have to pay and help decrease traffic problem. Given the turmoil that the school administration and the School Committee are dealing with due to the pandemic, they have a set of predictable resources that may have to be used creatively or in manners that differ from past practice to make things work, and I support the idea that they do what it takes to make things work until we get back to normal. The school bus fees have grown substantially over what they were mitigated to when this subsidy was first put in. I think it's a reasonable topic to consider what else might be done, but don't think this is the time to do it.

Mr. Scurlock said if you look at the school budget for FY 22, there are fees for activities and athletics and they're part of the school budget. We have lengthy discussions about this particular line item every year and I won't diminish the validity of that discussion, but there are many other line items that are discussed in the Education Subcommittee that are subsequently voted on by the Finance Committee.

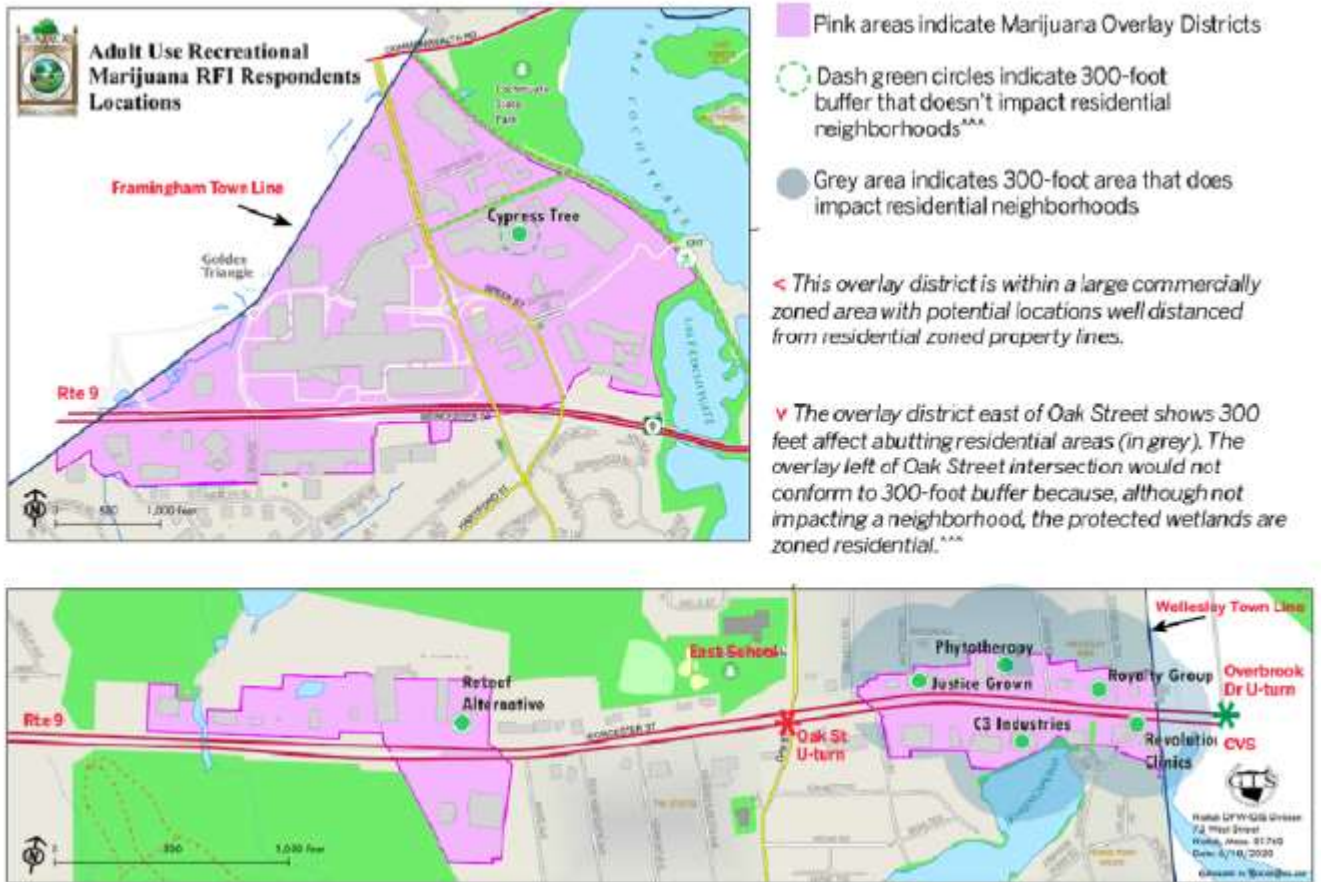
[Article 29 Amend Zoning By-Laws: Adult Use Marijuana Establishments](#)

Presenter: Martha Paynter

Ms. Paynter said she and her family have lived at 13 Grove Road for 25 years. I am the sponsor of Article 29 and I represent the Jennings Morse's Pond neighborhood (JMPR) working group, Ms. Paynter noted that she has no association with or financial interest in any retail marijuana establishments. As a group, we do not condemn marijuana legalization and did not oppose legal medical and recreational marijuana use or object to retail sales of marijuana in Natick. In fact, we recently made a statement of support for Cypress Tree at the Cloverleaf Mall as it meets a 300 foot buffer and guarantees adequate parking and traffic flow. Rather, we are here as residents and taxpayers in an abutting neighborhood to the marijuana overlay district. We will outline our rationale for Article 29 which asks the town to vote to create a 300 foot residential buffer zone around retail marijuana establishments to minimize adverse impacts on an abutting residential neighborhoods and roads. Article 29 will achieve consistency and equity by bringing retail marijuana into alignment with Natick's existing medical marijuana 300 foot residential buffer zone bylaw. Our intent is to protect abutting residential neighborhoods and their children. Last summer, East Natick residents were stunned to hear that retail marijuana stores were proposed abutting our residential neighborhood and that the areas on Rte. 9 East and Rte. 9 West of the Oak Street intersection that were designated retail marijuana overlay districts. We had never been effectively notified by the town about the significant impact to our neighborhoods. It ultimately turned out that six out of seven retail marijuana RFI respondents proposed locations in East Natick. Our group began our efforts in August 2020. By following the outline process attending many Select Board and community outreach meetings, submitting a lengthy neighborhood petition, along with numerous statements with recommendations and letters to vocalize our mounting concerns, all to no actionable effect. This January we learned that the town had sponsored and enacted a 300 foot residential buffer zone for medical marijuana in 2014. The existence of this bylaw was never mentioned to us at any Town Meeting we attended or by any town representative. After a seven month long effort, we came to the conclusion that submitting an article for a retail marijuana residential buffer that mirrored the medical marijuana buffer was the most equitable and sensible course of action in order to address concerns of any and all abutting Natick neighborhoods now and into the future. Retail marijuana RFI respondents must be considered based on an impact on traffic flow, safety and parking including impact on collector streets, these stores must not have an adverse effect that outweigh beneficial ones for neighborhoods. According to a 2019 Gallup poll, 15% of adults in the eastern US consume marijuana. We used this data

and the latest Natick census data from Natick, as well as from bordering towns Wayland, Western and Wellesley, which have all banned retail marijuana to estimate how many consumers would likely visit the Natick retail marijuana locations each month. According to industry averages, users purchase cannabis two times per month, with average transactions taking about five to seven minutes using the total of 90,679. In the chart, we estimated visits to Natick stores from adults over 21 could be approximately 20,130 per month or split between two locations 10,065 visits per month. All marijuana RFI respondents anticipated 42% increase in car trips and a marijuana retail store versus a typical retail store. And these respondents estimate approximately 15,000 to 21,000 visits per store per month, or 500 to 700 visits on average per day. This is one and a half to two times higher than our estimates. What impact would this volume of visits and vehicles have on abutting neighborhoods. The Commonwealth recognizing the need to protect minors, mandated that marijuana establishments be located 500 feet away from designated areas such as schools, parks and playgrounds.

For the purposes of discussion, we'll use the East Natick marijuana overlay district map created by the



^{***} 3/16/2021 map and copy revisions.

town. This map shows due to proximity to the school and its recreational fields. The five RFI respondent locations are in effect pushed to the pink area on the east side of Oak Street. Locations east of Oak Street would adversely impact traffic and surrounding neighborhoods. And neighborhoods on the east side of Oak Street are densely populated and were built at a time when Rte. 9 was sleeper. Neighborhood roads are narrow with no curbs and sidewalks and are accessible from Rte. 9, and were never designed to handle the current level of traffic. The Jennings Pond / Morse's Pond neighborhood walkers, joggers, cyclists and children on bikes and a bus stop share these roads with morning commuters, shoppers, church goers and others who speed through. Several neighbors described near-miss incidents with vehicles operated by distracted or speeding drivers. This neighborhood and a similar one directly across Rte. 9 nine have both struggled with increasing traffic as the Waze app now recommends the drivers use neighborhood side roads to avoid the lights at the Oak Street / Rte. 9 intersection. The section of Rte. 9 between the Oak St. intersection and the Wellesley Overbrook Drive intersection has high accident ratings and are routinely backed up during heavy commuter hours and holidays. Currently, zoning parking lot requirements are based on a building's gross square footage. Retail marijuana stores with heavy customer volume will lead to overflow parking into abutting residential side streets and other businesses' parking lots, and back traffic onto Rte. 9 pass-through lanes and add to traffic congestion between these two intersections.

Impacts on the culture, health, and safety of abutting neighborhoods

In 2014, Natick sponsored and enacted a 300 foot residential buffer zone around medical marijuana dispensaries with the same protective intent as the Commonwealth buffer, expanding it to include “the premises on which the proposed adult uses to take place is located at a distance of at least 300 feet from the town boundary line or a residential district zone boundary line.” Bountiful Farms medical marijuana dispensary estimates 2021 revenue of \$5 million; retail marijuana response and estimates as high as \$18 million. So Retail marijuana, with its higher projected volume should be brought into conformity with Natick’s existing medical marijuana bylaw. The impact of retail marijuana operations on the essential culture and social structure of neighborhoods must be considered -- stores must not have adverse effects that outweigh beneficial ones. These Natick residents currently feel safe and neighbors tend to look out for each other and want to keep what is made these neighborhoods safe and friendly places to live. In our opinion, equating retail marijuana stores to liquor stores is a false equivalent, as evidenced by the Commonwealth’s mandated buffer and security requirements. Without a residential buffer zone, abutters will not only have to deal with traffic, but also safety and security/nuisance impacts. Retail marijuana respondents assure us that they will have plenty of security and surveillance inside and out. But that begs the obvious question, why is the security needed in the first place. Any store that requires this level of security should not be located next to residential neighborhoods with children. We visited Garden Remedies a retail marijuana store in Marlborough where there is no residential buffer zone and witnessed customers using their purchases in the parking lot as shown in this photo we took.



We also went to observe Cultivate, a retail marijuana store in Framingham on Rte. 9 where there is no residential buffer zone and an employee told us this after 5pm and on weekends, there's a steady stream of traffic which can be hard to control and backups from the parking lot onto Rte. 9 are a common problem. There is constant activity in the parking lot with employees outside making sure people don't leave children in cars, checking IDs, policing COVID protocols and telling car occupants not to idle and to move along after they pick up their purchases. The employee also has to police people to prevent them from parking at a nearby store because the store gets very angry. There have been persistent complaints from the abutting neighborhood. The Natick 180 Coalition and the Substance Prevention Alliance of Needham are collaborating on an educational event entitled Cannabis and the Teen Brain. This release clearly implies that these groups understand that there will be a community impact from these retail marijuana stores on our teens. Natick 180's website lists community norms as positive influencers that discourage substance abuse among young people. Speaking to community norms, a teen in our neighborhood asked her mom, I don't get it. “Why would school be teaching me and my friends about the risks of marijuana use and then the town puts a store right in my neighborhood?” That's a very good question. A 300 foot residential buffer zone we'll send a message to

this and other Natick teens that our community reflects consistent messaging and values to us impressionable young people.

This slide shows a list of all Massachusetts towns that have buffered or banned retail marijuana today.

Retail Marijuana Residential Buffer Zones*		Retail Marijuana Bans*				
Abington	Malden	Acton	Danvers	Lancaster	Norwell	Sutton
Amherst	Manchester	Acushnet	Dedham	Lawrence	Norwood	Topsfield
Ashburnham	Marion	Agawam	Dennis	Lexington	Orleans	Upton
Attleboro	Maynard	Alford	Dover	Lincoln	Peabody	Wakefield
Ayer	Millis	Andover	Duxbury	Longmeadow	Pembroke	Walpole
Becket	New Bedford	Ashland	East Bridgewater	Ludlow	Randolph	Wayland
Belmont	Newburyport	Auburn	East Longmeadow	Lynnfield	Raynham	Webster
Berlin	Otis	Avon	Easton	Mattapoisett	Reading	Wellesley
Bolton	Paxton	Barre	Essex	Medfield	Revere	Wenham
Brimfield	Plainville	Bedford	Everett	Medway	Rockport	West Bridgewater
Buckland	Rockland	Bellingham	Falmouth	Merrimac	Sandwich	West Springfield
Conway	Sharon	Bourne	Foxborough	Methuen	Saugus	Westborough
Dartmouth	Shirley	Boxborough	Freetown	Middleton	Scituate	Westford
Dighton	Somerset	Boxford	Groveland	Milford	Sherborn	Westhampton
Dunstable	Springfield	Boylston	Hamilton	Milton	South Hadley	Weston
Erving	Tyngsborough	Braintree	Hampden	Monroe	Southborough	Westport
Fitchburg	Westfield	Bridgewater	Hanson	Monterey	Southbridge	Westwood
Franklin		Burlington	Hanover	Mount	Southwick	Weymouth
Georgetown		Canton	Harwich	Washington	Spencer	Whitman
Hadley		Carlisle	Hingham	Needham	Sterling	Wilbraham
Hatfield		Chatham	Holden	New Marlborough	Stoneham	Wilmington
Hudson		Chelmsford	Holliston	Norfolk	Stoughton	Winchester
Leicester		Cohasset	Hopkinton	North Andover	Stow	Woburn
		Concord	Hull	North Reading	Sudbury	Wrentham
		Cummington	Ipswich	Northborough		Yarmouth

By enacting Article 29, Natick can both achieve the benefit of two retail marijuana establishments with attendant revenue and preserve the character, health and safety of abutting residential neighborhoods. If you look at the retail marijuana district overlay map (shown earlier), the pink areas indicate the retail marijuana districts on the top map the dashed green circle around Cypress Tree and Cloverleaf mall indicates a 300 foot residential buffer. This is an appropriate siting and this large retail marijuana district has potential for other suitable locations that would not impact abutting residential neighborhoods. The overlay district west of Oak St. would not conform to a 300 foot buffer because, although not impacting a neighborhood, the protected wetlands are zoned residential. In conclusion, it is unfortunate that the town did not sponsor and enact a retail marijuana residential buffer during the moratorium and incorporated into their retail marijuana district planning as they did for medical marijuana.

Questions from the Committee

Mr. Rooney asked what the Planning Board recommendation was. Ms. Paynter said that they voted 5 – 1 to give it a positive recommendation to move forward (note, the associate member’s vote on the Planning Board doesn’t count in their decision, so the actual vote is 4 – 1). Ms. Paynter said one member said they were shocked that this buffer zone was not included.

Mr. Rooney asked who has seen this presentation. Ms. Paynter said she followed the guide to filing a citizen’s petition and it has a flow chart that says, for zoning bylaw changes, to first go to the Planning Board and then review it with the Finance Committee. We worked with the CED office and that was the direction they told us to go also

Mr. Scurlock noted that retail marijuana locations can have an estimated range of 10,000 – 30,000 visits per month and asked whether that is based upon existing other dispensaries of similar size that exist in

the Commonwealth today. Ms. Paynter said the 10,000 visit figure was based on the census and the data that said 15% of people over 21 use marijuana. The larger numbers come directly from the RFI of the retail marijuana dispensary respondents.

Mr. Scurlock said that we don't have any evidence of numbers of visits to other dispensaries elsewhere in the Commonwealth. Ms. Paynter said it's possible that those are available from the Cannabis Control Commission, but I'm not sure if they track actual numbers.

Mr. Scurlock asked if there is any other buffer that you're aware of that would be more consistent with other communities. Ms. Paynter said that they looked at every single buffer bylaw the buffers ranged anywhere from 200 to 500 feet.

Mr. LaFleur noted that it seems like there are two primary drivers for the neighborhood for wanting the buffer and both pertain to impact. You gave a convincing argument about how this could impact the traffic on in and around Oak Street. And the second driver focused on the effect on the neighborhood community. Ms. Paynter cited as an example of the impact on the neighborhood is that teenage children walk down to CVS and Dunkin Donuts all the time and they would have to walk right by the parking lot of a retail marijuana store. There's also a bus stop for Wellesley students in front of this location as well, and we have bus stop another three or 400 feet away with primary school-aged children, so we don't feel it's a suitable full location when they're talking about having police details. Lastly, Ms. Paynter said it's about consistency and equity - the medical marijuana district has no roads abutting into a residential neighborhood and that has a 300 foot buffer zone.

Mr. LaFleur mentioned that there were complaints by abutters of the Framingham dispensary - do you have examples of what those neighborhood complaints were. Ms. Paynter said that she did not get specifics, but her understanding in speaking to the person she contacted was that they were primarily nuisance complaints, people, parking, noise, things like that.

Mr. DeLuca asked whether, given the close proximity to the Wellesley town line, if you surveyed or got input from Wellesley residents that are abutters, given that Wellesley voted to prohibit retail marijuana in their town. Ms. Paynter said our Wellesley neighbors have deep concern because as you said, they voted against retail marijuana and aren't thrilled about it. Further, in the medical marijuana zoning, there is a 300 foot buffer from any town line. I know that there was an attempt by one of the people who is trying to get a facility that's really close to the Wellesley line to get the town to overturn that medical marijuana 300 foot buffer from a town line and Town Meeting rejected this.

Mr. DeLuca asked regarding security in terms of these businesses operating so close to a residential neighborhood, did your research look at how the transactions for marijuana would be made considering under the Bank Secrecy Act and anti-money laundering guidance and laws and it's a largely cash business. Ms. Paynter said that she went to a presentation and learned that these facilities also accept debit cards. However, they are considered a cash business, which accounts for some of the security concerns. Ms. Paynter said her understanding is that they are required to have a security person on-site and potentially, have security people outside to deter people from hanging out in the parking lots and using the products they purchased. The security requirements are defined in the Cannabis Control Commission documents.

Mr. Pope stated he lives close to Jennings Pond and has not worked with the Ms. Paynter's group so the Committee knows that my discussions about very similar ideas are independent. Mr. Pope asked how many visitors did the 9 East Wine Emporium get per month. Ms. Paynter said that, once on New Year's Eve, they had 700 customers. During their presentation, the owners of 9 East Wine Emporium made it sound like they got that type of volume daily, but that's not the case. Further, the opening of Total Wine has impacted that business, I don't know how many of you are familiar with the end of Grove Road where it comes into Rte. 9, but people cut through and try to get on to Rte.9 there to avoid the backup

from the Oak Street light and get on Rte. 9 just before Overbrook Road (Wellesley). These drivers try to get on at rush hour there and the traffic backs all the way up and it's a really dangerous place to pull out. A parking lot in that location doesn't have any curbs and drivers literally back out right into the Grove Road. It's a grandfathered location that would never meet today's requirements for parking and safety and setback from the road as well.

Mr. Pope asked whether they have spoken with either the Wellesley Police or Natick Police about the impact of having a retail marijuana location so close to the town line. We have not contacted the Wellesley Police, but we are concerned that there may be issues with retail marijuana customers parking in the CVS parking lot and loitering, leading to possible Wellesley Police intervention. We are also concerned about the traffic going into the CVS parking lot to reverse their direction on Rte. 9 (to go west-bound).

Mr. Pope asked how we decided to approve adult-use marijuana in Natick. Ms. Paynter said there was a two-year moratorium during which towns could develop regulations on how they could handle medical marijuana. When the regulations first came out, they only covered medical marijuana. Ms. Paynter said that once marijuana was legalized, towns had to proactively decide whether or not to allow medical marijuana and the vote in Natick was like 53 to 47 or thereabouts, and regulations were developed for medical marijuana. Subsequently, the Select Board made the decision not to have the town vote whether they wanted to allow retail marijuana or not in town. The Planning Board identified medical marijuana and adult-use marijuana zoning overlay districts. However, they included 300 foot buffers in medical marijuana, but did not on adult-use marijuana. One adult-use retail marijuana establishment was recently approved in the Golden Triangle area (Cypress). They approved two other two other companies over in the East Natick Industrial Park. When we asked the Planning Board why the overlay district was put so close to residential neighborhoods, Ms. Paynter claimed that the Planning Board said there was already lots of retail there" and there was no discussion of the impact on the neighborhoods and there was no discussion of extending it down Rte. 9 all the way to the Golden Triangle.

Mr. Pope asked how the town benefits from retail marijuana - are we taxing it such that it would fund better schools? Ms. Paynter says it's taxed at 3% so it will bring revenue into the town, and they've decided to go forward with Cypress Tree located in the Cloverleaf Mall. There is also a Host Community agreement that is capped at an additional 3% to cover the impact of retail marijuana on public safety, town substance use prevention, etc., so it's designed to be revenue/expense neutral. Well, the extra 3% is the tax of 3%, and then this additional 3%.

Mr. Linehan asked for confirmation that the 300 foot buffer zone is currently for medical marijuana establishments and you want it added to adult-use marijuana establishments – it's not for other uses such as growers, wholesalers, warehouses, or delivery. Ms. Paynter confirmed that is the case. Mr. Linehan noted that these other uses can only be located in industrial zones that have buffer zones around them

Mr. Linehan asked whether the former Papa Gino's restaurant is located within this overlay district and asked if this 300 foot buffer affects it. Ms. Paynter said it is within the 300 foot buffer which is unfortunate because it would be a good location since it isn't a residential neighborhood and doesn't have a tight intersection area. Ms. Paynter said, however, that the land behind the Papa Gino's site is zoned residential and is wetlands. So unless the town passes rezoning of that area, an adult-use marijuana business cannot be located there.

Mr. Evans asked whether there are multiple areas in town where a retail marijuana establishment could be located. Ms. Paynter said Town Counsel said there were other locations within the Golden Triangle and the town could elect to add additional marijuana overlay zones if they chose to do so.

Ms. Wollschlager asked if the impact of having this 300 foot buffer means that no retail marijuana establishments can exist in the map that you've shown near Rte. 9 and did you consider instead of doing this asking for a change in the overlay district so it wouldn't include the Jennings/Morse's Pond neighborhood, rather than excluding the part that you said is a good location on the other side of Rte. 9. Ms. Paynter said that when looking at other towns, these towns took the approach of using buffer zones to protect residential neighborhoods. It's unfortunate the way this has worked out – we didn't discover the medical marijuana buffer until January and have been appealing to the Select Board for months to reconsider this and it has been very frustrating. And, there's no limitation on how long it can take to do the second license, so there's time to go back and re-do this to add some other marijuana overlay districts or to reconfigure them for the second location. Ms. Paynter said one of the Select Board members commented that it wasn't necessarily a bad idea to wait a year and watch to see how this Cypress Tree rollout happens, see how this first marijuana store works out and then make a more thoughtful decision about the second location.

Ms. Wollschlager asked whether, in your conversations with Special Town Counsel, did you ask if there would be any risk to the town to do away with an overlay district that we already have in force and enabling anyone to be located there. Ms. Paynter said she wanted to make it clear that I did not have any conversations with Town Counsel. I'm referring to a letter that I forwarded to you from the CED office. This letter said there is no legal liability to this situation, because there will be other locations within the Golden Triangle.

Mr. Freas said our Special Town Counsel (Jonathan Silverstein) who we work with on all the marijuana-related items. He reviewed the proposed bylaw and from the perspective of the requirement that we provide sufficient opportunity for at least two licensed locations within the town, that that opportunity effectively exists within the remaining area which would all be the area in the Golden Triangle. So we did look at the 300 foot buffer on the residentially-zoned properties, as the wording of the motion says, and that does eliminate the two overlay areas to the east of Rte. 27 in their entirety. There is still a question around a couple of overlay districts in the Golden Triangle Area that permitted the residential area that's associated with the Natick Mall and the Avenu development. These overlay districts allow residential uses and it's unclear whether those would be counted as part of the residentially zoned area, so that does further reduce the land area within the Golden Triangle. Presuming that the Cypress Tree project at Cloverleaf goes forward, that would also have a 500 foot buffer on it, so the area becomes limited, but you can still argue that there's the opportunity provided for at least two locations.

Comments from the public

Amy Smith, 22 Grove Road said that the neighborhood agrees with Ms. Paynter and is supportive of Article 29. We are concerned citizens and would like to stay consistent with what the bylaws already are in place for medical marijuana.

Another neighbor (not identified) said she supports the buffer zone and cannot think of a rational basis to have a buffer zone for medical marijuana establishments and not retail marijuana establishments as many of our peer towns have done. Given my experience as an alcohol and other drug educator, it is important for us as a town to give time with the first establishment and to make this an iterative process where we learn about what the demand is, how the processes work and the ways that we can mitigate the impact on the abutting neighborhoods,

Christina P, 21 Buena Vista Rd (member JMPN) agreed with Ms. Paynter.

Lisa McDonough, 7 Shore Terrace noted that when Natick put in the 300 foot buffer zone for medical marijuana, retail marijuana was not in sight and wasn't approved here until 2016 so they couldn't have had the foresight to add it to adult-use marijuana. I feel very unfortunate that our residential road that moves on to a highway is a possible location for retail marijuana. Someone asked the liquor store parking lot and I have never seen it more than half-full, so the parking and traffic would have a significant impact on a neighborhood that has narrow streets and no sidewalks.

Mr. George Richards, Attorney, said he represents the applicant at 291 Worcester Street (ReLeaf Alternatives, located westbound Rte. 9). Mr. Richards said he just finished a community outreach meeting where there was virtually no opposition to that location, and four or five people spoke in favor of it, relative to some of the other sites. I raised this as a consideration whether the committee would consider exempting wetlands in order to keep at least one site in East Natick an eligible location. Part of the reasoning is, although they're within 300 feet of a residential zone it's all wetlands and this site is not within 300 feet of a residence. Mr. Richards said he wondered if the committee might consider exempting wetlands from the 300 feet and the language could be tweaked in this amendment. Ms. Wollschlager noted that the Finance Committee doesn't craft citizen's petition articles.

Ms. Lisa Rogers, 5 Morse's Pond Road, Wellesley said she appreciates the member who considered the opinion of Wellesley residents whose town voted not to allow medical or adult-use marijuana and we're concerned because we're part of a town that did not approve it, yet this is our neighborhood so we support the residential buffer zone.

Mr. Linehan said there was a question asked earlier of Mr. Freas when he wasn't yet on the call of whether the town had the opportunity for two adult-use retail marijuana establishments. Mr. Freas said state law requires all municipalities who voted to support the statewide referendum allowing adult-use marijuana establishments who did not want these establishments to locate in town to pass a town-wide referendum to that effect. The town of Natick did not conduct a town-wide referendum on this subject and instead moved forward with zoning. Consequently, the law requires that each town allowing adult use marijuana establishments provide at least the opportunity for at least a number of such establishments equal to 20% of the off-premise liquor licenses within the town. For Natick, that number is two, so we have to ensure that the zoning we've created allows for the opportunity for a minimum of two adult use marijuana establishments. The town also set two as the maximum number of establishments according to our licensing regulations.

Mr. Coburn moved to recommend Favorable Action on Article 29, seconded by Mr. DeLuca, voted 6 – 3 – 3

Roll-call vote:

Mr. Coburn = yes	Mr. LaFleur = no
Ms. Coughlin = no	Mr. Linehan = yes
Mr. DeLuca = yes	Mr. Pope = yes
Mr. Evans = abstain	Mr. Rooney = abstain
Mr. Gillenwater = no	Mr. Scurlock = abstain
Mr. Grome = yes	Ms. Wollschlager = yes

Mr. LaFleur moved to refer Article 29 to the sponsor and the Planning Board, seconded by Mr. Gillenwater, voted 5 – 5 – 2

Roll-call vote:

Mr. Coburn = abstain	Mr. LaFleur = yes
Ms. Coughlin = no	Mr. Linehan = no
Mr. DeLuca = no	Mr. Pope = no
Mr. Evans = yes	Mr. Rooney = abstain
Mr. Gillenwater = yes	Mr. Scurlock = yes
Mr. Grome = no	Ms. Wollschlager = yes

The Finance Committee has NO RECOMMENDATION for Town Meeting

Debate

Mr. DeLuca thanked the sponsor for sponsoring this article, the legwork conducted, the amount of research and the presentation along with the community consent of the area shows a lot of foresight and preparedness before the Finance Committee. I think that this is a common sense motion, we already have a buffer zone in residential for medical marijuana, so it makes sense to establish the same buffer zone for retail which has, as seen in examples, has higher use and higher traffic. A couple other points that were mentioned that I think were excellent points. When this area was zoned as an adult-use marijuana zoning overlay, I thought it was a poor selection within the town and thought there are much more viable solutions that would have a lot less impact. The Golden Triangle is a perfect example of that. Further, this is right on the Wellesley line and to say that it's not going to impact the Wellesley community is just insane. Wellesley voted retail marijuana down, so why would we put a shop right on the border of Wellesley? I think this is amoral. The other thing I think that was really well represented is the traffic analysis. I think anyone that can attest to driving this strip during any rush hours can attest that anywhere near that Oak Street light is already a traffic disaster, and as you get towards the CVS area it becomes another nightmare and this will add to the problems. I want to note a couple things about security. These are cash businesses and, even though this is legal under state law, it is not legal under federal law. The banking system is built on federal laws and regulations, no matter how you cut it. When you look, the only thing that gave merit to allowing marijuana monies within the banking system was the Cole memo that gave permission for marijuana dollars into the banking system that had been rescinded, which means that the money that goes into the banking sector, a suspicious activity report has to be filed, so there are all sorts of red flags that go up when I hear about debit cards being used and these monies being entered into the banking system. Given that this is largely a cash business, it enters into a different element of security and risk that other adult use businesses don't have - I can go to the liquor store and use my debit card or credit card and have no issues or concerns. And a liquor store can

go to a bank and get a loan. It's a completely different set of circumstances when you look at state and federal laws for marijuana businesses. Finally, some serious issues about the community aspect of how close this is to the residential neighborhood and whether it is school bus stops and increased traffic associated with that, especially when there aren't sidewalks in the area so this would pose additional risks to pedestrians in the area. In short, we already have a 300 foot buffer for medical and should have one for retail.

Mr. Coburn said he appreciated the group that came together to advocate for something that they believe in here. I do think that there is more that could be done to fine tune or amend or to advance. This is a glaring inconsistency between medical marijuana and recreational marijuana. In my opinion, the medical marijuana is the more controlled environment since it requires greater certification and authorization and is less likely to spill out into a neighborhood whereas recreational marijuana customers can walk in off the street, so having no buffer for recreational marijuana is a significant issue. I think work ought to be done on it, but we should put a buffer in place and then do that work to amend or refine it, rather than sitting without any buffer and having some developments happen that would be detrimental to the neighborhood, so I encourage us to recommend favorable action. I hope that whether or not we refer this to the planning board, the sponsors and the planning board and anybody else with an interest will continue to refine the idea of what's an appropriate approach to adequately buffering residential areas from recreational marijuana establishments.

Mr. LaFleur thanked both members who made the motion for favorable action, noting that they spoke eloquently and made excellent points as to why a recreational marijuana facility should not go in this area. In either of these overlays, I think that the traffic patterns and the ability to support the traffic that these kinds of stores would likely bring would be incredibly detrimental to the life and livelihood of the people living in this area. I also think that the in your face message that we send to our neighbors and Wellesley would be horrible. One member column called it amoral and I agree with those sentiments. I think this is the wrong policy to enact and I think that we need to recognize that when we make bad policy, even for a good reason, it's still bad policy. We looked at some of the other things that the presenters and the sponsors brought in such as the consistency with the medical marijuana. I agree with Mr. Coburn's characterization of medical marijuana facilities will have a different clientele than the medical marijuana and there should be a 300 foot buffer for retail. Mr. LaFleur said that he would actually be in favor of removing the 300 foot boundary around the medical marijuana facilities. We also heard about the possibility of negative influence of bringing recreational marijuana to the town. When I think back when I was growing up, smoking cigarettes occurred everywhere and drinking occurred in public, and so on. And these are things that through various social programs that did not come from the government have been greatly curbed, and I think that these things are better handled through society and not through government. My hope is that you will join me in voting no on this article and refer it back to the sponsor and back to the Planning Board for a better solution.

Mr. Gillenwater stated that he sees some fundamental differences of what zoning should be used for issues of a specific site having sidewalks or parking, or a bad left turn or anything like that. That's the planning board site plan review, that's not zoning, so those sorts of issues would be brought up and discussed and voted on a site-by-site specific basis. I don't think that we should be damaging an entire zoning area based on a couple of deficient sites that may or may not rise to be more detrimental to the neighborhood at a planning board meeting, so I'm not going to support this article. On the consistency point, I would certainly support a future zoning article to remove the 300 foot buffer from the other zone, so I'm not going to be bound by a consistency for a buffer zone that I don't think serves any purpose in its other use. So I'm hoping that people will join me in voting referral on this article.

Mr. Scurlock noted that traffic in the Golden Triangle is also problematic, with multiple new high rises, FedEx, and the new MathWorks campus. The Police Chief attested to the backup on Rte. 9 in multiple

directions and the figure of 10 to 30,000 trips per month would certainly rule out the Golden Triangle, without any question. Based on traffic, this might be questionable, but for the sake of consistency, there should be consistency, whether with or without the 300 foot buffer. I think it's to decide whether we want to be consistent with the 300 or not, I think the state recommended the buffer for safety and security because of the nature of the product, as well as the cash handling of the business.

Mr. Linehan said he agreed with Mr. DeLuca's points. As for referring this back to the planning board, they voted 4 - 1 in favor of it. In my opinion, this falls in the "do no harm" category. If it's not perfect, at least it doesn't have something that could be significantly detrimental going forward. I think this will protect the neighborhood until people who feel that it should be referred come back with something better.

Mr. Evans said he appreciated the work that's been done on this. In my opinion, this is without question a neighborhood where retail marijuana should not be located. I think Article 29 goes too far because a zoning bylaw has town-wide implications, not for a single neighborhood. The town indicated that two is the maximum number of licenses that they will authorize, which happens to also be equal to the minimum number of licenses that they're required to do. There have been a lot of good ideas that have been exchanged and I would like to see the opportunity for the sponsors and the Planning Board to get together and figure this out. I mean things like modifying the overlay, modifying the setbacks, and clarifying whether wetlands are included or excluded from this calculation. There are a lot of good ideas as far as protecting this neighborhood. I think you've already gotten an indication from the Planning Board vote that they're not going to approve a special permit for let that happen in this particular neighborhood. And let me just quickly describe the process to get something approved. You have to get the Cannabis Control Commission's approval. Then, you have to get the Natick Select Board to do a Host Community Agreement. You then have to get the Planning Board to approve a special permit and there is no indication that they would approve this location. So, I'd like to give the sponsor and the Planning Board the opportunity to re-craft a bylaw that's applicable for the whole town without blowing up this entire zoning overlay district that Town Meeting approved. I'd like to see it happen and be brought back at Fall Town Meeting

Mr. Pope said he supports favorable action. When we last considered changes to marijuana bylaws, independent of any of this discussion. I had asked the town staff whether or not a 500 foot border or adjacent to any town would be a good idea. After finding out that we have restrictions on other marijuana businesses that our current regulations are inconsistent with, that makes me more wholeheartedly support this, even though I would like it to be more restrictive than just 300 feet.

Ms. Wollschlager thanked the sponsor and everyone else for attending this evening, and noted that no matter how it turns out, I think that all of your concerns have been well-heard. And you can be assured that we will document all of them in our Finance Committee Recommendation Book that will be distributed to all Town Meeting members.

The Finance Committee has no recommendation on Article 29. And for those listening, that means that at Town Meeting, the sponsor should work with the Moderator to make sure that a positive motion is put on the floor. Mr. Evans noted that a citizen petitioner can in fact alter their motion prior to Town Meeting as long as it is within the scope of the warrant article. So, I would encourage them to discuss possible changes with the CED office to see if there might be a middle ground here that might make this get approved at Town Meeting. Mr. Gillenwater noted that the sponsors might want to run any changes past the Moderator.

Article 3 Elected Officials Salary

Presenters: Mr. John Townsend, Ms. [Diane Packer](#)

Ms. Wollschlager reminded the Committee that the Town Clerk's salary is established by Town Meeting and this is the article that does this. Mr. Townsend said town administration has had conversations with the clerk regarding this particular article and agreed on a FY 22 salary of \$105,000. Ms. Wollschlager said Ms. Packer sent the Committee information on comparable salaries and that is posted on NovusAgenda. Ms. Packer said she met with Mr. Townsend and Mr. Errickson and we discussed the FY 22 salary with the understanding that there was no salary increase last year because no salary increases were included in the Spring Town Meeting budget and when money was appropriated in the fall, this article was not on the warrant, so there was no mechanism to increase the salary to \$105,000. I provided information on comparable salaries for other clerks locally as well as within grade four, which is the grade that the Town Clerk is most often compared with in Natick Personnel Pay Plan. If you look at the comparable positions in other communities, Natick is nowhere near the highest salary, so this is a place to start. Ms. Packer added that the Town Clerk position is not eligible for a bonus either. So, whereas many of the other non-union personnel received bonuses last year, this position is not eligible by town bylaw. Ms. Packer noted that this past year has been the single busiest year that the Town Clerk's office has had as we had close to a 90% turnout for the presidential election. Next week will be the fourth election that I have run under COVID protocols which certainly are not as easy as just opening up the polls and going. And it's the fourth election that we will have had a significant amount of mail in ballots. In addition, the responsibilities of the clerk's office have grown greatly, even in the time that I've been in this job. The requirements by law and within the community as well have increased greatly.

Questions from the Committee

Mr. Pope asked whether the raise was part of the freeze that happened on town employees and teacher salaries? Ms. Packer said, in the Spring when this article was voted last year, there were no raises included in the budget. In the fall when there turned out to be more revenue than initially anticipated, there were monies appropriated for both collective bargaining and non-union salaries. But because this article was not on the warrant, there was no way to provide any increase for the town clerk salary.

Mr. Pope noted that it's about a 4% increase to cover two years and asked what the comparable salary increases were for the Grade 4 positions that you described. Mr. Townsend said the Personnel Board employees had a general overall increase of approximately 2% and we've appropriated money to cover a 2% increase for the Personnel Board employees for FY 22 as well.

Mr. Pope asked if there was any mechanism to retroactively provide the Town Clerk to give you the 2% raise that you should have received last year. Mr. Townsend said that there is not, because it's pretty cut-and-dry that Town Meeting has to establish the elected official salary and there's no, no way to provide any other compensation.

Mr. Evans moved to recommend favorable action on Article 3 - Elected official salary, second by Mr. Grome, voted 12 - 0 - 0

Roll-call vote:

Mr. Coburn = yes
Ms. Coughlin = yes
Mr. DeLuca = yes
Mr. Evans = yes
Mr. Gillenwater = yes

Mr. LaFleur = yes
Mr. Linehan = yes
Mr. Pope = yes
Mr. Rooney = yes
Mr. Scurlock = yes

Mr. Grome = yes

Ms. Wollschlager = yes

Debate

Mr. Evans said he's witnessed firsthand how much work that the town clerk's office does. Earlier, we learned how integral she is to the financing aspects of this town for the legal filings to secure financing thereof. So to my mind, when I saw the 4%, I was a little hesitant but then I looked at two things. I looked at the comparables to other towns, and I looked at the fact that it was a two year increase rather than a single year increase. So it's in line with her peers, both live in town and outside of town, other Town Clerks are fully supported.

Mr. Grome agreed.

Mr. DeLuca suggested adding information about the inflation rate because it would show that a 2% annual increase could end up being a negative real raise.

Mr. Rooney cautioned when we start referencing inflation in articles, let's get some guidance because I have been told in the past that the town doesn't do inflation adjustments in the town.

Ms. Coughlin said that she would support a larger salary increase, not only in this year, but in all the prior years that I was on the finance committee and Town Meeting. This office is central to practically every operation in the town. And I feel that as the lone elected officials, she is not included on the Personnel Pay plan and is often overlooked.

Mr. Pope agreed with the previous speakers and stated that he would like to see the town work to adjust her salary next year to reflect that \$2000 or so dollars, because every town employee except her had a voice at the table when increases were given last year.

Ms. Wollschlager added that we are extremely fortunate that we have Ms. Packer for our Town Clerk. But I would hope that the administration and other powers that be think about converting this position to an appointed position versus an elected position. We really lucked out when Diane decided that this is what she wanted to do, because she brings a level of experience and professionalism. We don't know what sort of candidate we will be able to get to run for this position when Ms. Packer retires. I think, for all the reasons that were brought up in terms of how this is not on the personnel play plan and not subject to added bonuses and raises each year, adding this vital position to the Personnel Pay Plan will make this position more professional in terms of being able to find the right person to succeed Ms. Packer when she decides to retire.

Article 5 Collective Bargaining

Town Administration is requesting no action.

Mr. Linehan moved to recommend No Action and to recommend that the Moderator add Article 5 to the consent agenda, seconded by Mr. LaFleur, voted 12 - 0 - 0

Roll-call vote:

Mr. Coburn = yes

Mr. LaFleur = yes

Ms. Coughlin = yes

Mr. Linehan = yes

Mr. DeLuca = yes

Mr. Pope = yes

Mr. Evans = yes

Mr. Rooney = yes

Mr. Gillenwater = yes

Mr. Scurlock = yes

Mr. Grome = yes

Ms. Wollschlager = yes

[Article 6 Fiscal 2021 Omnibus Budget](#)

Town Administration is requesting no action.

Mr. Evans moved to recommend No Action and to recommend that the Moderator add Article 6 to the consent agenda, seconded by Mr. Coburn, voted 12 - 0 - 0

Roll-call vote:

Mr. Coburn = yes	Mr. LaFleur = yes
Ms. Coughlin = yes	Mr. Linehan = yes
Mr. DeLuca = yes	Mr. Pope = yes
Mr. Evans = yes	Mr. Rooney = yes
Mr. Gillenwater = yes	Mr. Scurlock = yes
Mr. Grome = yes	Ms. Wollschlager = yes

[Article 8 Fiscal 2021 Morse Institute Library Budget](#)

Town Administration is requesting no action.

Mr. Evans moved to recommend No Action and to recommend that the Moderator add Article 8 to the consent agenda, seconded by Mr. LaFleur, voted 12 - 0 - 0

Roll-call vote:

Mr. Coburn = yes	Mr. LaFleur = yes
Ms. Coughlin = yes	Mr. Linehan = yes
Mr. DeLuca = yes	Mr. Pope = yes
Mr. Evans = yes	Mr. Rooney = yes
Mr. Gillenwater = yes	Mr. Scurlock = yes
Mr. Grome = yes	Ms. Wollschlager = yes

[Article 9 Fiscal 2022 Morse Institute Library Budget](#)

Move that the Town vote to appropriate the Total Budget Amount shown below to be expended under the direction of the Morse Institute Board of Trustees for the operation of the Morse Institute Library, for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.

Ms. Wollschlager noted that the Committee voted \$2,388,653 to fund this budget on March 2. Mr. Townsend said this article supports the Morse Library Trustees for the operations of the Morse Institute Library in the amount of salaries \$2,012,678 and expenses of \$375,975 for a total of \$2,388,653 sourced from tax levy for FY 2022.

Questions from the Committee

Mr. Evans said when we discussed this at the subcommittee meeting; the salary for the Morse Library Director was in flux when we were discussing this budget. There was a salary for the director that was in flux, and it's now \$115,000. Can you confirm that this budget reflects that salary? Mr. Townsend confirmed that it is included.

Mr. Linehan asked if the proportion of paper books to electronic books is reflected in this budget. Mr. Evans said that is a great question and we asked that at the subcommittee and they're changing the mix. There are still quite a few people who like to read, print and hold the book in their hands, but the libraries have found, especially during this pandemic, that there's an increased interest in other media, and such as books on CD or streaming and things like that so they're changing the mix up. The totals are more or less the same, and that that trend is actually happening throughout the Minuteman Library

network, so we have access to a rich pool of material available. Mr. Scurlock said, in addition to the electronic and paper books, there will also be growth in projected activities to increase public participation and that's included in the figures also. Mr. Townsend said this budget also includes an additional \$20,000 in the materials line for the purchase of materials as well.

Mr. Scurlock moved that the Town vote to appropriate the Total Budget Amount shown below to be expended under the direction of the Morse Institute Board of Trustees for the operation of the Morse Institute Library, for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022, sourced from 2022 tax levy, seconded by Mr. Chrome, voted 12 - 0 - 0.

Roll-call vote:

Mr. Coburn = yes	Mr. LaFleur = yes
Ms. Coughlin = yes	Mr. Linehan = yes
Mr. DeLuca = yes	Mr. Pope = yes
Mr. Evans = yes	Mr. Rooney = yes
Mr. Gillenwater = yes	Mr. Scurlock = yes
Mr. Grome = yes	Ms. Wollschlager = yes

Debate:

Mr. Scurlock noted that it certainly was a very challenging year, but the expansion in normal activities book and electronic as well as the commitment to growing public engagements speaks very favorably to the direction of our library in the town of Natick.

Mr. Chrome agreed stating that we have a wonderful library system.

Mr. Evans noted that, although we'll talk about the Bacon Library separately, both libraries have done a tremendous job and been very creative in continuing to meet the needs of their patrons. They've used the bookmobile as a "food truck for the mind". You can get books reserved at the library and they'll bring them outside much as they used to load them on the bookmobile & drive it to certain spots. They serve points in the community where they may not be able to get to the library. Another thing they added was a "deli window" at the front of the Morse Library where you can pick up the books you've reserved online by either phone call or email or online and they'll get them to you in a safe manner. So they've been very creative. And as Mr. Scurlock noted, they've developed programs and outreach programs and kids programs and teams programs that are just incredible.

Mr. DeLuca said he would be remiss if he didn't highlight the effort that went into putting RFID into all the books, a tedious process to ensure a much better system for our libraries.

[Article 10 Fiscal 2021 Bacon Free Library](#)

Town Administration is requesting no action.

Mr. Evans moved to recommend No Action and to recommend that the Moderator add Article 10 to the consent agenda, seconded by Mr. Scurlock, voted 12 - 0 - 0

Roll-call vote:

Mr. Coburn = yes	Mr. LaFleur = yes
Ms. Coughlin = yes	Mr. Linehan = yes
Mr. DeLuca = yes	Mr. Pope = yes
Mr. Evans = yes	Mr. Rooney = yes
Mr. Gillenwater = yes	Mr. Scurlock = yes

Mr. Grome = yes

Ms. Wollschlager = yes

[Article 11 Fiscal 2022 Bacon Free Library](#)

Mr. Townsend asked that the Finance Committee take favorable action on the Bacon Free Library budget to be expended under the direction of the Bacon Free Library Maintenance Committee for the operation of the Bacon Free Library, for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. Salaries are \$114,970 and expenses are \$69,550, for a total budget of \$184,520, sourced from the 2022 tax levy.

Ms Wollschlager noted that the committee approved this amount when we voted on this budget on March 2.

Mr. Scurlock moved to recommend favorable action on the Bacon Free Library budget to be expended under the direction of the Bacon Free Library Maintenance Committee for the operation of the Bacon Free Library for FY 22 for a total budget of \$184,520, sourced from the 2022 tax levy, seconded by Mr. Pope, voted 12 - 0 - 0.

Roll-call vote:

Mr. Coburn = yes

Mr. LaFleur = yes

Ms. Coughlin = yes

Mr. Linehan = yes

Mr. DeLuca = yes

Mr. Pope = yes

Mr. Evans = yes

Mr. Rooney = yes

Mr. Gillenwater = yes

Mr. Scurlock = yes

Mr. Grome = yes

Ms. Wollschlager = yes

Debate

Mr. Pope noted that the libraries have been effective in how they worked cooperatively with each other and cited how they used the bookmobile transferring books between locations as one example.

Mr. Scurlock stated that the BFL made tremendous use of the outdoor area around the library to continue their children's programs and showed tremendous creativity in many areas.

[Article 16 Capital Equipment](#)

Presenter: Mr. Jamie Errickson

[Link to Capital Equipment presentation](#)

Ms. Wollschlager noted that Mr. Errickson did a great job of answering all the questions that Mr. DeLuca sent from members.

Mr. Errickson noted that there were four additions to the capital plan that were recently added and one project that was on the plan was already funded in the fall so did not require FY 22 funding and adjusted the scope of two projects. Mr. Errickson said he would review each of them in detail to the Committee. I've actually five new projects to the capital program just recently, we didn't remove one project, largely because it was already funded, it was funded in the fall; we moved three projects to the outer years. In FY 21, the original program called for about \$7.5 million worth of investments and during the year we added about \$1.375 million in projects. However, because of the COVID challenges, we moved 15 projects out into the future to preserve as much cash as possible, not knowing where we were going to be financially. We spread those projects out in our five year program by working closely to ensure that we prioritized the projects. As you probably recall, during FY 21, we planned to utilize more tax levy borrowing than we typically do to preserve as much of the Capital Stabilization Fund (CSF) as possible.

For FY 22, we have modified that approach a little as we are still doing quite a bit of tax levy borrowing, but will start using our CSF again. Last fall, we looked at past borrowed funds and are able to re-appropriate about a \$1 million of funds following through on our commitment to that in this 2021 Spring Town Meeting. This is an ongoing project because we (Mr. Townsend, me and our teams) are scrubbing the accounts to what moneys we can free for projects and this will continue as a standard practice.

Department	Request Title	FY2022	Funding Sources	Notes
Dept. Public Works	Town Common Decorative Lighting (Park Street)	\$ 20,000	Capital Stabilization	Fall
Dept. Public Works	Replace Dumpsters	\$ 20,500	Capital Stabilization	Fall
Dept. Public Works	South Street Bridge Study	\$ 25,000	Capital Stabilization	Fall
Dept. Public Works	Replace Vehicle 421 (H-62) Street Sweeper	\$ 285,000	Tax Levy Borrowing	Fall
Dept. Public Works	Roadway & Sidewalk Supplement	\$ 2,500,000	Tax Levy Borrowing	Fall
Dept. Public Works	Replace Vehicle 109 (NFM-89) Box Truck	\$ 75,000	Surplus Revolving Account	Fall
Dept. Public Works	Replace Vehicle 42 (RECBUS-2) Recreation Bus	\$ 150,000	Surplus Revolving Account	Fall
Dept. Public Works	Replacement of Grove Park (South Natick) Retaining Wall - Design	\$ -	Capital Stabilization	\$50k Removed already funded
Dept. Public Works	Street Acceptance Plan Preparation	\$ 150,000	Capital Stabilization	Spring
Dept. Public Works	Park and Field Renovations	\$ 175,000	Capital Stabilization	Spring
Dept. Public Works	Replacement of Grove Park (South Natick) Retaining Wall - Construction	\$ 250,000	Tax Levy Borrowing	Spring
Dept. Public Works	Replace Vehicle 504 (S-34) Trash Packer	\$ 325,000	Tax Levy Borrowing	Spring
Dept. Public Works	Replace Vehicle 513 (S-103) Recycling Truck	\$ 340,000	Tax Levy Borrowing	Spring
Dept. Public Works	Replace Synthetic Turf Memorial Field	\$ 600,000	Tax Levy Borrowing	Spring
Dept. Public Works	Compact Utility Tractor with Mower and Snow Plow	\$ 58,000	Surplus Revolving Account	Spring
Dept. Public Works	Replace Vehicle 442 (H-54) Utility Body Pickup	\$ 85,000	Surplus Revolving Account	Spring
Facilities	Custodial Equipment Replacement Program	\$ 16,600	Capital Stabilization	Fall
Facilities	Morse Library - HVAC Controls Upgrade & Chiller System	\$ 500,000	Tax Levy Borrowing	Fall
Facilities	Memorial Roof Replacement Engineering	\$ -	Capital Stabilization	\$75k moved to outer year
Facilities	Wilson Roof Replacement Engineering	\$ -	Capital Stabilization	\$75k moved to outer year
Facilities	Ben Hem - Roofing Replacement Engineering	\$ 75,000	Capital Stabilization	Spring
Facilities	Morse Library - Air Handling Units Replacement Engineering	\$ 75,000	Capital Stabilization	Spring
Facilities	Brown and Lilja Elementary - Boilers Replacement Engineering	\$ 75,000	Capital Stabilization	Fall
Facilities	Lilja - HVAC Controls Upgrade Engineering	\$ 75,000	Capital Stabilization	Fall
Facilities	Public Safety Building - HVAC Controls Upgrade & Chiller System	\$ 300,000	Tax Levy Borrowing	Spring
Facilities	Ben Hem - HVAC Controls Upgrade & Chiller System	\$ 500,000	Tax Levy Borrowing	Spring
Facilities	Wilson Middle School - HVAC Controls Upgrade & Chiller System	\$ 500,000	Tax Levy Borrowing	Fall
Facilities	Roof Improvements - Town Hall, Morse, Police/Fire, BenHem, Memorial, Wilson	\$ 1,500,000	Tax Levy Borrowing	Spring w/ scope adjustments
Fire Dept	Replace Car 3	\$ 80,000	Capital Stabilization	Fall
Fire Dept	Ambulance - replace	\$ 350,000	Tax Levy Borrowing	Spring - NEW
Fire Dept	Replace 2001 Pumping Engine	\$ 700,000	Capital Stabilization	Spring
IT Dept	Network Firewall Upgrade	\$ 75,000	Capital Stabilization	Spring - NEW
Parks & Recreation	Historical Monument Restoration	\$ 10,000	Capital Stabilization	Fall
Parks & Recreation	Playground Maintenance and Safety	\$ 15,000	Capital Stabilization	Fall
Parks & Recreation	Replace unsafe Shed at Mary Bunker	\$ 10,000	Capital Stabilization	Spring
Parks & Recreation	Loker Park Playground Improvements	\$ 40,000	Capital Stabilization	Spring
Police Dept.	POLICE CRUISER REPLACEMENT	\$ 334,475	Capital Stabilization	3 Spring/2 Fall
Police Dept.	POLICE INDOOR FIRING RANGE UPDATE	\$ 700,000	Tax Levy Borrowing	Fall
Police Dept.	LEVEL METER FOR SERVICE OF RADIO SYSTEM	\$ 5,700	Capital Stabilization	Spring
Police Dept.	BACKUP REPEATER REPLACEMENT - POLICE	\$ 20,000	Capital Stabilization	Spring
Select Board	Energy Efficiency Improvements	\$ 100,000	Capital Stabilization	Fall
Town Clerk	New Voting Machines	\$ -	Capital Stabilization	\$75k moved to outer year
Town Clerk	Preservation of Historical Records	\$ 75,000	Capital Stabilization	Spring - reduced from \$100k
	Capital Stabilization	\$ 2,172,275		
	Tax Levy Borrowing	\$ 8,650,000		
	Surplus Revolving Account	\$ 368,000		
	Total:	\$ 11,190,275		

The FY 22 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) includes:

- Two new projects we're proposing to bring forward this spring: a) ambulance replacement, b) network firewall upgrade
- 1 project removed – replacement of Grove Park (south Natick – retaining wall) design - \$50K is already funded.
- Three projects moved to outer years: a) Memorial Roof Replacement Engineering, b) Wilson Roof Replacement – Engineering, c) new voting machines

- Two projects are new and or have modified scopes (Roof Improvements – Town Hall, Morse, Police/Fire, Ben-Hem, Memorial, Wilson) or modified budgets (preservation of historic records decreased from \$100K to \$75K).
- Four items are being purchased using Equipment Surplus Revolving Fund: a) Replace Vehicle 109 (NFM-89) Box Truck (\$75,0000, b) Replace Vehicle 42 (RECBUS-2) Recreation Bus (\$150,000), c) Compact Utility Tractor with Mower and Snow Plow (\$58,000), d) Replace Vehicle 442 (H-54) Utility Body Pickup (\$85,000). Note that this revolving function does not have a pre-authorized spending authorization limit and so that's not going to be part of the capital articles. However, I wanted to show them because they are part of the larger capital picture.
- Total spending of \$\$11,190,275, broken down as follows: 1) Capital Stabilization Fund = \$2,172,275, 2) FY 2022 Tax levy \$8,650,000, and 3) Surplus Revolving Fund \$368,000

2021 Spring Annual Town Meeting Proposed Projects

Department	Request Title	FY2022	Funding Sources	Notes
Dept. Public Works	Street Acceptance Plan Preparation	\$ 150,000	Capital Stabilization	Spring
Dept. Public Works	Park and Field Renovations	\$ 175,000	Capital Stabilization	Spring
Dept. Public Works	Replacement of Grove Park (South Natick) Retaining Wall - Construction	\$ 250,000	Tax Levy Borrowing	Spring
Dept. Public Works	Replace Vehicle 504 (S-34) Trash Packer	\$ 325,000	Tax Levy Borrowing	Spring
Dept. Public Works	Replace Vehicle 513 (S-103) Recycling Truck	\$ 340,000	Tax Levy Borrowing	Spring
Dept. Public Works	Replace Synthetic Turf Memorial Field	\$ 600,000	Tax Levy Borrowing	Spring
Facilities	Ben Hem - Roofing Replacement Engineering	\$ 75,000	Capital Stabilization	Spring
Facilities	Morse Library - HVAC Engineering	\$ 75,000	Capital Stabilization	Spring
Facilities	Public Safety Building - HVAC Controls Upgrade/Replacement	\$ 300,000	Tax Levy Borrowing	Spring
Facilities	Ben Hem - HVAC Controls Upgrade/Replacement	\$ 500,000	Tax Levy Borrowing	Spring
Facilities	Roof Improvements - Town Hall, Morse, BenHem, Memorial, Wilson	\$ 300,000	Tax Levy Borrowing	Spring w/ scope adjustments
Facilities	Roof Improvements/Replacement - Police/Fire	\$1,200,000	Tax Levy Borrowing	Spring w/ scope adjustments
Fire Dept	Ambulance - replace	\$ 350,000	Tax Levy Borrowing	Spring - NEW
Fire Dept	Replace 2001 Pumping Engine	\$ 700,000	Capital Stabilization	Spring
IT Dept	Network Firewall Upgrade	\$ 75,000	Capital Stabilization	Spring - NEW
Parks & Recreation	Replace unsafe Shed at Mary Bunker	\$ 10,000	Capital Stabilization	Spring
Parks & Recreation	Loker Park Playground Improvements	\$ 40,000	Capital Stabilization	Spring
Police Dept.	POLICE CRUISER REPLACEMENT	\$ 200,685	Capital Stabilization	Spring - 3 cruisers
Police Dept.	LEVEL METER FOR SERVICE OF RADIO SYSTEM	\$ 5,700	Capital Stabilization	Spring
Police Dept.	BACKUP REPEATER REPLACEMENT - POLICE	\$ 20,000	Capital Stabilization	Spring
Town Clerk	Preservation of Historical Records	\$ 75,000	Capital Stabilization	Spring - reduced from \$100k
	Capital Stabilization	\$1,601,385		
	Tax Levy Borrowing	\$4,165,000		
	Total:	\$5,766,385		

- Ambulance replacement was deferred from FY 21
- Network firewall is about seven years old, it's actually out of its useful life, we need to upgrade it as basically as quickly as we can. And we're actually at a point where it's going to be unserviceable. Elementary school teacher laptop refresh to allow NPS to do a laptop refresh across their elementary schools
- Repeaters. a system whereby they can use for communication amongst all the schools including the buses, the repeaters program or the repeater company informed the town that they're no longer going to be servicing the repeaters that we're currently using for the schools. They were already old. so they're getting to the end of their useful life. We learned that it was a more immediate need than we realized and it was added to ensure the town has redundancy in the system.
- Public safety building fire alarm panel and devices. We were getting pricing and we thought it was going to be a different value. When we first estimated it, we thought we could cover it with our existing budget and some of our existing accounts. Unfortunately, it came in much higher than we thought so we felt it was prudent to put that on to the capital because it is a life-safety item.

The Finance Committee asked a number of questions and I want to highlight three projects before getting into the motions

- The replacement of the synthetic turf Memorial Field (\$600,000). That was one of the items that was actually moved from the FY 21 in light of the COVID crisis to FY 22 and it's part one of a two part project. Typically a turf field lasts about 8 – 10 years and this is about a nine year old field. This field is heavily used by all athletics at the high school as well as clubs sports and the like. The reason I call it part one of a two-part project because we first need to replace the turf field and then next year replace the running track around the field. This is the recommended sequence to ensure that the track isn't damaged during the installation of the turf field.
- Ben-Hem HVAC controls and upgrade replacement – we're re-appropriating existing funds to do this project. We've identified \$565,000 of past borrowed funds that we can employ on this project. We believe that the \$565,000 will be sufficient for the project, based on the current estimates and design work that the town is doing.
- Roof improvements. The original CIP included one single item of \$1.5 million for roof improvements and was published as part of the December CIP. It was based on the best estimates we had at that time and we had very clear indications that several of our roofs needed partial or full replacement, but we didn't have the full details. We completed detailed assessments and that led to a very detailed set of reports, one for each of the buildings cited here (Town Hall, Morse Library, the Ben-Ham School, Memorial School, Wilson Middle School, and the Fire/Police station which gave us a very clear indication for those buildings where we should make investments over the next 10 years and beyond. When the CIP is published next December, we'll include updates from that report for future years. To make sure we can fund this year's needs, we made some additional scope adjustments. Somewhat coincidentally, the budgets actually worked out to be \$1.5 million, so we weren't that far off - it was just where we were putting the \$1.5 million budgeted. The reports indicated that we need significant work at the Public Safety complex and that's why \$1.2 million isn't just a standalone item for the public safety complex, we need a series of partial replacements and other improvements at Town Hall, Ben-Hem, Memorial and Wilson. Those investments will allow us to extend the longevity of the roofs at those at those facilities. Mr. Errickson noted that they are only planning to do roofing engineering for Ben-Hem school because even though we do need to do some improvements this year, we need to seek funding for full replacement in the coming years as the measures we are taking this year are a minor stopgap measure for that particular roof. Town Hall, Morse Library, Memorial, & Wilson have longer lifespans but we do need to make improvements this year to ensure that we capture those longer lifespans for those roofs.
- Police Cruiser Replacements. The original budget noted in the capital program is \$334,475. These are five cruisers, but we split that over the Spring Annual Town Meeting and Fall Annual Town Meeting, so we're seeking only appropriation for three of the five cruisers. That's why the number in the motion is roughly \$201,000.

2021 Fall Annual Town Meeting Proposed Projects

Department	Request Title	FY2022	Funding Sources	Notes
Dept. Public Works	Town Common Decorative Lighting (Park Street)	\$ 20,000	Capital Stabilization	Fall
Dept. Public Works	Replace Dumpsters	\$ 20,500	Capital Stabilization	Fall
Dept. Public Works	South Street Bridge Study	\$ 25,000	Capital Stabilization	Fall
Dept. Public Works	Replace Vehicle 421 (H-62) Street Sweeper	\$ 285,000	Tax Levy Borrowing	Fall
Dept. Public Works	Roadway & Sidewalk Supplement	\$ 2,500,000	Tax Levy Borrowing	Fall
Facilities	Custodial Equipment Replacement Program	\$ 16,600	Capital Stabilization	Fall
Facilities	Brown and Lilja Elementary - Boilers Replacement Engineering	\$ 75,000	Capital Stabilization	Fall
Facilities	Lilja - HVAC Controls Upgrade Engineering	\$ 75,000	Capital Stabilization	Fall
Facilities	Wilson Middle School - HVAC Controls Upgrade & Chiller System	\$ 500,000	Tax Levy Borrowing	Fall
Facilities	Morse Library - HVAC Controls Upgrade & Chiller System	\$ 500,000	Tax Levy Borrowing	Fall
Fire Dept	Replace Car 3	\$ 80,000	Capital Stabilization	Fall
Parks & Recreation	Historical Monument Restoration	\$ 10,000	Capital Stabilization	Fall
Parks & Recreation	Playground Maintenance and Safety	\$ 15,000	Capital Stabilization	Fall
Police Dept.	POLICE CRUISER REPLACEMENT	\$ 133,790	Capital Stabilization	Fall - 2 cruisers
Police Dept.	POLICE INDOOR FIRING RANGE UPDATE	\$ 700,000	Tax Levy Borrowing	Fall
Select Board	Energy Efficiency Improvements	\$ 100,000	Capital Stabilization	Fall
		Capital Stabilization	\$ 570,890	
		Tax Levy Borrowing	\$ 4,485,000	
		Total:	\$ 5,055,890	

We were anticipating bringing some of the HVAC control projects forward this spring for Wilson and the Morse Library. However, we're working through grant programs right now to study those systems to come up with better cost estimates on which system should go in there or working through a potential green communities grant we haven't received yet, but are hoping to receive in the coming few weeks or months, as well as Community Resiliency Grant for the Wilson Middle School that will allow us to do some studies at that school, so that's why those projects were deferred to the fall.

Water & Sewer Enterprise Fund

Request Title	FY2022	Funding Sources
Replace Vehicle 608 (W-20) Dump Truck	\$ 110,000.00	W/S Enterprise Fund Borrowing
Replace Groundwater Wells	\$ 300,000.00	W/S Enterprise Fund Borrowing
Water Gate Valve Repair	\$ 300,000.00	W/S Enterprise Fund Borrowing
South Natick Water Transmission Main Cleaning and Upgrades	\$ 1,220,000.00	W/S Enterprise Fund Borrowing
4M Sewer Pump Station Force Main Replacement	\$ 1,640,000.00	W/S Enterprise Fund Borrowing
Water Distribution System Enhancements	\$ 150,000.00	W/S Enterprise Fund Retained Earnings
Replace T-692 (W-11) Air Compressor	\$ 50,000.00	W/S Enterprise Fund Retained Earnings
Replace Vehicle 621 (W-15) Front End Loader	\$ 315,000.00	W/S Enterprise Fund Retained Earnings
W/S Enterprise Fund Retained Earnings	\$ 515,000.00	
W/S Enterprise Fund Borrowing	\$ 3,570,000.00	
Total:	\$ 4,085,000.00	

Mr. Erickson said this is the list of projects that are being considered for this spring capital program broken out by borrowing and retained earnings, mainly equipment and some improvement work.

Sassamon Trace Enterprise Fund

Request Title	FY2022	Funding Sources
Cart Path Repair	\$ 6,000	Golf Enterprise Retained Earnings
Dowse Fence	\$ 20,000	Golf Enterprise Retained Earnings
Utility Vehicle (2)	\$ 20,000	Golf Enterprise Retained Earnings
Bunker Rake	\$ 20,000	Golf Enterprise Retained Earnings
Total:	\$ 66,000	

Mr. Errickson said these are the capital items from the Sassamon Trace Enterprise Fund that is funded strictly from retained earnings. We're not seeking to do any borrowing for any items at Spring Annual Town Meeting.

Questions from the Committee

Mr. Linehan asked what the age of the public safety building is. Mr. Errickson said the public safety building was built in the 90s as part of the Public Safety building and Town Hall complex, so the systems in the building, including the roof have had minor upgrades here and there, but haven't had a comprehensive upgrade since that time and they're reaching 30 plus years.

Mr. DeLuca asked town administration to consider how they might use forthcoming stimulus money or infrastructure money to fund some of the capital requests. Mr. Errickson said the town is tracking what's happening in this area and noted that he talking with staff just this week about that. Mr. Errickson stated that any chance we can get to utilize funds outside of town funds to cover our expenses; we will absolutely grab those funds. Our challenge, though, is that we need to move forward as if we don't have those funds as of today because we don't know what the answer is yet. We are in conversations with our Congressional and local representatives and are all working on the same page to try to bring as many, dollars back to the local communities, in our case Natick, as possible to cover these projects. One such project that we're exploring is whether or not some of these HVAC control upgrades from a sustainability perspective could be covered with either federal dollar grant money or other like guaranteed COVID dollars. We'll cover those because we do need to be prepared for another pandemic. We're hopeful that the dollars coming from the most recent Recovery Act will have the flexibility to allow us to cover components of the capital program.

Article 16 Motion A:

Move that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$2,015,000 to be expended as follows:

- Under the direction of the Department of Public Works for the purpose of:
- Replace vehicle 504 (S-34) Trash Packer
- Replace Vehicle 513 (S-103) Recycling Truck
- Under the direction of the Facilities Management Department for the purpose of:
- Public Safety Building – HVAC Controls Upgrade/Replacement
- Under the direction of the Fire Department for the purpose of:
- Replace 2001 Pumping Engine
- Replace Ambulance

all individually shown as items 1 through 5 in Table A below, and that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer with the approval of the Select Board is authorized to borrow \$2,015,000 under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 7, as amended, or any other enabling authority and to

issue bonds or notes of the Town therefore aggregating not more than \$2,015,000 in principal amount and that the Town Administrator with the approval of the Select Board is authorized to take any action necessary to carry out this program, and further, that any premium received by the Town upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount.

Article 16

TABLE A- Motion A - Capital Equipment – 2021 Spring Town Meeting

Item	Department	Request Title	Amount	Funding Sources
1	Dept. Public Works	Replace Vehicle 504 (S-34) Trash Packer	\$ 325,000	Tax Levy Borrowing
2	Dept. Public Works	Replace Vehicle 513 (S-103) Recycling Truck	\$ 340,000	Tax Levy Borrowing
3	Facilities	Public Safety Building - HVAC Controls Upgrade/Replacement	\$ 300,000	Tax Levy Borrowing
4	Fire Dept	Replace 2001 Pumping Engine	\$ 700,000	Tax Levy Borrowing
5	Fire Dept	Ambulance - replace	\$ 350,000	Tax Levy Borrowing
		Total	\$ 2,015,000	

Mr. Evans moved to recommend Favorable Action on Article 16 Motion A in the amount of \$2,015,000, sourced from tax levy borrowing, seconded by Mr. DeLuca, voted 9 – 0 – 0

Roll-call vote:

Mr. Coburn = yes	Mr. LaFleur = yes
Mr. DeLuca = yes	Mr. Linehan = yes
Mr. Evans = yes	Mr. Pope = yes
Mr. Gillenwater = yes	Mr. Scurlock = yes
Ms. Wollschlager = yes	

Debate

Mr. Evans thanked town administration who answered our many questions in a short period of time and I encourage Committee members to look at those answers because they're detailed and get to the heart of all questions that we asked.

Mr. DeLuca thanked Mr. Errickson for looking into using non taxpayer funds that may be available to us through federal sources, noting appreciation in reaching out to our representatives and getting the wheels moving on that.

Article 16 Motion B:

Move that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$936,385 to be expended as follows:

- Under the direction of the Facilities Management Department for the purpose of:
 - Ben Hem - Roofing Replacement Engineering
 - Morse Library - HVAC Engineering
 - Public Safety Building – Fire Alarm Panel and Devices
- Under the direction of the Police Department for the purpose of:
 - Police Cruiser Replacement
 - Level Meter for Services of Radio System
 - Backup Repeater Replacement
- Under the direction of the School Department

- Elementary School/Teacher Laptop Refresh
- Repeaters

all individually shown as items 1-8 in Table B below, and that to meet this appropriation the sum of \$936,385 be appropriated from the Capital Stabilization Fund.

TABLE B- Motion B - Capital Equipment – 2021 Spring Town Meeting

Item	Department	Request Title	Amount	Funding Sources
1	Facilities	Ben Hem - Roofing Replacement Engineering	\$ 75,000	Capital Stabilization
2	Facilities	Morse Library - HVAC Engineering	\$ 75,000	Capital Stabilization
3	Facilities	Public Safety Building - Fire Alarm Panel and Devices	\$ 100,000	Capital Stabilization
4	Police Dept.	POLICE CRUISER REPLACEMENT	\$ 200,685	Capital Stabilization
5	Police Dept.	LEVEL METER FOR SERVICE OF RADIO SYSTEM	\$ 5,700	Capital Stabilization
6	Police Dept.	BACKUP REPEATER REPLACEMENT - POLICE	\$ 20,000	Capital Stabilization
7	School Dept.	Elementary School /Teacher Laptop Refresh	\$ 400,000	Capital Stabilization
8	School Dept.	Repeaters	\$ 60,000	Capital Stabilization
			Total	\$ 936,385

Mr. Errickson noted that Motion B includes:

- Three projects are for Facilities Management (Ben-Hem roof replacement engineering, the Morse Library HVAC engineering, and the Public Safety Building Fire Alarm panels) and devices
- Three police projects: Three police cruiser replacements, level meter for police radio service of for radio and the backup repeater replacement.
- Under the direction of the school department - elementary school teacher laptop refresh
- These are all proposed to come from cap stabilization. Just for reference, I kept the new items or the items that were noted in the original presentation in bold just so you can still see what changed or demand.

Questions from the Committee

Mr. Linehan asked why the laptops were being paid out of the capital equipment budget. Mr. Errickson said this is an annual component of the school department budget that includes budget for technology and we opted to fund this through the Capital Stabilization Fund. Mr. Evans noted that the Education Subcommittee was told that this was one of the ways that town administration and school administration took to balance the budget between the town and the schools. These laptops were 7-8 years old and becoming problematic to use and support. The School IT department said that it could maybe squeeze another year out of these, but ultimately, the town side said that can find money from the CSF to meet this one-off purchase. Note that this is not a deviation from the standard procedure moving forward where laptops would get funded out of the NPS IT budget in future years. If you look at the NPS Technology presentation, Mr. Roche has a matrix where he shows how he will fund the upgrades in future year in three or four year cycles. Mr. Linehan stated that this information should be included in the Recommendation Book because this is a non-standard mechanism to purchase school laptops. Ms. Wollschlager said it would.

Mr. Gillenwater asked, as a member of the Information Systems Advisory Board, we used to keep track of a couple of these things a little bit more closely. At one point, there had been a One-to-One Technology and some of the earlier generations were purchased out of that. Mr. Gillenwater asked what happened to that fund. Ms. Wollschlager noted that we received some information about that revolving fund and noted that there is very little money in that revolving fund. Mr. Coburn added that the One-to-One technology fund was originally based on a whole different model that was very expensive to families. The fund was designed to assist families who couldn't afford the technology that was going to be required. In response to evolving technology and community input, the One-to-One strategy

underwent a couple of major revisions that made that fund no longer part of the strategy, and it was I think, two or three years after that it was drained to help with a purchase in the new One-to-One technology strategy. Ms. Wollschlager said the current revolving fund balance was approximately \$7000. Mr. Gillenwater suggested we might close out that account and free that money. Mr. Townsend said he would do so.

Mr. Evans moved to recommend Favorable Action on Article 16 Motion B in the amount of \$936,835, sourced from capital stabilization fund, seconded by Mr. Scurlock, voted 8 – 0 – 1

Roll-call vote:

Mr. Coburn = yes	Mr. LaFleur = yes
Mr. DeLuca = yes	Mr. Linehan = abstain
Mr. Evans = yes	Mr. Pope = yes
Mr. Gillenwater = yes	Mr. Scurlock = yes
Ms. Wollschlager = yes	

Debate

Mr. Evans said these are all well-vetted items and several are urgent priorities.

Mr. Linehan said he has a problem with funding the laptop purchase through the CSF.

Mr. Coburn noted that financing of capital program across school and municipal budget boundaries have regularly occurred.

Article 16 Motion C:

Move that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$565,347.71 to be expended under the direction of the Facilities Department to pay costs of making improvements to the Ben Hem school for HVAC Controls Upgrade/Replacement, and that to meet this appropriation the Town authorize the following: transfer from the balances listed below the sum of \$565,347.71:

- Under Article 10 Motion B of the 2008 Spring Annual Town Meeting in the amount of \$60,026.95 to pay costs of Memorial School Upgrade Kitchen
- Under Article 10 Motion B of the 2008 Spring Annual Town Meeting in the amount of \$143,670.53 to pay costs of Kennedy School Roof Replacement
- Under Article 10 Motion B of the 2008 Spring Annual Town Meeting in the amount of \$87,226.35 to pay costs of Replace/upgrade the DDC System and Control/uninvent at Memorial
- Under Article 10 Motion B of the 2011 Fall Annual Town Meeting in the amount of \$197,747.29 to pay costs of Kennedy School Replace Steam Converters and Hot Water Pump
- Under Article 6 Motion B of the 2012 Fall Annual Town Meeting in the amount of \$76,676.59 to pay costs of Kennedy School Replace Electrical Service which amounts are no longer needed for the projects for which they were originally borrowed.

Mr. Errickson this is the article that I mentioned earlier for re-appropriation of previously borrowed funds for the Ben-Hem School HVAC control upgrades and improvements. There are five past borrowing authorizations from various Town Meetings, three from the 2008 Spring Annual Town Meeting, one from the 2011 Fall Annual Town Meeting, one from the 2012 Fall Annual Town Meeting for a total of \$565,347.71 amounts. This motion is similar to the one from the Special Town Meeting where we were also seeking to re-authorize previously borrowed dollars to support projects for roadway improvements, as well as the East School environmental remediation project. These funds are all from past authorizations that also related to building systems, so this is a permitted like-for-like usage (all were Kennedy School projects, plus one at Memorial School). All of these appropriations started with larger numbers from Town Meeting authorization and these are the remaining balances in the accounts.

Mr. Evans moved to recommend Favorable Action on Article 16 Motion C to appropriate the sum of \$565,347.71 from the various sources, seconded by Mr. DeLuca, voted 9 – 0 – 0

Roll-call vote:

Mr. Coburn = yes

Mr. LaFleur = yes

Mr. DeLuca = yes

Mr. Linehan = yes

Mr. Evans = yes

Mr. Pope = yes

Mr. Gillenwater = yes

Mr. Scurlock = yes

Ms. Wollschlager = yes

Debate

Mr. Evans noted that these previous balances were all to pay for school building improvements or fixes and it's still going to pay for school building replacement of fixes, so it's not only a perfect reallocation, but it closes out the account.

Mr. Linehan asked whether Town Counsel or Bond Counsel had reviewed and approved this. Mr. Errickson said they approved it. Mr. Errickson said he reviewed all the capital motions with Town Counsel and Bond Counsel.

Mr. DeLuca asked for a takeaway question of where the town invests unspent funds from prior projects and what the average returns are for them.

Debate

Mr. Evans said one of the things we were discussing the other day was concerning looking for unexpended funds and making good use of them. This is illustrative of that exact thing, so the town is on this, and they're doing a great job of going through the accounts and identifying these unexpended funds and said he applauds this and hopes that they continue this process.

Mr. DeLuca said these accounts needed to be cleaned up. We're paying interest on the borrowings so it's good that the funds are being used for the benefit of the town so he appreciates what the town is doing with this.

Article 16 Motion D

Move that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$110,000 to be expended under the direction of the Department of Public Works for the purpose of Replace Vehicle 608 (W-20) Dump Truck, individually shown as item 1 in the Table D below and that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer with the approval of the Select Board is authorized to borrow \$110,000 under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 7(1), as amended, or any other enabling authority and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefore aggregating not more than \$110,000 in principal amount and that the Town Administrator with the approval of the Select Board is authorized to take any action necessary to carry out this program, and further, that any premium received by the Town upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount.

TABLE D- Motion D - Capital Equipment – 2021 Spring Town Meeting

Item	Request Title	Amount	Funding Sources
1	Replace Vehicle 608 (W-20) Dump Truck	\$ 110,000.00	W/S Enterprise Fund Borrowing
	Total	\$ 110,000.00	

Mr. Errickson said this is a single item for replacement dump truck for the Water & Sewer Enterprise fund, so you'll notice the language is very similar to Motion A, but there is a slight difference in the language because it is dealing with an Enterprise Fund and that is due to Mass General law. This is for \$110,000 to replace vehicle 608, part of the Water Division, a dump truck as shown on table D.

Mr. Evans moved to recommend Favorable Action on Article 16 Motion D to appropriate the sum of \$110,000 from Water & Sewer Fund Borrowing, seconded by Mr. LaFleur, voted 9 – 0 – 0

Roll-call vote:

Mr. Coburn = yes	Mr. LaFleur = yes
Mr. DeLuca = yes	Mr. Linehan = yes
Mr. Evans = yes	Mr. Pope = yes
Mr. Gillenwater = yes	Mr. Scurlock = yes
Ms. Wollschlager = yes	

Debate

Mr. Evans noted that when the DPW Engineering Division recommends replacement, he respects their good judgment on when it's better to replace them than repair them.

Article 16 Motion E

Move that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$365,000 to be expended under the direction of the Department of Public Works for the purpose of

- Replace T-692 (W-11) Air Compressor
- Replace Vehicle 621 (W-15) Front End Loader

individually shown as items 1 and 2 in the Table E below, and that to meet this appropriation the sum of \$365,000 be raised from Water/Sewer retained earnings.

TABLE E- Motion E - Capital Equipment – 2021 Spring Town Meeting

Item	Request Title	Amount	Funding Sources
1	Replace T-692 (W-11) Air Compressor	\$ 50,000.00	W/S Enterprise Fund Retained Earnings
2	Replace Vehicle 621 (W-15) Front End Loader	\$ 315,000.00	W/S Enterprise Fund Retained Earnings
	Total	\$ 365,000.00	

Mr. Evans moved to recommend Favorable Action on Article 16 Motion E to appropriate the sum of \$365,000 from Water & Sewer Enterprise Fund Retained Earnings, seconded by Mr. Linehan, voted 9 – 0 – 0

Roll-call vote:

Mr. Coburn = yes	Mr. LaFleur = yes
Mr. DeLuca = yes	Mr. Linehan = yes
Mr. Evans = yes	Mr. Pope = yes
Mr. Gillenwater = yes	Mr. Scurlock = yes
Ms. Wollschlager = yes	

Debate – None

Article 16 Motion F

Motion F:

Move that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$40,000 to be expended under the direction of the Community Services - Recreation & Parks – Sassamon Trace Golf Course for the purpose of:

- Utility Vehicle (2)
- Bunker Rake

individually shown as items 1 and 2 in the Table F below, and that to meet this appropriation the sum of \$40,000 be raised from Golf Course Enterprise retained earnings.

TABLE F- Motion F - Capital Equipment – 2021 Spring Town Meeting

Item	Request Title	Amount	Funding Sources
1	Utility Vehicle (2)	\$ 20,000	Golf Enterprise Retained Earnings
2	Bunker Rake	\$ 20,000	Golf Enterprise Retained Earnings
	Total:	\$ 40,000	

Motion F is the two items for the Golf Course Enterprise Fund the utility vehicle and bunker rake.

Questions from the Committee

Mr. Linehan asked why the bunker rake cost twice as much as the utility vehicle. Mr. Errickson said he is not the expert on that and will have to get an answer that from our golf course manager, but his understanding is that it's a pretty specialized piece of equipment. Mr. Evans said a bunker rake is basically a small little tractor that has, for lack of a better term, has a little rototiller that maneuvers the sand so you get nice fluffy sand so you can play golf out of it, rather than a hard compacted sand which is great for the beach but not the golf course.

Mr. Evans moved to recommend Favorable Action on Article 16 Motion F to appropriate the sum of \$40,000 from Golf Enterprise Fund Retained Earnings, seconded by Mr. Linehan, voted 9 – 0 – 0

Roll-call vote:

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| Mr. Coburn = yes | Mr. LaFleur = yes |
| Mr. DeLuca = yes | Mr. Linehan = yes |
| Mr. Evans = yes | Mr. Pope = yes |
| Mr. Gillenwater = yes | Mr. Scurlock = yes |
| Ms. Wollschlager = yes | |

Debate – None

Ms. Wollschlager announced that we would postpone hearing Article 17 until Thursday April 1.

Mr. Linehan moved to close the public hearings, seconded by Mr. Scurlock, voted 9 – 0 – 0

Roll-call vote:

Mr. Coburn = yes

Mr. DeLuca = yes

Mr. Evans = yes

Mr. Gillenwater = yes

Ms. Wollschlager = yes

Mr. LaFleur = yes

Mr. Linehan = yes

Mr. Pope = yes

Mr. Scurlock = yes

Mr. Evans moved to Adjourn, seconded by Mr. Linehan, voted 9 – 0 – 0

Roll-call vote:

Mr. Coburn = yes

Mr. DeLuca = yes

Mr. Evans = yes

Mr. Gillenwater = yes

Ms. Wollschlager = yes

Mr. LaFleur = yes

Mr. Linehan = yes

Mr. Pope = yes

Mr. Scurlock = yes

MEETING ADJOURNED 10:59 PM