**TOWN OF STURBRIDGE**

**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT**



**TANTASQUA REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL**

**June 5, 2023 @ 7:00 P.M.**

Town Moderator Michael Caplette welcomed the 427 residents to the annual town meeting, proceeding to the rules of the meeting, explanation of the clickers and then proceeding to the Test Questions on the screen.

Opening remarks were made by: Select board Chairman Jamie Goodwin, Town Administrator Robin Grimm and Finance Committee Chairperson Kevin Smith.

**ARTICLE 1**

**TOWN REPORTS**

**Passed Yes 334 No 13**

To hear the reports of the several Boards and Town Officials and any other Committee that may be ready; or take any action relative thereto.

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 8 – 0 – 0.*

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 3 – 0 – 0.*

*Summary: This article is the acceptance of all reports as included in the Annual Town Report. The Town Meeting usually waives the actual reading of the reports as they are provided in a printed format.*

**ARTICLE 2**

**COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE REPORT**

**Passed Yes 348 No 13**

To see if the Town will vote to hear and act on the report of the Community Preservation Committee on the Fiscal Year 2024 Community Preservation budget and to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund a sum of money to meet the administrative expenses and all other necessary and proper expenses of the Community Preservation Committee for Fiscal Year 2024; and further to reserve for future appropriation amounts as recommended by the Community Preservation Committee: a sum of money for the acquisition, creation and preservation of open space, a sum of money for acquisition and preservation of historic resources, and a sum of a money for the creation, preservation and support of community housing; or take any action relative thereto.

Sponsor: Community Preservation Committee

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 7 – 0 – 0.*

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 3 – 0 – 0.*

*Summary: The Community Preservation Committee (CPC) is required to submit a report to Town Meeting on the proposed use of CPA Funds. The CPC Report is an appendix to the Finance Committee Report.*

**ARTICLE 3**

**COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ADMINISTRATION FUNDS**

**Passed Yes 337 No 23**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund Undesignated Fund Balance the sum of TWENTY THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS ($20,000.00) to be allocated for the purpose of operating and administrative expenses in FY2024 for the Community Preservation Committee (CPC); or take any action relative thereto.

Sponsor: Community Preservation Committee

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 9 – 0 – 0.*

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 3 – 0 – 0.*

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 7 – 0 – 0.*

*Summary: These funds would be used to provide operating and administrative expenses for the Community Preservation Committee, including legal expenses, appraisal reports, general office supplies, CPA Coalition Dues, informational brochures and postage relating to locations, features and uses of CPA parcels. Any unused funds appropriated shall revert to the CPA Undesignated Fund Balance at the close of the fiscal year.*

**ARTICLE 4**

**COMMUNITY PRESERVATION DEBT SERVICE**

**Passed Yes 334 No 25**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the Community Preservation Fund-Undesignated Fund Balance, the sum of:

* SIXTY THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED AND 00/100 DOLLARS ($60,500.00) for the purpose of paying the debt service for the OSV Land Acquisition;
* THIRTY-EIGHT THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED AND 00/100 DOLLARS ($38,500.00) for the purpose of paying the debt service for the Heins Farm Acquisition;
* NINETY-TWO THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED FIFTY AND 00/100 DOLLARS ($92,650.00) for the purpose of paying the debt service for the Town Hall / Center Office renovation project;
* TWENTY-SIX THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED FIFTY AND 00/100 DOLLARS ($26,350.00) for the purpose of paying the debt service for the Recreation Court project;

or take any action relative thereto.

Sponsor: Finance Director

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 9 – 0 – 0.*

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 3 – 0 – 0.*

*Summary: This article provides the appropriation to pay the costs for previously approved debt issuances for the acquisition of open space known as the Heins Farm, Old Sturbridge Village parcels, the renovation of the Town Hall and Center Office Building and the Recreation Court Project.*

**ARTICLE 5**

**COMMUNITY PRESERVATION GRAVESTONE RESTORATION**

**Passed Yes 323 No 38**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund Historic Fund Balance the sum of NINE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED AND 00/100 DOLLARS ($9,500.00) for the purpose of North Cemetery and/ or Old Burial Ground historic preservation and restoration work; including all costs incidental and relative thereto.

Sponsor: Community Preservation Committee

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 8– 1 – 0.*

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 3 – 0 – 0.*

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 7 – 0 – 0.*

*Summary: The purpose of this article is to fund the gravestone/monument conservation services for the North Cemetery and Old Burial Ground.*

**ARTICLE 6**

**COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FISKE HILL CONSERVATION RESTRICTION**

**Passed Yes 280 No 64**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund Open Space Fund Balance the sum of SIXTY THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS ($60,000.00) for the purpose of funding a conservation restriction for the Fiske Hill parcel including all costs incidental and related thereto; or take any action relative thereto.

Sponsor: Community Preservation Committee

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 6 – 0 – 1.*

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 3 – 0 – 0.*

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 7 – 0 – 0.*

*Summary: As part of the purchase of properties through CPA funds, a Town is required to have a Conservation Restriction placed on that parcel.*

**ARTICLE 7**

**COMMUNITY PRESERVATION SENIOR CENTER RENOVATION**

**(2/3VOTE REQUIRED)**

**Passed Yes 311 No 52**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate an additional sum of money to pay costs of designing, engineering, constructing, equipping, and furnishing a renovated and expanded Senior Center to be located at 480 Main Street, and for the payment of any and all incidental and related costs, including, but not limited to, demolition and site preparation; to determine whether this amount shall be raised by taxation, transfer from available funds, borrowing, or otherwise. The Board of Selectmen and any other appropriate officials of the Town are authorized to apply for federal, state, or private grants, enter into any agreements and execute all documents including contracts for a term in excess of three years as may be necessary to effectuate the purposes of this article, and to accept any gifts or grants provided to the Town for such purposes; or take any action relative thereto.

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen and CPC

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

*That the Town appropriates the additional sum of ONE MILLION SEVEN HUNDRED EIGHTY THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS ($1,780,000.00) to pay costs of designing, engineering, constructing, equipping, and furnishing a renovated and expanded Senior Center to be located at 480 Main Street, and for the payment of any and all incidental and related costs, including, but not limited to, demolition and site preparation, and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectmen, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to G.L. c. 44, §7(1), c. 44B, or any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor. The Board of Selectmen and any other appropriate officials of the Town are authorized to apply for federal, state, or private grants, enter into any agreements and execute all documents including contracts for a term in excess of three years as may be necessary to effectuate the purposes of this article, and to accept any gifts or grants provided to the Town for such purposes.*

*Voted: 9 – 0 – 0.*

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:**

*That the Town appropriates the additional sum of One Million Seven Hundred Eighty Thousand Dollars ($1,780,000) to pay costs of designing, engineering, constructing, equipping, and furnishing a renovated and expanded Senior Center to be located at 480 Main Street, and for the payment of any and all incidental and related costs, including, but not limited to, demolition and site preparation, and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectmen, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to G.L. c. 44, §7(1), c. 44B, or any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor. The Board of Selectmen and any other appropriate officials of the Town are authorized to apply for federal, state, or private grants, enter into any agreements and execute all documents including contracts for a term in excess of three years as may be necessary to effectuate the purposes of this article, and to accept any gifts or grants provided to the Town for such purposes.*

*Voted: 3 – 0 – 0.*

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE:**

*That the Town appropriates the additional sum of One Million Seven Hundred Eighty Thousand Dollars ($1,780,000) to pay costs of designing, engineering, constructing, equipping, and furnishing a renovated and expanded Senior Center to be located at 480 Main Street, and for the payment of any and all incidental and related costs, including, but not limited to, demolition and site preparation, and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectmen, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to G.L. c. 44, §7(1), c. 44B, or any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor. The Board of Selectmen and any other appropriate officials of the Town are authorized to apply for federal, state, or private grants, enter into any agreements and execute all documents including contracts for a term in excess of three years as may be necessary to effectuate the purposes of this article, and to accept any gifts or grants provided to the Town for such purposes.*

*Voted: 6 – 0 – 0.*

*Summary: In Fall, 2021, Town Meeting voted to appropriate $11,450,000.00 for a renovation of the Senior Center. The total cost of the project will be approximately $12,780,000. The $1,780,000 referenced in this article shall come from CPC funding and be directly related to applicable portions of the project.*

**ARTICLE 8**

**COMMUNITY PRESERVATION PLIMPTON PROPERTY MASTER PLAN AND RELATED ENHANCEMENTS**

**Passed Yes 287 No 53**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund Open Space Fund Balance the sum of TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS ($25,000.00) to create a master plan and to work on signage, maps, forest rehabilitation and enhancement of public access for the Plimpton property including all costs incidental and related thereto; or take any action relative thereto.

Sponsor: Community Preservation Committee

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 8 – 1 – 0.*

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 3 – 0 – 0.*

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 7 – 0 – 0.*

*Summary: This article provides funding to create a master plan for the Plimpton Property and enhancement of public access.*

**ARTICLE 9**

**COMMUNITY PRESERVATION TRAILS AND SIGNAGE**

**Passed Yes 306 No 45**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund Undesignated Fund Balance the sum of FORTY-FIVE THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS ($45,000.00) for the purpose of creating and improving trails and creating signage on CPA open space properties including all costs incidental and related thereto; or take any action relative thereto.

Sponsor: Community Preservation Committee

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 9 – 0 – 0.*

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 3 – 0 – 0.*

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 7 – 0 – 0.*

*Summary: This article will provide funding for creating and improving trails and signage on CPA open space properties including the CPA properties of Leadmine, Long Pond, Fiske Hill, Plimpton, and Heins Farm.*

**ARTICLE 10**

**COMMUNITY PRESERVATION GRAND TRUNK TRAIL EXTENSION**

**Passed Yes 301 No 62**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund Undesignated Fund Balance the sum of ONE HUNDRED NINETEEN THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS ($119,000.00) for the purpose of engineering, design, legal fees and permitting, as well as design of trails and a parking lot for the Grand Trunk Trail extension, on 1 River Road and 9 River Road, from the intersection of River/Farqhuar Road to Haynes Street; including all costs incidental and related thereto; or take any action relative thereto.

Sponsor: Community Preservation Committee

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 8 – 1 – 0.*

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 3 – 0 – 0.*

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 7 – 0 – 0.*

*Summary: The property owner has indicated a willingness to grant the Town an easement for the Grand Trunk Trail over the property identified in the recent Grand Trunk Trail Central Section segment 1 Feasibility Study. This will allow the Town to continue the trail construction as outlined in several Master Plans related to Town improvement.*

**ARTICLE 11**

**COMMUNITY PRESERVATION PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE**

**Passed Yes 250 No 94**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund Undesignated Fund Balance the sum of TWO HUNDRED TWENTY THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS ($220,000.00) for the purpose of engineering, design, and permitting for connecting the Riverlands trails to Main Street, including the design of pedestrian bridge, including all costs incidental and related thereto; or take any action relative thereto.

Sponsor: Community Preservation Committee

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 7 – 2 – 0.*

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 3 – 0 – 0.*

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 7 – 0 – 0.*

*Summary: This article would fund services for an engineering firm to design and permit for the future construction of a trail and pedestrian (ADA accessible) bridge from 501 Main Street to the existing GTT section on the Riverlands a distance of approx. 2500 feet to include a 100 ft bridge over the Quinebaug river. This will allow the town to continue the trail construction as envisioned in the several Master Plans related to town improvements. Estimated cost for the construction of the bridge is between $500,000 and $600,000.*

**ARTICLE 12**

**COMMUNITY PRESERVATION HOUSING CONSULTANT**

**Passed Yes 281 No 62**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund Community Housing Fund Balance the sum of TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS ($25,000.00) for the purpose of continuing the use of a consultant as described in the Housing Production Plan; or take any action relative thereto.

Sponsor: Community Preservation Committee

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 8 – 0 – 1.*

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 3 – 0 – 0.*

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 7 – 0 – 0.*

*Summary: This article provides for the Town to continue to fund a housing professional to assist with the goals outlined in the Affordable Housing Trust. This will be the second year of funding for a consultant.*

**ARTICLE 13**

**COMMUNITY PRESERVATION HONOR ROLL AND CIVIL WAR MEMORIAL RESTORATION**

**Passed 308 No 23**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund Historic Fund Balance the sum of FIFTEEN THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS ($15,000.00) for the purpose of funding restoration and rehabilitation of the Honor Roll and Civil War Memorials at the Town Library and Town Hall including all costs incidental and related thereto; or take any action relative thereto.

Sponsor: Community Preservation Committee

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 9 – 0 – 0.*

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 3 – 0 – 0.*

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 7 – 0 – 0.*

*Summary: The Honor Roll and Civil War Monuments at Town Hall and the Library are in need of professional restoration and repair.*

**ARTICLE 14**

**COMMUNITY PRESERVATION GOLD STAR MOTHERS’ MEMORIAL RESTORATION**

**Passed Yes 299 No 29**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund Historic Fund Balance the sum of FIFTEEN THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS ($15,000.00) for the purpose of funding restoration and rehabilitation of the Gold Star Mother’s Memorial and landscape at the Center Office Building including all costs incidental and related thereto; or take any action relative thereto.

Sponsor: Community Preservation Committee

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 9 – 0 – 0.*

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 3 – 0 – 0.*

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 7 – 0 – 0.*

*Summary: The Gold Star Mothers’ Memorial in front of the Center Office Building is in need of professional restoration and repair. Additionally, funding for this article would provide surrounding landscaping upgrades.*

**ARTICLE 15**

**TOWN BUDGET**

The following Line items were placed on hold:

Finance Director #11451, BOH #15101 and Library #16101

All other Lines were voted on and Passed Yes 339 No 18

Finance: Hold Jennifer Houde needed an explanation on who is covered in the Salaries line?

Approved as written Passed Yes 318 No 24

BOH: Hold Linda Cocalis to Increase the budget for the Admin to $8,000.00 Passed Yes 208 No 157

Library: Hold Michael Young

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money as may be necessary to pay the Town charges for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023 and vote to fix salary and compensation of all elected officials of the Town in accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 41, Section 108, effective July 1, 2023; or take any action relative thereto.

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted 9 – 0 – 0.*

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 3 – 0 – 0.*

*Summary: This article is for the approval of the Town and School operating budgets for Fiscal Year 2024.*

**ARTICLE 16**

**ROAD CONSTRUCTION, REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE**

**Passed Yes 115 No 7**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate ONE HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS ($150,000.00) to the Road Construction, Repairs and Maintenance Account in order to fund the road construction, repairs and maintenance of town roads as determined by the DPW Director; or take any action relative thereto.

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 8 – 0 – 0.*

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 3 – 0 – 0.*

*Summary: The Town funds road repair and maintenance through an annual warrant article which does not expire at the end of the Fiscal Year to provide the Department of Public Works with greater flexibility in meeting the needs of the community.*

**ARTICLE 17**

**PUBLIC ACCESS DEPARTMENT**

**Passed Yes 111 No 8**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the PEG Access and Cable Related Fund the sum of ONE HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY-FOUR AND 00/100 DOLLARS; or take any action relative thereto.

**Estimated budget for FY24 is:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Salaries/Wages | $ 84,714.00 |
| Longevity | $ 300.00 |
| Employee Benefits | $ 28,410.00 |
| Operating Expenses | $ 24,750.00 |
| Capital | $ 12,000.00 |
| **Total** | **$ 150,174.00** |

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 8 – 0 – 0.*

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 3 – 0 – 0.*

*Summary: This proposed budget provides for the operations of the Town’s cable access service for public, educational, and government (PEG) purposes. Funds for this article are provided via a surcharge on each cable bill.*

**ARTICLE 18**

**STURBRIDGE TOURIST ASSOCIATION**

**Passed Yes 112 No 7**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer and appropriate from the Hotel/Motel Special Account to the Sturbridge Tourist Association Account the sum of ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY-SEVEN THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED SEVENTY SIX AND 00/100 DOLLARS; or to take any action relative thereto.

**Estimated budget for FY24 is:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Community Support | $ 43,235.00 |
| Marketing | $ 101,115.00 |
| Salaries/Wages | $ 33,326.00 |
| Employee Benefits | $ 9,800.00 |
| **Total** | **$ 187,476.00** |
|  |  |

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 8 – 0 – 0.*

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 3 – 0 – 0.*

*Summary: The revenues come from a 6% hotel/motel tax which is split with 67.5% going to the General Fund, 16.25% used for funding the Sturbridge Tourist Association and 16.25% used for the Betterment Committee. This budget is available for marketing the community for tourism, as well as partial funding for the Economic Development/Tourism Coordinator position.*

**ARTICLE 19**

**BETTERMENT COMMITTEE**

**Passed Yes 112 No 7**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer and appropriate from the Hotel/Motel Special Account to the Betterment Account the sum of ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY-TWO THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED SEVENTY-NINE AND 00/100 DOLLARS ($182,979.00) for the following items:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Requested By** | **Item** | **Amount** |
|  |  |  |
| Polly Currier | Flower Barrels | $ 2,200.00 |
| Recreation | Plantings (Bloom Committee) | $ 575.00 |
| Library  Facilities | Beautification Joshua Hyde Library  Benches near Town Hall Monument | $ 4,300.00  $ 3,800.00 |
| Town Planner | Wayfinding Streetscape Improvements | $ 20,000.00 |
| DPW | Beautification at Town Hall and COB | $ 5,000.00 |
| Tree Warden | Tree Planting - Arbor Day Program | $ 1,700.00 |
| Recreation  DPW | Town Offices & Library Decorations  Stand-on Mower | $ 4,300.00  $ 10,000.00 |
| Facilities | COB Display Case Enhancement | $ 3,500.00 |
| TA | Gateway Signage | $ 35,000.00 |
| DPW | Sidewalk Maintenance | $ 10,000.00 |
| Tree Warden | Tree Maintenance (town-wide) | $ 10,000.00 |
| Tree Warden | Town Common Tree Maintenance | $ 1,500.00 |
| DPW | Sidewalk Plow for Bobcat | $ 3,400.00 |
| Tree Warden | Main Street Tree Cemetery and Park Maint (Street Landscaping) | $ 5,500.00 |
| Police Department | Special Events Overtime | $ 10,000.00 |
| Police Department | iPad | $ 1,359.00 |
| Police Department | Promotional/Educational Material | $ 1,000.00 |
|  |  |  |
| Police Department | Solar Panel Equipment for Radar Signs | $ 1,233.00 |
| Fire Department | Protective Firefighting Gear | $ 9,000.00 |
| Fire Department | Special Events Overtime | $ 8,380 .00 |
| Fire Department | Cordless Batteries for Power Tools | $ 2,470.00 |
| Fire Department | Hi-Lift Jack | $ 750.00 |
| Fire Department | Cordless Tripod Lights | $ 850.00 |
| Recreation | Cedar Lake (Town Beach) Water Treatment | $ 1,867.00 |
| Recreation | Town Common Summer Concert Series | $ 4,000.00 |
| Recreation | Decorations for Town Common | $ 4,445.00 |
| Recreation | Town Bonfire | $ 3,000.00 |
| SLAC | SLAC / Great Ponds Weed & Safety Program | $ 6,000.00 |
| Special Event Comm | Funding for special events in the Community | $ 7,000.00 |
| Trail Committee | Misc. Trail Maint and Improvement Items | $ 850 .00 |
|  |  |  |
|  |  | **$ 182,979.00** |

or to take any action relative thereto.

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 7 – 0 – 1.*

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 3 – 0 – 0*

*Summary: The revenues come from a 6% hotel/motel tax which is split with 67.5% going to the General Fund, 16.25% used for funding the Sturbridge Tourist Association and 16.25% used for the Betterment Committee. Betterment Committee funds are utilized for public safety, recreation and the beautification of the community.*

**ARTICLE 20**

**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

After discussion from the Recreation Committee and Finance Committee concerning the Turners Field Fencing Line Item The Full amount of the fencing was approved Passed Yes 96 No 34

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash and appropriate the sum of SIX HUNDRED NINETY-SEVEN THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED SIXTY AND 00/100 DOLLARS ($697,460.00) for the purpose of funding the following items, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, from the Capital Improvement Plan to be undertaken for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2023;

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Department** | **Item** | **Amount** |
| Recreation | Turner’s Field Fencing | $ 35,840.00 |
| Library  Fire  IT  IT  Police  Police  Police  DPW  DPW  DPW  Facilities  Facilities  Facilities  Facilities | Meeting Room Tables and Chairs  Utility Response Vehicle  Copier Town Hall  Copier DPW  Detective Vehicle  Ballistic Shields/Helmets  Portable VHF Radios  Catch Basin Cleaner  4WD Utility Vehicle  Utility Trailer  Town Hall Front and Rear Door Access Modif.  PSC – HVAC Exhaust Fan Repairs/Replacement  Masonry Repointing –Front Steps, Town Hall  PSC – Site Survey | $ 16,291.00  $ 66,500.00  $ 8,100.00  $ 2,600.00  $ 46,195.00  $ 43,406.00  $ 27,528.00  $ 310,000.00  $ 60,000.00  $ 20,000.00  $ 20,000.00  $ 10,000.00  $ 20,000.00  $ 11,000.00 |
|  |  |  |
| **Total** |  | **$697,460.00** |

or take any action relative thereto.

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

*That the Town amend the article by changing the amount of the Recreation Turner’s Field Fencing to $2,830.00 and to otherwise approve the article as written. Voted: 4 – 3 – 0.*

*The Finance Committee is recommending a lower amount than requested to address the fencing at Turner’s Field. The amount of our recommendation will serve to repair the existing fencing while the Town develops a long-term maintenance plan for the field and fencing. Once the plan is adopted by the various Town Departments, the Finance Committee is willing to reconsider the request for replacing the existing fencing with newer, higher fencing as proposed in the initial request. If the Finance Committee’ recommendation is accepted, the new total for the article will be $664.450.00*

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:**

*Recommendation to be provided at Town Meeting.*

*Summary: This article funds a portion of the highest rated capital needs of the Town. Under the Comprehensive Fiscal Policies approved by the Board of Selectmen, the Town targets 1.5% of its budgeted annual expenditures - $623,812.00 for FY2024, for its annual capital budget. Under this policy, capital expenditures rated as high priorities but costing under $5,000.00 are included in department budgets while capital expenditures over $5,000 are funded from either available revenues, such as free cash or borrowing. For FY2024, all items in this article are recommended to be funded from Free Cash.*

**ARTICLE 21**

**SEWER DEPARTMENT CRANE TRUCK**

**Passed Yes 106 No 12**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the Sewer Reserve Fund Balance the sum of ONE HUNDRED THIRTY THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS ($130,000.00) for the purpose of purchasing a Crane Truck or take any action relative thereto.

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 8 – 0 – 0.*

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 3 – 0 – 0.*

*Summary: The current crane truck (2005) needs replacement. It is a critical piece of equipment for maintenance of the pump station.*

**ARTICLE 22**

**ARTICLE 22**

**FRONT END LOADER PURCHASE**

**Passed Yes 103 No 16**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Free Cash the sum of TWO HUNDRED THIRTY THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS ($230,000.00) for the purpose of purchasing a front end loader; or take any action relative thereto.

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 8 = 0 – 0.*

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 3 – 0 – 0.*

*Summary: The front end loader used for the landfill is no longer operational. The cost to repair this 2006 piece of equipment would be at least $60,000.00.*

**ARTICLE 23**

**AMBULANCE STABILIZATION FUND**

**Passed Yes 112 No 5**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of SIXTY THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS ($60,000.00) to the Ambulance Stabilization Fund for the purpose of reserving funds for the future purchase of an ambulance including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto; or take any action relative thereto.

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 8 – 0 – 0.*

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 3 – 0 - 0*

*Summary: Each year, the Town sets aside a sum of money to assist the Town in replacing its ambulances on a seven-year schedule. If approved, the approximate balance in the Ambulance Stabilization Fund will be $93,835.00. The next ambulance replacement is scheduled for FY25.*

**ARTICLE 24**

**CAPITAL STABILIZATION FUND**

**Passed Yes 108 No 10**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of TWO HUNDRED TWO THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS ($202,000.00) to the Capital Stabilization Fund, or take any action relative thereto.

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 8 – 0 – 0.*

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 3 – 0 – 0.*

*Summary: The purpose of this fund is to maintain an equipment replacement and facilities maintenance schedule. The Town’s Comprehensive Fiscal Management policies provide for annual funding of a minimum of 0.5% of the General Fund Operating Budget. If approved the approximate balance in this fund will be $1,251,223.00.*

**ARTICLE 25**

**FIRE VEHICLE STABILIZATION FUND**

**Passed Yes 114 No 5**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate EIGHTY THOUSAND DOLLARS ($80,000.00) to the Fire Vehicle Stabilization Fund for the purpose of reserving funds for the future purpose of major fire apparatus including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, or take any action relative thereto.

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 8 – 0 – 0.*

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 3 – 0 – 0.*

*Summary: Each year the Town sets aside a sum of money to assist the Town in replacing its expensive fire apparatus. These funds will be set aside until needed. If approved, the approximate balance in this fund will be $137,460.00. The Town’s five-year capital plan anticipates the need to purchase a piece of apparatus to replace the current Rescue 1 apparatus at an estimated cost of $750,000 in FY25.*

**ARTICLE 26**

**OPEB TRUST FUND**

**Passed Yes 114 No 4**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND 00/100 DOLLARS ($100,000.00) to the Other Post-Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund Account; or take any action relative thereto.

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 8 – 0 – 0.*

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 3 – 0 – 0.*

*Summary: The Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB) has determined that Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) are part of the compensation that employees earn each year notwithstanding that such benefits are not tendered until after employment has ended. These benefits include health insurance, prescription or other related benefits provided to eligible retirees. GASB-45 mandates that municipalities account for and, eventually, fund these benefits. The fund was established and capitalized with $100,000 at the 2011 Annual Meeting. In accordance with the Town’s financial policies, an annual contribution of not less than $50,000 should be allocated to the fund until such time as the actuarially calculated OPEB liability of $13.9 million is realized. If approved Sturbridge will have approximately $1,571,452.00 in the fund.*

**ARTICLE 27**

**REVALUATION/INTERIM ADJUSTMENTS**

**Passed Yes 102 No 13**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate TWENTY THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS ($20,000.00) to the Revaluation/Interim Adjustments Account; or take any action relative thereto.

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 9 – 0 – 0.*

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 3 – 0 – 0.*

*Summary: This article provides annual funding for property revaluations and interim adjustments that the town is required to perform in accordance with Massachusetts General Law.*

**ARTICLE 28**

**ESTABLISH STURBRIDGE FARMER’S MARKET REVOLVING FUND**

**Passed Yes 103 No 8**

To see if the Town will vote to amend the General Bylaw Chapter 19 Finances, Article II Departmental Revolving Funds by amending Section 19-7 Authorized Revolving Funds and adding subparagraph K, as follows:

**K. Farmer’s Market Revolving Fund**

1. Fund Name. There shall be a separate fund called the Farmer’s Market Revolving Fund authorized for use by the Recreation Director.
2. Revenues. The Town Accountant shall establish the Farmer’s Market Revolving Fund as a separate account and credit to the fund all of the vendor fees, donations, gifts, private sponsorships and any other revenue directly related to the operation of the Farmer’s Market.
3. Purposes and Expenditures. During each fiscal year, the Recreation Director may incur liabilities against and spend monies from the Farmer’s Market Revolving Fund all of the costs associated with planning, promoting, offering various activities, entertainment, facility improvements, payment of staff support and other costs directly related to the Farmer’s Market.
4. Fiscal Years. The Farmer’s Market Revolving Fund shall operate for fiscal years that begin on or after July 1, 2023.

or take any other action relative thereto.

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 7 – 0 – 0.*

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 3 – 0 - 0*

*Summary: This article amends General Bylaws Chapter 19 Finances, Article II Section 19-7 by adding a new section to establish and authorize a Farmer’s Market Revolving Fund in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 53E1/2.*

**ARTICLE 29**

**REVOLVING FUNDS – SPENDING LIMITS FY24**

**Passed Yes 108 No 5**

To see if the Town will vote establish and re-establish the following Revolving Funds as provided for in Massachusetts General Law Chapter 44, Section 53 E ½, to set the FY24 spending limits for certain revolving funds as follows:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Revolving Fund: | Maximum Expenditure: |
| Recreation | $ 30,000.00 |
| HazMat Cleanup | $ 20,000.00 |
| Board of Health | $ 20,000.00 |
| BOH: Pay-As-You-Throw Program | $ 60,000.00 |
| Senior Center | $ 10,000.00 |
| Planning Department | $ 10,000.00 |
| Public Lands | $ 20,000.00 |
| Sturbridge Tourist Association | $ 20,000.00 |
| CPR | $ 5,000.00 |
| House Numbering  Sturbridge Farmer’s Market | $ 5,000.00  $ 10,000.00 |
|  |  |

or take any action relative thereto.

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 7 – 0 – 0.*

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 3 – 0 - 0*

*Summary: The departmental revolving fund statute, G.L. c. 44, 53E 1/2, was amended by the Municipal Modernization Act in 2016 which eliminated the caps on the amount that could be spent from the revolving funds. At the Special Town Meeting in February 26, 2018, the revolving fund bylaw was adopted per the Municipal Modernization Act. However, Town Meeting must continue to vote annually on or before July 1 on the amount that may be spent from each fund during the upcoming fiscal year. This article establishes the spending limit for the new revolving fund that was established under Article 28 in the amount of $10,000.00. It also increases the spending limit of the Pay-As-You-Throw Program from $20,000.00 to $60,000.00.*

**ARTICLE 30**

**WATER DEPARTMENT**

**Passed Yes 96 No 20**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, through the fixing and collection of just and equitable prices and rates set by the Board of Selectmen (acting as Water Commissioners), a sum of ONE MILLION FIVE HUNDRED SIXTY-ONE THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED FORTY-NINE AND 00/100 DOLLARS ($1,561,749.00) for the expenses of the Water Department; or take any action relative thereto.

**Estimated budget for FY24 is:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Contract Operations | $ 804,737.00 |
| Electricity | $ 85,000.00 |
| Chemicals, Testing | $ 10,000.00 |
| DPW Director | $ 15,395.00 |
| Meter Maintenance | $ 10,000.00 |
| Billing Expense | $ 8,000.00 |
| Debt Service | $ 382,617.00 |
| Miscellaneous | $ 85,000.00 |
| Capital Replacement | $ 110,500.00 |
| Reserve Account | $ 50,000.00 |
| **Total:** | **$1,561,749.00** |

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 6 – 1 – 0.*

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 3 – 0 – 0.*

*Summary: This budget covers the operating expenses for providing public water in Sturbridge. This budget will increase the water rate to $7.81 per 100 cubic feet. (8.7%)*

**ARTICLE 31**

**SEWER DEPARTMENT**

**Passed Yes 70 No 13**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, through fixing and collection of just and equitable prices and rates set by the Board of Selectmen (acting as Sewer Commissioners) a sum of TWO MILLION EIGHT HUNDRED SIXTY-TWO THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-EIGHT AND 00/100 DOLLARS ($2,862,128.00) for the expenses of the Sewer Department; or take any action relative thereto.

**Estimated budget for FY24 is:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Contract Operations | $1,043,449.00 |
| Electricity | $ 250,000.00 |
| Chemicals, Testing | $ 30,000.00 |
| DPW Director | $ 15,395.00 |
| Billing Expense | $ 6,000.00 |
| Debt Service | $ 845,000.00 |
| Southbridge Fees | $ 225,000.00 |
| Liquid Sludge Handling | $ 200.000.00 |
| Miscellaneous | $ 104,340.00 |
| Capital Replacement | $ 67.500.00 |
| Reserve Account | $ 75,000.00 |
| **Total:** | **$2,862,128.00** |

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 7 – 0 – 0.*

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 3 – 0 – 0.*

*Summary: This budget covers the operating expenses for providing public sewer in Sturbridge. This budget requires a rate increase in the sewer rate to $12.59 per 100 cubic feet. (3.6%)*

**ARTICLE 32**

**SEWER PROJECT DEBT – BETTERMENTS**

**Passed Yes 70 No 13**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of sum of:

* ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-SEVEN THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED FIFTY AND 00/100 DOLLARS ($127,950.00) from the F/B Reserved for Sewer Betterments to the Big Alum Sewer Debt Account #28440-59220; and
* FORTY-SIX THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED FIFTY AND 00/100 DOLLARS ($46,250.00) from the F/B Reserved for Sewer Betterments to the Woodside/Westwood Sewer Debt Account #28440-59230;

For the purpose of paying debt service due on these sewer projects for FY24; or take any action relative thereto.

Sponsor: Finance Director

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 9 – 0 – 0.*

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted 3 – 0 – 0.*

*Summary: This warrant article appropriates the funds necessary to pay debt service on the several sewer projects the Town of Sturbridge has undertaken over the past decade. These debt service payments are repaid through betterment assessments from the property owners within the specific sewer area and are not supported by either general property taxes or other sewer customers through the sewer rate.*

**ARTICLE 33**

**INFLOW AND INFILTRATION STUDY AND REPAIR**

**Passed Yes 105 No 4**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the Sewer Reserve Fund Balance the sum of NINETY THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS ($90,000.00) for an Inflow and Infiltration Study and necessary repairs identified from the study for the municipal sewer system; or take any action relative thereto.

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 9 – 0 – 0.*

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 3 – 0 – 0.*

*Summary: This study is a mandatory program of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) involving every wastewater collection system in Massachusetts. This program requires that all our collection systems be examined to identify necessary repairs. This is year four (4) of a recurring annual cost for the 10 years, and will keep the Town in compliance with the DEP regulations.*

**ARTICLE 34**

**STORMWATER MS4 COMPLIANCE**

**Passed Yes 100 No 6**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS ($100,000.00) to pay for all activities associated with and required by the State regarding compliance with the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Stormwater MS4 Permit, or take any other action relative thereto.

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 9 – 0 – 0.*

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 3 – 0 – 0.*

*Summary: This funding is a mandatory program of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) involving every stormwater collection system in Massachusetts. This is a recurring annual cost.*

**ARTICLE 35**

**TREE REMOVAL AND MAINTENANCE**

**Passed Yes 107 No 5**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS ($100,000.00) for the purpose of tree removal and tree maintenance as determined by the Tree Warden; or take any action relative thereto.

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 9 – 0 – 0.*

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 3 – 0 – 0.*

*Summary: The Tree Warden has indicated that there are many dead and/or damaged trees throughout the Town that need trimming or removal to ensure public safety along roadways, etc. This funding would be used for such removal and trimming.*

**ARTICLE 36**

**COOPER ROAD CULVERT REPLACEMENT**

**Passed Yes 88 No 28**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of ONE MILLION AND 00/100 DOLLARS ($1,000,000.00) to replace the Cooper Road Culvert including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto; or take any action relative thereto.

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

*That the Town vote to take no action on this article. Voted: 8 – 1 – 0.*

*The Finance Committee recommendation to “take no action” is not made in opposition to undertaking this project which the Committee, in fact, fully support. The Committee’s intent is to allow for Town Meeting to consider an alternative which the Committee feel provides a more appropriate source of funding, namely Chapter 90 funds. Chapter 90 funds may be used for road construction, and the Town currently has approximately $3.6 million available. Using this source of funding, instead of free cash, would allow the Town to retain the $1 million unrestricted in our free cash balance, allowing greater flexibility on future expenditures.*

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 3 – 0 – 0.*

*Summary: This article will provide funding to replace the failing, undersized culvert on Cooper Road. The current grade on Cooper Road is below the water level of the adjacent beaver dam and pond. The culverts under the road are undersized and would plug and flood quickly if the dam failed of the culverts are plugged with debris. These funds provide for engineering, permitting, and construction.*

**ARTICLE 37**

**FALLS ROAD CULVERT REPLACEMENT**

**Passed Yes 98 No 18**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of TWO HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS ($250,000.00) to replace the Falls Road Culvert including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto; or take any action relative thereto.

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 8 – 1 – 0.*

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 3 – 0 - 0*

*Summary: This article will provide funding to replace the failing, undersized culvert on Falls Road. The current culvert is only 15”. This has caused it to clog and flood on a regular basis.*

**ARTICLE 38**

**ESTABLISHMENT OF A STURBRIDGE DISABILITIES COMMISSION**

**Passed Yes 103 No 10**

To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40, Section 8J relative to the establishment of the municipal Commission on Disability; or take any action relative thereto.

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 9 – 0 – 0.*

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 3 – 0 – 0.*

*Summary: The commission shall be comprised of five members, 60% of whom must meet the Commonwealth definition of “disabled.” Members shall be appointed by the Town Administrator with approval from the Board of Selectmen. The Disabilities Commission shall be a liaison to the public in areas of accessibility and programming.*

**ARTICLE 39**

**AMENDMENT OF ZONING BYLAW AND MAP REGARDING FLOODPLAIN**

**(2/3 VOTE REQUIRED**

**Passed Yes 97 No 9**

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Zoning Bylaw § 300-3.4 Floodplain District in the following manner or take any other action relative thereto:

**Amend § 300-3.4 Floodplain District C. by deleting the date of June 16, 2014 in the two places noted below and by inserting the new date of June 21, 2023 as follows:**

The Floodplain District is herein established as an overlay district. The District includes all special flood hazard areas within the Town of Sturbridge designated as Zone A, AE, AH, AO or A99 on the Worcester County Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) dated ~~July 16, 2014~~, June 21, 2023 issued by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for the administration of the National Flood Insurance Program. The exact boundaries of the District shall be defined by the one-percent-chance base flood elevations shown on the FIRM and further defined by the Worcester County Flood Insurance Study (FIS) report dated ~~July 16, 2014~~ June 21, 2023. The FIRM and FIS report are incorporated herein by reference and are on file with the Town Clerk, Planning Board and Director of Inspections, and the Conservation Commission.

**Amend § 300-3.4 Floodplain District D. as follows:**

**Delete existing language shown with strikethrough and renumber remainder of bylaw as needed:**

~~D. Within Zone A, where the 100-year flood elevation is not provided on the FIRM, the applicant shall obtain any existing flood elevation data, and it shall be reviewed by the Planning Board. If the data is sufficiently detailed and accurate, it shall be relied upon to require compliance with this bylaw and the State Building Code.~~

**Amend § 300-3.4 Floodplain District G (3) (b) as follows:**

**Delete existing language shown with strikethrough and insert new proposed language shown as underlined:**

~~(b) In Zones A1-30 and AE, along watercourses that have a regulatory floodway designated on the Sturbridge FIRM, encroachments are prohibited in the regulatory floodway which would result in any increase in flood levels within the community during the occurrence of the base flood discharge.~~

(b) In Zones A1-30 and AE, along watercourses that have a regulatory floodway designated on the Town’s FIRM encroachments are prohibited, including fill, new construction, substantial improvements, and other development within the adopted regulatory floodway unless it has been demonstrated through hydrologic and hydraulic analyses performed in accordance with standard engineering practice that the proposed encroachment would not result in any increase in flood levels within the community during the occurrence of the base flood discharge.

**Amend § 300-3.4 Floodplain District G (12) as follows:**

**Delete existing language shown with strikethrough and insert new proposed language shown as underlined:**

(12) ~~Base flood elevation data is required for subdivision proposals or other developments greater than 50 lots or five acres, whichever is the lesser, within unnumbered A Zones.~~

(12) When proposing subdivisions or other developments greater than 50 lots or 5 acres (whichever is less), the proponent must provide technical data to determine base flood elevations for each developable parcel shown on the design plans.

**Amend § 300-3.4 Floodplain District I (3), (4) as follows:**

**Delete existing language shown with strikethrough and insert the underlined text:**

(3) ~~FIP State Coordinator~~ **Massachusetts NFIP State Coordinator**.

Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation

~~251 Causeway Street, Suite 800~~

~~Boston, MA 02114-2104~~

(4) NFIP Program Specialist

Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region 1

~~99 High Street, 6th Floor~~

~~Boston, MA 02110~~

**Amend § 300-3.4 Floodplain District J (1), (2) as follows:**

**Delete existing language shown with strikethrough:**

(1) Notification shall be submitted to:

FEMA Region I Risk Analysis Branch Chief

~~99 High Street, 6th Floor, Boston, MA 02110~~

(2) And copy of notification to:

Massachusetts NFIP State Coordinator

MA Department of Conservation and Recreation

~~251 Causeway Street, Boston, MA 02114~~

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 9 – 0 – 0.*

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 3 – 0 – 0.*

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE PLANNING BOARD:**

*That the Town vote to approve as written. Voted: 5 – 0 – 0.*

*Summary: To be consistent with the latest State guidelines, the proposed amendment will make minor revisions to the Floodplain Bylaw as recommended by the Department of Conservation and Recreation Floodplain Administrator for the State of Massachusetts.  Additionally, this will change the effective date for the Worcester County Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) and Flood Insurance Study (FIS) to June 21, 2023, which will be the effective date of the maps recently updated by FEMA.  Failure to adopt the change to reference the new maps will jeopardize participation in the Flood Insurance Rate Map Program in which the town currently participates.*

**ARTICLE 40**

**STURBRIDGE WATER/SEWER ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**Passed Yes 102 No 6**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Water and Sewer Reserve Funds equally the sum of TWO HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS ($250,000.00) with $175,000.00 anticipated in grant reimbursement for the Sturbridge Water/Sewer Asset Management Plan Project which is on the Massachusetts 2023 Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Asset Management Planning Project List; or take any action relative thereto.

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 7 – 0 – 0.*

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 3 – 0 – 0.*

*Summary: To ensure that water/sewer infrastructure is maintained in a timely fashion and to assess future needs, the Town has received grand funding for all but $100 K of that cost – half of which will come in-kind. The total project cost of $250,000 is comprised of a $150,000 grant (60% of the total project cost) which the Town will be reimbursed in two payments of approximately $75,000 each at approximately the 50% and 100% project completion stage by MassDEP and the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust. The balance of the project will be comprised of in-kind services provided by Town valued at $50,000 and a cash contribution valued at $50,000.*

**ARTICLE 41**

**SEWER MAIN LINING AND MANHOLE REPAIR AND COATING – ROUTE 20**

**Passed Yes 102 No 9**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the Sewer Reserve Fund Balance the sum of SEVEN HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS ($750,000.00) for the purpose of sewer-main lining and repairing and coating associated manholes on a stretch of Route 20; or take any action relative thereto.

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 7 – 0 – 0.*

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 3 – 0 – 0.*

*Summary: The sewer line at Route 20 East of the intersection of Rt. 131 is in need of repair. Preliminary investigation has shown that lining the pipe will sufficiently protect it.*

**ARTICLE 42**

**SEWER MAIN REPLACEMENT – ROUTE 131**

**Passed Yes 102 No 6**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the Sewer Reserve Fund Balance the sum of FOUR HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS ($450,000.00) for the purpose of replacing the sewer line on Route 131 from Route 20 to the Public Safety Complex; or take any action relative thereto.

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 7 – 0 – 0*

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 3 – 0 – 0.*

*Summary: The sewer line under Rt 131 from Route 20 to the Public Safety Complex is in need of repair and requires replacement for proper flow as well as environmental protection.*

**ARTICLE 43**

**ST. ANNE, FISKE HILL, AND STALLION HILL’S WATER TANK MAINTENANCE/REPAIR**

**Passed Yes 99 No 3**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the Water Tank Maintenance Account #29520 the sum of ONE HUNDRED NINETY-FIVE THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS ($195,000.00) for the purpose of engineering plans for potential Stallion Hill Water Tank Replacement; St Anne Tank engineering for repairs and valve pit upgrades; and Fiske Hill interior evaluation and specification for painting; or take any action relative thereto.

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 6 – 0 – 1.*

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 3 – 0 – 0.*

*Summary: This article provides funding for necessary engineering work related to upcoming maintenance and repairs as well as current maintenance/repairs for three water tanks.*

**ARTICLE 44**

**CONCRETE TANK REPAIR AT WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT**

**Passed Yes 100 No 3**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Sewer Reserve Fund Balance the sum of FIFTY THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS ($50,000.00) for the purpose of repairing the concrete influent chamber and gravity thickener; or take any other action relative thereto.

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 7 – 0 – 0.*

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 3 – 0 - 0*

*Summary: The Wastewater Treatment Plant has two concrete tanks (Gravity Thicken No1 and Grit Chamber) that are showing cracking and surface defects on the concrete walls of the tanks.  These cracks and defects require repairs to prevent further degradation of the concrete and that could lead to future tank failure.  An engineered Scope of Work has been completed and the project is ready to be bid for construction.*

**ARTICLE 45**

**OLD STURBRIDGE VILLAGE WATER LINE DESIGN WORK**

**Passed Yes 101 No 7**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the Water Reserve Fund Balance the sum of FIFTY THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS ($50,000.00) for the purpose of obtaining engineering plans for the replacement of the “OSV” water line; or take any other action relative thereto.

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 7 – 0 – 0.*

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 3 – 0 – 0.*

*Summary: This water line has shut-off valves located underneath a wetlands making access to it very challenging. In the event of an emergency, a shut-off much further up the line would be required rendering the school at OSV as well as other properties without water.*

**ARTICLE 46**

**AMENDMENTS TO THE STURBRIDGE CHARTER**

**(2/3 VOTE REQUIRED)**

**The Article was asked to be amended to read: keep the date of the ATM to the 1st Monday in June The amendment Failed Yes 47 No 43**

**To Keep the Arrticle as written Passes Yes 74 No 33**

To see if the Town will vote to amend the current Town Charter by substituting the recommended draft Charter as attached to this Warrant, on display at the Town Clerk’s office and as posted on the Town of Sturbridge website; or take any action in relation thereto.

Sponsored by: The Board of Selectmen

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 4 – 2 – 0.*

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 3 – 0 – 0.*

*Summary: The proposed Charter: Changes the name from Board of Selectmen to Select Board (throughout); Removes all gender references (throughout), assign’s the moderator the sole authority to ensure diverse viewpoints and concerns are represented and heard at Town Meetings; assigns to the Moderator the sole discretion to determine the mans and methods by which votes are made, electronically or by any other form at Town Meetings; Moves the annual town meeting from the first Monday in June to the Fourth Monday in April; Requires the attendance of all department heads at all sessions of the Special Town Meeting as determined by the Town Administrator; requires Selectmen subject to recall to recuse themselves from the duties of the recall process; assigns duties required of Selectmen in the recall process to the Town Clerk in the event all Selectmen are subject to recall; excludes from the Town Administrator’s jurisdiction the care, custody, and control over the rental and use of Town property that is under the jurisdiction of the Superintendent of Schools, Board of Library Trustees, and the Conservation Committee; requires the Town Administrator and Town Clerk to inventory, for accuracy and completeness, the list of all offices, committees, boards, and commissions every six (6) months; clarify those Town offices not subject to appointment by Town Administrator; forms the search committee for Police Chief, Fire Chief, and Director of Public Works, respectively with two voters who are not Town employees, except for special Town employees, and two members who may be residents or non-residents who are qualified due to their relevant career experience; requires the Town Administrator to recommend to the Selectmen, for their confirmation, with respect to the searches for Police Chief, Fire Chief, and Director of Public Works, the best qualified applicant for appointment; place solely within the authority of the Town Administrator and without confirmation of the Selectmen, the appointment of any candidate for employment to any position, which position does not hold the authority to 1) expend public funds; (2) hire or terminate; (3) review the work of others for the purposes of promotion/demotion; or (4) determine compensation with the exceptions noted; authorize the Town administrator the option to delegate any and all parts of any search process, except for the authority of the Town Administrator to recommend candidates for confirmation by the Selectmen; reduce from one (1) year to (90) days the deadline for the Selectmen to make public the Town Charter immediately after voter approval at an election.*

*Please see Appendix D starting on page 58 for details.*

**Meeting was adjourned per the Town Moderator at 10:51 PM and to resume on Tuesday Night June 6, 2023 at 7:00PM**

**The 2nd night of the annual town meeting open at 7:00 PM with the Town moderator with a quick review the procedures of the meeting and proceeded to the last Article of the Annual town meeting.**

**ARTICLE 47**

**STREET SWEEPER PURCHASE**

**Passed Yes 33 No 1**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Free Cash the sum of TWO HUNDRED EIGHTY THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS ($280,000.00) for the purpose of purchasing a street sweeper; or take any action relative thereto.

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 6 – 1 – 0.*

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted: 4 – 0 – 0.*

*Summary: One of the two sweepers required for the street sweeping process is out of service and would require approximately 100K in repairs if the parts are even available. This will replace a 2004 street sweeper.*

**The Annual Town Meeting Adjourned at 7:04 PM**