**TOWN OF STURBRIDGE**

**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT ARTICLES**

**TANTASQUA REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL**

**JUNE 6, 2022**

**7:00 PM**



Town Meeting started promptly at 7:00PM with 157 residents in attendance throughout the evening.

Moderator Michael Caplette Announced the appointment to the Finance Committee for a 3 year term to expire June 2025 Bruce Bryson, Laurence Morrison and Kathy Neal. The Electronic Clickers were explained by the moderator and two test questions were asked to test out the devices.

The Clickers were approved for use by the residents 117/7. Kevin Smith-Chair of the Finance Committee and Chair of the Board of selectmen Mary Blanchard thanked the residents for participating in this meeting. Our Newly appointed Town Administrator Robin Grimm also thanked the residents and explained how important this meeting is to take part in.

The following motions were brought forward for a vote of approval:

* Acceptance of the Warrant 122/2 **Passed**
* To waive the reading of the warrant 117/9 **Passed**
* Meeting shall adjourn for the night no later 10:30 PM 106/20 **Passed**
* **A**cceptance of the Town Report 121/1 **Passed**

**ARTICLE 1**

**TOWN REPORTS 121/1 Passed**

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 5-0-0.*

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

**ARTICLE 2 113/6 Passed**

**COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE REPORT**

To see if the Town will vote to hear and act on the report of the Community Preservation Committee on the Fiscal Year 2023 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 2023; 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 5-0-0.*

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

**ARTICLE 3 110/11 Passed**

**COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ADMINISTRATION FUNDS**

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 FY2023 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 7-0-0.*

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted 5-0-0.*

**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 for 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 4 118/5 Passed**

**COMMUNITY PRESERVATION DEBT SERVICE**

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

* SIXTY-TWO THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED TWENTY-FIVE AND 00/100 DOLLARS ($62,425.00) for the purpose of paying the debt service for the OSV land acquisition;
* FORTY-FOUR THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED AND 00/100 DOLLARS ($44,800.00) for the purpose of paying the debt service for the Heins Farm Acquisition;
* NINETY-FIVE THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED FIFTY AND 00/100 DOLLARS ($95,650.00) for the purpose of paying the debt service for the Town Hall/Center Office renovation project;
* TWENTY-SEVEN THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED FIFTY AND 00/100 DOLLARS ($27,150.00) 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 8-0-0.*

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted 5-0-0.*

*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 5 105 /17 Passed**

**COMMUNITY PRESERVATION GRAVESTONE RESTORATION**

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 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 6-1-0.*

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted 5-0-0.*

**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 6 105/15 Passed**

**COMMUNITY PRESERVATION TOWN HALL STORM WINDOWS**

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 storm windows at Town Hall to preserve the historic windows, 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 7-0-0.*

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted 5-0-0.*

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE:**

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

*Summary: New exterior historically appropriate storm windows will be installed on the Town Hall. The storm windows are to reduce the high cost of heating Town Hall and increase the comfort of the staff and public while in the building, all while protecting the restored historic windows. Town Meeting previously appropriated $17,600.00 for this effort (Fiscal Year 2021 Annual Town Meeting, Article 6). The cost to install the storm windows has increased, which requires additional funding to proceed.*

**ARTICLE 7 98/22 Passed**

**COMMUNITY PRESERVATION - LAND SURVEY – 9 RIVER ROAD**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund Open Space Fund Balance the sum of FIFTEEN THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS ($15,000.00) for the purpose of funding a land survey for a Grand Trunk Trail Route easement at 9 River Road 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 7-0-0.*

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted 5-0-*0.

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE:**

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

*Summary: This property was identified in the recent Grand Trunk Trail (GTT) Central Section Segment 1 Feasibility Study for the potential trail route in continuation of the GTT through Sturbridge. The granting of this easement will allow the Town to continue the trail construction as envisioned in the several Master Plans related to town improvements.*

**ARTICLE 8 96/29 Passed**

**COMMUNITY PRESERVATION TRAIL AND PARKING LOT CONSTRUCTION**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund Open Space Fund Balance the sum of EIGHTY-EIGHT THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS ($88,000.00) for the purpose of funding signage, materials and labor for trail and parking lot construction on Community Preservation Act purchased parcels, 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 6-1-0.*

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted 5-0-0.*

**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 (i) the continuation of the Student Conservation Association student trail building program on the more remote sections of the Leadmine Property begin improvements to the Long Pond Property including parking access and construction of the first three trails continue the improvement of trails on the Riverlands Property, including adding needed signs, sign posts, trail gravel, and equipment rental and labor to continue improvements to three trails, make initial improvements to the recently acquired Fiske Hill property including constructing a 12-15 car parking lot, signs, sign posts, trail gravel and equipment rental, and general trail improvement funds for the Heins Farm, Leadmine and Plimpton properties.*

**ARTICLE 9 102/23 Passed**

**COMMUNITY PRESERVATION TOWN LIBRARY RESTORATION OF TRIM AND CORNICE MOLDING**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund Historic Fund Balance the sum of SIXTY-FIVE THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS ($65,000.00) for the purpose of funding the restoration of Town Library trim and cornice molding, 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 7-0-0.*

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted 5-0-0.*

**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 project is to restore areas of the exterior structure of the Town Library. The interior attic area is completely exposed to outside elements due to deteriorating wood trim and cornice moldings.*

**ARTICLE 10 99/29 Passed**

**COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMUNITY WIDE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund Historic Fund Balance the sum of TWENTY THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS ($20,000.00) for the purpose of funding a Community Wide Historic Preservation Plan; 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 6-1-0.*

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted 5-0-0.*

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE:**

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

*Summary: The purpose of the plan is for emphasizing and preserving the more than four hundred historical resources which were identified by the 2016 survey. This request is to proceed with the project, even if the matching Mass Historical Commission grant is no longer available.*

**ARTICLE 11 68/58 Passed**

**COMMUNITY PRESERVATION HOUSING CONSULTANT**

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 ($25,000.00) DOLLARS for the purpose of hiring 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 6-1-0.*

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted 5-0-0.*

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted 5-3-0.*

*Summary: The purpose of this article is to fund a qualified housing professional to assist with the goals outlined in the Affordable Housing Trust.*

**ARTICLE 12 120 /10 Passed w/o Line 35 included**

**TOWN BUDGET**

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, 2022 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, 2022; 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 5-0-0.*

*Summary: This article is for the approval of the Town and School operating budgets for Fiscal Year 2023.*

There was a Hold placed on line 35 for clarification on the overtime costs no dollar amount was changed. After the hold Passed 104/34

Total Town Budget Amount NO Changes Passed 11/18

**ARTICLE 13 127/5 Passed**

**ROAD CONSTRUCTION, REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate to the Road Construction, Repairs and Maintenance account the sum of ONE HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS ($150,000.00) 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 9-0-0.*

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted 4-1-0.*

*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 14 118/15 Passed**

**PUBLIC ACCESS DEPARTMENT**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the PEG Access and Cable Related Fund the sum of ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-FIVE THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED TWENTY-THREE AND 00/100 ($135,723.00) DOLLARS; or take any action relative thereto.

Estimated budget for FY23 is:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Salaries/Wages | $ 85,723.00 |
| Longevity | $ 300.00 |
| Employee Benefits | $ 25,000.00 |
| Operating Expenses | $ 19,200.00 |
| Capital | $ 5,500.00 |
| Total | $ 135,723.00 |

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 5-0-0.*

*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 15 116/12 Passed**

**STURBRIDGE TOURIST ASSOCIATION**

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-ONE THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED FORTY-NINE AND 00/100 DOLLARS ($181,749.00); or

take any action relative thereto.

Estimated budget for FY23 is:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Community Support | $ 29,000.00 |
| Marketing | $ 112,978.00 |
| Salaries/Wages | $ 31,471.00 |
| Employee Benefits | $ 8,300.00 |
| Total | $ 181,749.00 |
|  |  |

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

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

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted 5-0-0.*

*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 16 122/6 Passed**

**BETTERMENT COMMITTEE**

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-ONE THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED FORTY-NINE AND 00/100 DOLLARS ($181,749.00) for the following items, or take any action relative thereto.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Requested By** | **Item** | **Amount** |
| Polly Currier | Flower Barrels | $ 2,200.00 |
| Recreation | Plantings ( Bloom Committee) | $ 575.00 |
| Library | Beautification Joshua Hyde Library | $ 4,300.00 |
| Town Planner | Wayfinding Streetscape Improvements | $ 15,229.00 |
| Finance Director | Beautification at Town Hall and Center Office Building | $ 2,500.00 |
| Tree Warden | Tree Planting - Arbor Day Program | $ 1,500.00 |
| Recreation | Town Offices & Library Decorations | $ 4,000.00 |
| DPW | Lawn Care- Town Common and Town Buildings | $ 5,000.00 |
| DPW | Sidewalk Maintenance | $ 10,000.00 |
| DPW | Sidewalk Salt Spreader | $ 3,500.00 |
| Tree Warden | Tree Maintenance (town-wide) | $ 10,000.00 |
| Tree Warden | Town Common Tree Maintenance | $ 5,000.00 |
| Tree Warden | Main Street Tree and Park Maint. (Street Landscaping) | $ 2,000.00 |
| Police Department | Special Event Overtime (Police) | $ 10,000.00 |
| Police Department | ATV for Access to Trails | $ 12,965.00 |
| Police Department | Bolo Wrap | $ 3,338.00 |
| Fire Department | Protective Firefighting Gear | $ 13,500.00 |
| Fire Department | Special Events Overtime (Fire) | $ 8,330.00 |
| Fire Department | Blitzfire Monitor | $ 4,853.00 |
| Recreation | Cedar Lake (Town Beach) Water Treatment | $ 1,795.00 |
| Recreation | Town Common Summer Concert Series | $ 4,000.00 |
| Recreation | Decorations for Town Common | $ 4,445.00 |
| Recreation | Dugouts- Turner’s Field | $ 11,440.00 |
| Recreation | Recreation Shed | $ 5,235.00 |
| Recreation | Bleachers – Town Barn Field | $ 16,364.00 |
| Recreation | Pet Waste Eliminator/Waste Stations (8) | $ 2,500.00 |
| SLAC | SLAC / Great Ponds Weed & Safety Program | $ 6,000.00 |
| Recreation | Town Bonfire Funding | $ 2,000.00 |
| Special Event Comm. | Funding for Special Events in the Community | $ 6,000.00 |
| Trail Committee | Shed Construction, (Riverlands) | $ 1,900.00 |
| Trail Committee | Trafx IR Counters (2) | $ 1,280.00 |
|  |  |  |
|  | **Total:** | **$ 181,749.00** |

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 5-0-0.*

*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 17 123/13 Passed**

**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

**(2/3 Vote Required)**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash and appropriate the sum of FIVE HUNDRED TWENTY TWO THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED TWO AND 00/100 DOLLARS ($522,902.00) and to transfer from the Ambulance Stabilization Account and appropriate the sum of TWO HUNDRED TWENTY THREE THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS ($223,000.00) 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, 2022;

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Department** | **Item** | **Amount** |
| Fire Department  Planning/IT  IT  Fire Department  Public Safety Complex  Public Safety Complex  DPW  Police  IT | Ambulance  Plottter  Cisco Switches  Fire Hose  Plymovent Exhaust System Addition  Turnout Gear/Hose Storage  Backhoe with attachments  Six (6) Rifles and Magazines  Security Cameras | $ 375,000.00  $ 13,522.00  $ 38,621.00  $ 74,000.00  $ 19,580.00  $ 11,005.00  $ 200,000.00  $ 6,150.00  $ 8,024.00 |
| **Total** |  | **$745,902.00** |

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 5-0-0.*

*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. $546,159.00 for FY 2023, 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 $5,000.00 are funded from either available revenues, such as free cash, or borrowing. For FY 2023, these items are recommended to be funded from free cash and the Ambulance Stabilization Fund.*

*The Ambulance Stabilization Fund balance prior to any action being taken on this Article is approximately $223,920.00. Should this Article be approved, the remaining balance in the fund would be approximately $920.00.*

**ARTICLE 18 127/7 Passed**

**AMBULANCE STABILIZATION FUND**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of THIRTY THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS ($30,000.00) 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 7-0-0.*

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted 5-0-0.*

*Summary: Each year, the Town sets aside a sum of money to assist the Town in replacing its ambulances on a seven-year schedule. Article 17 seeks approval to purchase a new ambulance in FY 2023 in the amount of $375,000.00. If Article 17 and this Article are approved, the approximate balance in the Ambulance Stabilization Fund will be $30,920.00 If the purchase of the new ambulance is not approved under Article 17 and this Article is approved, the approximate balance in the Ambulance Stabilization Fund would be $253,920.00.*

**ARTICLE 19 120/11 Passed**

**CAPITAL STABILIZATION FUND**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY-EIGHT THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS ($188,000.00) 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 7-0-0.*

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted 5-0-0.*

*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 $1,036,512.00.*

**ARTICLE 20 120/8 Passed**

**FIRE VEHICLE STABILIZATION FUND**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate FIFTY THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS ($50,000.00) 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 7-0-0.*

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted 5-0-0.*

*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 $57,350.00. The Town’s five-year capital plan anticipates the need to purchase a new piece of apparatus to replace the current Rescue 1 apparatus (a 1997 Freightliner) at an estimated cost of $750,000.00 in FY2024.*

**ARTICLE 21 112/14 Passed**

**OPEB TRUST FUND**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND AND 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 7-0-0.*

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted 5-0-0.*

*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 $100,000.00 at the 2011 Annual Town Meeting. In accordance with the Town’s financial policies, an annual contribution of not less than $50,000.00 should be allocated to the fund until such time as the actuarially calculated OPEB liability of $18.9 million is realized. If approved Sturbridge will have approximately $1,437,495.00 in the fund.*

**ARTICLE 22 112/13/Passed**

**REVALUATION/INTERIM ADJUSTMENTS**

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 7-0-0.*

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted 5-0-0.*

*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 23 125/10 Passed**

**REVOLVING FUNDS – SPENDING LIMITS FY23**

To see if the Town will vote pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 44, Section 53 E ½, to set the FY23 spending limits for certain revolving funds as following, or take any action relative thereto.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 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 | $ 20,000.00 |
| 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 | $ 5,000.00 |

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 5-0-0.*

*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.*

**ARTICLE 24 WATER DEPT 112/18 Passed**

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 THREE HUNDRED NINETY-ONE THOUSAND FORTY-ONE AND 00/100 DOLLARS ($1,391,041.00) for the expenses of the Water Department; or take any action relative thereto.

Estimated budget for FY23 is:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Contract Operations | $ 739,081.00 |
| Electricity | $ 80,000.00 |
| Perchlorate Testing | $ 10,000.00 |
| DPW Director | $ 15,019.00 |
| Meter Maintenance | $ 10,000.00 |
| Billing Expense | $ 6,500.00 |
| Debt Service | $ 392,841.00 |
| Miscellaneous | $ 35,100.00 |
| Capital Replacement | $ 52,500.00 |
| Reserve Account | $ 50,000.00 |
| Total: | $1,391,041.00 |

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 5-0-0.*

*Summary: This budget covers the operating expenses for providing public water in Sturbridge.*

*On April 19, 2022 the Board of Selectmen, acting as Water and Sewer Commissioners, voted an increase in the water rate for the quarter ending June 30,2022 at $7.18 per 100 cubic feet, an increase of $0.25 per 100 cubic feet (3.6%). This increase will result in a minimum bill of $71.80 per quarter. The last increase in water rates was for the quarter ending June 30,2015.*

**ARTICLE 25 102/26 Passed**

**SEWER DEPARTMENT**

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 SEVEN HUNDRED EIGHTY THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED SIX AND 00/100 DOLLARS ($2,780,906.00) for the expenses of the Sewer Department; or take any action relative thereto.

Estimated budget for FY23 is:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Contract Operations | $ 958,056.00 |
| Electricity | $ 210,000.00 |
| Chemicals | $ 25,000.00 |
| DPW Director | $ 15,019.00 |
| Billing Expense | $ 5,000.00 |
| Debt Service | $ 831,181.00 |
| Southbridge Fees | $ 215,000.00 |
| Liquid Sludge Handling | $ 200,000.00 |
| Miscellaneous | $ 196,650.00 |
| Capital Replacement | $ 95,000.00 |
| Reserve Account | $ 50,000.00 |
| Total: | $2,780,906.00 |

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 5-0-0.*

*Summary: This budget covers the operating expenses for providing public sewer in Sturbridge. On April 19, 2022 the Board of Selectmen, acting as Water and Sewer Commissioners, voted an increase in the sewer rate for the quarter ending June30,2022 at $12.45 per 100 cubic feet, an increase of $2.63 per 100 cubic feet (26.7%). This increase will result in a minimum bill of $124.50 per quarter. The last increase in sewer rates was for the quarter ending June 30, 2015.*

**ARTICLE 26 121/7 Passed**

**SEWER PROJECT DEBT - BETTERMENTS**

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

* ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-ONE THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED AND 00/100 DOLLARS ($131,100.00) from the F/B Reserved for Sewer Betterments to the Big Alum Sewer Debt Account #28440-59220; and
* FORTY-SEVEN THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED AND 00/100 DOLLARS ($47,300.00) 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 FY23; 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 7-0-0.*

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted 5-0-0.*

*Summary: This warrant article appropriates the funds necessary to pay debt service on the 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 27 122/3 Passed**

**MAINTENANCE OF FISKE HILL AND ST. ANNE’S WATER TANKS**

To see of the Town will vote to transfer from the Water Tank Maintenance Account #29520 the sum of SIX THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS ($6,000.00) to power wash algae growth off of the Fiske Hill and St. Anne’s water tanks, including 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 7-0-0.*

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted 5-0-0.*

*Summary: This article provides funding for maintenance of the Fiske Hill and St. Anne’s Water Tanks.*

**ARTICLE 28 120/7 Passed**

**INFLOW AND INFILTRATION STUDY AND REPAIRS**

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 7-0-0.*

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted 5-0-0.*

*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 of our collection systems be examined to identify necessary repairs. This is year three (3) of a recurring annual cost for ten (10) years and will keep the Town in compliance with the DEP regulations.*

**ARTICLE 29 107/24 Passed**

**MODULAR TRAILER FOR SCHOOL BUS TRANSPORTATION OPERATIONS**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS ($200,000.00) for the purchase and installation of a modular trailer for school bus transportation operations, including all costs incidental and related thereto; or take any action relative thereto.

Sponsor: Burgess Elementary School 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 5-0-0.*

*Summary: For the past two years Town has been leasing a unit to provide office and meeting space to the twenty-five (25) school bus staff members (located by the DPW building). Previously, operations were run out of a very small office in the DPW building and full staff meetings and training was done at the Public Safety Complex. This trailer increases staff safety for bus drivers and DPW staff by separating them, decreases interruption for each department, and allows the DPW to utilize the old office area.*

**ARTICLE 30 124/14 Passed**

Clarification on the article from last year’s vote . The Article was never completed so we had to revote on it to complete the process according to Town Planner Jean Bubon

**ACCEPTANCE OF EXTENSION OF HILLSIDE DRIVE**

**(2/3 Vote Required)**

To see if the Town will vote to accept as a public way an extension of the roadway known as

Hillside Drive, as such extension has been heretofore laid out by the Board of Selectmen in the

location shown on the plan entitled “Town Street Acceptance Plan of Hillside Drive as Laid Out by the Selectmen – Town of Sturbridge-Worcester County – Commonwealth of Massachusetts”, plan prepared by Levesque Geomatics Inc., 43 Glendale Road, Sturbridge, MA 01518 – Plan date March 17, 2022 and revised through April 14, 2022, a copy of which has been placed on file with the Town Clerk, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire, by purchase, gift, eminent domain or otherwise, interests in land sufficient to provide for the use and maintenance of said way for all purposes for which public ways are used in the Town of Sturbridge, 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 5-0-0.*

*Summary: The owner has completed the necessary improvements to the road for acceptance by the Town as a public way.*

**ARTICLE 31 108 /29 Passed**

**TAX INCREMENT FINANCING AGREEMENT AND PROJECT CERTIFICATION;**

**NOBLE ENERGY**

To see if the Town will vote to approve and certify the Local Incentive Application submitted for a 15,803 square foot building located at 201 Charlton Road, as shown on the Project Certification Application, which building will include a 6,846 square foot Electric Voltage Learning Center, a 3,031 square foot restaurant, 2,798 square feet for shared offices for Noble Energy and Nichols College to support student employment and training and 3,128 square feet for common areas, and to authorize the Board of Selectman to enter into a Tax Increment Financing Agreement (TIF) pursuant to the provisions of G.L. Chapter 40, section 59, with Noble Energy or its acceptable designee, all in substantially the form submitted to this Town Meeting, a copy of which has been placed on file with the Town Clerk, such approval serving to confirm the information contained in the Project Certification Application that: (1) the project as proposed is consistent with the Town’s economic development objectives and can reasonably be expected to benefit significantly from the Tax Increment Financing Agreement; (2) the project will not overburden the Town’s infrastructure and utilities servicing the Economic Opportunity Area; and (3) the project, as described in the Project Certification Application, will have a reasonable chance of increasing employment opportunities; and to authorize designation of the project as a certified project for a term of ten (10) years and a tax increment financing plan of not more than ten (10) years providing for real estate tax exemptions at the following exemption rate on the added value resulting from the project:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Year** | **Percentage** |
| Year 1 | 100% |
| Year 2 | 90% |
| Year 3 | 90% |
| Year 4 | 80% |
| Year 5 | 70% |
| Year 6 | 60% |
| Year 7 | 50% |
| Year 8 | 40% |
| Year 9 | 30% |
| Year 10 | 20% |

or take any action relative thereto:

Sponsor: Board of Selectman

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE**:

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

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMAN:**

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

|  |
| --- |
| *Summary: This article will authorize the Board of Selectmen to offer a Tax Increment Financing agreement to Noble Energy or acceptable designee, for purposes of facilitating the construction of a 15,803 square foot facility including an electric voltage education center, a restaurant and offices for Noble Energy and Nichols College for student workforce and management training.* |

**ARTICLE 32 101/38 Passed**

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST BY-LAW**

**To see if the Town will vote to insert the following Sturbridge Municipal Affordable Housing Trust Bylaw in the following location within the General Bylaw of the Town of Sturbridge - Division 1: Bylaws, Part 1 Administrative Legislation, Chapter 7 Boards, Commissions and Committees, Article X – Sturbridge Municipal Affordable Housing Trust or take any other action relative thereto:**

**§ 7-29 Authorization**

1. Pursuant to the vote of the June 3, 2019 Annual Town Meeting to accept the provisions of MGL, Chapter 44, Section 55C to establish a Municipal Affordable Housing Trust Fund, there is hereby established in the Town of Sturbridge a Municipal Affordable Housing Trust (the “Trust”), having seven Trustees (the “Trustees”), to be appointed by the Board of Selectmen upon nomination by the Town Administrator.

**§ 7-30 Purpose**

1. The purpose of the Sturbridge Municipal Affordable Housing Trust (Trust) shall be to provide for the creation and preservation of affordable housing in the Town of Sturbridge for the benefit of low and moderate income households, and to support the goals of the Town of Sturbridge Housing Production Plan (2021) as may be further amended.

**§ 7-31 Trustees**

1. There shall be a Board of Trustees (the “Board”) of the Trust, composed of two non-voting members and seven voting members, the voting members hereinafter also referred to as “Trustees”. The Town Administrator and Town Planner shall serve as the non-voting members. The voting members shall include:
   1. One member of the Board of Selectmen selected by the Board of Selectmen to serve for a term of two years;
   2. One member of the Finance Committee nominated by the Finance Committee to serve for an initial term of one year, and thereafter for a term of two years;
   3. One member of the Planning Board nominated by the Planning Board to serve for an initial term of one year, and thereafter for a term of two years;
   4. One member of the CPC nominated by the CPC to serve for a term of two years;
   5. Three members at large that shall be Town residents; one shall serve an initial term of two years and thereafter for a term of two years; two shall serve for an initial term of one year and thereafter for a term of two years;
   6. The Town Administrator shall be a non-voting member to serve a term of two years;
   7. The Town Planner shall be a non-voting member to serve a term of two years.
2. Trustees shall serve without compensation.
3. The Trust shall annually elect one of its members to serve as Chairperson and may elect such other officers, adopt procedural rules and regulations and establish any subcommittees as it deems appropriate.
4. The Trustees shall consider the state of housing needs in Sturbridge and shall make recommendations to the Board of Selectmen on the options available to the Town to create new affordable housing to address those needs and to maintain existing affordable housing stock. Additionally, the Trust shall work to accomplish goals set forth in the Housing Production Plan of the Town as may from time to time be amended.
5. The Trustees shall meet on a regular basis as needed to enact the duties of the Trustees.
6. The Trustees shall establish an application process for projects requesting Affordable Housing Trust Funds and develop clear review requirements and procedures for all projects based on the Town’s affordable housing goals.

**§ 7-32 Legal Status**

1. The Trust is a public employer and Trustees are public employees for the purposes of Chapter 258 of the Massachusetts General Laws.
2. The Trust shall be deemed a municipal agency and the Trustees shall be deemed as Special Municipal employees for the purposes of Chapter 268A of the Massachusetts General Laws.
3. The Trust is exempt from G.L. Chapter 59 and 62, and from any other provisions concerning payment of taxes based upon or measured by property or income imposed by the Commonwealth or any subdivision thereto.
4. The Trust is a governmental body for the purposes of Sections 23A, 23B and 23C of Chapter 39 of the Massachusetts General Laws.
5. The Trust is a Board of the Town for the purposes of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 30B and MGL c. 40, § 15A; but agreements and conveyances between the Trust and agencies, boards, commissions, authorities, departments and public instrumentalities of the Town shall be exempt from said Chapter 30B of the Massachusetts General Laws.

**§ 7-33 Powers of the Trustees**

1. Powers of the Trustees – The Trustees shall have the following powers and duties:
2. To accept and receive real property, personal property or money, by gift, grant, contribution, devise or transfer from any person, firm, corporation or other public or private entity, including but not limited to money, grants of funds or other property tendered to the trust in connection with any ordinance or by-law or any general or special law or any other source, including money from chapter 44B; provided, however, that any such money received from chapter 44B shall be used exclusively for community housing and shall remain subject to all the rules, regulations and limitations of that chapter when expended by the trust, and such funds shall be accounted for separately by the trust; and provided further, that at the end of each fiscal year, the trust shall ensure that all expenditures of funds received from said chapter 44B are reported to the community preservation committee of the city or town for inclusion in the community preservation initiatives report, form CP–3, to the department of revenue;
3. To purchase and retain real or personal property, including without restriction investments that yield a high rate of income or no income;
4. To sell, lease, exchange, transfer or convey any personal, mixed, or real property at public auction or by private contract for such consideration and on such terms as to credit or otherwise, and to make such contracts and enter into such undertaking relative to trust property as the board deems advisable notwithstanding the length of any such lease or contract;
5. To execute, acknowledge and deliver deeds, assignments, transfers, pledges, leases, covenants, contracts, promissory notes, releases, grant agreements and other instruments sealed or unsealed, necessary, proper or incident to any transaction in which the board engages for the accomplishment of the purposes of the trust;
6. To employ advisors and agents, such as accountants, appraisers and lawyers as the board deems necessary;
7. To pay reasonable compensation and expenses to all advisors and agents and to apportion such compensation between income and principal as the board deems advisable;
8. To apportion receipts and charges between incomes and principal as the board deems advisable, to amortize premiums and establish sinking funds for such purpose, and to create reserves for depreciation depletion or otherwise;
9. To participate in any reorganization, recapitalization, merger or similar transactions; and to give proxies or powers of attorney with or without power of substitution to vote any securities or certificates of interest; and to consent to any contract, lease, mortgage, purchase or sale of property, by or between any corporation and any other corporation or person;
10. To deposit any security with any protective reorganization committee, and to delegate to such committee such powers and authority with relation thereto as the board may deem proper and to pay, out of trust property, such portion of expenses and compensation of such committee as the board may deem necessary and appropriate;
11. To carry property for accounting purposes other than acquisition date values;
12. To borrow money on such terms and conditions and from such sources as the board deems advisable, to mortgage and pledge trust assets as collateral;
13. To make distributions or divisions of principal in kind;
14. To comprise, attribute, defend, enforce, release, settle or otherwise adjust claims in favor or against the trust, including claims for taxes, and to accept any property, either in total or partial satisfaction of any indebtedness or other obligation, and subject to the provisions of this act, to continue to hold the same for such period of time as the board may deem appropriate;
15. To manage or improve real property; and to abandon any property which the board determined not to be worth retaining;
16. To hold all or part of the trust property un-invested for such purposes and for such time as the board may deem appropriate; and
17. To extend the time for payment of any obligation to the trust.
18. To provide grants or loans to assist low or moderate income homeowners or homebuyers to purchase or rehabilitate a dwelling unit in the Town of Sturbridge.
19. The powers and duties enumerated above may be modified or amended by by-law approved by Town Meeting.

**§ 7-34 Funds Paid to the Trust**

1. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, all moneys paid to the trust in accordance with any zoning ordinance or by-law, exaction fee, or private contributions shall be paid directly into the trust and need not be appropriated or accepted and approved into the trust. General revenues appropriated into the trust become trust property and to be expended these funds need not be further appropriated. All moneys remaining in the trust at the end of any fiscal year, whether or not expended by the board within 1 year of the date they were appropriated into the trust, remain trust property.

**§ 7-35 Custodian of Funds**

1. The Town Finance Director shall be the custodian of the funds of the Trust, and shall have signature authority to expend funds. The books and records of the Trust shall be audited annually by an independent auditor in accordance with accepted accounting practices for municipalities.

**§ 7-36 Acts of Trustees**

1. A majority of Trustees may exercise any or all of the powers of the Trustees hereunder and may execute on behalf of the Trustees any and all instruments with the same effect as though executed by all the Trustees. No Trustee shall be required to give bond. No license of court shall be required to confirm the validity of any transaction entered into by the Trustees with respect to the Trust Estate.

**§ 7-37 Liability**

1. Neither of the Trustees nor any agent or officer of the Trust shall have the authority to bind the Town of Sturbridge, except in the manner specifically authorized herein.

**To see if the Town will vote to amend the General Bylaw of the Town of Sturbridge in the following manner or take any action in relation thereto:**

Amend § 7-15 Establishment; membership; appointment; terms by deleting Housing Partnership Committee and replacing that with Sturbridge Municipal Affordable Housing Trust.

Sponsor: Planning Board

**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:**

*To* *place the article Voted 3-1-0.*

*Summary: The establishment of an affordable housing trust fund is an opportunity for Sturbridge to have accessible funds available to respond efficiently and effectively to housing opportunities as they arise.*

*In 2019, Town Meeting voted to accept the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 55C establishing a Municipal Affordable Housing Trust Fund, but one has not yet been formed. A general bylaw is not required, but many towns adopt such a bylaw to codify the make-up and operations of the Trust. The members of the Trust will be appointed by the Board of Selectmen and all projects proposed by the Trust will need approval of the Board of Selectmen prior to moving forward.*

**ARTICLE 33 114/20 Passed**

**PURCHASE OF PROPERTY AT 7 MAIN STREET**

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by purchase, gift, eminent domain or otherwise, for sewer purposes, the fee or lesser interest in all or a portion of a parcel of land located at 7 Main St. Sturbridge, containing 0.96 acres and described in a deed recorded with the Worcester South District Registry of Deeds in Book 60426, Page 222; upon such terms and conditions as the Selectmen may determine and to transfer a sum of SEVENTY THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS ($70,000.00) from the Sewer Fund Balance to carry out such acquisition and to pay 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 7-0-0.*

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted 4-1-0.*

*Summary: At the Annual Town Meeting of June 7, 2021, the Town Meeting approved $200,000.00for the study of the design and permitting of a new sewer pump station and force main to provide sewer service to the Fiske Hill area of Town. Presently that area is serviced through a contract with the Town of Southbridge. This property presents a unique opportunity for the Town to purchase the necessary site for the pump station.*

**ARTICLE 34 79/61 Did not pass 2/3 vote required on the substitute motion**

**TRANSFER OF LAND ON CEDAR STREET No Action**

Substitute Motion made by the Open Space Chair Carol Goodwin to accept the Article as written

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the care and custody of a parcel of land known as 70 Cedar Street and described in a deed with the Worcester South Registry of Deeds in Book 25558, Page 0037, from the Board of Selectmen for general municipal purposes, to the Conservation Commission for resource protection, open space and passive recreation, and to dedicate such land forever to the protection of Article 97 of the Amendments to the Massachusetts Constitution, or take any action relative thereto.

Sponsor: Open Space Committee

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

*That the Town vote to take no action on this article. Voted 6-0-1.*

*The Finance Committee does not believe this article is in the best interest of the Town. If this article should pass, the Town will forever be restricted from using this parcel for certain purposes that may be of benefit for the Town. For instance, the Town Meeting has been presented several opportunities to use this area for recreational fields, expansion to the Town’s recreation area, or potential location of a Senior Center. In each case, a portion, if not all, of 70 Cedar Street was needed or requested. The passage of this article will not allow the Town to consider using this parcel for any purpose that may benefit the Town except those purposes specifically related to resource protection, open space and passive recreation.*

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:**

*That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted 4-1-0.*

*Summary: The purpose of this article is to over control of this 14-acre parcel, which was gifted to the inhabitants of the Town of Sturbridge the Conservation Commission for the purpose of allowing the Conservation Commission to convey a conservation restriction to a third party restricting the use of the parcel to open space and natural resources.*

**ARTICLE 35 92/33 Passed**

**FUNDING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A PUBLIC PARKING LOT AT 501 MAIN STREET**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of TWO HUNDRED AND THIRTY THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS ($230,000.00) for the construction of a public parking lot and accessory improvements located at 501 Main Street in Sturbridge, 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 5-2-0.*

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:**

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

*Summary: The Commercial Tourist District Plan adopted by the Town in 2014 identified the need*

*for additional parking along the Route 20 corridor. On January 27, 2020, Special Town Meeting voted to acquire the land at 501 Main St. for use as a public parking lot (Article 45, $244,000.00) and to prepare the design plans and permitting for the project (Article 46, $15,000.00). The parking lot as designed will contain 25 parking spaces and will provide much needed parking in the Commercial Tourist District as well as access to the trail system along the river. Planning Board and Conservation Commission approvals have been obtained and this project is shovel ready. The funds will be used to construct the parking lot and install a storm water management system, lighting and crosswalks. In addition to the funds from this article, the Town will be using $244,000.00 of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds which were approved by the Board of Selectmen and a $50,000.00 earmark made available from State Senator Gobi’s office to complete this project.*

**ARTICLE 36 87/22 Passed**

**REPAIR AND REPLACEMENT OF LIBRARY HVAC SYSTEM**

To see if the town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of ONE MILLION ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS ($1,100,000.00) for the repair and replacement of the Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning system at the Joshua Hyde Library 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 transfer from Free Cash the sum of ONE MILLION ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS ($1,100,000.00) for the repair and replacement of the heating, ventilation and air conditioning system at the Joshua Hyde Library including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, which costs may include, but are not limited to, the costs of installing building sprinklers. Voted 7-0-0.*

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:**

*That the town vote to approve the article as written. Voted 5-0-0.*

*Summary: The heating, ventilation and air conditioning system at the Joshua Hyde Library, which was installed as part of the renovations made to the library in 1987, has suffered multiple failures, is in constant need of repair, and is now well past its useful life. This article will fund the replacement of the HVAC system. The approximate cost of the replacement includes $100,000.00 for design plans the new system and related upgrades, $670,000.00 for the new system, $100,000.00 in ADA building upgrades triggered by state codes due to the cost of the new system, and $230,000.00 for installing a sprinkler system should such a system be required under state codes. $50,000.00 in ARPA funds are also being used for this project.*

**ARTICLE 37 88/22 Passed**

**REMOVE AND REPLACE PLANT MEDIA AT WATER PLANT**

**(2/3 Vote Required)**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate FOUR HUNDRED EIGHTY-ONE THOUSAND AND 00/100 ($481,000.00) to pay costs of removing, inspecting and replacing iron removal plant media for the Water Department, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, to determine whether this amount shall be raised by borrowing or otherwise, or take any action relative thereto.

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

*That the Town appropriates FOUR HUNDRED EIGHTY-ONE THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS ($481,000.00) to pay costs of removing, inspecting and replacing iron removal plant media, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, and that to meet this appropriation, the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to G.L. c. 44, §8(7A) or any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor. Voted: 7-0-0.*

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:**

*That the Town appropriates $481,000.00 to pay costs of removing, inspecting and replacing iron removal plant media, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, and that to meet this appropriation, the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to G.L. c. 44, §8(7A) or any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor. Voted 5-0-0.*

*Summary: The Green Sand media at the three filtration vessels at the water plant is well beyond its useful life. In addition, the underlying layers of anthracite and gravel should also be replaced. Tank vessels and underdrains may also require repair. Design, engineering and construction administration is also included in the cost.*

**ARTICLE 38 90/17 Passed**

**SEWER DEPARTMENT GENERATOR**

**(2/3 Vote Required)**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate TWO HUNDRED TWENTY THOUSAND AND 00/100 ($220,000.00) to pay the costs of replacing a Sewer Department generator, including all costs incidental and related thereto, and to determine whether this amount shall be raised by borrowing or otherwise, or take any action relative thereto.

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

*That the Town appropriates* TWO HUNDRED TWENTY THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (*$220,000.00) to pay costs of replacing a Sewer Department generator, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, and that to meet this appropriation, the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to G.L. c. 44, §7(1) or any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor. Voted 6-0-0.*

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:**

*That the Town appropriates $220,000.00 to pay costs of replacing a Sewer Department generator, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, and that to meet this appropriation, the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to G.L. c. 44, §7(1) or any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor. Voted 5-0-0.*

*Summary: The generator at the Sewer plant is over 50 years old and well beyond its useful life. The Town will be pursuing a grant for this purchase and if successful the funds appropriated through this article will not be expended.*

**ARTICLE 39 78/29 Passed**

**PETITIONED ARTICLE**

To see if the Town of Sturbridge will adopt a resolution in support of the work of the Special Commission Relative to the Seal and Motto of the Commonwealth, established by a resolve of the General Court in 2020 and appointed by Governor Baker to recommend changes to the current flag and seal of Massachusetts, and in support of a new seal and motto for the Commonwealth that may better reflect our aspirations for harmonious and respectful relations between all people who now call Massachusetts home; or take any action relative thereto.

Sponsor: By Petition

**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:**

*To place the article. Voted 5-0-0.*

*Summary: This article was submitted by petition to be placed on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant.*

Dissolved the Annual Town Meeting at 9:38PM and took a 10 minute break before the start of the Special Town Meeting.