

**TOWN OF STURBRIDGE
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT ARTICLES
TANTASQUA REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL
JUNE 7, 2021
7:00 pm**



ARTICLE 45
FREE CASH TRANSFER – SNOW AND ICE DEFICIT

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of SIXTY-THREE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$63,200.00) to the Snow & Ice Account; or take any action relative thereto.

Sponsor: Town Administrator

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.

<p><i>Summary: This article will fund the Snow & Ice removal deficit in Fiscal Year 2021. The Town can deficit spend each year for all costs related to snow and ice removal.</i></p>

ARTICLE 46
UNPAID BILLS OF A PREVIOUS FISCAL YEAR
(9/10 vote required)

To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from Free Cash for the purpose of paying unpaid bills of a prior fiscal year; or take any action relative thereto.

Sponsor: Finance Director

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:

That the Town vote to transfer ONE THOUSAND TWENTY-FOUR AND 30/100 DOLLARS (\$1,024.30) from Free Cash to pay unpaid bills of a previous year. Voted: 7-0-0.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:

That the Town vote to transfer ONE THOUSAND TWENTY-FOUR AND 30/100 DOLLARS (\$1,024.30) from Free Cash to pay unpaid bills of a previous year. Voted: 5-0-0.

Summary: This article seeks to fund any bills of a previous fiscal year received after the close of the fiscal year.

ARTICLE 47

FUNDING FOR DISALLOWED COSTS OF THE FY2012 ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTER GRANT PROGRAM

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of TWO THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED EIGHTY-FIVE AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$2,485.00) to cover disallowed costs from the FY2012 Assistance to Firefighter Grant Program (Account #22340); 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 grant was recently audited by FEMA and a portion of funds spent for this grant were disallowed. The Town appealed and in January, 2021 was notified that the appeal was denied and that FEMA was proceeding with recoupment of grant funds in the amount of \$2,485.00. This article authorizes payment in place of the disallowed funds.

ARTICLE 48

FUNDING FOR OVERLAY ACCOUNT

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of TWENTY- FIVE THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$25,000.00) to the Abatements/Exemptions Account #10000-12327; or take any action relative thereto.

Sponsor: Board of Assessors

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 will fund an overlay deficit in FY21 and provide approximately \$5,000 for additional abatements for the balance of the fiscal year. The overlay account funds the total of abatements and exemptions that are granted on real estate and personal property bills.

ARTICLE 49

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE – PURCHASE OF 48 OLD FARM ROAD AND 133, 137, AND 139 FISKE HILL ROAD

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer from the Community Preservation Fund – Undesignated Fund Balance - the sum of ONE HUNDRED FIFTY-FIVE THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$155,000.00) for the purpose of acquiring the parcels of land located at 48 Old Farm Road and 133, 137, and 139 Fiske Hill Road and described in a deed recorded with the Worcester South District Registry of Deeds in Book 50034, Page 149, and, further, to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire said parcels for active recreation purposes by purchase, gift, and/or eminent domain, and on such terms and conditions as the Board shall deem appropriate, including the sewer pump station easement and sewer access rights set forth in an easement recorded with said Deeds in Book 23871, Page 209, and, further, to authorize the Board of Selectmen to convey a restriction on said property meeting the requirements of G.L. c. 184, §§31-33, as required under G.L. c. 44B, §12(a); or take any action relative thereto.

Sponsor: Community Preservation Committee

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:

That the Town vote to take no action on this article. Voted: 4-2-1.

The Finance Committee recommends no action since the Town already owns land that contain 30+ miles of trails in addition to those located at Wells State Park and Westville Recreation Area. In addition, the Town plans to develop another 20 more miles of trails. At this time, no one can quantify the financial benefits of the trails currently owned by the Town. With this article, the Town would be purchasing additional property for trail use without explaining the potential benefits but incurring additional costs for the Town. Further, we believe allowing the land to be purchased privately for a use compatible with the existing neighborhood and keeping it on the tax roll would be a better financial outcome for the Town.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:

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

RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE:

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

Summary: Acting on the Board of Selectmen's decision to exercise the Town's right of first refusal, these funds will be used to purchase approximately 50 acres of land at 48 Old Farm Road along with 133, 137 and 139 Fiske Hill Road. Trails and a dog park will be considered as future uses for these parcels. The purpose of the restriction required under G.L. c.184 is to limit the use of the land to the purposes for which it is acquired.