

**TOWN OF STURBRIDGE
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT**



**TANTASQUA REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL
MONDAY, JUNE 3, 2019 @ 7:00 P.M.**

ARTICLE 1
TOWN REPORTS

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 7-0-0.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:

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

<p><i>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.</i></p>

ARTICLE 2
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 2020 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 2020; 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 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 9-0-0.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:

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

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

ARTICLE 3
COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE ADMINISTRATION FUNDS

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund Undesignated Fund Balance the sum of TWENTY TWO THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$22,000.00) to be allocated for the purpose of operating and administrative expenses in FY 2020 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 8-1-0.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:

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

RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE:

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

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

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

- EIGHTY-ONE THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED TWENTY FIVE AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$81,625.00) for the purpose of paying the debt service for the OSV Land Acquisition;
- FORTY-FIVE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED SEVENTY FIVE AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$45,275.00) for the purpose of paying the debt service for the Heins Farm Acquisition;
- ONE HUNDRED SIX THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED EIGHTY TWO AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$106,482.00) for the purpose of paying the debt service for the Town Hall / Center Office renovation project;
- TWENTY-NINE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED FIFTY AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$29,550.00) 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 4-0-0.

<p><i>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, OSV parcels, the renovation of the Town Hall and Center Office Building and the Recreation Court Project.</i></p>

ARTICLE 5
COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE - GRAVESTONES RESTORATION

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund-Historic Funds Balance the sum of NINE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$9,500.00) for restoration and repair of fifteen to twenty historic gravestones in the Town's North Cemetery and Old Burial Ground; 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 4-0-0.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE:

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

Summary: These funds will be used to continue conservation and restoration work in the North Cemetery and Old Burial Ground.

ARTICLE 6
COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE - COMPREHENSIVE HOUSING
STUDY

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund – Housing Fund Balance the sum of TWENTY-TWO THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$22,500.00) for the purpose of funding a Comprehensive Housing Study; 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 4-0-0.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE:

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

Summary: These funds will be used to conduct a Comprehensive Housing Study by Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC). Every municipality in Massachusetts is required to have an up to date Housing Plan. The Sturbridge Housing Plan was last updated in 2007. The state requires plans to be updated every 5 years. If a town does not have an up to date Housing Plan, the town has less control over 40B projects. CMRPC’s report will set goals in the plan and share ideas on how to achieve 10% affordable housing stock. Among other things the plan will describe the type of housing and identify parcels in town available for construction of new affordable housing.

ARTICLE 7
COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE - RIVERLAND DEVELOPMENT AND
GENERAL TRAIL IMPROVEMENT

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund Undesignated Fund Balance the sum of THIRTY THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED FIFTY AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$30,350.00) to fund the Riverland Development and General Trail Improvements proposal for recreational purposes; or take any other 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 4-0-0.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE:

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

<p><i>Summary: These funds will be used towards Riverlands development and general trail improvements. This project will: construct a 50 – car parking lot; fence in the Trails Committee storage sheds located adjacent to the new parking lot; funds the Student Conservation Association trail crew; and fund general trail improvement. The Trails Committee has applied for a grant in addition to this request. If the grant is not received, the Trails Committee will work to find other ways to fund a portion of the project. The CPC thanks the Trails Committee and Tom Chamberland for their efforts to obtain grant funding.</i></p>
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ARTICLE 8
COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE – TOWN CEMETERY SIGNS

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund – Historic Fund Balance the sum of ONE THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$1,000.00) for the construction and installation of two signs for the purpose of preserving historic gravestones, one at each of the entrances of the Historic Burial Ground and North Cemetery to deter stone damage; 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 8-0-0.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:

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

RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE:

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

Summary: These funds will be used to design, create and install signs which will be posted at the Old Burial Ground and North Cemetery. Among other instructions the signs will inform visitors to refrain from gravestone rubbing and use of chemicals. The Historic Commission goal is to preserve the cemeteries as “outdoor museums” and sacred places.

ARTICLE 9
COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE - GRAND TRUNK TRAIL CENTRAL
SECTION FEASIBILITY DESIGN STUDY

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund – Open Space Fund Balance the sum of SIXTEEN THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED FIFTY AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$16,650.00) for the purpose of funding the Grand Trunk Trail Central Section Feasibility Design Study; 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 4-0-0.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE:

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

Summary: These funds will be used to conduct a feasibility design study which will cover a 2.3 mile section of trail from River and Farquhar Roads to the Riverlands entrance on Stallion Hill Road. The Trails Committee has applied for a grant to offset the cost of this project. If the grant is approved, the amount requested will be reduced to \$5,650.00. We are requesting the full amount of the project due to the importance of moving forward with the project regardless of the grant award. The CPC would like to thank the Trails Committee and Tom Chamberland for their efforts to obtain grant funding.

ARTICLE 10
COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE - OSV EASEMENT COSTS FOR
GRAND TRUNK TRAIL EASEMENT

2/3 Vote Required

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund – Open Space Fund Balance the sum of FIVE THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$5,000.00) for the purpose of purchasing an easement from Old Sturbridge Village to provide access to the Riverlands trails; 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 4-0-0.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE:

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

<p><i>Summary: These funds will be used to purchase a conservation easement from Old Sturbridge Village. The OSV / Grand Trunk Trail easement will be situated on the North side of Stallion Hill Road. This .65 acre of land is owned by OSV, and an easement is needed for the public to be able to legally access the Riverlands trails. The CPC would like to thank OSV for their willingness to offer this important easement.</i></p>

ARTICLE 11
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, 2019 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, 2019; 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 4-0-0.

Summary: This article is for the approval of the Town and School operating budgets for Fiscal Year 2020.

ARTICLE 12
ROAD CONSTRUCTION, REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate FOUR HUNDRED FIFTY-EIGHT THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$458,000.00) 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 7-0-0.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:

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

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 13
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 NINE THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED SIXTY-SIX AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$109,766.00); or take any action relative thereto.

Estimated budget for FY20 is:

Salaries/Wages	\$ 75,616.00
Longevity	\$ 150.00
Employee Benefits	\$ 24,000.00
Operating Expenses	\$ 5,000.00
Capital	\$ 5,000.00
Total	<u>\$ 109,766.00</u>

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 4-0-0.

Summary: This proposed budget provides for the operations of the Town's cable access service. Funds for this article are provided via a surcharge on each cable bill.

ARTICLE 14
STURBRIDGE TOURIST ASSOCIATION

To see if the Town will transfer and appropriate from the Hotel/Motel Special Account to the Sturbridge Tourist Association Account the sum of ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY-THREE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED NINETY AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$183,290.00); or to take any action relative thereto.

Estimated budget for FY20 is:

Community Support	\$ 40,359.00
Marketing & Advertising	\$ 109,974.00
Salaries/Wages	\$ 19,223.00
Employee Benefits	\$ 13,734.00
Total	<u>\$ 183,290.00</u>

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 4-0-0.

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 15
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-THREE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED NINETY AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$183,290.00) for the following items:

Requested By	Item	Amount
Bloom Committee	Flower Barrels	\$ 2,200.00
Recreation	Plantings (Bloom Committee)	\$ 450.00
Library	Beautification Joshua Hyde Library	\$ 3,800.00
Town Planner	Wayfinding Streetscape Improvements	\$ 15,978.00
Finance Director	Beautification at Town Hall and Center Office Building	\$ 2,500.00
Tree Warden	Tree Planting - Arbor Day Program	\$ 1,775.00
Recreation	Town Offices & Library Decorations	\$ 5,000.00
DPW	Lawn Tractor w/Mower Deck	\$ 3,200.00
DPW	Sidewalk Maintenance	\$ 20,000.00
Tree Warden	Tree Maintenance (town-wide)	\$ 9,500.00
Tree Warden	Town Common Tree Maintenance	\$ 6,992.00
Tree Warden	Main Street Tree and Park Maint. (Street Landscaping)	\$ 2,000.00
Police Department	Special Event Overtime (Police)	\$ 10,000.00
Fire Department	Protective Firefighting Gear	\$ 13,500.00
Fire Department	Special Event Overtime (Fire)	\$ 6,100.00
Police Department	Public Safety Drone	\$ 15,500.00
Police Department	Booking Camera	\$ 4,700.00
Fire Department	Structural Firefighting Cancer Prevention Hoods	\$ 2,500.00
Fire Department	Protective Wildland Firefighting Equipment	\$ 14,500.00
Recreation	Cedar Lake (Town Beach) Water Treatment	\$ 1,795.00
Recreation	Town Common Summer Concert Series	\$ 4,000.00
Recreation	Decorations for Town Common	\$ 3,550.00
SLAC	SLAC / Great Ponds Weed & Safety Program	\$ 6,000.00
Special Event Comm.	Funding for Special Events in the Community	\$ 5,000.00
Recreation	Chain Link Fencing at Town Softball Field	\$ 4,950.00
Recreation	Hydro-raking at Cedar Lake Swimming Area	\$ 6,100.00
Recreation	Backstop / Canopy at Softball Field	\$ 3,650.00
Trail Committee	Trail Construction and Maintenance Supplies/Materials	\$ 1,500.00
Trail Committee	RTV Mounted Flail Mower	\$ 5,300.00
Trail Committee	Logging Trailer	\$ 1,250.00
Total:		\$ 183,290.00

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 6-3-0.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:

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

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 16
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash and appropriate a sum of THREE HUNDRED NINETY-FIVE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED FIFTY-SEVEN AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$395,557.00) to the Capital Improvement Account 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, 2019;

Department	Item	Amount
Fire	SCBA Voice Amplifier Devices (26)	\$ 26,900.00
Library	Furnishings for Main Floor Renovation	\$ 25,482.00
Public Safety Complex	Replace Apparatus Overhead Doors and Openers	\$ 74,500.00
Fire	Thermal Imaging Cameras	\$ 16,800.00
Facilities	Senior Center Fire Alarm Panel Replacement	\$ 4,600.00
Facilities	Installation of Fire Alarm monitoring Nursery School	\$ 5,650.00
Public Safety Complex	Repair/Resurface Apparatus floor	\$ 95,000.00
Facilities	Town Hall fire suppression updates	\$ 6,550.00
Facilities	Center Office Building fire suppression updates	\$ 6,350.00
Fire	Tactical Intrinsically Safe Flashlights (25)	\$ 4,725.00
Public Safety Complex	Replace Entrance and Trim	\$ 7,400.00
Facilities	Library mid-level storage weatherization	\$ 7,000.00
DPW	Mid-Sized Dump Truck	\$ 77,000.00
Police	Smith & Wesson Simunition Guns	\$ 7,600.00
DPW	Utility Tractor & Attachments	\$ 30,000.00
Total		<u>\$395,557.00</u>

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 4-0-0.

Summary: This budget funds a portion of the highest rated capital needs of the Town. The Capital Plan as presented is consistent with the Comprehensive Fiscal Policies approved by the Selectmen and Finance Committee. Under this policy, capital expenditures rated as high priorities but costing under \$5,000.00 are included in department budgets; capital expenditures over \$5,000.00 and under \$100,000.00 are included in this article to be funded using free cash; and capital expenditures over \$100,000.00 are included and recommended as short-term borrowing or raise and appropriate articles.

ARTICLE 17
AMBULANCE STABILIZATION FUND

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a 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 7-0-0.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:

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

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 \$126,094.00.

ARTICLE 18
FIRE VEHICLE STABILIZATION FUND

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 Fire Vehicle Stabilization Fund for the purpose of reserving funds for the future purchase 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 4-0-0.

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 \$302,307.00.

ARTICLE 19
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) and transfer from Free Cash the sum of TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$200,000.00) 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 4-0-0.

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 \$18.9 million is realized. If approved Sturbridge will have approximately \$1,017,474 in the fund.

ARTICLE 20
TAX RATE RELIEF

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Assessors to use THREE HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$350,000.00) from Free Cash to lower the tax rate for the fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2019; 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 4-0-0.

Summary: The Town has historically utilized available Free Cash to reduce the tax rate when finances have allowed.

ARTICLE 21
CAPITAL STABILIZATION FUND

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$170,000.00) 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 4-0-0.

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 .5% of the General Fund Operating Budget. If approved the approximate balance in this fund will be \$800,686.00.

ARTICLE 22
REVALUATION/INTERIM ADJUSTMENTS

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate FORTY THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$40,000.00) 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 4-0-0.

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
REVOLVING FUNDS – SPENDING LIMITS FY20

To see if the Town will vote pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 44, Section 53 E ½, to set the FY20 spending limits for certain revolving funds as follows:

<u>Revolving Fund:</u>	<u>Maximum Expenditure:</u>
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

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 4-0-0.

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
GENERAL CODE – CODIFICATION SERVICES

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of FIFTEEN THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED FOURTEEN AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$15,614.00) from Free Cash for codification services for the Zoning Bylaws and General Bylaws; 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 5-1-1.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:

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

Summary: These funds will be used to hire a company to provide codification services for the Zoning and General Bylaws. This will allow the Town to transition from an in-house process of updating the Town's Bylaws to a codification company that will manage this process and make the code more reliable and accessible.

ARTICLE 25
PERSONNEL CLASSIFICATION PLAN

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of TWENTY THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$20,000.00) to perform a Personnel Classification Plan Study for non-union employees of the town; or to take any action in 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: These funds will be used to perform a Personnel Classification Plan Study for non-union employees that will: review job descriptions, conduct a salary survey, establish a classification plan and create a salary schedule.

ARTICLE 26
WATER DEPARTMENT

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 EIGHTY-EIGHT THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED SIXTY-THREE AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$1,388,963.00) for the expenses of the Water Department; or take any action relative thereto.

Estimated budget for FY20 is:

Contract Operations	\$ 681,612.00
Electricity	\$ 80,000.00
Chemicals, Testing & Propane	\$ 10,000.00
DPW Director	\$ 13,221.00
Meter Maintenance	\$ 10,000.00
Billing Expense	\$ 4,900.00
Debt Service	\$ 446,230.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 48,200.00
Capital Replacement	\$ 65,000.00
Reserve Fund	\$ 30,000.00
Total:	<u>\$1,388,963.00</u>

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 4-0-0.

Summary: This budget covers the operating expenses for providing public water in Sturbridge. This budget will not require a rate increase in the water rate (currently at \$6.93 per 100 cubic feet).

ARTICLE 27
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 FOUR HUNDRED THIRTY-EIGHT THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED SEVENTY-SEVEN AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$2,438,977.00) and by transferring the sum of EIGHTY-FIVE THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$85,000.00) from Sewer Reserve Fund Balance, for a total sum of TWO MILLION FIVE HUNDRED TWENTY-THREE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED SEVENTY-SEVEN AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$2,523,977.00) for the expenses of the Sewer Department; or take any action relative thereto.

Estimated budget for FY20 is:

Contract Operations	\$ 883,339.00
Electricity	\$ 210,000.00
Chemicals, Testing & Diesel	\$ 30,000.00
DPW Director	\$ 13,221.00
Billing Expense	\$ 4,900.00
Debt Service	\$ 850,517.00
Southbridge Fees	\$ 200,000.00
Liquid Sludge Handling	\$ 200,000.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 52,000.00
Capital Replacement	\$ 50,000.00
Reserve Fund	\$ 30,000.00
Total:	<u>\$2,523,977.00</u>

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 4-0-0.

Summary: This budget covers the operating expenses for providing public sewer in Sturbridge. This budget will not require a rate increase in the sewer rate (currently \$9.82 per 100 cubic feet.)

ARTICLE 28
SEWER PROJECT DEBT

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

- TWO HUNDRED FORTY-EIGHT THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED SIXTY-THREE AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$248,663.00) from the F/B Reserved for Sewer Betterments to the Phase II Sewer Debt Account #28440-59100;
- TWO HUNDRED THIRTY-TWO THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED TWENTY-FIVE AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$232,225.00) from the F/B Reserved for Sewer Betterments to the Phase III Sewer Debt Account #28440-59300;
- ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEEN THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED FORTY-SIX AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$118,246.00) from the F/B Reserved for Sewer Betterments to the Cedar Lake Sewer Debt Account #28440-59200;

- ONE HUNDRED FORTY-SEVEN THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED SEVENTY-FIVE AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$147,275.00) from the F/B Reserved for Sewer Betterments to the Big Alum Sewer Debt Account #28440-59220; and
- FIFTY-SIX THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED SEVENTY-FIVE AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$56,275.00) 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 FY20; 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 4-0-0.

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 29
WATER & SEWER RATE STUDY

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the Water Reserve Fund Balance the sum of THIRTEEN THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$13,000.00) and from the Sewer Reserve Fund Balance the sum of THIRTEEN THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$13,000.00) to perform a water and sewer rate study for the users of the Town's 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 4-0-0.

Summary: This article will fund a water and sewer rate study for the users of the Town's system.

ARTICLE 30
FLUORIDE ANALYZERS SYSTEM FOR WATER TREATMENT PLANTS

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the Water Reserve Fund Balance the sum of TEN THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$10,000.00) to install fluoride analyzers for the water treatment plants; 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 4-0-0.

Summary: The DEP is requiring the Town to either install fluoride analyzers or convert to a Fluoride Saturation System for the Water Treatment Plants. The Town has investigated both options and will be installing two (2) fluoride analyzers. The analyzers meet all requirements as called out in the Town's Sanitary Survey. This system controls the amount of Fluoride that goes into the water system.

ARTICLE 31
DECOMMISSION WELL #2

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the Water Reserve Fund Balance the sum of SEVEN THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$7,000.00) to decommission Well #2; 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 4-0-0.

Summary: The DEP is requiring the Town to decommission Well #2 in accordance with Massachusetts DEP regulations for well abandonment.

ARTICLE 32
UPGRADE OF FISKE HILL PUMP STATION

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the Water Reserve Fund Balance the sum of EIGHT HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$850,000.00) to upgrade the Fiske Hill Pump Station; 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 4-0-0.

<p><i>Summary: The Fiske Hill Pump Station has not been upgraded since the 1930's. There is no redundancy built into the station. This funding will replace the current booster station with a variable frequency drive type booster station utilizing two pumps for potable water and two for fire protection.</i></p>

ARTICLE 33
BETTERMENT PAYOFFS – DISSOLVING OF BETTERMENT

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$25,500.00) from the F/B Reserved for Sewer Betterments for the purpose of paying fees of the Registry of Deeds; 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 4-0-0.

<p><i>Summary: This article will provide funding to dissolve betterment liens by paying associated fees to the Worcester District Registry of Deeds.</i></p>
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ARTICLE 34
POLL TIME CHANGE

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Sturbridge General Bylaws Section 1.03 to change the time polls open from 7:00 AM to 6:30 AM; or to take any action relative thereto.

Sponsor: Town Clerk

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 4-0-0.

<p><i>Summary: This article amends the Town's General Bylaws Section 1.03 to change the time polls open from 7:00 AM to 6:30 AM.</i></p>
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ARTICLE 35
ESTABLISH COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

To see if the Town will vote to accept MGL Chapter 40 Section 8J, to establish a five (5) member Commission on Disability; or to take any action in 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 4-0-0.

<p><i>Summary: This article accepts MGL Chapter 40 Section 8J which formally establishes a Commission on Disability (COD). The formalized COD acts as an advisory board to their appointing authority.</i></p>
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ARTICLE 36
PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO ZONING MAP

2/3 Vote Required

To see if the Town will vote to re-zone the property on 7 Cedar Street (Parcel #202-02446-007) from Suburban Residential to Commercial Tourist District with the intent to extend the Commercial Tourist District so that the entirety of the properties known as 420 Main Street (Parcel

#415-02435-420) and 7 Cedar Street (Parcel #202-02446-007) are zoned Commercial Tourist District; or take any action relative thereto.

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:

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

RECOMMENDATION OF THE PLANNING BOARD:

That the Town vote to approve the article as written. Voted 6-0-0.

Summary: This article re-zones the property on 7 Cedar Street from Suburban Residential to Commercial Tourist District. The intent is to extend the Commercial Tourist District so that the entirety of the properties at 7 Cedar Street and 420 Main Street, are zoned Commercial Tourist District.

ARTICLE 37
226 CEDAR STREET – AFFORDABLE HOUSING
2/3 Vote Required

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Town Administrator to convey the parcel of land located at 226 Cedar Street, containing 1.33 acres, more or less, and acquired by the Town through Judgment in Tax Title Case recorded with the Worcester South District Registry of Deeds in Book 46183, Page 207, for affordable housing purposes such terms and conditions and for such consideration, which may be nominal consideration, as the Town Administrator deems appropriate, and to accept an affordable housing restriction on said property; 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 6-0-1.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:

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

Summary: This article authorizes the Town Administrator to convey the parcel of land located at 226 Cedar Street for affordable housing purposes.

ARTICLE 38
ESTABLISH MUNICIPAL AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST FUND

To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of Massachusetts General Law Chapter 44, Section 55C establishing a trust to be known as the Municipal Affordable Housing Trust Fund, for the purpose of providing for the creation and preservation of affordable housing in the Town for the benefit of low and moderate income households, and for the funding of community housing as defined in and in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 44B; or take any action relative thereto.

Sponsor: Housing Partnership 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 4-0-0.

<p><i>Summary: This article accepts the provisions of MGL Chapter 44, Section 55C to establish a Municipal Affordable Housing Trust Fund.</i></p>

ARTICLE 39
FEASIBILITY STUDY – 60 CEDAR STREET – RECREATION FACILITIES

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of FORTY-NINE THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$49,000.00) to perform a study for the expansion of the existing recreation facility at 60 Cedar Street; or take any action relative thereto.

Sponsor: Recreation Committee

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 4-0-0.

<p><i>Summary: This is a feasibility study to expand the existing recreation facilities on 60 Cedar Street, off of Cedar Pond Road. The Project would include the construction of a synthetic turf, 110 yard by 70 yard, multipurpose athletic field on 60 Cedar Street with associated parking.</i></p>
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ARTICLE 40
BORROWING AUTHORIZATION – TANTASQUA REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
2/3 Vote Required

To see if the Town will approve the Two Million Dollar (\$2,000,000.00) borrowing authorized by the Tantasqua Regional School District, for the purpose of paying costs of replacing doors and windows in the Tantasqua Regional Jr High School at 320 Brookfield Road, Fiskdale, Ma, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto (the “Project”), which proposed repair project would materially extend the useful life of the school and preserve an asset that otherwise is capable of supporting the required educational program, and for which the District may be eligible for a school construction grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority (“MSBA”), said amount to be expended at the direction of the Tantasqua Regional School District Building Committee. The MSBA’s grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA, and any Project costs the District incurs in excess of any grant approved by and received by the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the District and its member municipalities. Any grant that the District may receive from the MSBA for the Project shall not exceed the lesser of (1) fifty-five and sixty-three hundredths percent (55.63%) of eligible, approved project costs, as determined by the MSBA, or (2) the total maximum grant amount determined by the MSBA. Any premium received by the District upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to project costs in accordance with G.L. c.44, Section 20, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed for the project for the project by a like amount; or take any action relative thereto.

Sponsor: Tantasqua Regional School Committee

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:

To approve the following motion language for Article 40: “That the Town hereby approves the Two Million Dollar (\$2,000,000) borrowing authorized by the Tantasqua Regional School District, for the purpose of paying costs of replacing doors and windows in the Tantasqua Regional Jr High School at 320 Brookfield Road, Fiskdale, Ma, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto (the “project”), which proposed repair project would materially extend the useful life of the school and preserve an asset that otherwise is capable of supporting the required educational program, and for which the District may be eligible for a school construction grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority (“MSBA”), said amount to be expended at the direction of the Tantasqua Regional School District Building Committee. The MSBA’s grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA, and any Project costs the District incurs in excess of any grant and its member municipalities. Any grant that the District incurs in excess of any grant approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the District and its member municipalities. Any grant that the District may receive from the MSBA for the Project shall not exceed the lesser of (1) fifty-five and sixty-three hundredths percent (55.63%) of eligible, approved project costs, as determined by the MSBA, or (2) the total maximum grant amount determined by the MSBA, and that the amount of borrowing authorized by the District shall be reduced by any grant amount set forth in the Project Funding Agreement that may be

executed between the District and the MSBA. Any premium received by the District upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to project costs in accordance with G.L. c.44, Section 20, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed for the project by a like amount.

Voted 8-0-0.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:

To approve the following motion language for Article 40: “That the Town hereby approves the Two Million Dollar (\$2,000,000) borrowing authorized by the Tantasqua Regional School District, for the purpose of paying costs of replacing doors and windows in the Tantasqua Regional Jr High School at 320 Brookfield Road, Fiskdale, Ma, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto (the “project”), which proposed repair project would materially extend the useful life of the school and preserve an asset that otherwise is capable of supporting the required educational program, and for which the District may be eligible for a school construction grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority (“MSBA”), said amount to be expended at the direction of the Tantasqua Regional School District Building Committee. The MSBA’s grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA, and any Project costs the District incurs in excess of any grant and its member municipalities. Any grant that the District incurs in excess of any grant approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the District and its member municipalities. Any grant that the District may receive from the MSBA for the Project shall not exceed the lesser of (1) fifty-five and sixty-three hundredths percent (55.63%) of eligible, approved project costs, as determined by the MSBA, or (2) the total maximum grant amount determined by the MSBA, and that the amount of borrowing authorized by the District shall be reduced by any grant amount set forth in the Project Funding Agreement that may be executed between the district and the MSBA. Any premium received by the District upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to project costs in accordance with G.L. c.44, Section 20, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed for the project by a like amount.

Voted 4-0-0.

<p><i>Summary: Tantasqua has received Mass School Building Authority (MSBA) approval for the Schematic Design phase of a doors and window replacement project for the Jr. High School that will allow for replacement of all windows and exterior doors, as well as providing some minor security improvements and increased handicap accessible restrooms. If final project approval is received to move forward and borrow by the five member towns, 55.63% of the project will be paid for by the MSBA.</i></p>
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ARTICLE 41
PUBLIC MARIJUANA CONSUMPTION BYLAW

To see if the Town of Sturbridge will vote to amend the Town's General Bylaws to prohibit the public consumption of marijuana and marijuana products by adding a new Chapter Eight, Section 8.7 that would provide as follows:

CHAPTER EIGHT
MISCELLANEOUS

8.70 **PUBLIC CONSUMPTION OR USE OF MARIJUANA**

8.71 **DEFINITIONS**

The following definitions shall apply to this bylaw.

“Marijuana” shall mean marijuana as defined in G.L c. 94C, § 1, as may be amended.

“Marijuana products” shall mean products that have been manufactured and contain marijuana or an extract from marijuana, including concentrated forms of marijuana and products composed of marijuana and other ingredients that are intended for use or consumption, including edible products, beverages, topical products, ointments, oils and tinctures.

8.72 **PUBLIC CONSUMPTION PROHIBITION**

No person shall smoke, burn, vaporize, ingest or otherwise use or consume marijuana or marijuana products while in or upon any public place, including but not limited to any public way or any way to which the public has a right of access, sidewalk, footway, passageway, stairway, bridge, park, playground, recreation area, boat landing, public building, schoolhouse, school grounds, cemetery, parking lot, or any area owned, leased or occupied by or otherwise under the control of the Town of Sturbridge, or any place to which members of the public have access as invitees or licensees, or in or upon any bus or other passenger conveyance operated by a common carrier; or in or upon any other place accessible to the public; provided however that this bylaw shall not be construed to limit the medical use of marijuana.

8.73 **OPEN CONTAINER PROHIBITION**

No person shall, upon any way or in any place to which the public has a right of access, or upon any way or in any place to which members of the public have access as invitees or licensees, or any area owned, leased or occupied by or otherwise under the control of the Town of Sturbridge, possess an open container of marijuana or marijuana products in the passenger area of any motor vehicle. For purposes of this section, "open container" shall mean that the package containing marijuana or marijuana products has its seal broken or from which the contents have been partially removed or consumed and "passenger area" shall mean the area designed to seat the driver and passengers while the motor vehicle is in operation and any area that is readily accessible to the driver or passenger while in a seated position; provided however that the passenger area shall not include a motor vehicle's trunk, locked glove compartment or the living quarters of a house coach or house trailer, or if a motor vehicle is not equipped with a trunk, the area behind the last upright seat or an area not normally occupied by the driver or passenger.

8.74 **ENFORCEMENT**

This bylaw may be enforced through any lawful means in law or in equity including, but not limited to, enforcement by non-criminal disposition pursuant to G.L. c.94C §32N and G.L. c. 40, § 21D, by the Town Administrator and Board of Selectmen, or their duly authorized agents, or any police officer. The penalty for violation of this bylaw shall be three hundred dollars (\$300) for each offense. Any penalty imposed under this bylaw shall be in addition to any civil penalty imposed under G.L. c. 94C, § 32L.

8.75 **SEVERABILITY**

In the event that any provision, section or clause of this bylaw is hereafter found to be invalid, such decision, invalidity or voidance shall not affect the validity of the remaining portion of this bylaw.

or take any action relative thereto.

Sponsor: Police Chief

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 4-0-0.

Summary: With the advent of retail marijuana facilities in Sturbridge, and the recent decriminalization of possession and use of marijuana, the marijuana public consumption by-law is proposed for the purpose of preserving the right to peaceful, quiet and orderly enjoyment of public places for the inhabitants and visitors of the Town of Sturbridge.

ARTICLE 42
LOCAL EXCISE ON RETAIL SALES OF MARIJUANA

To see if the Town of Sturbridge will vote to accept MGL Chapter 64N, Section 3 to impose an excise on the retail sales of marijuana for adult use at the rate of 3%; 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 4-0-0.

Summary: This article imposes a 3% local option tax on retail sales of marijuana.

ARTICLE 43
QUACUMQUASIT LAKE (SOUTH POND) – ALUM TREATMENT

Quacumquasit Lake (South Pond) water quality is diminishing due to accumulating phosphorous. The common remedy to mitigate accumulated phosphorous is an Alum treatment. The rationale technical basis, and operational feasibility for treatment have been established. We (QQLA) are currently applying for grant money to fund the treatment, and we request that the Town of Sturbridge assume the role of administrative host to the grant. A letter of financial support from the Town for \$55K, not to be expended before 2020, is necessary to support our grant application.

Sponsor: Petition

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:

That the Town take no action on this article. Voted 8-1-0.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:

To Place the Article. Voted 4-0-0.

<p><i>Summary: This article is by petition. This is a request for a portion of the matching funds needed to apply for a grant which, if approved, will pay for the treatment of an algae problem resulting from excessive accumulated phosphorus in South Pond. Brookfield (\$25,000) and East Brookfield (\$15,000) have also been asked to contribute to the matching funds total. The Finance Committee recommends taking no action due to deficiencies in the article.</i></p>
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**TOWN OF STURBRIDGE
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT**



**TANTASQUA REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL
MONDAY, JUNE 3, 2019 @ 7:00 P.M.**

ARTICLE 54
FREE CASH TRANSFER – SNOW AND ICE DEFICIT

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of FIFTY THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED THIRTEEN AND 11/100 DOLLARS (\$50,513.11) to the Snow & Ice Account (#14232); 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 4-0-0.

Summary: This article will fund the Snow & Ice Removal deficit in Fiscal Year 2019. The Town can deficit spend each year for all costs related to snow and ice removal.

ARTICLE 55
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:

Recommendation will be given at Town Meeting.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:

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

Summary: This article seeks to fund any bills of a prior Fiscal Year.

ARTICLE 56
TREE WARDEN SALARY ACCOUNT

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of FIVE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$5,500.00) to the Tree Warden Salaries/Wages Account (#12941); 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 4-0-0.

Summary: Due to the tremendous amount of work done by the Tree Warden with the diagnosis, treatment, and oversight of the removal of the infected trees due to Gypsy Moths, there is a desire to supplement the Tree Warden's stipend in FY19.

ARTICLE 57
EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN (EAP) – CEDAR POND DAM AND BIG ALUM POND DAM

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of FORTY-EIGHT THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$48,000.00) to cover the costs of preparing an Emergency Action Plan for Cedar Pond Dam and Big Alum Pond Dam as required by M.G.L. Chapter 21, Section 65 and 302 CMR 10.11; 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 4-0-0.

Summary: The Town is required to prepare an Emergency Action Plan (EAP) for Cedar Pond Dam and Big Alum Pond Dam. This EAP needs to be completed no later than December 31, 2019.

ARTICLE 58
FUNDING FOR POLICE UNION CONTRACT

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of ONE HUNDRED FORTY-FOUR THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED SIXTY-FOUR AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$144,864.00) to the following accounts:

FY18 Salaries and Wages Retro Account	\$45,116.00
FY18 Overtime Retro Account	\$12,660.00
FY19 Salaries and Wages	\$67,130.00
FY19 Overtime Account	\$19,958.00

for the purpose of funding the Police Union Contract for Fiscal Year 2018 and Fiscal Year 2019; 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 4-0-0.

Summary: This article funds the Police Union Contract that was recently ratified for FY18 and FY19.

ARTICLE 59
SOFTWARE/HARDWARE UPGRADE – BADGER METER SYSTEM

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the Water Reserve Fund Balance the sum of SEVENTEEN THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED FORTY AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$17,240.00) for a software/hardware upgrade for the Badger Meter 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 4-0-0.

Summary: This article provides funding to update the hardware and software for the Town's Badger Meter System, which is used to read the Town's water meters. The Town's current system will no longer be supported as of June 30, 2020.