

**TOWN OF STURBRIDGE  
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT  
BURGESS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
JANUARY 22, 2024  
7:00 P.M.**

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**ARTICLE 48  
UNPAID BILLS OF A PREVIOUS YEAR  
(9/10ths 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: Board of Selectmen

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

*That the Town vote to transfer the sum of ONE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED TWO AND 95/100 DOLLARS (\$1,202.95) from Free Cash for the purpose of paying unpaid bills of prior fiscal year. Voted 6 – 0 – 0.*

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:**

*That the Town vote to transfer the sum of ONE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED TWO AND 95/100 DOLLARS (\$1,202.95) from Free Cash for the purpose of paying unpaid bills of prior fiscal year. Voted 5 – 0 – 0.*

<p><i>Summary: The following invoices were not submitted timely for payment in a previous fiscal year. The services were received by the Town and payment is due. Board of Health - \$1,202.95 for recyclables hauling</i></p>
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**ARTICLE 49  
COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ADA ACCESSIBILITY 60 CEDAR STREET**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund Undesignated Fund Balance the sum of FIVE HUNDRED FORTY-SIX THOUSAND SIXTY-ONE AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$546,061.00) for the purposes of engineering, permitting, construction, and purchasing of playground equipment necessary for ADA compliance in the parking area and pavilion at the Recreational facility at 60 Cedar Street; including all costs incidental and related thereto; or take any action relative thereto.

Sponsor: Community Preservation Committee

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

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

*Summary: The facility at 60 Cedar Street lacks handicapped parking, pathways to the beach, playground equipment, and fully accessible restroom facilities. Approval of this funding would allow for the facility to be more inclusive.*

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**ARTICLE 50  
FREE CASH TRANSFER FOR INELIGIBLE GRANT EXPENDITURE**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of FORTY-THREE AND 28/100 DOLLARS (\$43.28) to the FY2023 911 Training Grant (#37501) for expenses that were ineligible for reimbursement; 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 – 0.*

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:**

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

*Summary: The Town incurred an expense of \$43.28 that was deemed ineligible by the grantor for reimbursement under the FY2023 911 Training Grant.*

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**ARTICLE 51  
FREE CASH TRANSFERS**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the amount of FIFTY THOUSAND AND 00/100 (\$50,000.00) to the Reserve Fund for the purpose of covering unexpected expenses incurred throughout the fiscal year.

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

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

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:**

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

*Summary: Some unexpected needs arose for use the reserve fund early in FY24 including an underground fuel tank which was compromised. A transfer of this amount will help to ensure that the Town can respond properly to unexpected costs throughout the remainder of the fiscal year.*

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**ARTICLE 52  
SEWER RESERVE FUND TRANSFERS**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the Sewer Fund Balance the amount of ONE HUNDRED FIFTY-TWO THOUSAND AND 00/100 (\$152,000.00) to the Sewer Maintenance Account for the purpose of purchasing E-1 pumps; 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: 6 – 0 – 0.*

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:**

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

*Summary: The cost of E-1 pumps has increased significantly, and many, because of age need replacing. The costs will be increasing by 5% in November, 2023. By September, 2023 the Town has replaced 53 pumps. The supplier no longer recommends rebuilding pumps due to costs for the individual parts and the time and labor associated with the rebuild process.*

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**ARTICLE 53  
SEWER RESERVE FUND TRANSFER**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the Sewer Fund Balance the amount of EIGHTY THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$80,000.00) to the Sewer Reserve Fund for unexpected costs incurred; 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: 6 – 0 – 0.*

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:**

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

*Summary: The Sewer Fund had several unexpected expenses including an odor control study, emergency pumping, pump station control installation, hauling from the Route 20 pump station due to excessive rain, and overage on the anticipated cost for clarifier repair and painting. Of the initial \$75,000.00, only \$13,000.00 will remain for the duration of the Fiscal Year. An additional \$80,000.00 will provide enough funding to weather further unexpected expenses.*

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**ARTICLE 54  
WATER RESERVE FUND BALANCE TRANSFER**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the Water Fund Balance a sum of ONE HUNDRED SIXTY THOUSAND AND 00/100 (\$160,000.00) to the Plant Media at Water Plant Project Account (#38201) for Filter Media Replacement Project additional costs at the Iron Removal plant; 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: 6 – 0 – 0.*

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:**

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

*Summary: This project was approved at the June 2022 Town Meeting for \$481,000.00. However, the bids received in May 2023 were significantly higher than what was expected. These additional funds will allow us to re-bid the project for a total \$641,000.00.*

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**ARTICLE 55  
RIVER ROAD EASEMENTS**

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Conservation Commission to acquire, by gift, purchase or eminent domain, and upon such terms and conditions as the Commission shall deem appropriate, real property interests in the lands known as 1 River Road (Assessors' Parcel ID No. 545-03432-001) and 9 River Road (Assessors' Parcel ID No. 545-03432-009), for the purpose of locating thereon a recreational trail for non-motorized use and establishing parking incidental thereto, and as funding therefor and any and all costs incidental and related thereto, to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, and/or borrow a sum of money, and to authorize the Conservation Commission to enter into all agreements and take all action necessary, convenient or appropriate to carry out such acquisition, or take any other action relative thereto.

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

*To amend the article by striking the words "purchase or eminent domain," and otherwise approve the article as written. Voted 6 – 0 – 0.*

*The Finance Committee is not comfortable in granting the Conservation Committee the authority to obtain these easements by any other means than as a gift. If the property owners balked at gifting the easements, the article as written would give the Conservation Committee the authority to obtain the easements by purchasing those easements with available or borrowed funds without oversight or consideration from any other Town body.*

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:**

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

*Summary: These easements provide better access to and parking for our conservation properties along River Road. Both property owners have agreed to give the Town the easements at no cost.*