

**TOWN OF AUBURN
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
OCTOBER 23, 2012**

At 7:00 PM on a motion by Norman Bergeron and seconded by Jeffrey Mitchell the meeting was postponed until a quorum was present. At 7:15 PM Moderator Charles A. Baker called the meeting to order in the Auburn High School Auditorium with a quorum present. The Moderator appointed Chester Stencel, Jeffrey Mitchell, Norman Bergeron, Paul Kosky, Daniel Carpenter and Kenneth Frost as counters who were sworn in by the Town Clerk.

In compliance with the provisions of the Auburn Charter, copies of the warrant along with the recommendations of the Finance Committee were mailed to each Town Meeting Member on October 9, 2012.

Members present: 100

Article 1. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

<u>Article No.</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Finance Com Recommends</u>	<u>Selectmen Recommends</u>
1.	Hear reports of committees.		
2.	Amends the vote passed under Article 27 of the March 5, 1970 Special Town Meeting relative to the Annual assessment to Central Mass. Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC).	Yes	Yes- 4 to 0
3.	Amends Article 2 of the May 1, 2012 Annual Town Meeting (operating budget for FY2013).	Yes	Yes- 4 to 0
4.	Appropriates \$12,500.00 from general fund revenues to meet reporting requirements as required under GASB 45 for a Health Actuarial Study for the period ending 6/30/12.	Yes	Yes- 4 to 0
5.	Appropriates the balance of funds borrowed under Article 11 of the November 15, 1999 Special Town Meeting for the Route 20 Sewer Disposal Project, which Project is completed, as follows: the sum of \$150,824.12 to cover the deficit caused by a sewer main collapse in December of 2011 and the sum of \$15,359.87 to perform repairs to the sewer system infrastructure.	Yes	Yes- 4 to 0
6.	Appropriates the balance of funds borrowed under Article 19 of the May 3, 2001 Annual Town Meeting, as amended, by vote on Article 4 of the November 15, 2001 Special Town Meeting for a Sewer Project on Cutting Avenue, Prospect Street, Jade Hill Road and Montclair Drive, which Sewer Project has been completed, as follows: the sum of \$107,791.86 to be used to perform repairs to the sewer system infrastructure.	Yes	Yes- 4 to 0
7.	Appropriates from general fund revenues \$17,000.00 to purchase mapping and GPS equipment to be used within the DPW to map and locate sewer lines, sewer manholes, drain lines, drain manholes and drainage outfalls.	Yes	Yes- 4 to 0
8.	Appropriates \$10,000.00 from general fund revenues to purchase a tire changer machine and a tire balancing machine to be used within the DPW Fleet Maintenance Unit.	Yes	Yes- 4 to 0
9.	Appropriates the sum of \$34,000.00 from general fund revenues to pay for accrued interest on utility pole abatements due Verizon New England, Inc. as a result of a March 19, 2012 Massachusetts Appeals Court decision.	Yes	Yes- 4 to 0
10.	Appropriates a sum of money from general fund revenues to the Stabilization Fund. By roll call- Mr. Holstrom, Mr. Simonian, Mrs. Goodrich in favor, and Mr. Grossman opposed.	Yes	Yes as written- 3 to 1
11.	Amends Article 11 of the May 1, 2012 Annual Town Meeting and		

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|---|--------------|---------------------|
| <p>appropriates an additional \$32,000.00 from Medicaid receipts within the general fund revenues to the Auburn School Department operating budget for FY2013 to fund unanticipated services for significantly disabled special needs students and tuitions and transportation for outside placements of special needs students or adaptive equipment.</p> | <p>Yes</p> | <p>Yes – 4 to 0</p> |
| <p>12. Amends the CIP Article 4 of the May 3, 2007 Annual Town Meeting so as to appropriate the balance of \$27,417.16 from funds originally appropriated to the Mary D. Stone School, for design and implementation of HVAC services at the Auburn Middle School so as to respond to student medical needs transitioning to the Auburn Middle School in the fall of 2013 and thereafter.</p> | <p>Yes</p> | <p>Yes – 4 to 0</p> |
| <p>13. Appropriates a sum of money from general fund revenues for the acquisition of a 6.6 acres +/- of land as identified in the appraisal report for the Auburn Middle School Project.</p> | <p>_____</p> | <p>Yes- 4 to 0</p> |
| <p>14. Appropriates a sum of money from general fund revenues to the Auburn School Department Operating Budget for FY 2013 to fund transportation costs for homeless students to their educational program.</p> | <p>_____</p> | <p>Yes- 4 to 0</p> |
| <p>15. Amends CIP Article 3 of the May 1, 2012 Annual Town Meeting, line item One Ton Dump Truck for FY13, from \$47,000.00 to \$40,000.00 and deleting Parks Landscape Trailer in FY13 for \$7,920.00 and adding Aerator in FY13 for \$14,920.00.</p> | <p>Yes</p> | <p>Yes – 4 to 0</p> |
| <p>16. Appropriates \$2,450.00 from the Expendable Trust/ Cemetery Perpetual Care Account for the purchase of a trac vac as an accessory to the rider mower.</p> | <p>Yes</p> | <p>Yes – 4 to 0</p> |
| <p>17. Appropriates \$9,200.00 from the Cemetery Lots and Graves Account for the additional cost of purchasing a forty-eight niche columbarium.</p> | <p>Yes</p> | <p>Yes – 4 to 0</p> |
| <p>18. Accepts Gilbert Way as a public way.</p> | <p>Defer</p> | <p>Yes- 4 to 0</p> |
| <p>19. Accepts Regis Drive as a public way.</p> | <p>Defer</p> | <p>Yes- 4 to 0</p> |
| <p>20. Appropriates \$10,000.00 from general fund revenues to conduct an inspection of Auburn Pond Dam as required by Mass DEP, in addition to a study to potentially reclassify the designation of Auburn Pond Dam from “high hazard” to “significant hazard”.</p> | <p>Yes</p> | <p>Yes – 4 to 0</p> |
| <p>21. Appropriates \$200,000.00 from various accounts to purchase two 6 wheel dump trucks/ sander combo with plows.</p> | <p>Yes</p> | <p>Yes – 4 to 0</p> |
| <p>22. Appropriates \$25,000.00 from general fund revenues for engineering services to monitor groundwater and soil gas at the landfill as required by Mass DEP.</p> | <p>Yes</p> | <p>Yes – 4 to 0</p> |

Finance Committee Report

When we last met in May you approved a \$52.2MM budget, which included at that time \$576M in excess funds available, which stayed uncommitted awaiting the finalization of the state budget. In the five months since that Annual Town Meeting, several significant capital projects have moved forward, including the failure and then approval of the Bay Path renovation and expansion project, and the currently-in-process Auburn Middle School project. Funding for the 2013 budget from Beacon Hill and several other sources have been finalized, resulting in an increase of approximately \$1.1MM in funding to support the 2013 budget, which is great news. Our town CFO will have a presentation with highlights and modifications to the 2013 budget, and its effect on our taxes.

Before we get to the Finance Committee recommendations for the Warrant Articles, followed by comments, I would like to remind you that there are certain economic storm clouds on the horizon with implications on funding from the state and federal level that need to be acknowledged: State revenues for the 1st quarter of 2013 are \$95MM below budget, prompting a job freeze at the state level (not necessarily a bad thing!), which may impact our 2014 budget

process, and unemployment in the state has risen from 6.0% since we last met in May to 6.5% in September (although part of that increase is attributable to more people in the Commonwealth looking for work). In addition, we are now 10 weeks away from the federal “fiscal cliff” if Congress can’t decide on a new budget plan. Ramifications from these proposed cuts and tax increases will be felt throughout both the public and private sectors of the economy, possibly placing state and local receipts at risk.

Regarding the Warrant Articles, the Finance Committee takes the following position:

Articles 2 thru 12 recommend approval
Articles 13 and 14 have been withdrawn
Articles 15 thru 17 recommend approval
Articles 18 and 19 defer to petitioner
Articles 20 thru 22 recommend approval

Additional Comments on certain Warrant Articles....

Article 3 adjustments addressed several changes to the operating budget weren’t finalized at the time of the Annual town meeting, resulting in an aggregate increase in the Operating Budget of approximately \$75M, including an increase to the Gas/Oil/Diesel Fuel account by \$20M, a decrease in Ambulance Receipts of \$20M due to stretched receivables from insurance companies, and an increase of \$25M in Roadway Improvements to \$500M.

Articles 7, 8, and 15 are sponsored by the DPW and reflect repositioning of capital asset needs.

Article 10 includes, within the \$610M Stabilization Fund, a sum of funds available should the Town move forward with land acquisition relating to the Auburn Middle School Project. Related **Article 13** has been placed on hold as negotiations for the land purchase move through the municipal approval process, but are not in a position to be presented for a vote to town meeting at this time.

Regarding the remaining articles, they are either self-explanatory or I would prefer to defer to the petitioner for additional explanation and comments.

Respectfully submitted,
Kevin Hussey

Chairman, Finance Committee

Ann Cavanaugh, Vice Chair

James Bonofiglio

Christopher Haroian

Edward Coleman

Michael Carota

Kimberly Holstrom

School Presentation by Dr. Maryellen Brunelle

APS Team – Strengthening connections through Rigor, Relevance and Relationships

*Safe and Respectful Environments for All

* Student-Centered Decision Making

*High Expectations for All

*Dedicated to Continuous Improvement

* Equitable Opportunities for All

Progress is being monitored to increase the number of students scoring in the Advanced and Proficient categories and decrease the number of students scoring in the Needs Improvement and Warning categories. Results of students in 10 of the 16 grade levels tested in 2012, Auburn students scoring in the Advanced and Proficient increased and the number of students scoring in the Needs Improvement or Warning category decreased. Auburn students scored at or above the state average on 16 of the 17 grade level tests. Auburn scored in the top third when compared to like schools/grade levels. Data TEAMS were put in place to carefully monitor student assessment data.

High Quality Professional Development continues to be offered for staff members. A Mentoring and Induction program for new teachers was instituted.

Communication and collaboration with students' families includes iParent Portal, Standards-Based Report Cards, Family Picnics/Ice Cream Socials, Rockets Reviews published regularly, Newsletters e-mailed home quarterly, along with newspaper coverage in print and on line. Positive Behavior Intervention System implemented through Middle School and AHS working with Dr. Paul Poteat from Boston College on age-appropriate positive climate/anti-bullying program.

There has been an aggressive pursuit of grants to enhance the operating budget for teacher support with materials, supplies, and technology. Advanced placement offerings have increased and there are over 200 AHS students enrolled in AP courses compared to less than 100 in previous years. There is a promotion of college and career across all grade levels. The effective integration of technology has been a top priority, with a stable network now in place.

Tackling Our Challenges – Special education and low income subgroups are supported in their home schools whenever possible. All efforts are focused on Students and their increasing achievement. We are committed to creating an environment in which each can do so successfully.

Article 10 will consider placing \$610,000 in the Stabilization Fund. Included in that amount is money for the potential land acquisition for the Auburn Middle School project identified in Article 13. The purchase of such property is contingent upon successful negotiations and approvals at both the local and state levels. Article 13 is being postponed because negotiations are not yet completed for the purchase of the property.

Article 11 will appropriate an additional \$32,000 from Medicaid receipts to fund unanticipated services for significantly disabled special needs students and tuitions and transportation for outside placements.

Article 12 amends a CIP of May 3, 2007 of \$27,417.16 appropriated for Mary D. Stone School, now to be used for design and implementation of HVAC services at the Auburn Middle School in response to student medical needs.

Article 14 will consider a sum of money to fund transportation costs for homeless students. This article is being postponed until further guidance is received from the Department of Revenue and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

The Town of Auburn has a long tradition of supporting its students and the educational program of the Auburn Public Schools. THANK YOU!

School Buildings Committee Report by Mark Imse

- Early 2011 requested funding for the Feasibility Study/Schematic Design of the Middle School
- Town Meeting Approved \$600,000 with 54.16% Reimbursement from the State
- Hired the Owner Project Manager (OPM) – Skanska USA Building, Inc.
- Hired the Architect – Lamoureux Pagano Associates. Architects

Kick off Meeting with School Buildings Committee – 7 Feb 2012

Preliminary Design Program (PDP)

- Determination of Needs
- Assessment of Existing Conditions
- Analysis/Evaluation of Alternates
- Recommendation of 3 Distinct Alternates
 - i. Addition/Renovation of Existing
 - ii. New Building on Existing Site
 - iii. New Building on New Site

Submitted PDP to MSBA for Review and Comment

Preferred Schematic Report (PSR)

- Further Study of 3 Alternatives
- Recommendation of Preferred Solution New Building on New Site Submit PSR to

MSBA for Review and Approval

- Received Comments for MSBA
- Attended Facility Assessment Committee Meeting
- Responded to Comments
- Received Approval of PSR from MSBA Board on 3 Oct 12

- Progress the design of the new building
- Further refine layouts
- Develop Massing and Exterior Finishes
- On-site Activities
- Soil Borings/Geotechnical Work
- Traffic Study
- Detailed Survey of Land
- Independent Cost Estimate by OPM
- Schematic Design Package to be submitted 12 Dec 2012
- Anticipating MSBA Board Approval at Late January 2013 Meeting
- Town Needs to Approve Project Funding within 120 Days of Jan 2013 Meeting
- Formed Sub-Committee for Community Outreach
- OPM Hosts a Project Website Link Available from Auburn Schools Web Page

All Documents posted

Area to Submit Questions

- Information Meetings and Tours
- Develop Information Packages

Feasibility/Schematic Design Budget = \$600,000.

Budget To Date*

Remaining OPM Services \$125,000 \$105,802 \$19,198

Architect Services \$400,000 \$287,500 \$112,500

Env. & Site \$10,000 \$10,000

Other \$65,000 \$65,000

Total \$600,000 \$393,302 \$206,698

Additional Services of \$48,532 is being added to LPA for the geotechnical, traffic and site survey scopes.

* To date costs areas approved through the end of August 2012.

New Construction 101,424 sf \$41,884,353. on West Street

Minimum State Reimbursement = 54.16%

Pursuing potential incentives that will increase this rate:

- Green Building
- Routine and Capital Maintenance Rate
- CM at Risk

Article 2. I move that the Town Meeting amend the vote passed under Article 27 of the March 5, 1970 Special Town Meeting, that amended the vote passed under Article 2 of the June 29, 1964 Special Town Meeting, by striking out the words “the annual cost to the Town to be an apportioned cost determined by the District Planning Commission on a per capita basis as provided by Section 7 of said Chapter 40B, but in no event greater than twelve cents per capita based upon the most recent national census”, and by inserting in its place thereof the following: “the annual cost to the Town to be an apportioned cost, currently 24.092 cents per capita, determined by the District Planning Commission on a per capita basis as provided by Section 7 of said Chapter 40B.”

By Gail Metcalf

Seconded by Roger Belhumeur

Vote on Article 2, unanimous in favor

Article 3. I move that the Town Meeting vote to amend Article 2 of the May 1, 2012 Annual Town Meeting as follows: Increase line item #011992-5740 Insurance & Bonds from \$635,000.00 to \$645,000.00; Increase line item #011992-5480 Gas/Oil/Diesel from \$209,500.00 to \$229,500.00; Increase line item #014112-5800 Roadway Reconstruction from \$475,000.00 to \$500,000.00; Add new line item in the Treasurer/Collector budget for \$1,000.00 - #011452-5916 Interest on Abatements; Increase line item #011752-573202 CMRPC Assessment from \$1,950.00 to \$3883.15 (based upon a population per the 2010 federal census at a per capita rate of 24.092 cents); Reduce available funds ambulance proceeds from \$802,797.00 to \$780,373.27; and further to approve an amended FY2013 budget for the Town of Auburn of \$49,733,938.15.
By Jeffrey Mitchell
Seconded by Chester Stencil
Vote on Article 3, by majority in favor

Article 4. I move that the Town Meeting vote to appropriate the sum of \$12,500.00 from general fund revenues to meet the reporting requirements as required under GASB 45 for a Health Actuarial Study for the period ending 6/30/12.
By John Anderson
Seconded by Charles Olson
Vote on Article 4, by majority in favor

Article 5. I move that the Town Meeting vote, under the authority of M.G.L. c.44, §20, to appropriate the balance of funds borrowed under Article 11 of the November 15, 1999 Special Town Meeting for the Route 20 Sewer Disposal Project, which Project is completed, as follows: the sum of \$150,824.12 to cover a deficit caused by a sewer main collapse in December 2011 and the sum of \$15,359.87 to perform repairs to the sewer system infrastructure.
By Ronald Prouty
Seconded by Robert Platukis
Vote on Article 5, unanimous in favor

Article 6. I move that the Town Meeting vote, under the authority of M.G.L. c.44, §20, to appropriate the balance of funds borrowed under Article 19 of the May 3, 2001 Annual Town Meeting, as amended, by vote on Article 4 of the November 15, 2001 Special Town Meeting for a Sewer Project on Cutting Avenue, Prospect Street, Jade Hill Road and Montclair Drive, which Sewer Project has been completed, as follows: the sum of \$107,791.86 to be used to perform repairs to the sewer system infrastructure in the Town.
By Paul Kosky
Seconded by Jeffrey Mitchell
Vote on Article 6, unanimous in favor

Article 7. I move that the Town Meeting vote to appropriate from general fund revenues the sum of \$17,000.00 to purchase mapping and GPS equipment to be used within the DPW to map and locate sewer lines, sewer manholes, drain lines, drain manholes and drainage outfalls.
By Daniel Carpenter
Seconded by John Barkus
Vote on Article 7, by majority in favor

Article 8. I move that the Town Meeting vote to appropriate from general fund revenues the sum of \$10,000.00 to purchase a tire changer machine and a tire balancing machine to be used within the DPW Fleet Maintenance Unit.
By Michael Robidoux
Seconded by Kimberley Holstrom
Vote on Article 8, by majority in favor

Article 9. I move that the Town Meeting vote to appropriate the sum of \$34,000.00 from general fund revenues to pay for accrued interest on utility pole abatements due Verizon New England, Inc. as a result of a March 19, 2012 Massachusetts Appeals Court decision.
By Dennis Knight
Seconded by Barbara Granger
Vote on Article 9, by majority in favor

Article 10. I move that the Town Meeting vote to appropriate \$610,000 from general fund revenues to the Stabilization Fund.

By Chester Stencil
Seconded by Elizabeth Prouty
Vote on Article 10, by majority in favor

Article 11. I move that the Town Meeting vote to amend Article 11 of the May 1, 2012 Annual Town Meeting and appropriate an additional \$32,000.00 from Medicaid receipts within the General Fund Revenues to the Auburn School Department Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2013 to fund unanticipated services for significantly disabled special needs students and tuitions and transportation for outside placements of special needs students or adaptive equipment.

By Kenneth Frost
Seconded by William Bylund
Vote on Article 11, by majority in favor

Article 12. I move that the Town Meeting vote to amend CIP Article 4 of the May 3, 2007 Annual Town Meeting so as to appropriate the balance of \$27,417.16, from funds originally appropriated to the Mary D. Stone School, for design and implementation of HVAC services at the Auburn Middle School, so as to respond to student medical needs transitioning to the Auburn Middle School in the fall of 2013 and thereafter.

By Barbara Granger
Seconded by Michael Robidoux
Vote on Article 12, unanimous in favor

Article 13. I move that this article be postponed indefinitely.

By Elizabeth Prouty
Seconded by William Westerlind
Vote on Article 13, by majority in favor

Article 14. I move that this article be postponed indefinitely.

By Michael Robidoux
Seconded by Gregory Bohling
Vote on Article 14 by majority in favor

Article 15. I move that the Town Meeting vote to Amend CIP Article 3 of May 1, 2012 Annual Town Meeting, line item One Ton Dump Truck identified in FY2013, from (\$47,000) Forty Seven Thousand Dollars to (\$40,000.00) Forty Thousand Dollars, and by deleting Parks Landscape Trailer for (\$7,920.00) Seven Thousand Nine Hundred Twenty identified in FY2013, and by adding Aerator in FY2013 for (\$14,920.00) Fourteen Thousand Nine Hundred Twenty Dollars.

By Kimberley Holstrom
Seconded by Charles Olson
Vote on Article 15, unanimous in favor

Article 16. I move that the Town Meeting vote to appropriate two thousand four hundred fifty dollars (\$2,450.00) from the Expendable Trust/Cemetery Perpetual Care Account for the purchase of a trac vac as an accessory to the rider mower.

By Ellen Ethier
Seconded by Michelle Weagle
Vote on Article 16, by majority in favor

Article 17. I move that the Town Meeting vote to appropriate from the Cemetery Lots and Graves Account the amount of Nine thousand two hundred (\$9,200.00) for the additional cost of purchasing a forty eight niche columbarium.

By Jeremy Poshkus
Seconded by Scott Taylor
Vote on Article 17, by majority in favor

Article 18. I move that the Town Meeting vote to accept Gilbert Way as a public way, as shown on plans recorded with the Worcester Registry of Deeds, Plan Book 318, Plan 53 and Plan Book 347, Plan 7. The total length of Gilbert Way to be accepted would be 370.66 ft.

By Gina Skog
Seconded by Norman Bergeron
Vote on Article 18, by majority in favor

Article 19. I move that the Town Meeting vote to accept Regis Drive as a public way, as shown on a plan prepared by Cullinan Engineering Co., Inc. dated April 13, 1966 and recorded with the Worcester Registry of Deeds, Plan Book 302, Plan 33. The total length of Regis Drive to be accepted would be 946 ft. (inclusive of 175 feet accepted by the Town on 5/7/1998).

By Gregory Bohling

Seconded by Gail Metcalf

Vote on Article 19, by majority in favor

Article 20. I move that the Town Meeting vote to appropriate \$10,000.00 from general fund revenues to conduct an inspection of Auburn Pond Dam as required by Mass DEP, in addition to, a study to potentially reclassify the designation of Auburn Pond Dam from “high hazard” to “significant hazard”.

By Michael Harris

Seconded by Philip Tully

Vote on Article 20, by majority in favor

Article 21. I move that the Town meeting vote to appropriate \$200,000.00 from the following accounts: from general fund revenues the sum of \$38,254.24; from Available Funds/FEMA 2006 Flood Acct# 211026 the sum of \$6,627.63; from FEMA 2008 Ice Storm Acct# 211028 the sum of \$58,040.05; from FEMA Flood/March 2010 Acct# 211029 the sum of \$14,873.07; from FEMA-Tropical Storm Irene Acct# 211030 the sum of \$21,288.86; and from FEMA Oct2011 Snow Storm Acct# 21129012 the sum of \$60,916.15 to purchase two - 6 wheel dump trucks/sander combo with plows.

By Michelle Weagle

Seconded by Jeffrey Mitchell

Vote on Article 21, by majority in favor

Article 22. I move that the Town Meeting vote to appropriate \$25,000.00 from general fund revenues for engineering services to monitor groundwater and soil gas at the landfill as required by Mass DEP.

By Robert Gow

Seconded by Gail Metcalf

Vote on Article 22, by majority in favor

Meeting dissolved at 9:28PM on a motion by Douglas Nelson and seconded by Chester Stencil.

A True Copy Attest:



Ellen C. Gaboury, CMC/CMMC
Town Clerk