

*This combined warrant (articles and motions) is a courtesy document.
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Finance Committee Recommendations

**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2006 – 7:00 P.M.
HIGH SCHOOL GYMNASIUM
62 CAPRON STREET, UXBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS**

WORCESTER, S.S.

TO EITHER OF THE CONSTABLES OF THE TOWN, IN SAID COUNTY;

GREETINGS:

IN THE NAME OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, YOU ARE DIRECTED TO NOTIFY THE INHABITANTS OF THE TOWN OF UXBRIDGE, QUALIFIED TO VOTE IN THE TOWN ELECTIONS AND IN TOWN AFFAIRS, TO MEET AT THE HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM, IN PRECINCT 2, IN SAID UXBRIDGE, ON THE FOLLOWING ARTICLES TO WIT:

*The amount of Free Cash as certified by the DOR Director of Accounts on October 5, 2006 is:
\$1,798,678.00 in the General Fund; \$92,861.00 in the Sewer Enterprise Fund; \$589,136.00 in the Water
Enterprise Fund; and \$153,249.00 in the Ambulance Enterprise Fund.*

ARTICLE 1: REPORTS

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:

No recommendation

ARTICLE 2: PRIOR YEAR BILLS

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:

No recommendation

ARTICLE 3: FY07 BUDGET AMENDMENTS

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:

The Finance committee recommends the following actions:

Amount	Reason	Commentary
One-time adjustment to balance the FY07 Budget SATM 5/06		
\$413,438	Budget Adjustment	Favorable action. (7-0). This is an adjustment that must be made to balance the FY07 budget. This addresses an accounting mistake dealing with reimbursed funds for special education
<i>FY07 Budget Line Items Requiring Supplemental Funding</i>		
\$98,116	School Transportation	Favorable action. (7-0). This addresses an increase in cost related to the new school busing contract. The higher cost reflects increases in fuel and maintenance cost.
\$1,000	Celebration Fund	Favorable action. (7-0).

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\$0	Town Counsel	The Finance Committee recommends that this fund <u>not</u> be funded. (7-0). The Committee feels that more oversight is necessary to address large overages in the present monthly bills. Additionally, the Committee wishes to better understand the "unexpected litigation" issues from the TM/BOS.
\$30,000	Energy	The Finance Committee recommends that the Town Hall expenses account be funded with an additional \$30K. (6-1). This address a budgeting mistake in the FY07 budget. Additionally, the Committee recommends that Town leadership develop and promote an Energy conservation plan for the community.
<i>One Time Purchases</i>		
\$35,000	Record Storage	Favorable action. (5-2). The Committee also asks Town Management to consider the most desirable location to implement the record storage system to keep our Town records safe.
\$9,040	Vadar Accounting Software	Favorable action. (7-0). This addresses the second installment of a software implementation started in FY06.
\$32,000	Security System	Favorable action. (6-1). A matching grant will provide a total of \$64,000 for security cameras and card access systems.
\$2,000	Spill Prevention Account	Favorable action. (6-1).

Free cash was certified at \$1,798,678. The above requested adjustments/expenditures total \$620,594. The resulting free cash balance based on this article is \$1,178,084.

ARTICLE 4: FY07 INTER/INTRA DEPARTMENTAL TRANSFERS

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Favorable action. (7-0)

The article is a transfer of funds and does not cost the community any additional money

ARTICLE 5: APPROPRIATIONS FOR COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT(S)

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:

The Finance Committee voted to delay recommendation on this article until the Town Meeting. (7-0). Final negotiations are in progress and requested funding is not known before the publishing deadline for the warrant.

ARTICLE 6: TRANSFER TO FUTURE WELLFIELD ACCOUNT

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Favorable action. (7-0)

This article is part of the DPW master plan for waters services. The article is a transfer of funds and does not cost the community any additional money.

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ARTICLE 7: TRANSFER TO WATER DIVISION CAPITAL OUTLAY ACCOUNT

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Favorable action. (7-0)

This article is part of the DPW master plan for waters services. The article is a transfer of funds and does not cost the community any additional money. Approval of this article also allows the DPW to apply for additional water protection grant funds for the community.

ARTICLE 8: TRANSFER TO STORMWATER PHASE II ACCOUNT

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Favorable action. (7-0)

This articles supports the Town's EPA approved Storm Waters Phase II Management program which requires a testing program for Waters discharge. The source of funds for this article is \$11,000 from free cash.

ARTICLE 9: CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM/PROJECTS

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:

No recommendation on this article

The specific actions were not finalized at the time of these recommendations. Therefore the Finance Committee can not provide a recommendation before the publishing deadline for the warrant.

ARTICLE 10: BLANCHARD BUILDING RE-USE FUNDS DESIGNATION

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Favorable action. (7-0)

The article is a transfer of funds and does not cost the community any additional money.

The Blanchard Committee is presently working with an architect completing a feasibility study on future use of the building. This article transfers the Towns portion of the matching funds from the feasibility study grant into an account specifically for the rehabilitation of the building.

ARTICLE 11: ACCEPTANCE OF MGL CHAPTER 32 B, SECTION 18 – MEDICARE HEALTH BENEFITS FOR TOWN RETIREES

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:

No recommendation.

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ARTICLE 12: ACCEPTANCE OF MGL CH. 60, SEC. 23B RELATING TO FEES FOR CERTIFICATES OF LIENS

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Unfavorable action. (5-2)

According to the Finance Director, the cost and time of furnishing the certificate of liens is the same for all types of properties. The Committee believes that fees should reflect the actual cost of providing the Town service.

ARTICLE 13: ACCEPTANCE OF SECTION 5L OF MGL CHAPTER 59 TO SUSPEND PAYMENT OF REAL PROPERTY TAXES DUE BY A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL GUARD OR RESERVES WHILE ON ACTIVE DUTY

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Favorable action. (7-0)

The Committee supports this effort to support those who defend our country.

ARTICLE 14: NON-CRIMINAL DISPOSITION

To see if the Town will vote to adopt the following bylaw as, or take any action relative thereto:

NON-CRIMINAL DISPOSITION

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Favorable action. (4-2)

This article allows designated Town enforcement officers collect fines via non-criminal disposition. This should speed up fine collection, save town employees considerable time and does not put a criminal disposition record on the violator. Those against favorable action were concerned with the notification procedures and whether there was a procedure more community friendly.

ARTICLE 15: WEST STREET PROPERTY DISPOSITION

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Favorable action. (6-0)

This action was recommended by Town Counsel. The article returns control of property to the Treasurer Collector allowing for disposition of property to the owners who came forward and for collection of back taxes.

ARTICLE 16: ACCEPTANCE OF LAND DONATION

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Favorable action. (6-1)

This article allows the BOS to entertain the acceptance of the land. This property is already in tax title and may cost the Town additional funds to foreclose in the future. Although picturesque, the land does contain a dam and some retaining walls. The Committee recommends the BOS investigate these issues and discusses possible enhancements of the property by the owners, before acceptance of the land.

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ARTICLE 17: STREET ACCEPTANCES

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:

A: Cotton Mill Way	Favorable action. (5-1)
B: Crownshield Avenue	Favorable action. (5-1)
C: Spinning Wheel Drive	Unfavorable action. (4-2-1)
D: Serenity Drive	Favorable action. (5-1)
E: Church Street	Favorable action. (5-1)
F: Lake Street	Favorable action. (5-1)
G: Southwoods Drive	Favorable action. (5-1)
H: Arnold Way	Favorable action. (5-1)
I: Big Rock Road	No recommendation

ARTICLE 18: ACCEPTANCE OF MGL CH. 40, SEC. 4A – RELATING TO INTER-MUNICIPAL AGREEMENTS FOR THE BOARD OF HEALTH

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Favorable action. (6-0)
Article will allow the BOH to enter into Inter-Municipal Mutual Aid Agreement providing better services to the community and potentially saving money over time.

ARTICLE 19: REGIONALIZATION OF ANIMAL CONTROL SERVICES – INTER-MUNICIPAL AGREEMENTS

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Favorable action. (6-0)
Article will allow the BOS to enter into Animal Control Inter-Municipal Mutual Agreement providing better services to the community and potentially saving money over time.

ARTICLE 20: ACCEPTANCE OF MGL CH. 39, SEC. 23D – RELATING TO ADJUDICATORY HEARINGS

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Favorable action. (5-1)
The committee believes this article will afford a smoother process for those coming before the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals and decrease possible hearing delays.

ARTICLE 21: ZONING BYLAW AMENDMENT– RELATING TO ZONING ENFORCEMENT

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Favorable action. (5-1)
This article reflects actions taking by the BOS to make the Building Inspector the Zoning Enforcement Officer,

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ARTICLE 22: ZONING BYLAW AMENDMENT – NEW SUBSECTION FOR PERMITTED USES

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Favorable action. (4-2)

ARTICLE 23: ACCEPTANCE OF MGL CHAPTER 43D – RELATING TO EXPEDITED PERMITTING PROCESS FOR COMMERCIAL PROJECTS

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Favorable action. (4-2)

This article affords the BOS the ability to consider accepting this law and expedite the permitting process and make the community more competitive in bringing business to the Town. Additional funds are available to assist the community with increasing the efficiency of the process. Those against favorable action felt the committees involved might not be able to handle the expedited process and the Town had a limited appeals process.

ARTICLE 24: ZONING BYLAW AMENDMENT - TOWNHOUSE DEVELOPMENT

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Unfavorable action. (6-0)

This article addresses a zoning issue with a development in Town where potentially 50 households are affected. Although the committee recommends unfavorable action on this article they hope Town officials work to develop a plan to resolve this issue.

ARTICLE 25: ZONING BYLAW AMENDMENT - HISTORIC MILL ADAPTIVE REUSE OVERLAY DISTRICT (BERNAT MILL COMPLEX)

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Unfavorable Action (4-2-1) At the publishing deadline of this document it was still unclear whether the existing Historic Mill Adaptive use bylaw would cover this article.

ARTICLE 26: RENUMBERING/REVISION OF TOWN ZONING BYLAWS -CODIFICATION

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:

No recommendation

ARTICLE 27: RENUMBERING/REVISION OF TOWN BYLAWS - CODIFICATION

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:

No recommendation

ARTICLE 28: AMENDMENT TO GENERAL BYLAWS – ADDRESS TYPOGRAPHICAL ERROR

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Favorable action. (6-0)

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ARTICLE 29: CHARTER AMENDMENT FOR LIBRARY TRUSTEES

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Favorable action. (7-0)

The committee supports this article which reinstates the initial intent during the corporation of the trust as well as MGL Chapter 78, Section 10, Libraries.

ARTICLE 30: TRANSFER TO STABILIZATION

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Favorable action. (6-0).

The committee supports moving all remaining free cash funds to the stabilization fund.