

2018 Fall Annual Town Meeting Warrant Finance Committee Recommendations

The Finance Committee held a public hearing review of the 8 warrant articles on 02 October 2018 and voted recommendations on 04 October 2018.

Below are the Finance Committee responsibilities as described in the Charter and Bylaws:

Uxbridge Town Charter

SECTION 3: FINANCE COMMITTEE

The finance committee shall report the action it recommends be taken on the articles contained in a town meeting warrant, in writing, together with a brief statement of the reasons for each such recommendation.

General Bylaws

§ 35-4. Duty to study warrants and to act thereon

All articles in any Warrant for every Town Meeting shall be referred to the Finance Committee for its consideration. The Selectmen, after drawing any such Warrant, shall transmit a copy by e-mail to the Committee Chairman and other Committee members, and by registered mail or by delivery in hand to each member of the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee shall then hold a public hearing at least 14 days before such Town Meeting, upon all Articles, and a notice of such public hearing shall be given by posting a copy thereof at the Town Hall and at all post offices in the Town of Uxbridge and by advertising in a newspaper having circulation in the Town. After due consideration of the subject matter of the Articles in any Warrant, the Finance Committee shall make a written publicized report thereon at least five days prior to any Town Meeting, and shall also make such recommendations to every Town Meeting as it deems best to serve the interests of the Town.

§ 35-5. Study of and recommendations for expenditures

It shall be the duty of the Finance Committee to annually consider the annual expenditures of all of the various municipal boards, officers, committees, commissions and departments in the previous and present year, and the estimated requirements of the ensuing year; requirements prepared by the Town Manager and his/her staff in a document having such form and detail as may be prescribed by the Finance Committee for its due and serious consideration. The Finance Committee shall then add to said document its "recommendations", giving the amounts which, in its opinion, are expedient and proper, together with its reasons therefor.

Recommendations

ARTICLE 1: FY19 INTER/INTRA DEPARTMENTAL TRANSFERS

Table A, Items 1 & 2

Recommend **Unfavorable** Action

Vote: 5-0-0

The Committee is not in favor of adding positions at the Fall Town Meeting. Any new positions should be created during the annual budget cycle and presented at the Spring Town Meeting. With several key management positions open, the Town Manager should concentrate on filling those positions.

Table A, Item 3

Recommend **Favorable** Action

Vote: 5-0-0

Minority opinion:

At the Spring Town Meeting, we transferred \$393,676 from stabilization to cover the final year's payment for the McCloskey school bond. The alternate put forward by the School Committee involved cutting 8 educational positions impacting services to students; and other cuts would've been made at the DPW. However, at the time of the Spring Town Meeting the school administration knew, based on a presentation at the School Committee meeting on 3 October 2018, that they were running a budget surplus for FY18 of >\$450K with approximately 1 month left in the fiscal year. This surplus could've been used to help offset the final bond payment and reduce the transfer from the town's stabilization fund. Instead they chose to put forth cutting of services and using the surplus to prepay for FY19 expenses. Thus we are in favor of the citizen's petition.

Submitted by:

Peter DeMers
Finance Committee Chair