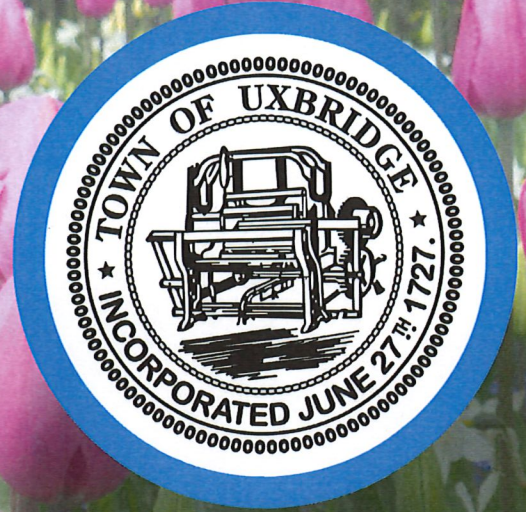




SPRING ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Warrant Report

**TUESDAY, MAY 14, 2024
7:00 P.M.**

VALLEY CHAPEL - 14 HUNTER ROAD



Final

THE CONDUCT OF THE MEETING

1. *Voting*

1. Only registered voters with a clicker can vote.
2. Votes will be taken electronically.

2. *Warrant Articles*

1. Articles will be acted upon in the order they appear on the warrant unless the meeting votes otherwise.
2. All main motions must be in writing, with copies given to the Town Clerk and Moderator.
3. All motions and amendments dealing with the expenditure of money must be in writing, again with copies given to the Town Clerk and Moderator.
4. No person shall address a Town Meeting without leave of the moderator. (M.G.L. c.39, §17)
5. The sponsor of the article will be recognized to place a motion before the meeting.
6. The sponsor will be asked to speak to the merits of the motion.
7. An opponent to the article, if there is one, will then be recognized to speak.
8. The Finance Committee, Planning Board (for zoning articles), and Board of Selectmen will be recognized for their recommendations.
9. Following the recommendations, the article will be open for debate.

3. *Open Debate*

1. Voters wishing to speak should proceed to the speaker seats to be recognized.
2. Non-voters, other than department heads, must request and be granted permission by the meeting before they can speak.
3. Each speaker has a total of 5 minutes to speak.
4. A speaker cannot move the question after concluding his remarks.
5. A motion to move the question requires a 2/3rds majority vote to shut off debate.

4. *Rules*

Town Meeting will be run in accordance to the following four rules:

1. All debate will be conducted in a respectful and courteous manner.
2. Comments will be limited to the subject being debated.
3. No comments of a personal nature are to be made.
4. Anyone unwilling or unable to comply with these rules will be removed.

5. *Dissolve*

Following the vote on the last article, the Moderator will entertain a motion to "Dissolve" the meeting.



SAFETY ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE FIRE CHIEF

There are seven exits to the auditorium. Please take a moment to locate the exits nearest you in case there is a need to evacuate the building. Once outside the auditorium, follow the exit signs to leave the building. Please do not block any aisles with chairs or other items.

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Legend

c. = Chapter

§ = Section

M.G.L. = Massachusetts General Laws

SPRING ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT

TUESDAY, MAY 14, 2024 @ 7:00 P.M.
VALLEY CHAPEL – 14 HUNTER ROAD
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 VALLEY CHAPEL, 14 HUNTER ROAD, IN SAID UXBRIDGE, ON THE
FOLLOWING ARTICLES TO WIT:

* * *

ARTICLE 1: BILLS OF PRIOR FISCAL YEAR

To see if the Town will vote pursuant to M.G.L. c. 44, §64 to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds such sums of money necessary for the purpose of paying outstanding bills from prior fiscal year(s); or take any other action relating thereto.

SPONSOR: Town Manager

COMMENTARY: Appropriated amounts at Town Meeting for one Fiscal Year cannot be spent on a previous year's expenditures without Town Meeting approval. This article (if approved) will pay for these outstanding bills, as shown below, that are presently known to be unpaid from prior Fiscal Years which is required pursuant to M.G.L. c.44, §64.

#	Funding Source	Use of Funding	Department/Account	New Appropriation Amount
1	General Fund	Catalis Tax & Cama Inc (FY23)	Assessor	\$12,500.00
2	General Fund	National Grid (FY23)	Town Facilities	\$12,058.98
3	General Fund	New England Medical Billing (FY23)	School Medicaid Employer Tax	\$2,109.69
4	General Fund	L.N. Curtis and Sons (FY23)	Police	\$42.89
5	General Fund	L.N. Curtis and Sons (FY23)	Police	\$52.99
6	General Fund	Mead Talerma & Costa LLC (FY23)	Legal	\$1,160.00
7	Wastewater Enterprise Fund	Xylem (FY22)	Wastewater	\$1,834.03
	TOTAL:			\$29,758.58

MOTION: Move that the Town appropriate the sum of \$29,758.58 for the purposes, from the sources and in the amounts set forth in Article 1 of the warrant.

~Vote required for passage: 4/5ths majority~

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Favorable Action 7-0-0

Favorable action recommended as these are legitimate authorized expenses that the town is responsible to pay.

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDATION: Favorable Action 5-0-0

ARTICLE 2: SUPPLEMENT FY2024 BUDGETS

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate by transfer from available funds a sum of money to supplement Fiscal Year 2024 (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024) departmental expenses; or take any other action relating thereto.

SPONSOR: Town Manager

COMMENTARY: At the time the appropriations were voted at the 2023 Spring Annual Town Meeting, many assumptions needed to be made in order to balance the various budgets. This article (if approved) would allow the Town to not further amend, increase, decrease, or otherwise adjust these appropriations based upon new information not previously known. This article is on the warrant to address the current Fiscal Year Budget related to the following:

- The Norfolk Agricultural High School Tuition Assessment budget line item requires an increase of \$93,000.00 resulting from increased enrollment in Uxbridge children attending the Regional School.
- The Norfolk Agricultural High School Transportation budget line item requires an increase of \$3,800.00 resulting from increased enrollment in Uxbridge children attending the school who need transportation to and from the school.
- The Board of Health budget requires an increase of \$25,000.00 resulting from increased health services inspectors salary which will be offset by additional food inspector permit fees.
- Workers Compensation/Unemployment budget requires an increase of \$155,000.00 resulting in an increase of injured on duty claims for Police and Fire Department. These claims were unexpected and uncounted for in the current fiscal year budget.

MOTION: *Move that the Town transfer from Stabilization the sum of \$276,800.00 to supplement the Fiscal Year 2024 Department Budgets.*

~Vote required for passage: 2/3rds majority~

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Favorable Action 7-0-0

Favorable action recommendation as these items were unforeseen and need to be properly funded. The potential impact to property taxes when combined with Article 6 is available on the table provided by the Town Accountant.

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDATION: Favorable Action 5-0-0

ARTICLE 3: TRANSFER TO OPEB TRUST FUND

To see if the Town will vote to raise or appropriate or appropriate by transfer from available funds, a sum of money to be placed into the Other Post-Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund established in accordance with §20 of M.G.L. c. 32B; or take any other action relating thereto.

SPONSOR: Town Manager

COMMENTARY: This article addresses the Town's Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Account. The Town Manager is recommending that \$350,000.00 be transferred to the OPEB Account from Free Cash. The OPEB account is used for benefits (other than pension) that state and local governments provide to their retired employees. These benefits principally involve health care benefits, but also may include life insurance, disability, legal, and other services. For Fiscal Year 2023 ending market value in the OPEB Account was \$541,318.31. The last actuarial audit determined the total unfunded liability was \$98,200,160.00.

MOTION: *Move that the Town transfer and appropriate the sum of \$350,000.00 from Free Cash.*

~Vote required for passage: simple majority~

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Favorable Action 7-0-0

This article completes the process of bringing previous funding of OPEB in line with allowed state policy. Future funding will be done via a Town Budget line.

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDATION: Favorable Action 5-0-0

ARTICLE 4: TRANSFER TO STABILIZATION FUND **PASS OVER**

To see if the Town will vote to raise or appropriate or appropriate by transfer from available funds, a sum of money to be placed into the Stabilization Fund; or take any other action relating thereto.

SPONSOR: Town Manager

COMMENTARY: **Pass Over – Free Cash has not been certified.** This article addresses the Stabilization Fund. The Town Manager is recommending that \$_____ be transferred from Free Cash to the Stabilization Account. The purpose of the Stabilization Fund is to set aside money to mitigate unforeseen needs such as a reduction in state aid, or in instances where revenue is not meeting projections. The balance in the Stabilization account was \$4,196,584 as of March 31, 2024. With the May 2024 Annual Town Meeting voted transfer of \$____, there is an anticipated estimate of around \$____ depending on the market, as a balance in the Stabilization account.

MOTION: *Move that the Town vote to transfer and appropriate the sum of \$_____ from Free Cash to the Stabilization Fund.*

~Vote required for passage: simple majority per M.G.L., c. 40, §5 B to transfer to the stabilization fund~

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Favorable Action 7-0-0

This is our standard article to transfer Free Cash to Stabilization. The committee recommends this article remains one of the first articles at SATM.

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDATION: Favorable Action 5-0-0

ARTICLE 5: TRANSFER TO CAPITAL STABILIZATION **PASS OVER**

To see if the Town will vote to raise or appropriate or appropriate by transfer from available funds, a sum of money to be placed into the Capital Stabilization Fund; or take any other action relating thereto.

SPONSOR: Town Manager

COMMENTARY: **Pass Over – Free Cash has not been certified.**

NO MOTION

NO ACTION

ARTICLE 6: FY2025 TOWN BUDGET

To see if the Town will vote to approve the budget - fix the compensation of all officials of the Town, provide for a reserve fund, determine sums to be raised and appropriated, including those from available funds, in order to defray expenses of the Town, including debt and interest, for fiscal year 2025 (FY25); or take any other action relating thereto.

SPONSOR: Town Manager

COMMENTARY: The budget below is a by-department summary of the FY2025 Town Manager Budget. The expanded budget broken down by salaries and expenses was posted on the Town website on 4/4/24. Budgeted FY2025 salaries and expenses total \$59,039,719.00, an increase of \$ 5,636,276.00 or 10.55% from FY2024. **Refer to additional information on Page 10.**

Town of Uxbridge FY25 Town Manager Budget

	FY2024 Budget	FY25 Budget	FY24-25 Var. (\$)	FY24-25 Var. (%)
GENERAL GOVERNMENT				
Salaries & Wages	1,579,490	1,583,930	4,440	0.28%
Other Expenses	1,510,632	1,663,787	153,155	10.14%
Capital	-	12,500	12,500	100.00%
TOTAL	\$ 3,090,122	\$ 3,260,217	\$ 170,095	5.50%
PUBLIC SAFETY				
Salaries & Wages	5,652,636	6,149,537	496,901	8.79%
Other Expenses	484,076	666,064	181,988	37.59%
Capital	180,000	80,000	(100,000)	-55.56%
TOTAL	\$ 6,316,712	\$ 6,895,601	\$ 578,889	9.16%
TOWN EDUCATION (REGIONAL)				
Blackstone Valley Tech	\$ 1,938,927	\$ 2,264,118	325,191	16.77%
Norfolk Agricultural	389,310	602,205	212,895	54.69%
TOTAL	\$ 2,328,237	\$ 2,866,323	\$ 538,086	23.11%
EDUCATION				
Salaries & Wages	17,532,735	19,226,308	1,693,573	9.66%
Other Expenses	4,707,459	5,428,510	721,051	15.32%
Transportation	2,394,516	2,996,241	601,725	25.13%
TOTAL	\$ 24,634,710	\$ 27,651,059	\$ 3,016,349	12.24%
PUBLIC WORKS				
Salaries & Wages	1,285,896	1,431,148	145,252	11.30%
Other Expenses	1,169,860	1,173,500	3,640	0.31%
Care and Condition of Roads	585,640	732,050	146,410	25.00%
Capital	52,000	-	(52,000)	-100.00%
TOTAL	\$ 3,093,396	\$ 3,336,698	\$ 243,302	7.87%
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES				
Salaries & Wages	504,324	550,115	45,791	9.08%
Other Expenses	190,006	178,515	(11,491)	-6.05%
Capital	8,000	-	(8,000)	-100.00%
TOTAL	\$ 702,330	\$ 728,630	\$ 26,300	3.74%
CULTURAL & RECREATION				
Salaries & Wages	349,729	373,297	23,568	6.74%
Other Expenses	139,353	128,098	(11,255)	-8.08%
Capital	-	-	-	0.00%
TOTAL	\$ 489,082	\$ 501,395	\$ 12,313	2.52%
DEBT SERVICE - GENERAL FUND				
Long-Term Principle	1,453,000	1,492,800	39,800	2.74%
Long-Term Interest	570,191	538,519	(31,672)	-5.55%

			FY24-25	FY24-25
	FY2024 Budget	FY25 Budget	Var. (\$)	Var. (%)
Short-Term Interest	21,247	155,416	134,169	631.47%
Debt Issuance Borrowing Costs	3,000	15,000	12,000	400.00%
TOTAL	\$ 2,047,438	\$ 2,201,735	\$ 154,297	7.54%
STATE and COUNTY ASSESSMENTS				
School Choice Sending Tuitions	844,402	824,027	(20,375)	-2.41%
Charter School Sending Tuition	-	46,431	46,431	100.00%
Air Pollution	4,547	4,660	113	2.49%
Special Education	-	4,349	4,349	100.00%
RMV Non-Renewal Surcharge	7,600	13,640	6,040	79.47%
TOTAL	\$ 856,549	\$ 893,107	\$ 36,558	4.27%
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS				
Retirement	2,760,792	3,021,954	261,162	9.46%
Town/School Health Insurance	6,058,075	6,460,000	401,925	6.63%
Town/School Life Insurance	-	-	-	0.00%
Other Post Employment Benefits	-	100,000	100,000	100.00%
Town/School Medicare	360,000	380,000	20,000	5.56%
TOTAL	\$ 9,178,867	\$ 9,961,954	\$ 783,087	8.53%
INSURANCE and RESERVES				
Town/School Workers Compensation	110,000	158,000	48,000	43.64%
Town Injured on Duty	-	90,000	90,000	100.00%
Comprehensive Liability	445,000	395,000	(50,000)	-11.24%
Sick Leave Buyback	36,000	75,000	39,000	108.33%
Reserve for Wage Adjustment	75,000	25,000	(50,000)	-66.67%
TOTAL	\$ 666,000	\$ 743,000	\$ 77,000	11.56%
Total Benefits, Insurance & Other	\$ 9,844,867	\$ 11,598,061	\$ 1,753,194	17.80%
Total General Fund	\$ 53,403,443	\$ 59,039,719	\$ 5,636,276	10.55%

MOTION: Move that \$59,039,719 be raised and appropriated, as set forth in individual budget appropriations listed in the FY25 Town Manager Budget as set forth in Article 6 of the Spring Annual Town Meeting Warrant, and transfer from local revenue or any other available funds.

~Vote required for passage: simple majority~

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

General Government: Favorable Action 7-0-0

Public Safety: Favorable Action 7-0-0

Education: Favorable Action 6-1-0

Public Works: Favorable Action 6-1-0

Health and Human Services: Favorable Action 7-0-0

Culture and Recreation: Favorable Action 7-0-0

Debt Service: Favorable Action 7-0-0

Other Unclassified: Favorable Action 7-0-0

Finance Committee's favorable recommendation is because the FY 25 budget provides both the Town Administration and School Administration with the resources required to fund current operations and prepare for the future. This budget provides for negotiated contracted salary requirements, appropriate staff, and operating resources and enters the first year of a 3-year period of salary stability. The Town and School collaborated to create a plan that increases the tax levy to just below the maximum amount allowed without a Prop 2.5 override. The potential impact to property taxes when combined with Article 2 is available in the table provided by the Town Accountant.

The unfavorable vote for the schools is due to the Uxbridge public schools building their budget to the maximum funding available without performing zero-based budgeting.

The unfavorable vote for the Public Works is based on the belief that the care and conditions of town roads should be its own article.

It is imperative that both the Town and School Board utilize the next two years of cost stability to evaluate and implement actions that will control the rate of growth in the resident's tax liabilities to be below the growth in tax revenue. This includes all aspects of Town and School revenue opportunities, including new growth, fees, licenses, grants, intra-town collaboration, operating policies, and all other reasonable ideas. Failure to implement appropriate cost and revenue action will significantly impact the future stability of the Town.

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDATION:

General Government: Favorable Action 5-0-0

Public Safety: Favorable Action 5-0-0

Education: Favorable Action 4-1-0

Public Works: Favorable Action 5-0-0

Health and Human Services: Favorable Action 5-0-0

Cultural & Recreation: Favorable Action 5-0-0

Debt Service: Favorable Action 5-0-0

Other Unclassified: Favorable Action 5-0-0

FY 25 Budget Tax Impact Statement

Depending on your current valuation of your home, the budget as presented, if approved would result in the following tax increase over your current tax bill. 5,260 of the 6,031 homes in the Town of Uxbridge would see a tax increase of \$707 *or less*. This is based on the current tax rate split for residential versus commercial.

Value	Average \$ increase	#
Less than \$100k	\$27	487.00
\$100k - \$200k	\$212	323.00
\$200k - \$300k	\$345	562.00
\$300k - \$400k	\$457	1,597.00
\$400k - \$500k	\$576	1,398.00
\$500k - \$600k	\$707	893.00
\$600k - \$700k	\$833	451.00
\$700k - \$800k	\$970	161.00
\$800k - \$900k	\$1,139	64.00
\$900k - \$1 m	\$1,260	27.00
Over \$1 m	\$10,673	68.00
		6,031.00

Town of Uxbridge Town Manager FY25 Budget Summary	
General Government	\$3,260,217
Public Safety	\$6,895,601
Education	\$30,517,382
Public Works	\$3,336,698
Health and Human Services	\$728,630
Cultural and Recreation	\$501,395
Debt Service	\$2,201,735
Other Unclassified	\$11,598,061
Total FY25 Budget	\$59,039,719

ARTICLE 7: WASTEWATER ENTERPRISE FUND BUDGET

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, and/or transfer from available funds, including Wastewater Enterprise Retained Earnings, or otherwise provide a sum or sums of money for the salaries, expenses, capital, and debt service of the Wastewater Enterprise Fund for the ensuing fiscal year, such sums of money to be offset by revenues of the Wastewater Enterprise Fund received during fiscal year 2025 (FY25); or take any other action relating thereto.

SPONSOR: Town Manager

COMMENTARY: The Wastewater Enterprise Fund is based upon the collection of sewer charges to billing units and is entirely self-supporting. Benefit charges for departmental employees are paid from the general fund and reimbursed by a charge against wastewater departmental revenue. The FY2025 Wastewater Enterprise Budget shows an increase of \$476,665.00 or 12% from FY2024 (excluding special purpose articles).

MOTION: *Move that the sum of \$3,741,747.00 be raised from FY2025 receipts of the Wastewater Enterprise Fund, and \$838,849.00 be hereby appropriated from Wastewater Enterprise Fund Retained Earnings, for a total amount to be appropriated of \$4,580,596.00 to the Wastewater Enterprise Fund Account to be expended as follows: Salaries: \$838,177.00, Expenses: \$3,386,480.00, and Indirect Costs: \$355,939.00; for the respective purposes set forth in the warrant.*

~Vote required for passage: simple majority~

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Favorable Action 7-0-0

The Finance Committee finds that this budget is in line with the needs of the department to adhere to the regulatory requirements.

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDATION: Favorable Action 5-0-0

ARTICLE 8: WATER ENTERPRISE FUND BUDGET

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, and/or transfer from available funds, including Water Enterprise Retained Earnings, or otherwise provide a sum or sums of money for the salaries, expenses, capital, and debt service of the Water Enterprise Fund for the ensuing fiscal year, such sums of money to be offset by revenues of the Water Enterprise Fund received during fiscal year 2025 (FY25); or take any other action relating thereto.

SPONSOR: Town Manager

COMMENTARY: The Water Enterprise Fund is based upon the collection of water charges to billing units and is entirely self-supporting. Debt, fuel, and benefit charges for departmental employees are paid from the general fund and reimbursed by a charge against water departmental revenue. The FY2025 Water Enterprise Budget shows an increase of \$246,328.00 or 11% over FY2024 operating budget (excluding special articles).

MOTION: *Move that the sum of \$2,556,554.00 be raised from FY2025 receipts of the Water Enterprise Fund and that the \$39,240.00 be hereby appropriated from Water Enterprise Fund Retained Earnings, for a total amount to be appropriated of \$2,595,794.00, to the FY2025 Water Enterprise Fund Account to be expended as follows: Salaries: \$737,577.00, Expenses: \$1,604,140.00, and Indirect Costs: \$254,077.00, all for the respective purposes set forth in the warrant.*

~Vote required for passage: simple majority~

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Favorable Action 7-0-0

The Finance Committee finds this budget in line with the needs of the department.

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDATION: Favorable Action 5-0-0

ARTICLE 9: CABLE PEG ACCESS TELEVISION ENTERPRISE FUND BUDGET

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum or sums of money for the salaries and expenses of the Community Access Television budget for the ensuing fiscal year, such sums of money to be offset by revenues received during fiscal year 2025 (FY25) by the Cable PEG Access Enterprise Fund; or take any other action relating thereto.

SPONSOR: Town Manager

COMMENTARY: The Community Access Television budget is funded by charges unrelated to the tax levy. Benefit charges for departmental employees are paid from the general fund and reimbursed by a charge against departmental revenue. The FY2025 Cable PEG access operating budget shows an increase of \$ 2,275.00 or 1.15% over FY2024.

MOTION: *Move that the sum of \$200,530.00 raised from FY2025 receipts of the Cable Enterprise Fund and be appropriated to the Cable Enterprise Fund Account to be expended as follows: Salaries: \$ 149,940.00 and Expenses: \$50,590.00; for the respective purposes set forth in the warrant.*

~Vote required for passage: simple majority~

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Favorable Action 7-0-0

The Finance Committee thanks the Uxbridge PEG Access team for their great work and feels this budget will allow that work to continue. The committee would also like to see an updated contract, and investigation of possible regionalization.

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDATION: Favorable Action 5-0-0

ARTICLE 10: AUTHORIZATION TO BOND REPAIRS TO BLACKSTONE VALLEY TECH

To see if the Town will vote to approve the \$10,000,000.00 debt authorized by the Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional District School Committee on February 15, 2024 and amended by its actions of March 14, 2024 to pay costs of roof reconstruction and the replacement to energy efficient rooftop HVAC units at the Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School, located at 65 Pleasant Street, Upton, MA including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto, or to take any other action relative thereto. Such debt approval by the Town to be contingent upon the district's ability to secure grant approval from the Massachusetts School Building Authority Accelerated Repair grant program.

SPONSOR: Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional District School Committee

COMMENTARY: Our regional vocational technical system rarely seeks support for debt projects and has not sought a bond for some twenty years. With the recent reopening of the Commonwealth's Massachusetts School Building Authority's Accelerated Repair program, BVT wishes to enable its thirteen municipalities to secure eligibility under the state's reimbursement program. In addition, the District shall pursue various energy reimbursement grants to further reduce debt obligation. A preliminary step in this process includes authorization by local town action for the District for bond approval. Uxbridge would be responsible for 10.1% of the borrowing with the remaining 89.9% owned by the other 12 towns in our partnership. The anticipated bond would fully cover repairs to BVT's roof and the associated HVAC units which protect the delicate technical equipment in place at the school. Actual bond exposure would be reduced via payments received by the Commonwealth and other rebate style sources. The debt would only be utilized and be limited for the purpose identified.

The 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 [Regional School Districts and their Member Communities 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 from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the District and its member municipalities; and provided further, however, that the approval of the District's borrowing by this vote shall be subject to and contingent upon an affirmative vote of the Town to exempt its allocable share of the amounts required for the payment of interest and principal on said borrowing from the limitations on taxes imposed by M.G.L. 59, Section 21C (Proposition 2 1/2) 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.

MOTION: *Move that the Town vote to approve the \$10,000,000.00 borrowing authorized by the Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District ("District") School Committee for the purpose of paying costs of a roof reconstruction and the replacement to energy efficient rooftop HVAC units at the Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School, located at 65 Pleasant Street, Upton, 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 Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational School Committee; with the understanding that 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 from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the District and its member municipalities; and that any grant that the District may receive from the MSBA for the Project shall not exceed the lesser of (1) the MSBA-determined percentage of eligible, approved Project costs, or (2) the total maximum grant amount determined by the MSBA; and provided that the Town's approval of the borrowing is contingent upon the District's ability to secure grant approval from the MSBA; and provided further, however, that the approval of the District's borrowing by this vote shall be subject to and contingent upon an affirmative vote of the Town to exempt its allocable share of the amounts required for the payment of interest and principal on said borrowing from the limitations on taxes imposed by M.G.L. 59, Section 21C (Proposition 2 ½); 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.*

~Vote required for passage: simple majority~

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Favorable Action 6-0-0

The committee recommends favorable action as BVT will be looking at state and grant funding to reduce the impact to member towns. In the worst-case scenario, the Uxbridge portion of this is \$1.1 Million. This equates to approximately \$20 per year for a 20-year bond for the average home.

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDATION: Favorable Action 5-0-0

ARTICLE 11: SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION

WITHDRAWN

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds a one-time request of \$258,000.00 to cover the FY25 School District's Athletic and General Education Transportation costs due to increased rates with the Bus Contract and reduced access to revolving funds revenue; or take any other action relating thereto.

SPONSOR: Uxbridge School Committee

COMMENTARY: **The School Committee has withdrawn this article.** The District is faced with transportation increases of \$877,725.00 in FY25. \$276,096.00 of this increase is for the School District's Athletic and General Education Transportation. To offset part of the cost the district will look into instituting bus fees and reviewing current policies on transportation to begin in fiscal year 2026.

Experience has taught that to do this right, the issue of transportation must be fully vetted with school administrators, the bus company, families, various sub-committees and finally the School Committee. This one-time request will give the District the time to ensure it fully works through all the issues and arrives at the best solution available.

MOTION: **Withdrawn.** *Move that the Town transfer \$258,000.00 from Stabilization for School District Athletic and General Education Transportation one-time costs.*

~Vote required for passage: 2/3rds majority~

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Unfavorable Action 6-0-0

The Finance Committee's unfavorable recommendation is because this request is not directly linked to the transportation of students. It is a request to increase the FY25 operating budget using Stabilization Funds, although claiming to be on a one-time basis in order to have the time to effectively evaluate potential implementation of transportation fees. The use of Stabilization Funds for operating costs is not financially sound and will raise the risk of the need to seek extraordinary funding next year. As the largest factor impacting the Town cost structure, it is critical that the School Committee be transparent as to the tradeoffs and consequences of their cost and funding decisions so that the Town and School collaborate in achieving the overall cost and revenue goals of the Town.

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDATION: Unfavorable Action 4-1-0**ARTICLE 12: APPROPRIATION FOR CMRPC PER CAPITA RATE** **PASS OVER**

To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to M.G.L. c. 40B, §7, to approve the per capita rate of \$0.31610, as assessed by the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC) upon the population of 14,162 persons in the Town of Uxbridge, as listed on the 2020 national census, and in doing so, vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$4,476.61 to pay the Town's portion of the fiscal year 2025 (FY25) operating expenses of the CMRPC; or take any other action relating thereto.

SPONSOR: Town Manager**COMMENTARY:** PASS OVER**NO VOTE****NO ACTION****ARTICLE 13: CAPITAL PURCHASES**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds including the Capital Stabilization Account a sum or sums of money for capital purchases and/or projects as recommended by the Town Manager in conjunction with the Capital Planning Committee, and/or to transfer to the Capital Stabilization Fund unused balances of completed capital purchases and/or projects; or take any other action relating thereto.

SPONSOR: Town Manager

COMMENTARY: The source of funding for all of the capital purchases will be from Capital Stabilization. The projects listed below in the table were discussed by the Capital Committee and accepted by the Town Manager for inclusion on the warrant for the 2024 Spring Annual Town Meeting.

	DEPARTMENT	AMOUNT	CAPITAL PROJECT DETAILS
#1	DPW	\$ 350,000.00	H-13 REPLACEMENT (HEAVY 6-WHEELER)
#2	DPW	\$ 250,000.00	L-1 LOADER REPLACEMENT
#3	DPW	\$ 210,000.00	COMPACT LOADER W/PICKUP BROOM, COLD PLANER, BRUSH CUTTER, MULCHER, SNOW BLOWER
#4	DPW	\$ 75,000.00	PAVING MACHINE
#5	DPW	\$ 80,000.00	LOADER SNOW BLOWER
#6	DPW	\$ 530,000.00	H7 REPLACEMENT (JET / VAC TRUCK)
#7	DPW	\$ 30,000.00	NEW HIGH CAPACITY TRAILER TO SUPPORT CAPITAL EQUIPMENT
#8	DPW	\$ 30,000.00	A REPLACEMENT ASPHALT HOT BOX

#9	DPW VEHICLE MAINT.	\$ 30,000.00	1) REPLACEMENT AIR COMPRESSOR FOR THE UPPER GARAGE-(THE CURRENT UNIT IS NOT SUFFICIENT FOR THE OPERATION). 2) STATIONARY VEHICLE LIFT - NEW PIECE OF EQUIPMENT TO BETTER SERVICE VEHICLES, (CURRENTLY ONLY HAVE ONE SET OF MOBILE LIFTS); AND 3) DIAGNOSTIC SCAN TOOL - (THIS IS AN ELECTRONIC SCAN TOOL THAT WILL ALLOW THE MECHANICS TO DIAGNOSE ISSUES).
#10	FIRE	\$ 72,928.00	FORESTRY PPE-TO OUTFIT 43 FIREFIGHTERS - PANTS, JACKETS, GLOVES, HELMETS, BOOTS AND GEAR. CURRENT PPE'S ARE BEYOND EXPIRATION DATE.
#11	FIRE	\$ 18,000.00	ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT: PPE FOR NEW PERSONNEL
#12	POLICE	\$ 18,000.00	ESTIMATE FOR HANDGUN REPLACEMENT FOR ALL DEPARTMENT - CURRENT ARE OVER 6 YEARS OLD.
#13	UXBRIDGE PICKLEBALL COURT	\$ 170,000.00	OUTDOOR PICKLEBALL COURTS - SITE TO BE DETERMINED
#14	SCHOOL	\$ 250,000.00	TAFT SCHOOL: FIRE ALARM PANEL REPLACEMENT, FIRE ALARM PANELS AND DETECTORS ARE PAST USEFUL LIVES AND PARTS ARE NON-EXISTENT. REPLACING WILL BRING SCHOOL UP TO CURRENT CODES FOR SAFETY.
#15	SCHOOL	\$ 250,000.00	WHITIN SCHOOL: FIRE ALARM PANEL REPLACEMENT, FIRE ALARM PANELS AND DETECTORS ARE PAST USEFUL LIVES AND PARTS ARE NON-EXISTENT. REPLACING WILL BRING SCHOOL UP TO CURRENT CODES FOR SAFETY.
#16	SCHOOL	\$ 110,000.00	WHITIN SCHOOL: NEW SOCIAL / EMOTIONAL CLASSROOM SET UP/UPDATE OF CLASSROOM FURNITURE
#17	SCHOOL SYSTEM-WIDE TECHNOLOGY	\$ 80,000.00	COMPUTER REPLACEMENT (5-YEAR CYCLE) STUDENT DEVICES.
#18	SCHOOL SYSTEM-WIDE TECHNOLOGY	\$ 31,500.00	COMPUTER REPLACEMENT (5-YEAR CYCLE) STAFF DEVICES
#19	SCHOOL SYSTEM-WIDE TECHNOLOGY	\$ 85,000.00	INSTRUCTIONAL HARDWARE - TRANSITION TO TOUCH SCREENS
#20	SCHOOL SYSTEM-WIDE TECHNOLOGY	\$ 138,000.00	ONE-TIME IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW STUDENT / STAFF INFO SYSTEM. FEES FOR DISTRICT TO TRANSITION FROM IPASS TO POWER SCHOOL. NEW STUDENT/STAFF INFO SYSTEM INCLUDING STORAGE AND PROTECTION OF DATA.
#21	SCHOOL SYSTEM-WIDE TECHNOLOGY	\$ 144,000.00	NETWORK OVERHAUL. SERVER REPLACEMENTS; SWITCH UPGRADES; ACCESS POINTS; CENTRAL OFFICE DESKTOP COMPUTERS; INSTALLATION FOR PROJECTS.
	Total Capital	\$ 2,952,428.00	

MOTION: Move that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$ 2,952,428.00 from the Capital Stabilization Fund for the purchase and equipping of departmental projects for the purpose and in the amounts set forth in the table in Article 13 of the Spring Annual Town Meeting warrant.

~Vote required for passage: simple majority~

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

Items 1-8 For DPW: Favorable Action 5-0-1

Item 9 Vehicle Maint.: Favorable Action 5-0-1

Items 10 & 11 Fire Dept PPE: Favorable Action 5-0-1

Item 12 UPD Handgun Replacement: Favorable Action 5-0-1

Item 13 Uxbridge Pickleball Court: Favorable Action 5-0-1

Items 14-16 UPS Fire Panels and Social/Emotional Classroom Setup: Favorable Action 5-0-1

Items 17-21 UPS System-Wide Technology: Favorable Action 5-0-1

The Finance Committee's favorable recommendation is because of the thorough and effective review of each individual item by the Capital Committee. As a critical part of managing the future financial health of the Town, decisions and actions concerning the stability, availability, and use of Capital funding must be made within the strategic plan for overall health of the Town. 1 Member abstained.

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDATION:

Items 1-8 For DPW: Favorable Action 5-0-0

Item 9 Vehicle Maint.: Favorable Action 5-0-0

Items 10 & 11 Fire Dept PPE: Favorable Action 5-0-0

Item 12 UPD Hand Gun Replacement: Favorable Action 5-0-0

Item 13 Uxbridge Pickleball Court: Favorable Action 5-0-0

Items 14-16 UPS Fire Panels and Social/Emotional Classroom Setup: Favorable Action 4-1-0

Items 17-21 UPS System-Wide Technology: Favorable Action 4-1-0

CAPITAL COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

Items 1-8: Totaling \$1,555,000.00 Favorable Action 5-0-0

Item 9: Favorable Action 5-0-0

Items 10 & 11: Favorable Action 5-0-0

Item 12: Favorable Action 4-1-0

Item 13: Favorable Action 4-1-0

Items 14-21: Favorable Action 5-0-0

**ARTICLE 14: BORROWING AUTHORIZATION BLACKSTONE WATER TREATMENT PLANT
(DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS)**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money, not to exceed nineteen million five hundred thousand dollars (\$19,500,000.00) to pay costs for the design, permitting, public bidding, construction, and owner's project manager services for the Blackstone Water Treatment Plant Project consisting of a new 1.2 million gallon, more or less, per day water treatment plant to filter water from the Town's existing three Blackstone Street wells, and including the payment of all other costs incidental and related thereto, and that to meet this appropriation, the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, is hereby authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. c. 44, §§7 or 8, M.G.L. c. 29C or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor; all, or any portion, of this borrowing may be obtained through the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust (the "Trust"); and to authorize the Chair of the Board of Water Commissioners, acting on behalf of the Board of Selectmen, the Treasurer and any other appropriate official of the Town to execute and deliver any and all agreements and other documents that may be required by the Trust, or by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' Department of Environmental Protection in connection with any financing to be obtained through the Trust; or take any other action relating thereto.

SPONSOR: Uxbridge Water Commissioners

COMMENTARY: The DPW has applied for State Revolving Fund (SRF) monies to assist in the funding of the Blackstone Water Treatment Plant design, construction, and owner's project manager services associated with the implementation of the manganese and PFAS pilot study recommendations. The passage of this article will allow the Town to better position itself for 0% loan funding with potential principal forgiveness through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) program and the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust.

MOTION: *Move that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of nineteen million five hundred thousand dollars (\$19,500,000.00) to pay costs for the design, permitting, public bidding, construction, and owner's project manager services for the Blackstone Water Treatment Plant Project, and including the payment of all other costs incidental and related thereto, and that to meet this appropriation, the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, is hereby authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. c. 44, §§7 or 8, M.G.L. c. 29C or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor; all, or any portion, of this borrowing may be obtained through the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust (the "Trust"); and to authorize the Chair of the Board of Water Commissioners, acting on behalf of the Select Board, the Treasurer and any other appropriate official of the Town to execute and deliver any and all agreements and other documents that may be required by the Trust, or by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' Department of Environmental Protection in connection with any financing to be obtained through the Trust; or take any other action relating thereto.*

~Vote required for passage: 2/3rds majority~

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Favorable Action 6-0-0

The Finance Committee's favorable recommendation is because the EPA will enforce a treatment action by the Town within the next few years if we do not act first, and at this point in time the Town can take advantage of very positive financial incentives. When combined with Article 15, this is approximately a \$47/year increase in the water rate for the average 3-person household.

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDATION: Favorable Action 5-0-0

ARTICLE 15: BORROWING AUTHORIZATION BERNAT WELLS PHASE 2 CONSTRUCTION **(DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS)**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money, not to exceed one million dollars five hundred thousand (\$1,500,000.00) to pay costs for the public bidding and construction for the Bernat Wells Phase 2 Project consisting of the construction of the replacement production wells including new well pumps, raw water mains, instrumentation, electrical and control equipment and appurtenances and the payment of all other costs incidental and related thereto, and that to meet this appropriation, the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, is hereby authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. c. 44, §§7 or 8, or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor; the Chair of the Board of Water Commissioners, acting on behalf of the Board of Selectmen, the Treasurer and any other appropriate official of the Town are authorized to execute and deliver any and all agreements and other documents necessary or convenient to carry out this project and its financing; or take any other action relating thereto.

SPONSOR: Uxbridge Water Commissioners

COMMENTARY: The Water Division began a project to design and permit new replacement wells at the Bernat and Blackstone well fields. Phase 1 of the project includes the design and permitting of the well drilling and Phase 2 includes the construction of the replacement production wells including new well pumps, raw water mains, instrumentation, electrical, and control equipment. Funding for the design and permitting was through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). ARPA funds were also used to fund the construction of the Phase 1 well drilling, however, there were insufficient funds through APRA to support the needed infrastructure to complete Phase 2.

MOTION: *Move that the Town appropriate \$1,500,000.00 to be expended under the direction of the Select Board, to pay costs of the Bernat Wells Phase 2 Construction project, and the payment of all other costs incidental or related thereto and that, to meet said appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, is authorized to borrow \$1,500,000.00 pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 44, Sections 7 or 8, or any other enabling authority; that the Select Board be authorized to apply for and accept any federal or state funds, grants and/or gifts of any kind for these purposes.*

~Vote required for passage: 2/3rds majority~

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Favorable Action 6-0-0

The committee recommends favorable action as this improves the town's ability to maintain a consistent and sufficient water supply. When combined with Article 14, this is approximately a \$47/year increase in the water rate for the average 3-person household.

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDATION: Favorable Action 5-0-0

ARTICLE 16: PLANNING AND DESIGN APPROPRIATION FOR STATE LIBRARY CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM

To see if the Town will vote to apply for, accept, and expend Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program ("MPLCP") grant funds, if approved, and further to raise and appropriate or take from available funds the sum of \$150,000.00, or any other sum, with said sum to be expended by the Town for library assessment, planning, feasibility and/or design, including all incidental and related expenses; or take any other action relating thereto.

SPONSOR: Board of Library of Trustees & Select Board

COMMENTARY: This article gives the Town the authority to apply for, accept, and expend Library Planning and Design grant funds from the State and to appropriate \$150,000.00 in matching funds for that purpose.

Over the past two years, the Board of Library Trustees and the Library Director have been preparing a grant application for the Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program (MPLCP). If this article is approved, the Town will submit the grant application and begin the process of securing State funding for the future renovation/expansion of the current Library building or the construction of a new Library. If the Town's grant application is approved, the State would share 50% of eligible costs related to initial planning and design work, up to a \$100,000.00 maximum award. Supporting this article would not oblige the Town to approve a future construction project, and any appropriated funds would only be utilized if the Town's grant application is approved.

Constructed in 1894, the existing building was designed to house a collection of 6,750 volumes of books and to serve approximately 3,500 residents. Today, the Library houses a collection of over 44,000 physical materials to serve a community that has grown to nearly 15,000. With the exception of basement renovations in the 1960's and the 1980's to provide a dedicated children's area, the library's usable space has remained unchanged. With its dual spiral staircases and an ADA non-compliant main entrance, the building is not accessible to patrons with physical disabilities and does not meet ADA standards. A future construction grant award would remedy the accessibility, infrastructure, and space issues that the library faces.

For the Town's grant application, the State requires that two sites be put forth for consideration. One site is the current library building, but the Town does not currently own enough property to expand the library on its current site. The second site under consideration is the former McCloskey School property. The State typically funds 40% of eligible construction costs for projects of this kind. In our view, securing MPLCP funding is the best way to offset the costs of a necessary project to meet the library's space and accessibility needs over the next 30 years.

MOTION: *Move that the Town authorize \$150,000.00 from Stabilization to be expended by the Town for library assessment, planning, feasibility and/or design, including all incidental and related expenses, and approve Article 16 as set forth in the warrant.*

~Vote required for passage: 2/3rds majority~

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Favorable Action 6-0-0

The committee recommends favorable action as this allows for review of future library needs and is a requirement for applying to the Massachusetts Library construction grant program.

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDATION: Favorable Action 5-0-0

ARTICLE 17: SALE OF FARNUM HOUSE

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen/Town Manager to convey all or a portion of the Town's right, title and interest in the Cornet John Farnum, Jr., House buildings and/or property located at 44 Mendon Street, Uxbridge, MA, subject to any existing or new Historic Preservation Restriction or Restriction Agreement, on such terms and condition as the Board may deem in the best interests of the Town; or take any other action relating thereto.

SPONSOR: Uxbridge Historical Commission & Select Board

COMMENTARY: This article will allow the Select Board through the Town Manager the ability to place the Farnum House for sale in order to see if there is a private investor who would take on the responsibility of the historic restoration of the property.

MOTION: *Move that the Town hereby accept the article as written.*

~Vote required for passage: simple majority~

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Favorable action 5-0-0

1 member recused. The committee recommends favorable action as this gives the Select Board and Town Manager options to save this historic structure.

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDATION: Favorable Action 5-0-0

ARTICLE 18: APPROPRIATION FOR HIGH STREET AREA DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer, borrow, or otherwise provide a sum of money to be expended under the direction of the SELECT BOARD for an additional \$640,000.00 for the High Street Drainage Project to pay the costs of construction and construction phase services associated with the High Street Drainage Project, and the payment of all other costs incidental; or take any other action relating thereto.

SPONSOR: Town Manager

COMMENTARY: Monies were previously approved and appropriated through the approval of Spring Annual Town Meeting Article 12 on May 9, 2023. The specific projects were part of a larger bond request, and the individual project costs were developed based on budgetary estimates. The High Street Drainage Improvements project was advanced through the design and permitting phase over the remainder of 2023. The final design estimate of probable construction cost exceeded the initial planning level estimate. The projected construction cost increase is related to increased system complexity, potential ledge removal, and increased material costs. The projected increase includes a contingency for bidding purposes. Approval of this article will allow the Town to bid and award a construction contract.

MOTION: *Move that the Town appropriate the additional sum of \$640,000.00, to be expended under the direction of the Select Board, to pay costs of the High Street Drainage Improvements, and the payment of all other costs incidental or related thereto and that, to meet said appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, is authorized to borrow said additional \$640,000.00 pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 44, Sections 7 or 8, or any other enabling authority; that the Select Board be authorized to apply for and accept any federal or state funds, grants and/or gifts of any kind for these purposes.*

~Vote required for passage: 2/3rds majority~

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Favorable Action 6-0-0

The committee feels these funds are required to complete this stormwater project prior to the South Main repaving project.

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDATION: Favorable Action 5-0-0

ARTICLE 19: APPROPRIATION FOR CONSERVATION RESTRICTION AT 300 QUAKER HIGHWAY

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds a sum up to \$20,000.00 for the purpose of obtaining a baseline report, paying stewardship or monitoring fees and/or other costs incidental or related to the grant of a conservation restriction on the Town-owned property located at 300 Quaker Highway, as authorized by the vote taken under Article 16 of the October 24, 2023 Fall Annual Town Meeting, or take any other action relating thereto.

SPONSOR: Select Board

COMMENTARY: This article would put in place a conservation restriction on this property, that should have been in place at the time of the High School construction project. The restriction would be managed by the Metacomet Land Trust.

MOTION: *Move that the Town vote to transfer \$20,000.00 from Stabilization to obtain a baseline report, pay for stewardship or monitoring fees and/or other costs incidental or related to the grant of a conservation restriction on the Town-owned property located at 300 Quaker Highway.*

~Vote required for passage: 2/3rds majority~

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Favorable Action 6-0-0

The committee agrees that the conservation restriction needs to be timely completed.

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDATION: Favorable Action 5-0-0

ARTICLE 20: ESTABLISH A 2027 300th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION SPECIAL ACCOUNT

To see if the Town will vote to establish a celebration account pursuant to M.G.L. c. 44, §53I for the 300th Anniversary Celebration of the Town of Uxbridge, and to transfer from available funds the sum of \$50,000.00 to help cover the cost of events of the celebrations, including but not limited to: bands, marchers, police details, firework displays, or other events/performers, etc.; or take any other action relating thereto.

SPONSOR: Board of Selectmen

COMMENTARY: This article will allow for the 300th Anniversary Committee to begin the planning process for the celebration of the Town's 300th Anniversary on June 27, 2027, by funding the committee to secure commitments from bands, marchers, vendors etc., the funds will be approved and monitored by the Select Board.

MOTION: *Move that the Town establish, pursuant to G.L. c.44, §53I, a so-called celebration account for the 300th Anniversary of the Town of Uxbridge, and, for such purposes, transfer \$50,000.00 from Stabilization to said fund.*

~Vote required for passage: 2/3rds majority~

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Favorable Action 6-0-0

The Finance Committee welcomes this celebration and understands the need for startup funding.

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDATION: Favorable Action 5-0-0

ARTICLE 21: RENEWAL OF CLAUSE 56 FOR MILITARY SERVICES ABATEMENT

To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of M.G.L. c. 59, §5, Clause 56, which will allow members of the Massachusetts National Guard, or military Reservists who are on active duty to obtain a reduction for all or part of their real personal property taxes for any fiscal year that they are serving in a foreign country, to be effective July 1, 2024 and expire after 2 years unless extended by a vote of Town Meeting; or take any other action relating thereto.

SPONSOR: Town Manager

COMMENTARY: This article is a continuing authorization that must be voted on every two years. It supports our fellow citizen soldiers who have been called up for federal service and stationed in a foreign country.

MOTION: *Move that the Town vote to accept the provisions of M.G.L. c.59, §5, Clause 56, which will allow members of the Massachusetts National Guard, or military Reservists who are on active duty to obtain a reduction for all or part of their real and personal taxes for any fiscal year that they are serving in a foreign country, said exemption amount and funding to be determined by the Assessor, to be effective July 1, 2024.*

~Vote required for passage: simple majority~

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Favorable Action 6-0-0

The committee finds this a customary renewal in support of our active-duty community members.

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDATION: Favorable Action 5-0-0

ARTICLE 22: ACCEPT PROVISIONS OF M.G.L. c. 60, §2, PARAGRAPH 2

To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of M.G.L. c. 60, §2, Paragraph 2, allowing abatement of certain uncollectable taxes after notification by the Collector to the Assessor; or take any other action relating thereto.

SPONSOR: Assessor & Treasurer/Collector

COMMENTARY: The section specifically reads "In cities and towns that accept this paragraph, if the collector is satisfied that an unpaid tax on land committed to the collector or any of the collector's predecessors in office for collection was assessed on a valuation insufficient to meet the charges or expenses of collection, or if any other committed tax is unpaid and is less than \$25.00, the collector may notify the assessors in writing, on oath, stating why the tax cannot be collected. Upon receipt of the request, the assessors shall act on the request immediately and, after due inquiry, may abate the tax and shall certify the abatement in writing to the collector. The certificate of abatement shall discharge the collector from further obligation to collect the tax so abated.

MOTION: *Move that the Town hereby accept the article as written.*

~Vote required for passage: simple majority~

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Favorable Action 6-0-0

The committee finds merit in these abatements.

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDATION: Favorable Action 5-0-0

ARTICLE 23: ACCEPT PROVISIONS OF M.G.L. c. 59, §5, CLAUSE THIRTY-SEVENTH A

To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of M.G.L. c. 59, §5, Clause 37A, establishing a tax exemption of \$500.00 for blind persons meeting certain residency requirements; or take any other action relating thereto.

SPONSOR: Assessor

COMMENTARY: This article raises the exemption from \$437.50 to \$500.00 annually. This is a real estate tax exemption.

MOTION: *Move that the Town approve Article 23 as set forth in the warrant.*

~Vote required for passage: simple majority~

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Favorable Action 6-0-0

The committee agrees with the increase of this exemption.

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDATION: Favorable Action 5-0-0

ARTICLE 24: ACCEPT PROVISIONS OF M.G.L. c. 59, §5, CLAUSE SEVENTEENTH F

To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of M.G.L c. 59, §5, Clause 17F, which allows the Abatement granted pursuant to certain persons pursuant to M.G.L. §5, Clauses Seventeenth, Seventeenth C, Seventeenth C1/2 or Seventeenth D, to be increased annually by an amount not to exceed the increase in the cost of living as determined by the Consumer Price Index for such year; or take any other action relating thereto.

SPONSOR: Assessor

COMMENTARY: This article allows the acceptance of the annual COLA as increased for this exemption, by the Commissioner of Revenue.

MOTION: *Move that the Town hereby accept the article as written.*

~Vote required for passage: simple majority~

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Favorable Action 6-0-0

This will allow yearly abatement adjustments based on state COLA determinations.

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDATION: Favorable Action 5-0-0

ARTICLE 25: TRUST FUND INVESTMENTS PRUDENT INVESTOR RULE

To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of G.L. c. 44, §54(b) to allow Town trust funds to be invested in accordance with M.G.L. c. 203C, the so-called “Prudent Investor Rule”; or take any other action relating thereto.

SPONSOR: Treasurer/Collector

COMMENTARY: This article allows the Treasurer Collector the ability to invest Town funds as outlined by this rule. Legislation has passed to amend M.G.L. c.44, §54; the Investment of Trust Funds. Cities, towns, and districts now have the local option to allow the Custodian of the community to invest Trust Funds under the Prudent Investor Act. “Prudent” investing can be flexible and diverse in terms of its actual application. The key is that investment decisions are based on the specific intentions of the funds being invested. Essentially, Prudent investing means that the investment fiduciary understands the unique goals and objectives of the funds under management and chooses an investment strategy based on available relevant information. Essentially, prudent investing opens the doors to all different investment products, methods, and risk profiles – as long as those decisions were made with as much applicable information as possible. Benefit to communities is that prudent investing allows for much greater diversification opportunities than currently allowed under the MA Legal List of Investments. Where appropriate, investment managers can use US and international mutual funds, ETFs, stocks, bonds, alternative investments, etc. where they previously had to adhere to a very short list of investments.

MOTION: *Move that the Town hereby accept the article as written.*

~Vote required for passage: simple majority~

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Favorable Action 6-0-0

The committee feels this opens up more opportunities for investment growth, within the limitations of state law, while still being fiscally responsible.

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDATION: Favorable Action 5-0-0

ARTICLE 26: SUTTON STREET CULVERT REPLACEMENT AUTHORIZATION TO ACQUIRE PERMANENT AND TEMPORARY EASEMENTS (DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS)

To see if the Town will vote to (a) authorize the SELECT BOARD to acquire, by purchase, gift and/or eminent domain and on such terms as the SELECT BOARD deems appropriate, the fee to and/or permanent and temporary easements in, on, under and over certain parcels of land located on or near Sutton Street and approximately shown on plans entitled "Easement Plan of Land, Sutton Street, Uxbridge Mass", prepared by BETA Engineering & Town of Uxbridge" Prepared by: Goldsmith, Prest & Ringwall, Inc., on file with the Town Clerk, as said plans may be amended from time to time and/or incorporated into an easement plan; or take any other action relating thereto.

SPONSOR: Select Board

COMMENTARY: This project includes the replacement of the Sutton Street culvert located on Sutton Street. The town is responsible for securing the necessary right-of-way within the portion of Sutton Street located at the up and downstream ends of the drainage cross culvert. The project requires the Town to acquire the necessary easements impacted by the project. **Refer to Easement Plan on the following page.**

MOTION: *Move that the Town authorize the Select Board to acquire permanent and temporary easements as shown on a plan titled, "Easement Plan of Land, Sutton Street, Uxbridge Mass", dated March 26, 2024, prepared by BETA Engineering & Town of Uxbridge" Prepared by: Goldsmith, Prest & Ringwall, Inc., and approve Article 26 as written in the warrant.*

~Vote required for passage: simple majority~

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Favorable Action 6-0-0

The committee understands the need for these repairs and recognizes the scope of work requires these easements to be completed.

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDATION: Favorable Action 5-0-0

ARTICLE 27: AMEND TOWN CHARTER: TOWN MANAGER – SECTION 2: POWERS AND DUTIES

To see if the Town will vote pursuant to M.G.L. c. 43B, §10 to amend the Uxbridge Charter to create the position of Finance Director and Human Resources Director, Town Manager – Section 2 (b): Powers and Duties, by inserting the bold language; or take any other action relating thereto.

TOWN MANAGER

SECTION 2: POWERS AND DUTIES

(b) To appoint a **finance director**/town accountant; a town treasurer/collector; a town clerk; an assessor; a police chief; a fire chief; a superintendent of public works; an emergency management director and related emergency management personnel; a **human resources director**/human resource professional; a conservation commission; an industrial development committee; a capital planning committee; an inspector of buildings; a wire inspector; an inspector of gas appliances and gas fittings; a plumbing inspector; a sealer of weights and measures in accordance with the civil service law and rules; a parking clerk; a right-to-know coordinator; a veteran's services director, veteran's agent, veteran's graves officer and burial agent; a dog officer; a zoning board of appeals; a tree warden; and a planning board.

SPONSOR: Town Manager

COMMENTARY: This article allows the Town Manager to appoint a Finance Director and Human Resources Director as needed.

MOTION: *Move that the Town hereby accept the article as written.*

~Vote required for passage: 2/3rds majority~

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Favorable Action 6-0-0

The committee believes this allows the Town Manager to have the flexibility to build the organization to align with the growth of the town without adding new employees.

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDATION: Favorable Action 5-0-0

ARTICLE 28: AMEND GENERAL BYLAWS SECTION 233-1: LICENSES AND PERMITS

To see if the Town will vote to change the length of time the Town must wait to deny a permit by inserting the bold language and deleting the strikethrough as noted; or take any other action relating thereto.

§ 233-1. Annual list of nonpayers of local taxes, fees, assessments, betterments or other municipal charges The Tax Collector or other municipal official responsible for records of all municipal taxes, assessment, betterments and other municipal charges, hereinafter referred to as the "Tax Collector," shall annually, **and may periodically**, furnish to each department, board, commission or division, hereinafter referred to as the "licensing authority," that issues licenses or permits, including renewals and transfers, a list of any person, corporation, or business enterprise, hereinafter referred to as the "party," that has neglected or refused to pay any local taxes, fees, assessments, betterments or other municipal charges ~~for not less than a twelve month period~~ and that such party has not filed in good faith a pending application for an abatement of such tax or a pending petition before the Appellate Tax Board.

SPONSOR: Town Manager

COMMENTARY: This article allows the Treasurer Collector the ability to publish the list of nonpayers of local taxes, fees, assessments, betterments, or other municipal charges on a schedule other than once per year and makes the Bylaw consistent with G.L. c. 40, § 57.

MOTION: *Move that the Town hereby accept the article as written.*

~Vote required for passage: simple majority~

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Favorable Action 6-0-0

The committee recommends favorable action as this will improve the operation performance of the town.

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDATION: Favorable Action 5-0-0

ARTICLE 29: AMENDMENT TO GENERAL BYLAWS CHAPTER 290 STORMWATER AUTHORITY

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Uxbridge General Bylaw Chapter 290 Stormwater, by replacing the Planning Board as the Stormwater Authority with the Conservation Commission as the Stormwater Authority and making grammatical updates by inserting the bold language and deleting the strikethrough all as shown on a document on file with the Town Clerk; or take any other action relating thereto.

SPONSOR: Uxbridge Conservation Commission

COMMENTARY: This article will amend the Uxbridge General Bylaw Chapter 290 Stormwater, by replacing the Planning Board as the Stormwater Authority with the Conservation Commission as the Stormwater Authority and make grammatical updates to the bylaw as noted in the document as part of this warrant.

MOTION: *Move that the Town approve the amendment to the General Bylaws, Chapter 290, Stormwater, as set forth in the Spring Annual Town Meeting Warrant Report.*

~Vote required for passage: simple majority~

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Favorable Action 6-0-0

The committee agrees with the transition of the stormwater authority to the Conservation Commission.

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDATION: Favorable Action 5-0-0

CONSERVATION COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION: Favorable Action 6-0-0

CHAPTER 290 STORMWATER AUTHORITY

§ 290-1. Purpose.

- A. The purpose of this Bylaw is to protect the public health, safety, environment, and general welfare by establishing requirements and procedures to manage ~~storm-water~~ **stormwater** runoff, promote groundwater recharge and to prevent water pollution from new development and redevelopment. This Bylaw seeks to meet that purpose through the following objectives:
- (1) Establish regulations for land development activities that preserve the health of water resources;
 - (2) Require that the amount and quality of ~~storm-water~~ **stormwater** from new development is equal to or better than pre-development conditions in order to reduce flooding, stream erosion, pollution, property damage and harm to aquatic life;
 - (3) Establish ~~storm-water~~ **stormwater** management standards and design criteria to control the quantity and quality of ~~storm-water~~ **stormwater** runoff;
 - (4) Encourage the use of “low impact development practices”, such as reducing impervious cover and preserving greenspace and other natural areas;
 - (5) Establish maintenance provisions to ensure that ~~storm-water~~ **stormwater** treatment practices will continue to function as designed and pose no threat to public safety;
 - (6) Establish procedures for the Town’s review of ~~storm-water~~ **stormwater** management plans and for the Town’s inspection of approved ~~storm-water~~ **stormwater** treatment practices.
 - (7) Prevent and eliminate non-~~storm-water~~ **stormwater** discharges to the Town’s municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4).
 - (8) Prohibit illicit connections and unauthorized discharges to the MS4, and require the removal of all such illicit connections.
- B. Nothing in this Bylaw is intended to replace the requirements of the Town of General Bylaws May 9, 2023 Page 90 of 107 Uxbridge Zoning Bylaw, or any other Bylaw that may be adopted by the Town of Uxbridge. Any activity subject to the provisions of the above-cited Bylaws must comply with the specifications of each.

§ 290-2. Definitions.

Unless the content specifically indicates otherwise, the meaning of the terms used in this article shall be as follows:

ALTER: Any activity, which will measurably change the ability of a ground surface area to absorb water or will change existing surface drainage patterns. Alter may be similarly represented as “alteration of drainage characteristics,” and “conducting land disturbance activities.”

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICE (BMP): Structural, non-structural and managerial techniques that are recognized to be the most effective and practical means to prevent and/or reduce increases in ~~storm-water~~ **stormwater** volumes and flows, reduce point source and nonpoint source pollution, and promote ~~storm-water~~ **stormwater** quality and protection of the environment. “Structural” BMPs are devices that are engineered and constructed to provide temporary storage and treatment of ~~storm-water~~ **stormwater** runoff.

“Nonstructural” BMPs use natural measures to reduce pollution levels, do not require extensive construction efforts, and/or promote pollutant reduction by eliminating the pollutant source.

BETTER SITE DESIGN: Site design approaches and techniques that can reduce a site’s impact on the watershed through the use of nonstructural ~~storm-water~~ **stormwater** management practices. Better site design includes conserving and protecting natural areas and greenspace, reducing impervious cover, and using natural features for ~~storm-water~~ **stormwater** management.

DISCHARGE OF POLLUTANTS: The addition from any source of any pollutant or combination of pollutants into the MS4.

HOTSPOT: Land uses or activities with higher potential pollutant loadings, such as auto salvage yards, auto fueling facilities, fleet storage yards, commercial parking lots with high intensity use, road salt storage areas, commercial nurseries and landscaping, outdoor storage and loading areas of hazardous substances, or marinas.

ILLICIT CONNECTION: A surface or subsurface drain, conduit, or conveyance that allows an illicit discharge to enter the MS4, including without limitation sewage septage, process wastewater, or wash water, and any connection from indoor drains, sinks, or toilets, regardless of whether said connection was permissible under applicable law, regulation, or custom at the time of construction.

ILLICIT DISCHARGE: A discharge that is not entirely comprised of ~~storm-water~~ **stormwater**. Notwithstanding the foregoing, an illicit discharge does not include discharges from the following activities or facilities: firefighting, water line flushing, landscape irrigation, uncontaminated ground water, potable water sources, foundation drains, air conditioning condensation, footing drains, individual resident car washing, flows from riparian habitats and wetlands, dechlorinated water from swimming pools, water used from street washing and water used to clean residential buildings without detergents.

MASSACHUSETTS ~~STORM-WATER~~ **STORMWATER MANAGEMENT POLICY:** The Policy issued by the Department of Environmental Protection, and as amended, that coordinates the requirements prescribed by state regulations promulgated under the authority of the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act G.L. c. 131 § 40 and Massachusetts Clean Waters Act G.L. c. 21, §. 23-56. The Policy addresses ~~Storm Water~~ **Stormwater** impacts through implementation of performance standards to reduce or prevent pollutants from reaching water bodies and control the quantity of runoff from a site.

MUNICIPAL SEPARATE STORM SEWER SYSTEM (MS4): The system of conveyances designed or used for collecting or conveying ~~storm-water~~ **stormwater**, including any road with a drainage system, street, gutter, curb, inlet, piped storm drain, pumping facility, retention or detention basin, natural or manmade or altered drainage channel, reservoir, and other drainage structure that together comprise the storm drainage system owned or operated by the Town of Uxbridge.

NEW DEVELOPMENT: Any construction or land disturbance of a parcel of land that is currently in a natural vegetated state and does not contain alteration by man-made activities.

NONPOINT SOURCE POLLUTION: Pollution from many diffuse sources caused by rainfall or snowmelt moving over and through the ground. As the runoff moves, it picks up and carries away natural and human-made pollutants, finally depositing them into water resource areas.

NON-STORM-WATER **STORMWATER DISCHARGE:** Discharge to the MS4 not composed entirely of ~~storm-water~~ **stormwater**. The following non-storm-water **stormwater** discharges are exempt from this definition, provided that the source is not a significant contributor of a pollutant to the MS4: water line or hydrant flushing; discharges from firefighting activities; foundation or footing drains; landscape irrigation

and lawn watering; air conditioning condensation; dechlorinated (<1part per million chlorine) swimming pool discharges; water from individual residential car washing; discharge from street sweeping; flow from potable water sources; flow from springs; wetlands, diverted streams, or riparian habitats; rising groundwater, including uncontaminated infiltrated or pumped groundwater; and others with approval.

PERSON: Any individual, group of individuals, association, partnership, corporation, company, business organization, trust, estate, the Commonwealth, or political subdivision thereof to the extent subject to Town Bylaws, administrative agency, public or quasi-public corporation or body, the Town of Uxbridge, and any other legal entity, its legal representatives, agents, or assigns.

POLLUTANT: Contaminant including, but not limited to, heavy metals, toxins, oil and grease, solvents, nutrients, viruses and bacteria, solid waste, sewage, septage, agricultural waste, gasoline, diesel fuel, heat chemicals, detergents, fertilizers and pesticides, and animal waste.

PRE-DEVELOPMENT: The conditions that exist at the time that plans for the land development of a tract of land are submitted to the ~~Storm-Water~~ **Stormwater** Authority. Where phased development or plan approval occurs (preliminary grading, roads and utilities, etc.), the existing conditions at the time just prior to the first plan submission shall establish pre-development conditions.

POST-DEVELOPMENT: The conditions that reasonably may be expected or anticipated to exist after completion of the land development activity on a specific site or tract of land. Post-development refers to the phase of a new development or redevelopment project after completion, and does not refer to the construction phase of a project.

RECHARGE: The replenishment of underground water reserves.

REDEVELOPMENT: Any construction, alteration, or improvement exceeding land disturbance of one acre (43,560 [gross] square feet, where the existing land use is commercial, or institutional.

~~STORM-WATER~~ STORMWATER: ~~Storm-water~~ **Stormwater** runoff, snow melt runoff, and surface water runoff and drainage.

~~STORM-WATER~~ STORMWATER AUTHORITY: The ~~Planning Board~~ **Conservation Commission** is the Town of Uxbridge's ~~Storm-Water~~ **Stormwater** Authority. The ~~Storm-Water~~ **Stormwater** Authority is responsible for coordinating the review, approval and permit process as defined in this Bylaw. Other Boards and/or departments participate in the review process as defined in the ~~Storm-Water~~ **Stormwater** Regulations adopted by the ~~Planning Board~~ **Conservation Commission**.

~~STORM-WATER~~ STORMWATER DISCHARGE: Conveyance or system of conveyances (including pipes, conduits, ditches and channels) primarily used for collecting and conveying ~~storm-water~~ **stormwater** runoff.

~~STORM-WATER~~ STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PERMIT (SMP): A permit issued by the ~~Storm-Water~~ **Stormwater** Authority, after review of an application, plans, calculations, and other supporting documents, which is designed to protect the environment of the Town from the deleterious effects of uncontrolled and untreated ~~storm-water~~ **stormwater** runoff.

Definitions shall apply in the interpretation and implementation of the Bylaw. Terms not defined in the bylaw shall be understood according to their customary and usual meaning. Additional definitions may be adopted by separate regulation.

§ 290-3. Authority.

This Bylaw is adopted under authority granted by the Home Rule Amendment of the Massachusetts Constitution, and pursuant to the regulations of the federal Clean Water Act, and as authorized by the residents of the Town of Uxbridge at Town Meeting, dated November 10, 2015.

§ 290-4. Administration.

- A. The ~~Storm-Water~~ **Stormwater** Authority, shall administer, implement, and enforce this Bylaw. Any powers granted to or duties imposed upon the ~~Storm-Water~~ **Stormwater** Authority may be delegated in writing by the ~~Storm-Water~~ **Stormwater** Authority to its employees or agents. The ~~Storm-Water~~ **Stormwater** Authority shall be the Uxbridge ~~Planning Board~~ **Conservation Commission**, which may request input or involvement from the Department of Public Works, the ~~Conservation Administrator and/or Conservation Commission~~, **Planning Board**, the Board of Health, and other Boards and/or Departments as it may deem necessary or appropriate to administer, implement, and enforce specific components of this Bylaw.
- B. ~~Storm-Water~~ **Stormwater** Regulations. The ~~Storm-Water~~ **Stormwater** Authority may adopt, and periodically amend, rules and regulations relating to the terms, conditions, definitions, enforcement, fees (including application, inspection, and/or consultant fees), procedures and administration of this ~~Storm-Water~~ **Stormwater** Bylaw by majority vote of the ~~Storm-Water~~ **Stormwater** Authority, after conducting a public hearing to receive comments on any proposed revisions. Such hearing dates shall be advertised in a newspaper of general local circulation, at least 14 days prior to the hearing date. After public notice and public hearing, the ~~Storm-Water~~ **Stormwater** Authority may issue rules and regulations to fulfill the purposes of this Bylaw. Failure by the ~~Storm-Water~~ **Stormwater** Authority to issue such rules and regulations or a legal declaration of their invalidity of any such rule or regulation by a court shall not act to suspend or invalidate the effect of this Bylaw.
- C. ~~Storm-Water~~ **Stormwater** Management Manual. The ~~Storm-Water~~ **Stormwater** Authority will adopt the policy, criteria, and information including specifications and standards, set forth in the latest edition of the Massachusetts ~~Storm-water~~ **Stormwater** Handbook, to implement the provisions of this Bylaw. This Handbook includes a list of acceptable ~~storm-water~~ **stormwater** treatment practices, including the specific design criteria for each. The Handbook may be updated and expanded periodically, based on improvements in engineering, science, monitoring, and local maintenance experience. Unless specifically altered in the ~~Storm-Water~~ **Stormwater** Regulations, ~~storm-water~~ **stormwater** management practices that are designed, constructed, and maintained in accordance with the Handbook's design and sizing criteria will be presumed to be protective of Massachusetts water quality standards.
- D. Actions by the ~~Storm-Water~~ **Stormwater** Authority. The ~~Storm-Water~~ **Stormwater** Authority may take any of the following actions as a result of an application for a ~~Storm-Water~~ **Stormwater** Management Permit: Approval, Approval with Conditions, Disapproval, or Disapproval without Prejudice.
- E. Appeals of Action by the ~~Storm-Water~~ **Stormwater** Authority. A decision of the ~~Storm-Water~~ **Stormwater** Authority shall be final. A decision by the ~~Storm-Water~~ **Stormwater** Authority made under this Bylaw shall be reviewable in the Superior Court pursuant to an action filed within 60 days thereof, in accordance with M.G.L. Ch. 249 § 4.

§ 290-5. Applicability.

- A. This bylaw shall be applicable to all new development and redevelopment, including site plan applications and subdivision applications. The Bylaw shall apply to any activities that will result in an increased amount of ~~storm-water~~ **stormwater** runoff or pollutants from a parcel of land, or that will alter the drainage characteristics of a parcel of land, unless exempt under Section 5.C of this Bylaw. All new development

and redevelopment under the jurisdiction of this Bylaw shall be required to obtain a ~~Storm-Water~~ **Stormwater** Management Permit.

- B. An alteration, redevelopment, or conversion of land use to a hotspot (as determined by the ~~Storm-Water~~ **Stormwater** Authority in conformance with Standard 5 of the Massachusetts ~~Storm-Water~~ **Stormwater** Management Policy) including, but not limited to: auto salvage yards, auto fueling facilities, fleet storage yards, commercial parking lots with high intensity use, road salt storage areas, commercial nurseries and landscaping, outdoor storage and loading areas of hazardous substances, or marinas, shall require a ~~Storm-Water~~ **Stormwater** Management Permit.
- C. EXEMPTIONS. No person shall alter land within the Town of Uxbridge without having obtained a ~~Storm-Water~~ **Stormwater** Management Permit (SMP) for the property with the following exceptions:
1. Any activity that will disturb an area less than one acre (43,560 [gross] square feet) of a property.
 2. Normal maintenance and improvement of land in agricultural use as defined by the Wetlands Protection Act regulation 310 CMR 10.04 and M.G.L. Chapter 40A Section 3;
 3. Conversion of land to agricultural use for crops and/or pasture uses;
 4. Maintenance of existing landscaping, gardens, or lawn areas appurtenant to a single family dwelling;
 5. Repair or replacement of an existing roof of a single-family dwelling;
 6. Construction of a single-family family dwelling, where approval is not required, as such term is defined in the Subdivision Control Law (G.L. c. 41, §81P), unless the associated land disturbance activity exceeds one acre (43,560 [gross] square feet). Prior to land disturbance activities, persons constructing single-family dwellings are strongly encouraged to consult with the Town's Director of the Department of Public Works about actions to reduce ~~storm-water~~ **stormwater** impacts during and after construction. It is also recommended that individuals constructing single-family dwellings prepare and grade lots in such a manner that development of the lot does not cause detrimental drainage onto another lot or onto streets or ways either during construction or upon completion thereof. Persons constructing single-family dwellings are strongly encouraged to use ~~storm-water~~ **stormwater** control and site planning methods.
 7. Repair or replacement of an existing septic system. Persons repairing or replacing septic systems are strongly encouraged to consult with the Town Board of Health about actions to reduce ~~storm-water~~ **stormwater** impacts during and after construction.
 8. The construction of any fence that will not alter existing terrain or drainage patterns;
 9. Construction of a deck, patio, retaining wall, expansion of an existing driveway, construction of a shed, swimming pool, tennis or basketball court appurtenant to a single-family dwelling;
 10. Construction of utilities (gas, water, electric, telephone, etc.) other than drainage, which will not alter terrain, ground cover, or drainage patterns;
 11. Emergency repairs to any ~~storm-water~~ **stormwater** management facility that poses a threat to public health or safety, or as deemed necessary by the ~~Storm-Water~~ **Stormwater** Authority:

12. Any work or projects for which all necessary approvals and permits have been issued before the effective date of this Bylaw; and
13. Timber harvesting under an approved Forest Cutting Plan as defined by the Forest Cutting Practices Act regulation 304 CMR 11.00 and M.G.L. Chapter 132 Sections 40 through 46.

D. Illicit Discharges

No person or entity shall dump, discharge, cause, or allow to be discharged any pollutant or non- ~~storm-water~~ **stormwater** discharge into any pipe, drain, catch basin, or other structure in the MS4 such that it discharges into MS4, a water body, or a wetland resources area, whether by direct or indirect connection. No person shall construct, use, allow, maintain, or continue any illicit connection to the MS4, regardless of whether the connection was permissible under applicable law, regulation, or custom at the time of construction. No person or entity shall discharge, cause, or allow to be discharged any septage or septic tank or cesspool overflow in the MS4.

§ 290-6. Procedures.

Permit Procedures and Requirements shall be defined and included as part of any rules and regulations promulgated under Section 4 of this Bylaw.

§ 290-7. Enforcements.

The ~~Planning Board~~ **Conservation Commission** or its designee shall enforce these Regulations, and may pursue all available remedies for violations, including issuance of a written enforcement order. If remediation is required, the order may set forth a deadline when work shall be completed. Said order may further advise that failure to remedy violations may require the Town of Uxbridge to correct violations and pursue measures to obtain reimbursement from the property owner. If such corrective action by the Town is undertaken, within 30 days after correcting the violation, the violator and the property owner shall be notified of the costs incurred by the Town of Uxbridge, including reasonable administrative costs.

Any person, who violates any provision of the Town of Uxbridge ~~Storm-Water~~ **Stormwater** Bylaw, or any Regulation adopted or permit issued thereunder, may be ordered to correct the violation and/or shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$100.00 per day or part thereof that such violation occurs or continues. Each day during which such violation continues after notification of the violation by the Town shall constitute a separate offense for purposes of this section.

§ 290-8. Appeals.

The decisions or orders of the ~~Planning Board~~ **Conservation Commission** may be appealed to a court of competent jurisdiction. The remedies described in these Regulations are cumulative in nature and shall not preclude the exercise of any other remedies available under any applicable federal, state, or local law.

§ 290-9. Severability.

The invalidity of any section, provision, paragraph, sentence, or clause of this Bylaw shall not invalidate any other section, provision, paragraph, sentence, or clause thereof, nor shall it invalidate any permit or determination that previously has been issued.

ARTICLE 30: CITIZENS' PETITION: TO ESTABLISH A TOWN MISSION STATEMENT

To see if the Town will vote to establish a town mission statement as follows: The Town of Uxbridge will build on its historical legacy to welcome all individuals, encourage their involvement in town government, services and education and support sustainable community development. These goals will be achieved through forward-looking policies, regulations and budgets developed through cooperation and involvement with a broad base of Uxbridge residents.

SPONSOR: Citizens' Petition

COMMENTARY: This article is to have the Town of Uxbridge, MA establish a Town Mission Statement that builds on the Town Vision Statement approved by Uxbridge Town Meeting in 2006. The intent of the proposed article is to further develop the language and ideas put forth in the Vision Statement into a Mission Statement which is more action-oriented, emphasizes historical legacy and encourages involvement of all residents in decisions, policies and budgets which affect residents and businesses in Uxbridge.

MOTION: *Move that the Town vote to establish a Town Mission Statement as follows: The Town of Uxbridge will build on its historical legacy to welcome all individuals, encourage their involvement in town government, services and education and support sustainable community development. These goals will be achieved through forward-looking policies, regulations and budgets developed through cooperation and involvement with a broad base of Uxbridge residents.*

~Vote required for passage: simple majority~

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Unfavorable Action 6-0-0

Although the committee likes the idea of creating a town mission statement, we believe a process that includes all interested and relevant parties and not simply adopt this statement.

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDATION: Unfavorable Action 3-2-0