



SPECIAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2014 – 7:00 P.M.
UXBRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM
300 QUAKER HIGHWAY, UXBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

Pursuant to the foregoing Warrant, the inhabitants of the Town of Uxbridge, qualified to vote in the Town elections and in Town affairs, met at the High School Auditorium, in Precinct 3, in said Uxbridge, and transacted the following business on September 16, 2014:

Moderator Charles E. Maharay called the Special Town Meeting to order at 7:00pm, declaring the presence of a quorum (50 required, 127 voters present). Rules for conducting business and taking votes of the meeting were announced.

* * *

ARTICLE 1: TRANSFER OF FREE CASH TO THE PEG CABLE ACCESS ACCOUNT

To see if the Town will vote to transfer and appropriate a sum or sums, including so called Free Cash to the Cable Access Account.

Or take any action relating thereto.

SPONSOR: Town Manager

Commentary: This article serves to transfer the portion of FY 2014 Free Cash that is related to the amount in the Cable Access Account that was closed to surplus revenue at the end of the fiscal year. Closing the balance in this fund to Free Cash at the end of the fiscal year allows the Town to adhere to M.G.L. Re-appropriating the amount of funds closed out back to the Cable Access Account to allow the funds to be expended for cable access purpose allows the Town to adhere to the current contract with Charter. This article will be passed over if Free Cash is not certified for the Special Town Meeting.

MOTION: Move that the Town vote to transfer and appropriate the sum of \$212,480 from Free Cash (100.000.3590) to the Community Access Receipts Reserved (660.000.3590).

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE: Favorable Action (7-0-0)

Finance Committee Commentary: As the balance of Free Cash was unavailable at the time of the public hearing, the Finance Committee will render its' recommendation at Town Meeting.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN: Favorable Action (3-0-0)

VOTE NEEDED: "At all Special Town Meetings a two-thirds vote shall be required to pass any Article involving the raising, appropriating, or the transferring of funds." (Uxbridge General Bylaws Section 125-19)

The motion is seconded

Moderator declares a unanimous vote, motion carries.

ARTICLE 2: TRANSFER TO STABILIZATION

To see if the Town will vote to transfer and appropriate a sum or sums, including Free Cash to the Stabilization Fund Account.

Or take any action relating thereto.

SPONSOR: Town Manager

Commentary: This article serves to transfer the balance of FY 2014 Free Cash (Less the sum listed in Article 1) to the Stabilization Fund. Stabilization Fund monies may be appropriated for any lawful purpose via 2/3rd's vote at any town meeting. This article will be passed over if Free Cash is not certified for the Special Town Meeting.

MOTION: Move that the Town vote to transfer and appropriate the sum of \$1,876,517 from Free Cash (100.000.3590) to the Stabilization Fund (250.000.3580.812).

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE: Favorable Action (7-0-0)

Finance Committee Commentary: As the balance of Free Cash was unavailable at the time of the public hearing, the Finance Committee will render its' recommendation at Town Meeting.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN: Favorable Action (3-0-0)

VOTE NEEDED: Requires a 2/3rds vote to transfer to Stabilization (MGL Ch.40 § 5B)

The motion is seconded

Moderator declares a unanimous vote, motion carries.

ARTICLE 3: PRIOR YEAR BILLS

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds such sums as required in order to pay prior fiscal year's bill(s).

Or take any other action relating thereto.

SPONSOR: Town Manager

Commentary: The accounts payable ("AP") cycle for a particular fiscal year closes on August 1st of that year. Any department that has outstanding bills must, by that date, either turn in the bills for payment, or encumber the funds for payment when the invoice is received. If neither action is done for a particular bill or bills, Town Meeting must authorize the payment. As of this writing there is one outstanding bill to Peterson Oil, owed by the Historic Commission for a late season oil delivery to the Farnum House totaling \$697.46

MOTION: Move that the Town authorize the payment of prior fiscal year's bills, amounting in total to \$697.46, from current year appropriations, to be determined by the Town Manager.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE: Favorable Action (7-0-0)

Finance Committee Commentary: Occasionally, invoices to be paid are not received by the Town until after the fiscal year is ended. Passage of this article gives the Town ability to pay these bills.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN: Favorable Action (5-0-0)

VOTE NEEDED: Requires a 4/5ths majority vote (MGL Ch. 44, § 64)

The motion is seconded

Moderator declares a unanimous vote, motion carries.

ARTICLE 4: FY15 BUDGET AMENDMENTS

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds, including Free Cash, stabilization and enterprise retained earnings, and to appropriate, or to raise and appropriate, or to approve budget reductions, in order to balance the FY 2015 Town Budget approved under Articles 4, 7, 8, 9, and 10 of the May 13, 2014 Spring Annual Town Meeting.

Or take any other action relating thereto.

SPONSOR: Town Manager

Commentary: The purpose of the article is to make adjustments to balance the FY 2015 budget as voted at the Spring Annual Town Meeting, including new appropriations and/or budget reductions. Please see the spreadsheets at the back of the warrant for comparisons between the budget voted at the Spring Annual Town Meeting and the budget that will be in place if the appropriation changes listed below are enacted.

The Town Manager recommended FY 2015 budget totaled \$38,547,880. Town Meeting approved \$39,498,987; as the School Department appropriation was increased without identifying a funding source, leaving the Town budget with a deficit totaling \$951,107.

Budget Deficit Resolution

The table below shows revenue and potential adjustment to the Uxbridge School budget to eliminate the Town budget deficit. Forecast increased budgetary revenues, and adjustments offered by the school administration will, if approved, eliminate the budget deficit for FY 2015.

<i>Proposed budget deficit resolution</i>	<i>Adjustment</i>	<i>School Budget</i>	<i>Deficit</i>
Current Balances		\$18,585,974	(\$951,107)
Increased forecast revenue (School share)	\$375,172	\$18,585,974	(\$575,935)
Alternative school program funding	(\$189,103)	\$18,396,871	(\$386,832)
School Salary replacement savings	(\$188,319)	\$18,208,552	(\$198,513)
Use of school reserve accounts	(\$198,513)	\$18,010,039	\$0

There are four components that factor in to the recommended elimination of the FY 2015 town budget deficit:

- \$375,172 – A number of updates were made to our receipts/shared expenditure forecasts which allowed this figure to be applied against the deficit: Local receipts have been increased by \$325,942, and shared health insurance premiums, have been reduced \$134,188 from forecast, among other changes.
- \$189,103 – Cost savings made by shifting school budgetary expenses from general fund to grant funding, and reduction of professional development and technical expense budgets.
- \$188,319 - School salary replacement savings realized by hiring lower cost replacement staff upon retirement or resignation of more senior employees.
- \$198,513 – The remaining deficit to be paid for by reserve funds in School Choice In. There is approximately \$400,000 available in reserve funds that may be expended by the School Committee without further appropriation. These funds are used to cover unanticipated district wide expenses. The recommended action reduces the school budget to \$18,010,039.

Update: Shortly after the BOS and Finance Committee voted recommendations pursuant to the above plan, additional new special education expenses were forecast, due to increased pupil services and an out of state placement. The School Committee met September 9th, 2014 and voted to reduce its appropriation by \$200,000, reducing the Uxbridge School's requested budget to \$18,385,974. Based on this new information, two new motions will be made to balance the FY 2015 budget. Passage of this article will bring the stabilization fund balance to \$3,994,664.

MOTION: Move that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the following sums for the purpose of adjusting the FY 2015 budget as approved under Articles 4, 7, 8, 9, and 10 of the May 13, 2014 Spring Annual Town Meeting:

Moderator's note: Article 4 will be broken into (5) votes all to be taken and recorded individually.

School

Motion 4-1: -\$200,000 from the Uxbridge School Department appropriation (100.300.5000)
Uxbridge Schools budget - \$18,385,974

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE: Favorable Action (7-0-0)

RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN: Favorable Action (5-0-0)

The motion is seconded

Moderator declares a 2/3rds vote, motion carries.

Motion 4-1A: \$375,935 from Stabilization Fund to fund the FY 2015 Town Budget

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE: Unfavorable Action (4-3-0)

RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN: Favorable Action (3-0-0)

The motion is seconded

Moderator declares a 2/3rds vote by standing count, motion carries.

Unclassified

4-2: -\$272,313 from the health insurance appropriation (Account 100.914.5200)

*Final rates and enrollment determined that the health insurance budget can be reduced by this amount
(This reduction is part of new revenue allocated to municipal and school department budgets).*

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE: Favorable Action (6-0-0)

RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN: Favorable Action (5-0-0)

The motion is seconded

Moderator declares a unanimous vote, motion carries.

Municipal

4-3: \$50,000 to the Police Salaries Appropriation (Account 100.210.5100)

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE: Favorable Action (6-0-0)

RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN: Favorable Action (5-0-0)

The motion is seconded

Moderator declares a unanimous vote, motion carries.

4-4: \$246,644 to the Municipal Capital Appropriation (Account 100.930.5800)

Additional funds due the municipal departments from the allocation of new revenue and reduction of common expenses.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE: Favorable Action (6-0-0)

RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN: Favorable Action (5-0-0)

The motion is seconded

Moderator declares a unanimous vote, motion carries.

ARTICLE 5: FY15 INTER/INTRA DEPARTMENTAL TRANSFERS

To see if the Town will vote to transfer and appropriate from available funds, including funds previously appropriated to other uses or Free Cash, Stabilization Fund and enterprise fund retained earnings, or to raise a sum or sums of money to appropriate to accounts and for purposes to be specified at the Special Town Meeting.

Or take any action relating thereto.

SPONSOR: Town Manager

GENERAL COMMENTARY: *The purpose of this article is to transfer funds within department budgets or from one department to another. Per MGL, transfers between individual municipal budgets require Town Meeting action.*

MOTION: *Move that the Town vote to transfer and appropriate the amounts as stated in the following charts for any purpose for which funds may be expended from the latter accounts, each item being considered a separate appropriation for FY15.*

A1.	FROM:	Amount	TO:	Amount
			Town Manager Salaries (100-123-5100)	\$31,124
			Elections & Registration Salaries (100-160-5100)	\$642
			Land Use Salaries (100-170-5100)	\$1,582
			Conservation Salaries (100-171-5100)	\$2,634
			Fire Salaries (100-220-5100)	\$15,900
			Inspectional Services Salaries (100-240-5100)	\$4,673
			DPW Administration Salaries (100-421-5100)	\$1,473
			Highway Salaries (100-422-5100)	\$21,843
	Financial Operations Salaries (100-130-5100)	\$56,729	Board of Health Salaries (100-510-5100)	\$726
	New Municipal Debt Expense (100-710-5900)	\$28,834	Senior Center Salaries (100-541-5100)	\$4,966
	Totals	\$85,563	Totals	\$85,563

The motion is seconded

Moderator declares a unanimous vote, motion carries.

Commentary: Approval of these transfers will allow the funding of new salary schedules for renegotiated contracts of the DPW, Administrative and Fire unions (leaving Uxbridge Police as the only remaining outstanding contract), as well as increases for department heads. There is also two salary adjustments (COA director, Treasurer/Collector), a new 6 hour per week Conservation administration position, and funding for a medical leave in the Inspectional Services department.

A2.	FROM:	Amount	TO:	Amount
	Ambulance Enterprise Retained Earnings	\$10,757	Ambulance Enterprise Salaries	\$10,757

Commentary: Approval of this transfer will fund the portion of the Fire Contract attributable to employees funded by the Ambulance enterprise fund.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE: Favorable Action (7-0-0)

Finance Committee Commentary: This article seeks to make adjustments between budgets needed due to settling of union contracts and salary increases to non-union personnel.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN: Favorable Action (4-1-0)

VOTE NEEDED: "At all Special Town Meetings a two-thirds vote shall be required to pass any Article involving the raising, appropriating, or the transferring of funds." (Uxbridge General Bylaws Section 125-19)

The motion is seconded

Moderator declares a unanimous vote, motion carries.

ARTICLE 6: ESTABLISH AND FUND AN OTHER POST EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS LIABILITY TRUST FUND

To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of M. G. L. c.32B, §20, which authorizes the Town to establish an Other Post-Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund, and to transfer from the Stabilization Fund, the sum of \$100,000 to be added to said Fund.

Or take any other action relating thereto.

SPONSOR: Town Manager

Commentary: The Town has been advised by our Financial Advisor and rating agencies that we need to establish and fund an OPEB trust fund in order to begin the process of shifting the funding of health benefits for retirees from a "pay-as-you-go" basis to a more sustainable model. Current OPEB liability for the Town is estimated at \$47,750,000. We are seeking establishment and funding of the fund at this meeting because we are selling permanent debt in September. Having it established and funded with a significant amount will reflect favorably on our rating for the bond sale.

MOTION: Move that the article be accepted as written

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE: Favorable Action (7-0-0)

Finance Committee Commentary: This article will create a reserve fund which will begin to offset future retiree health benefit cost liability. Creation of this account will also help maintain the Town's bond rating.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN: Favorable Action (5-0-0)

VOTE NEEDED: "At all Special Town Meetings a two-thirds vote shall be required to pass any Article involving the raising, appropriating, or the transferring of funds." (Uxbridge General Bylaws Section 125-19)

The motion is seconded

Moderator declares a unanimous vote, motion carries.

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A motion was made and seconded to dissolve the 2014 Special Town meeting. The motion carried unanimously and town meeting was adjourned at 8:22pm.

A true copy attest,



Kelly J. Dumas
Uxbridge Town Clerk