

JUNE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Monday, June 12, 2023 at 7:00 PM

North Reading High School Gymnasium

189 Park Street



Current Cash Reserves

(Prior to June Town Meeting Actions)

Account	Available Cash
Free Cash	\$ 5,627,125
Stabilization Fund	\$ 4,078,073
Capital Improvement Stab Fund	\$ 1,434,811
Water Infrastructure Stab Fund	\$ 2,948,022
Solid Waster Stab Fund	\$ 148,399
Water Retained Earnings	\$ 1,539
Other Post Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund	\$ 3,008,002
PFA Stabilization	\$ 1,530,808
Cell Tower Fund	\$ 740,588

Article 1

- FY 2023 Budget Amendment
 - TBD prior to June 12th
 - Select Board: Recommended
 - Finance Committee: Recommendation to be made at Town Meeting
 - Motion by:
 - Presentation by: Town Administrator/Finance Director

Article 2

- FY 2023 Capital Budget Amendment
 - TBD prior to June 12th***
 - Select Board: Recommendation to be made at Town Meeting
 - Finance Committee: Recommendation to be made at Town Meeting
 - Motion by:
 - Presentation by: Town Administrator/Finance Director
 - ***funding may be requested for temporary traffic control associated with the potential closure of Chestnut Street culvert near Park Street.

Article 3

- FY 2023 Capital Budget Amendment – Synthetic Turf Athletic Field
 - This article would alter the appropriation for \$356,000 to be paid from Bond Premiums instead of bonding and would rescind the borrowing authorization
 - Select Board: Recommends
 - Finance Committee: Recommends
 - Motion by:
 - Presentation by: Town Administrator/Finance Director

Article 4

- Fund FY 2023 Snow/Ice Deficit
 - Appropriation pays expenses that exceeded the FY 2023 budget amount
 - Estimated to be \$410,000.00; funded with Free Cash
 - Select Board: Recommends
 - Finance Committee: Recommendation to be made at Town Meeting
 - Motion by:
 - Presentation by: Town Administrator/Finance Director

Article 5

- FY2023 Appropriate Funds to Capital Improvement Stabilization Fund
 - Fund Used for Capital Purchases and Debt Service
 - Balance is \$1,434,811
 - Article Proposes to Add \$1,533,136.00 in Free Cash to Fund***
 - Select Board: Recommends
 - Finance Committee: Recommends
 - Motion by:
 - Presentation by: Town Administrator/Finance Director
- ***funding may be requested for temporary traffic control associated with the potential closure of Chestnut Street culvert near Park Street, reducing this amount.

Article 6

- FY2023 Transfer Funds to Other Post Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund
 - Balance is \$3,008,002
 - Article Proposes to transfer \$100,000.00 in Free Cash to this Fund
 - Select Board: Recommended
 - Finance Committee: Recommends
 - Motion by:
 - Presentation by: Town Administrator/Finance Director

Article 7

- FY2023 Appropriate Funds to Stabilization Fund
 - Balance is \$ 4,078,073
 - Article Proposes to transfer \$300,000 in Free Cash to the Stabilization Fund.
 - Select Board: Recommends
 - Finance Committee: Recommends
 - Motion by:
 - Presentation by: Town Administrator/Finance Director

Article 8

- FY2023 Transfer Funds to Solid Waste Stabilization Fund
 - Amount TBD Prior to June 12th
 - Balance is \$148,399
 - Select Board: Recommendation to be made at Town Meeting
 - Finance Committee: Recommendation to be made at Town Meeting
 - Motion by:
 - Presentation by: Town Administrator/Finance Director

Article 9

- FY2023 Funds to Water Stabilization Fund
 - Balance is \$2,948,022
 - No transfer anticipated at this time.
 - Select Board: Recommendation to be made at Town Meeting
 - Finance Committee: Recommendation to be made at Town Meeting
 - Motion by:
 - Presentation by: Town Administrator/Finance Director

Article 10

- FY2023 Appropriate Funds to Participating Funding Arrangement Fund
 - Balance is \$1,526,761
 - Recommend transferring \$430,695.00 from Free Cash, which reflects the surplus generated from active employee health insurance in FY 2022.
 - Select Board: Recommends
 - Finance Committee: Recommends
 - Motion by:
 - Presentation by:

Article 11

- FY2023 Transfer Funds to School District Reserve Fund for Unanticipated/Unbudgeted Costs for Special Education, Out-of-District Tuition, or Transportation
- Article Proposes to transfer \$100,000.00 in Free Cash to this Fund
 - Select Board: Recommends
 - Finance Committee: Recommends
 - Motion by:
 - Presentation by:

Article 12

- FY2023 Appropriate Funds for Legal Expenses – 20 Elm Street
 - Amount, if any, TBD prior to June 12th
 - Select Board: Recommendation to be made at Town Meeting
 - Finance Committee: Recommendation to be made at Tow Meeting
 - Motion by:
 - Presentation by: Town Administrator/Finance Director

Article 13

- FY2023 Appropriate Funds to Cover Grant Deficits
 - Article Proposes to transfer \$47,969 in Free Cash to the Fund a deficit in the FEMA Grant, \$15,585 in Free Cash to cover the deficit in the Cares Act Grant, and \$33,250 in Free Cash to cover a deficit in the Chapter 90 Fund.
 - The deficits are all related to unallowable expenditures that were determined by audits conducted after the close of prior fiscal years
 - Select Board: Recommends
 - Finance Committee: Recommends
 - Motion by:
 - Presentation by: Town Administrator/Finance Director

Article 14

- **Create Opioid Settlement Stabilization Fund**
 - The Town, like many cities and towns in Massachusetts, is a participant in national multi-jurisdiction litigation seeking to recover funds from the manufacturers and distributors of opioid drugs.
 - This article would create a special purpose stabilization fund to receive litigation settlement payments. Requests for expenditures from the Fund are anticipated to be submitted to future Town Meeting(s).
 - Select Board: Recommends
 - Finance Committee: Recommends
 - Motion by:
 - Presentation by:

Article 15

- **Prior Year Bills**
 - Currently anticipate \$8,710 to be appropriated from Free Cash to pay for Prior Year Assessing Expenses
 - Bills to be paid out of FY 2023 department budgets:
 - Sanitation Services (Hillview) in the amount of \$600.00
 - Sanitary Services (DPW) in the amount of \$175.50
 - Training and Education (Accounting) in the amount of \$599.00
 - Backflow Testing (Water) in the amount of \$6,298.00
 - Select Board: Recommends
 - Finance Committee: Recommendation to be made at Town Meeting
 - Motion by:
 - Presentation by: Town Administrator/Finance Director

Article 16

- Select Town Officers
 - Routine; Authorizes Select Board to Choose Town Officers
 - Select Board: Recommends
 - Finance Committee: No action required
 - Motion by:
 - Presentation by: Town Administrator

Article 17

- Hear and Act on Reports of Town Officers and Committees
 - Routine
 - Select Board: Recommends
 - Finance Committee: No action required
 - Motion by:
 - Presentation by: Boards and Committees

Article 18

- Increase Senior Tax Rebate
 - Article seeks to increase the amount of the property tax exemption for participants in the Senior Tax Work-Off program from \$750 to \$1,000.
 - Select Board: Recommends
 - Finance Committee: Recommends
 - Motion by:
 - Presentation by

Article 19

- Fiscal Year 2024 Operating Budget
 - \$87,342,498 to be raised and appropriated, including Enterprise Funds
 - Voted as Two Motions:
 - Raise and Appropriate / Available Funds (Majority Vote): \$79,727,402
 - Debt Service (2/3rd Vote): \$7,569,756
 - Health Insurance (2/3rd Vote): \$45,340 from PFA Stabilization
 - Select Board: Recommends
 - Finance Committee: Recommends
 - School Committee:
 - Motion by:
 - Presentation by: Finance Director

Article 20

- FY 2024 One-Time Fire Department Recruit and Paramedic Training
 - Article Proposes to transfer \$605,049 from Free Cash and \$198,588 from Ambulance Reserve to Fund one-time recruit and paramedic training costs related to a number of recent and anticipated retirements.
 - Select Board: Recommends
 - Finance Committee: Recommends
 - Motion by:
 - Presentation by: Finance Director

Article 21

- Fund Retirement Obligations
 - \$190,000 from Free Cash
 - \$ 130,000 for municipal retirement obligations
 - \$ 60,000 for public school retirement obligations
 - Select Board: Recommends
 - Finance Committee: Recommends
 - Motion by:
 - Presentation by: Town Administrator/Finance Director

Article 22

- FY 2024 Appropriate Funds to Other Post Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund
 - Propose Transfer In the amount of \$375,000 from Raise and Appropriate in accordance with annual financing plan.
 - Select Board: Recommends
 - Finance Committee: Recommends
 - Motion by:
 - Presentation by: Town Administrator/Finance Director

Article 23

- Authorize Treasurer to Enter Into Compensating Balance Agreements
 - Routine; allows the Town Treasurer to enter into agreements with banks through which a portion of the interest earnings of deposits are retained by the bank in exchange for services, rather than making direct payment to the bank for services.
 - Select Board: Recommends
 - Finance Committee: Recommends
 - Motion by:
 - Presentation by: Town Administrator/Finance Director

Article 24

- Rescind Authorization to Borrow
 - Final rescissions TBD prior to June 12th
 - Rescind \$72,426 for Little School Roof authorized 06/01/2015
 - Rescind \$75,000 for the Replacement of INET authorized 06/04/2018
 - Potentially Rescind \$3,000,000 for Water Distribution and Supply appropriated 10/15/2018
- Select Board: Recommendation to be made at Town Meeting
- Finance Committee: Recommendation to be made at Town Meeting
- Motion by:
- Presentation by:

Article 25

- FY 2024 Capital Expenditures
 - FY 2024 Capital Improvement Plan was Presented by Capital Improvement Planning Committee on April 24th and Approved by the Select Board
 - Select Board: Recommends
 - Finance Committee: Recommends
 - School Committee:
 - Motion by:
 - Presentation by: Capital Improvement Planning Committee Chairman

Article 24

Project	Department	Amount	Funding Source
Intersection: Haverhill and Chestnut Street -Supplemental Funding	DPW-Engineering	\$ 60,000	Free Cash-Supplements June 2022 Town Meeting, Article 17 FY 2023 Capital Expenditures
Intersection: Haverhill and Chestnut Street -Sidewalk to Heritage Way	DPW-Engineering	\$ 85,000	Transfer \$81,216 in unspent free cash from June 2019 Town Meeting, Article 16 FY 2020 Capital - Police Simulator System Transfer \$ 3,784 Capital Improve. Stab.
Intersection: Park and Central - Design and Construction (including pedestrian signal)	DPW-Engineering	\$ 250,000	Bond
Intersection: Park and Central - Add Full Traffic Signal	DPW-Engineering	\$ 350,000	Bond
Intersection: North and Central - Design	DPW-Engineering	\$ 65,000	Bond
Intersection: North and Central - Construction	DPW-Engineering	\$ 330,000	Bond \$197,000 Transfer \$91,631 from unspent bond proceeds from October 2007 Town Meeting, Article 15 - Fund Settlements Eisenhaure Pond Park Transfer \$12,841 from unspent bond proceeds from October 2009 Town Meeting, Article 10, FY 2010 Capital - HS/MS Roof Repair Transfer \$28,528 from unspent bond proceeds from October 2015 Town Meeting, Article 11 - Little School Roof Repair/Replacement
Roadway Rehab & Reconstruction	DPW-Engineering	\$ 120,000	Bond
Library HVAC Replacement	DPW-Facilities	\$ 335,000	Bond
Hood School Boiler Replacements	School Department	\$ 225,000	Bond
Chestnut Street Culvert Replacement - Engineering/Design	DPW-Engineering	\$ 300,000	Free Cash
Library Fire Alarm Upgrades (supplement)	DPW-Facilities	\$ 80,000	Free Cash-Supplements June 2021 Town Meeting, Article 21 FY 2022 Capital Expenditures Due To Cost Increase
Police Station FOB System/Security Upgrades	DPW-Facilities	\$ 40,000	Free Cash-Supplements June 2021 Town Meeting, Article 21 FY 2022 Capital Expenditures Due To Cost Increase
Replace 2006 Dump Truck #43 with Mack Granite 6 Wheeler w/Equip	DPW-Facilities	\$ 255,000	\$227,550 Capital Improve. Stab, \$27,450 Free Cash

Article 24 (continued)

Project	Department	Amount	Funding Source
Self Contained Breathing Apparatus Bottles	Fire Department	\$ 62,550	Free Cash
Computer/Equipment Replacement Plan	IT Department	\$ 45,000	Free Cash
Replace Unmarked Cruiser	Police Department	\$ 55,000	Free Cash
Classroom Window Replacement - Hood/Little	School Department	\$ 50,000	Free Cash
Middle/High School WIFI Upgrade	School Department	\$ 80,000	Free Cash
DPW Garage - Ph. 2 Renovations	DPW-Facilities	\$ 23,666	Previous Bond Proceeds
Function Building Improvements	Hillview Enterprise	\$ 100,000	Hillview Retained Earnings
Golf Course Projects	Hillview Enterprise	\$ 300,000	Hillview Retained Earnings
Water Main Rehabilitation and Replacement	Water Enterprise	\$ 500,000	Transfer \$304,774 from Water Premium Reserved for Capital Bond \$195,226
Water Distribution System Improvements	Water Enterprise	\$ 200,000	Bond
Replace 2012 Ford Escape with F150 Hybrid	Water Enterprise	\$ 55,000	Bond
Parks/Recreation Improvements-Supplemental	Parks/Recreation	\$ 100,000	Parks and Recreation Retained Earnings – Supplements State Grant Funding

Article 26

- FY 2024 Fund Town Building Repairs
 - DPW is considering miscellaneous repairs / improvements to municipal buildings for a total of \$50,000 to be funded from Free Cash.
 - Select Board: Recommends
 - Finance Committee: Recommends
 - Motion by:
 - Presentation by:

Article 27

- Authorize Chapter 90 Construction
 - Town anticipates receiving \$517,703 from the State which is a share of \$200 Million Statewide
 - Select Board: Recommends
 - Finance Committee: Recommends
 - Motion by:
 - Presentation by: Town Administrator/DPW Director

Article 28

- Authorize DPW Director to Accept Easements
 - Routine; allows DPW Director to accept easements for the construction and maintenance of water mains, drainage, and other purposes.
 - Select Board: Recommends
 - Finance Committee: Recommends
 - Motion by:
 - Presentation by: Town Administrator/DPW Director

Article 29

- Grant Easement on 0 Wilma Road and 6 Elma Road
 - Article would authorize Select Board to convey easement(s) on these parcels for drainage or related purposes, as requested by an abutting property owner
 - Select Board: Recommends
 - Finance Committee: Recommendation to be made at Town Meeting
 - Motion by:
 - Presentation by:

Article 30

- **Appropriate Money for Historical Buildings**
 - Article Proposes to transfer \$10,000 from Free Cash to fund repairs, maintenance and improvements to historical buildings located on the grounds of the Reverend Daniel Putnam House.
 - Funding requested by Minit Militia.
 - Select Board: Recommends
 - Finance Committee: Recommends
 - Motion by:
 - Presentation by:

Article 31

- FY 2024 Fund Consultant Fees for Compliance with Section #A of MGL C. 40A (MBTA Communities Requirements)
 - Article Proposes to transfer \$25,000 from Free Cash to fund consulting services to assist with meeting new state requirements for MBTA-adjacent communities for housing and zoning
 - Select Board: Recommends
 - Finance Committee: Recommends
 - Motion by:
 - Presentation by:

Article 32

- FY 2024 Fund American with Disabilities Act Self Evaluation and Transition Plan – Phase 2
 - Article Proposes to transfer \$150,000 from Free Cash to fund the completion of the Town's ADA Self Evaluation & Transition Plan
 - Select Board: Recommends
 - Finance Committee: Recommends
 - Motion by:
 - Presentation by:

Article 33

- FY 2024 Appropriate Funds for Disability Needs Assessment and Transportation Pilot
 - This article would provide additional funding for a disability-related resident needs assessment and to provide transportation services for residents on a trial basis.
 - Amount being requested is \$60,000.
 - Select Board: Recommends
 - Finance Committee: Recommends
 - Motion by:
 - Presentation by:

Article 34

- Increase Revolving Fund Limit – Elder Services
 - This article would increase the maximum program expenses that can be paid from the Elder Services Revolving Account from \$12,000 to \$50,000 annually, in anticipation of increased programming.
 - This account is funded with program income, not tax appropriations.
 - Select Board: Recommends
 - Finance Committee: Recommends
 - Motion by:
 - Presentation by:

Article 35

- Citizens' Petition:

- "No person shall be compelled to acquiesce to invasive medical treatments or procedures, collection of specimens, or sharing of personal data or medical information. A person's fundamental rights including privacy, travel, and speech afforded under the United States Constitution shall not be infringed upon to impede the making of decisions for themselves or for their dependents, including, but not limited to, decisions about privacy, health and medical care.
- Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the Town of North Reading and all of its agencies, authorities and administrative subdivisions shall not require proof of vaccination against COVID-19, its variants, other strains of SARS virus, or the seasonal flu as a condition of entry to a public building.
- Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, no North Reading public elementary schools, middle school, or high school shall require proof of vaccination against COVID-19, its variants, other strains of SARS virus, or the seasonal flu as a condition of enrollment, access to school facilities or attendance in in-person classes.
- Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, and in the absence of peer-reviewed medical literature confirming the efficacy of face masks, no North Reading public elementary schools, middle school, or high school shall require the wearing of face masks as a condition of enrollment, access to school facilities or attendance in in-person classes.
- Sponsor: John Barrette and others"
- This Citizens' Petition article includes a broad policy statement concerning health/medical related issues, and proposes policies for public buildings (including schools). Town Counsel has advised that approval of this article would, at most, be advisory in nature, as the authority over the subject matter lies exclusively with the Board of Health and/or School Committee.
 - Select Board: Not Recommended
 - Finance Committee: Not Recommended
 - Motion by:
 - Presentation by: