

**Town of Newbury
Finance Committee Meeting
Tuesday April 30, 5:00 pm, Town Hall
Meeting Summary**

Committee (alphabetical): Gene Case (Vice Chair), Bob Connors, Larry Guay, Erica Jacobsen, Frank Remley (Chair)

Ex-Officio: Tracy Blais, Town Administrator/Finance Director

1. **Review of proposed FY14 budget:** Town Administrator (Postponed until May 7)
2. **Review and make recommendations on Proposed 5/21/13 STM and ATM Warrants:** The committee voted on all articles requiring an Finance Committee recommendation with the following exceptions:

Articles for Special Town Meeting (STM) Appropriations

- **Article 1:** Appropriate \$106795 or any other adjusted amount to cover FY13 Snow and Ice deficit.
Yes 5-0-0
- **Article 2:** Appropriate \$20,000 from Sale of Land Fund for purchase of two commercial lawn mowers for the DPW per CPC recommendations.
Yes 5-0-0
- **Article 3:** Appropriate \$75,000 from Free Cash for making Grange Hall improvements, Byfield Center. Not recommended at this time. It was further unanimously recommended to remove this article to transfer \$75,000 from Free Cash to make unspecified repairs to the Grange Hall in Byfield Center. This was disapproved pending a full engineering assessment of needed repairs per CPC bylaw.
No 5-0-0
- **Article 4:** Appropriate \$38,880 to pay for a weir at Middle Rd.
Yes 5-0-0 (per CPC recommendation)
- **Article 5:** Appropriate \$6,068.50 from Free Cash for Historic Commission Expenses (from sale of excess silver commemorative coins).
Yes 5-0-0

Articles for Annual Town Meeting (ATM) Appropriations

- **Article 3:** FY14 budget appropriation of \$16,774,311, and to take 627,621 from Special assessment Fund. This article was unanimously approved subject to the following modifications:
 - Increase Byfield Fire Flat Rate appropriation by \$10,000 from \$60,000 to \$70,000

- Increase Newbury Fire Flat Rate appropriation by \$10,000 from \$60,000 to \$70,000
- Reduce the Road Improvement Program from \$100,000 to \$80,000
Yes, 5-0-0 (subject to above changes.)
- **Article 4:** To raise and appropriate \$250,000 to add to the Stabilization Fund:
Yes, 5-0-0
- **Article 5:** Raise and appropriate \$25,000 the Sum of \$25,000 for the OPEB reserves.
Yes 5-0-0
- **Article 6:** Appropriate \$70,000 from Free Cash to replace aging fire fighter gear. Article was approved subject to replacing \$70,000 total for additional Fire Gear to \$16,000. The rationale was the CPC and Board of Fire Engineers has agreed to fund the need for 50 sets of Turn-out Gear at approximately \$2000 per set, but to be acquired over three fiscal years starting in FY14. \$20,000 of this initial purchase has already been approved as a transfer from the current reserve fund, with \$16000 remaining for the balance of the FY14 acquisition. Future appropriations will be required for the remaining acquisitions.
Yes 5-0-0 (subject to above change changing appropriated sum to \$16,000)
- **Article 7:** Appropriate \$50,000 from Free Cash for repairs to Newbury El.
Yes 5-0-0 (per CPC recommendation)
- **Article 8:** Appropriate Chap 90 funds of \$411,715 for street and road repairs by the DPW. Unanimously approved expenditure of Chap 90 funds are subject to CPC review of the scheduled road improvements per the Road Improvement Program.
Yes 5-0-0
- **Article 9:** Appropriate \$35,000 from Free Cash for Library Repairs.
Yes 5-0-0
- **Article 10:** Appropriate \$30,000 from Free Cash for insulation and sheet Rocking of Town Barn repair bays.
Yes 5-0-0
- **Article 11:** Appropriate \$35,000 from Free Cash to repair the DPW parking lot. Article was not approved. (Recommended to remove this article from the warrant.)
No 5-0-0
- **Article 12:** Appropriation of \$20,000 from Free Cash for the plan and design of renovations of the DPW Barn Office and bathroom. (Article not approved and recommended to be removed from the warrant.)
No 5-0-0

- **Article 13:** Appropriate \$51,000 from Free Cash for DPW purchase of a one-ton dump truck.
Yes 5-0-0
 - **Article 14:** Reauthorize Recreation Revolving Fund for a spending limit of \$60,000 for maintenance and operating expenses to be raised from Fees.
Yes 5-0-0
 - **Article 15:** Reauthorize Municipal Waterways Improvement and Maintenance Revolving Fund for a spending limit of \$70,000 for maintenance and operating expenses to be raised from Fees, Permits, and other designated sources.
Yes 5-0-0
 - **Article 17:** To adopt MGL Chapter 32 to enable Call Fire Fighters who later become full time Fire Fighters to accrue 5 Years of retirement credit.
Yes 5-0-0
 - **Article 18:** To authorized the BOA to grant FY 13 specified abatements (estimated at \$10,000 total increase to the overlay account) to certain PI home owners (affected by the March Storm)
Yes 4-0-0 (There was one recusal of a PI home owner)
 - **Article 19:** Authorize the BOS to enter a contract with the State for maintenance and construction of public in FY14 highways under state law.
Yes 5-0-0
 - **Article 20:** Assumption of liability under MGL Section 29, Chap 91 as amended for all damages to waterways that may be incurred for work performed by the Commonwealth under section 11, Chap 91. BOS is authorized to bond and indemnify the Commonwealth for such work in Newbury.
Yes 5-0-0
 - **Article 21:** For the town to raise RE tax credit for elderly homeowners from \$750 to \$1000 per year under Acts of 2009 Chapter 27.
Yes 5-0-0
3. **Other:** The committee unanimously approved the appointment of Larry Guay of the Committee to replace Frank Wetenkamp on the Capital Planning Committee.
 4. **Attendance at BOS Meeting:** The Finance Committee adjourned at 7:00 pm and members attended the Board of Selectmen meeting to discussion above warrant recommendations.
 5. **Next Meeting** is on May 7, 7:00 pm, Town Hall.

