

Annual Town Meeting  
May 13, 2013

Pursuant to the foregoing warrant, the inhabitants of the Town of Sutton, qualified to vote in Town Elections and in Town affairs, met in the Simonian Center for Early Learning, Boston Road, Monday the Thirteenth day of May, 2013 at 7:30 o'clock in the evening, then and there to act on the following articles:

There were 84 voters and 12 non-voters in attendance.

Voted unanimously to ratify the Town Moderator's appointment of James Horan, 61 Highland View Dr. as Deputy Moderator.

**ARTICLE 1**

**SPONSOR: Board of Selectmen**

Voted unanimously to receive the reports of the Town Officers and Committees.

*The Finance and Warrant Advisory Committee voted 6-0 to recommend passage of this article, as it is a customary article calling for reports from town officers and committies.*

**ARTICLE 2**

**SPONSOR: Board of Selectmen**

Voted unanimously to authorize the Cemetery Commissioners to employ themselves in the work of the several cemeteries and to fix the compensation to be paid from appropriations for said department.

*The Finance and Warrant Advisory Committee voted 6-0 to recommend passage of this article, as it is the annual authorization allowing the Cemetery Commissioners to employ themselves in the work of their department.*

**ARTICLE 3**

**SPONSOR: Board of Selectmen**

Voted unanimously to authorize the Board of Health to employ themselves in the performance of their work necessary to maintain health standards set by their department, and to fix the compensation to be paid from appropriations for said department.

*The Finance and Warrant Advisory Committee voted 6-0 to recommend passage of this article, as it is the annual authorization allowing the members of the Board of Health to employ themselves in the work of their department.*

**ARTICLE 4**

**SPONSOR: Board of Selectmen**

Voted unanimously to appropriate the following sums for the operation of the Sewer Department for fiscal year 2014:

|                           |                   |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Salary and Wages          | \$ 214,761        |
| Operation and Maintenance | <u>\$ 478,881</u> |
| For a total of            | \$ 693,642        |

And as funding therefor, that the Town vote to raise the \$ 693,642 as follows:

|                               |            |
|-------------------------------|------------|
| User Fees and Connection Fees | \$ 693,642 |
|-------------------------------|------------|

*The Finance and Warrant Advisory Committee voted 6-0 to recommend passage of this article, as it is the annual authorization of the Sewer Department budget.*

**ARTICLE 5****SPONSOR: Board of Selectmen**

Voted unanimously to appropriate the following sums for the operation of the Transfer Station for fiscal year 2014:

|                           |                  |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| Salary and Wages          | \$ 39,798        |
| Operation and Maintenance | <u>\$ 97,275</u> |
| For a total of            | \$137,073        |

And as funding therefor, that the Town raise the \$ 137,073 as follows:

|           |            |
|-----------|------------|
| User Fees | \$ 137,073 |
|-----------|------------|

*The Finance and Warrant Advisory Committee voted 6-0 to recommend passage of this article, as it is the annual authorization of the Transfer Station budget.*

**ARTICLE 6****SPONSOR: Board of Selectmen**

Voted unanimously to fund the operating budget for the fiscal year 2014 period in the following manner:

|  |               |
|--|---------------|
| General Government:                    | \$ 1,315,343  |
| Public Safety:                         | \$ 2,313,091  |
| Education:                             | \$ 14,650,749 |
| Public Works:                          | \$ 822,851    |
| Health and Human Services:             | \$ 271,901    |
| Recreation and Culture:                | \$ 206,617    |
| Debt & Interest:                       | \$ 4,278,854  |
| Insurance & Employee Benefits:         | \$ 3,482,228  |
| Transfer to Capital Stabilization Fund | \$ 550,854    |
| For a Total of:                        | \$ 27,892,488 |

And that the article be funded in the following manner:

|   |               |
|---|---------------|
| Raise & Appropriate the amount of           | \$ 27,095,879 |
| A Transfer from Free Cash                   | \$ 248,551    |
| A Transfer From Capital Stabilization Fund  | \$ 411,530    |
| A Transfer from Other Reserves              | \$ 24,789     |
| A Transfer from Sewer Enterprise Fund       |               |
| For Indirect Cost                           | \$ 89,164     |
| A Transfer from Transfer Station Enterprise |               |
| For Indirect Cost                           | \$ 22,575     |
| For a Total of:                             | \$ 27,892,488 |

*The Finance and Warrant Advisory Committee voted 6-0 to recommend passage of this budget. The Finance and Warrant Advisory Committee would like to remark that the budget presented is very positive. It was built taking into consideration the need for sustainability. There is minimal reliance on one time funds and has increased funding for the town's OPEB liability. In addition this budget reflects substantive changes in the cost of health insurance for Town employees. Overall the work done by the Town administration to create this budget is to be commended.*

**ARTICLE 7****SPONSOR: Board of Selectmen**

Voted unanimously to appropriate the sum of \$646,000 for the following purposes relating to the fiscal 2014 Capital Plan:

| <u>Department</u> | <u>Purpose</u>                  | <u>Amount</u> | <u>Source</u>   |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| POLICE            | Vehicle Replacement Program     | \$ 70,000     | Borrowing       |
| HIGHWAY           | GPS Units                       | 16,000        | Borrowing       |
| SCHOOL            | Asbestos remediation SCEL       | 20,000        | Cap. Stab. Fund |
| SCHOOL            | Safety equipment                | 50,000        | Borrowing       |
| SCHOOL            | Technology computers            | 50,000        | Borrowing       |
| FIRE              | SCBA equipment                  | 80,000        | Cap. Stab. Fund |
| ASSESSORS         | Revaluation                     | 80,000        | Free Cash       |
| SCHOOL            | Tile Elementary and ELC Classes | 10,000        | Free Cash       |
| WATERS FARM       | Roof replacement                | 50,000        | Borrowing       |
| TOWN HALL         | Window replacement              | 10,000        | Borrowing       |
| TOWN              | Solar panels on Town roofs      | 210,000       | Free cash       |

FOR A TOTAL OF **\$ 646,000**

And to meet this appropriation, transfer the sum of \$300,000 from Free Cash, transfer the sum of \$100,000 from the Capital Stabilization Fund and borrow the sum of \$246,000; and further that the Board of Selectmen is authorized to take any other action to carry out these projects and that any unexpended funds from each of these projects be transferred to the Capital Stabilization Fund.

*The Finance and Warrant Advisory Committee voted 6-0 to recommend passage of this article, as it is the Fiscal 2014 Capital Projects Plan and an integral part of the town's budget.*

**ARTICLE 8****SPONSOR: Board of Selectmen**

Voted unanimously to transfer the sum of \$80,000 from Article 8 of the May 14, 2012 Annual Town Meeting, to fund the Fiscal Year 2014 Unemployment Account.

*The Finance and Warrant Advisory Committee voted 6-0 to recommend passage of this article, to cover anticipated cost of unemployment charges associated with layoffs at the school system. The funding is a carryover from the prior fiscal year.*

**ARTICLE 9****SPONSOR: Board of Selectmen**

Voted unanimously to transfer the sum of \$ 100,000 from Free Cash to the Other Post-employment (OPEB) Account.

*The Finance and Warrant Advisory Committee voted 6-0 to recommend passage of this article.*

**ARTICLE 10****SPONSOR: Board of Selectmen**

Voted unanimously to transfer the sum of \$ 70,000 from Free Cash to the General Stabilization Fund.

*The Finance and Warrant Advisory Committee voted 6-0 to recommend passage of this article. This represents the continued funding of the Stabilization Account.*

**ARTICLE 11****SPONSOR: Board of Selectmen**

Vote to transfer the sum of \$30,000 from Free Cash to the Fiscal 2014 Highway Department salaries account for the purpose of funding the sick leave buy-back due to a retiring employee of the Highway Department.

*The Finance and Warrant Advisory Committee voted 6-0 to recommend passage of this article. This is a contractual obligation.*

**ARTICLE 12****SPONSOR: Board of Selectmen**

Voted unanimously to authorize the following revolving fund accounts under M.G.L. Chapter 44 Section 53E ½ for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2013, as printed in the warrant.

*The Finance and Warrant Advisory Committee voted 6-0 to recommend passage of this article, as it is the annual authorization of the town's 53 E ½ accounts.*

**ARTICLE 13****SPONSOR: Board of Selectmen**

Voted unanimously to transfer from the Sewer Enterprise Fund Retained Earnings the sum of \$36,928.00 for the purpose of purchasing a 2013 Ford F-350, or other similar vehicle, with mounted plow frame and plow attachment for the Sutton Sewer Department.

*The Finance and Warrant Advisory Committee voted 6-0 to recommend passage of this article, as it is funded by the retained earnings account from the Sewer department.*

**ARTICLE 14****SPONSOR: Board of Selectmen**

Voted unanimously to transfer from the Sewer Enterprise Fund Retained Earnings the sum of \$73,900.00 for the purpose of purchasing and installing solar panels at the Hough Road Sewer Treatment facilities.

*The Finance and Warrant Advisory Committee voted 6-0 to recommend passage of this article, as it is funded by the retained earnings account from the Sewer department.*

**ARTICLE 15****SPONSOR: Board of Selectmen**

Voted unanimously to transfer the sum of \$85,000 from Free Cash to fund the Fiscal 2013 Snow and Ice Account.

*The Finance and Warrant Advisory Committee voted 6-0 to recommend passage of this article, as it is funds the Snow and Ice account in anticipation of needs going forward.*

## **ARTICLE 16**

**SPONSOR: Board of Selectmen**

Voted to transfer the sum of \$5000.00 from the Waterways Improvement Fund (T1106422) duly collected as the dedicated portion of the Massachusetts Boat Excise Tax due the Town of Sutton, said sum to be used for the control of Eurasian Watermilfoil, Fanwort or algae in Lake Singletary and Manchaug Pond.

*The Finance and Warrant Advisory Committee voted 6-0 to recommend passage of this article, as it shares equally with both Town lakes monies generated from the Massachusetts Boat Excise Tax due the Town of Sutton.*

## **ARTICLE 17**

**SPONSOR: Richard Norlin**

Voted 54 YES to 15 NO on an amended motion to transfer the sum of \$ 1000.00 from the Waterways Improvement Fund (T1106422) duly collected as the dedicated portion of the Massachusetts Boat Excise Tax due the Town of Sutton, said sum to be used for the control of Eurasian Watermilfoil, Fanwort or algae in Lake Singletary.

*The Finance and Warrant Advisory Committee voted 6-0 NOT to recommend passage of this article. The Committee notes that this citizen's petition is singular to Lake Singletary and that it is an unfunded request that is in addition to funds committed in Article 16.*

Meeting dissolved at 8:37PM

Respectfully submitted,  
Laura J. Caruso  
Town Clerk