

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
May 9, 2022

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 Middle/High School Gymnasium, Boston Road, Monday the Ninth day of May, 2022 at 7:00 o'clock in the evening, then and there to act on the following articles:

There were 102 voters and 12 non-voters in attendance.

At the beginning of the meeting the Town voted unanimously to ratify the Town Moderator's appointment of John Greenlaw, 20 Newton Dr. as Deputy Moderator.

ARTICLE 1 **Select Board**

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

The Finance and Warrant Advisory Committee voted 8-0 to recommend passage of this article.

ARTICLE 2 **Select Board**

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 8-0 to recommend passage of this article, as this is a standard article to allow the Cemetery Commissioners to employ themselves in the work of their department.

ARTICLE 3 **Select Board**

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 8-0 to recommend passage of this article, as this is a standard article to allow 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.

ARTICLE 4 **Select Board**

Voted unanimously to appropriate the following sums for the operation of the Sewer Department for fiscal year 2023:

Salary and Wages	\$252,230
Operation and Maintenance	<u>\$577,454</u>
For a total of	\$829,684

And as funding therefor, that the Town vote to raise the \$829,684 as follows:

User Fees	\$ 829,684
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The Finance and Warrant Advisory Committee voted 8-0 to recommend passage of this article, as it is the annual authorization of the Sewer Department budget.

ARTICLE 5

Select Board

Voted unanimously to appropriate the following sums for the operation of the Transfer Station for fiscal year 2023:

Salary and Wages	\$ 63,138
Operation and Maintenance	<u>\$ 99,575</u>
For a total of	\$162,713

And as funding therefor, that the Town raise the \$162,713 as follows:

User Fees	\$ 162,713
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The Finance and Warrant Advisory Committee voted 8-0 to recommend passage of this article, as it is the annual authorization of the Transfer Station budget.

ARTICLE 6

Select Board

Voted unanimously to fund the operating budget for the fiscal year 2023 period in the following manner:

General Government:	\$ 1,861,515
Public Safety:	\$ 3,149,863
Education:	\$ 19,592,885
Public Works:	\$ 1,093,554
Health and Human Services:	\$ 373,342
Recreation and Culture:	\$ 283,313
Debt & Interest:	\$ 3,371,551
Insurance & Employee Benefits:	\$ 5,569,181
Transfer to Capital Stabilization Fund	\$ 687,941
For a Total of:	\$ 35,983,225

And that the article be funded in the following manner:

Raise & Appropriate the amount	\$ 35,617,220
A Transfer from Capital Stabilization Fund	\$ 251,076
A Transfer from Other Reserves	\$ 3,190
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:	\$ 35,983,225

The Finance and Warrant Advisory Committee voted 8-0 to recommend passage of this article, as it is the annual authorization for the Fiscal 2023 budget.

ARTICLE 7

Select Board

Voted unanimously to appropriate the sum of \$1,239,700 for the following purposes and in the respective amounts below relating to the fiscal 2023 Capital Plan:

DEPARTMENT	PURPOSE	AMOUNT	SOURCE
SCHOOL	ES & ELC parking lot	300,000	Free Cash
SCHOOL	Athletic bus	95,000	Raise & Appropriate
SCHOOL	Graphics Art computers	30,000	Raise & Appropriate
SCHOOL	Technology	10,000	Raise & Appropriate
COUNCIL ON AGING	Emergency Shelter Generator	15,000	Free Cash
FIRE	Station 2 parking lot	50,000	Free Cash
POLICE	Fiber for Wilkinsonville section of town	150,000	Free Cash
POLICE	vehicle replacement	110,000	Raise & Appropriate
POLICE	Portable Radios	26,000	Free Cash
HIGHWAY	Wheel loader	245,000	Raise & Appropriate
HIGHWAY	Replace H2	68,000	Free Cash
PLANNING	Tricentennial Park paving	30,000	Free Cash
PLANNING	Traffic Study – Burbank & Sibley Roads	30,000	Free Cash
PLANNING	MVP Grant Match	25,000	Free Cash
TRANSFER STATION	Replace Motors	10,000	Transfer Station Retained Earnings
SEWER	Replace various sewer equipment	15,700	Sewer Retained Earnings
SEWER	DEP required study of treatment plant	30,000	Sewer Retained Earnings

For a Total of: **\$1,239,700**

And to meet this appropriation, raise and appropriate \$490,000, transfer the sum of \$694,000 from Free Cash, transfer the sum of \$10,000 from Transfer Station Retained Earnings, transfer the sum of \$45,700 from Sewer

Retained Earnings; and further, to authorize the Board of Selectmen to take any other action to carry out these projects; and that any unspent items from this Capital Plan be returned to its original funding source for future appropriation.

The Finance and Warrant Advisory Committee voted 8-0 to recommend passage of this article, this is the Fiscal 2023 Capital Plan and an integral part of the Town's budget.

ARTICLE 8

Select Board

Voted unanimously to transfer the sum of \$165,250 from Free Cash to the following line items in the fiscal year 2022 budget:

<u>Line Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Snow & Ice account	\$155,000
Insurance Opt Out account	\$ 10,250

The Finance and Warrant Advisory Committee voted 8-0 to recommend passage of this article, this allows for the transfer of available funds to cover deficits that arose during the fiscal year, such as snow/ice.

ARTICLE 9

Select Board

Voted unanimously to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to borrow in anticipation of reimbursement by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for the Town's share of the state aid to Highways under Chapter 90, in accordance with M.G.L. c.44, §6A.

The Finance and Warrant Advisory Committee voted 8-0 to recommend passage of this article. Chapter 90 provides state aid for roads and highway projects. This article allows the Town to proceed with these expenditures while awaiting State reimbursement.

ARTICLE 10

Select Board

Voted unanimously to transfer the following amounts from line items in the FY2022 budget and approve payment of the prior year invoices as follows:

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>amount</u>	<u>transferred from account</u>
Pine Ridge Technologies, Inc.	\$2,285.00	street lights 01424-52100
Lawrence Deutsch	\$3,887.67	fire training wages 01220-51441
Convergint	\$1,398.00	police repairs & maint. 01210-52400

The Finance and Warrant Advisory Committee voted 8-0 to recommend passage of this article, as this allows payment of prior year invoices.

ARTICLE 11

Board of Selectmen

Voted unanimously to transfer \$700,000 from Free Cash for the purpose of funding the School Department's costs for Special Education out of district placements.

The Finance and Warrant Advisory Committee voted 8-0 to recommend passage of this article.

ARTICLE 12

Select Board

Voted unanimously to transfer \$25,000 from Free Cash to the Special Education Tuition Stabilization Fund, which was established under Article 11 of the May 9 2016, Annual Town Meeting.

The Finance and Warrant Advisory Committee voted 8-0 to recommend passage of this article.

ARTICLE 13

Select Board

Voted unanimously to transfer \$395,000 from Free Cash to the Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) Trust Fund.

The Finance and Warrant Advisory Committee voted 7-0-1, with 1 member abstaining because they serve on the OPEB advisory committee, to recommend passage of this article.

ARTICLE 14

Select Board

Vote unanimously to transfer \$100,000 from the Fiscal 2022 Health Insurance budget line item and appropriate said sum to the Health Insurance Stabilization Fund, which was established under Article 12 of the May 15, 2021, Annual Town Meeting.

The Finance and Warrant Advisory Committee voted 8-0 to recommend passage of this article.

ARTICLE 15

Planning Board

Voted unanimously to approve Article 15 as printed in the warrant.

The Finance and Warrant Advisory Committee voted 8-0 to recommend passage of this article.

ARTICLE 16

Select Board

Voted by a 2/3's vote on an amended motion to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$150,000 for the purpose of improving, renovating, preserving, rehabilitating and/or restoring the Town-owned parcel of land located at 23 Hough Road aka Assessors Map 51, Parcel 46, known as Van Dyke Fields, as described in the instrument

recorded at the Worcester South District Registry of Deeds in Book 4570 Page 356, and any recreational facilities thereon, and to transfer the care, custody and control of said property from the Select Board for the purposes for which it is held to the Select Board, acting in its capacity as the Board of Park Commissioners, for public park, active recreation and playground purposes in accordance with the provisions of G.L. c. 45, §3, as amended, **with the exception of the portions of said parcel utilized for sewer department and senior center purposes**, and further to dedicate said property to public park, active recreation and playground purposes in perpetuity, and to authorize the Board of Park Commissioners and its designees to file on behalf of the Town any and all applications for grants and/or reimbursements from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts under the PARC Grant Program (301 CMR 5.00) and/or others in any way connected with the scope of this article and accept funds therefrom and any other gifts and/or grants therefor, and to enter into any and all agreements and execute any and all instruments as may be necessary or convenient to undertake the purposes of the article.

The Finance and Warrant Advisory Committee voted 8-0 to recommend passage of this article.

ARTICLE 17

Select Board

Voted unanimously to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$268,000, for the purpose of improving, renovating, preserving, rehabilitating, and/or restoring the Town-owned parcel of land located at 7 Darling Lane, known as The American Legion Park, aka Veteran's Park, as described in a deed recorded with the Worcester South District Registry of Deeds in Book 56540, Page 155, and any recreational facilities thereon, which sum, shall supplement the funds transferred under Article 10 of the October 18, 2021 Annual Town Meeting; the total appropriation constitutes the total cost of the American Legion Park Project; and further to authorize the Select Board to enter into any agreements upon such terms and conditions as the Board deems appropriate in order to defray all or a portion of the costs of the Project.

The Finance and Warrant Advisory Committee voted 8-0 to recommend passage of this article.

ARTICLE 18

Select Board

Voted unanimously to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$19,233, for the purpose of contributing to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts the Town's share of funds to be used by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to acquire from King Hill, an agricultural preservation restriction, held by the Town and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, on parcels of land located on King Road and Uxbridge Road, Sutton, containing a total of 19.23 acres, more or less, and described in deeds recorded with the Worcester South District Registry of Deeds, Book 18627 Page 141 and Book 66351, Page 7, and, further, to authorize the Select Board to enter into all agreements and execute on behalf of the Town any and all instruments as may be necessary or convenient to effectuate the purpose of this article.

The Finance and Warrant Advisory Committee voted 8-0 to recommend passage of this article.

ARTICLE 19

Planning Board

Voted unanimously to amend the Zoning Bylaw Section VI.L. – Accessory Apartments, by amending item a. to delete the strike through text and amending item h. to delete the strike through text and add the underscored text as follows;

- a. An accessory apartment shall only have ~~no more than~~ one bedroom.
- h. An accessory apartment ~~cannot be its own stand-alone structure. It must~~ shall be a portion of the main dwelling, or ~~no more than 50%~~ a portion of a detached accessory structure such as a garage or barn.

The Finance and Warrant Advisory Committee voted 8-0 to recommend passage of this article.

Planning Board voted to recommend that Town Meeting vote to approve this article. 5-0-0

Commentary: The Board felt the minimum 50% requirement should be eliminated because it forces residents to build oversized structures that are often the same size or larger than the home.

The meeting adjourned at 7:47pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Laura J. Caruso

Town Clerk