



# Special Town Meeting

## September 29, 2020

### **Advisory Finance Committee:**

Sean Keogh, Chair

Michael Barretti, Vice Chair

Beth Blumberg

Melanie Board

Andrew Bradley

Jody Hensley

Paul Huegel

Walter Leslie

Hank Rauch

### **Board of Selectmen:**

Shelby Marshall, Chair

Allen Edinberg, Vice Chair

Leigh Emery

Syed Hashmi

Ian Johnson

## **INDEX OF ARTICLES & SUMMARY RECOMMENDATIONS**

AFC-Advisory Finance Committee

BOS- Board of Selectmen

**ARTICLE 1:** Land Acquisition- 31-33 Eli Whitney Street (Board of Selectmen)

**AFC recommends the Town vote to approve this Article (6-0-0)**

**BOS recommends the Town vote to approve this Article (5-0-0)**

**ARTICLE 2:** Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus Replacement (Fire Department)

**AFC recommends the Town vote to approve this Article (8-0-0)**

**BOS recommends the Town vote to approve this Article (5-0-0)**

**ARTICLE 3:** Water Facilities Contract Operator Term (DPW)

**AFC recommends the Town vote to approve this Article (8-0-0)**

**BOS recommends the Town vote to approve this Article (5-0-0)**

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
WORCESTER, SS**

TO ANY CONSTABLE IN THE TOWN OF WESTBOROUGH, IN THE COUNTY OF  
WORCESTER, GREETINGS:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Westborough, qualified to vote in elections and town affairs, to meet at the Westborough High School located on West Main Street on September 29, 2020 at 7:00 P.M. then and there to act on the following articles.

*The Town Manager's Statements printed in italics are not part of the formal articles of the warrant. They constitute additional information offered for the benefit of the voters, true and correct as of the time of posting of the warrant, but subject to change as called for. They are not to be construed so as to broaden or limit the scope of the formal articles.*

**Article 1: Land Acquisition – 31-33 Eli Whitney Street (Board of Selectmen)**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, and/or borrow the sum of Two Million Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$2,300,000), and authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to borrow all or a portion of said sum under G.L. Chapter 44, Section 7 or any other enabling authority and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor, and any premium received by the Town upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved hereunder in accordance with G.L. Chapter 44, Section 20, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount, for the purpose of acquiring the property described herein and costs incidental or related thereto, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire, by purchase, gift, and/or eminent domain, on such terms and conditions as the Board deems in the best interest of the Town and subject to existing agreements, easements and/or restrictions, a parcel of land located at 31-33 Eli Whitney Street, Westborough, containing 66 acres, more or less, identified as Assessor's Parcel 9-151-0, and being a portion of the premises described in deeds recorded with the Worcester South District Registry of Deeds in Book 20558, Pages 158 and 162, for conservation, passive recreation, parking, and general municipal purposes and for the purpose of granting a conservation restriction on the portion or portions of said property (containing 61 acres, more or less) that are to be devoted to conservation and passive recreation purposes, and, further, to authorize the Board of Selectmen to execute any and all documents and take all other action necessary or convenient to accomplish the foregoing, including, without limitation, granting said conservation restriction, or take any other action thereon.

*Article Information – This Article seeks to provide authorization for the Board of Selectmen to acquire property located at 31-33 Eli Whitney Street. Approximately 61 acres of the 66-acre property will be acquired for and devoted to conservation and passive recreation purposes permanently; the remaining property, containing approximately 5 acres, will be acquired for general municipal purposes, including trail-head access and parking for the benefit of the conservation property. This article will authorize the Town to appropriate money from existing*

*reserves including Sale of Real Estate, Open Space, and Walkup Robinson. The motion for this article requires a 2/3 majority vote.*

**AFC recommends the Town vote to approve this Article (6-0-0)**

**BOS recommends the Town vote to approve this Article (5-0-0)**

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### **Article 2: Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus Replacement (Fire Department)**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of Fifty Eight Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty Three Dollars (\$58,983), or such other amount as Town Meeting may approve, for the purpose of replacing self-contained breathing apparatus equipment, including all costs incidental and related thereto, or take any other action thereon.

*Article Information – The existing Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) units were purchased in 1998 and are 22 years old and 6 editions out of NFPA compliance. The Fire Department received a grant in 2007 to provide some modifications to existing units. The Department has been spending approximately \$10,000 annually to maintain the SCBA units, and the units are showing signs of significant wear and tear. Firefighters depend on well-performing SCBA to provide breathing air in environments that are immediately dangerous to life and safety. The newer units are equipped with technologies that will enable our firefighters to be tracked electronically, provide for higher burn threshold, and allow for enhanced communications. This request was deferred from the June 2020 Annual Town Meeting in anticipation of a grant. A grant in the amount of \$260,000 was awarded for this purchase in August. This request is to fund the balance needed to purchase the equipment. The motion for this article requires a simple majority vote.*

**AFC recommends the Town vote to approve this Article (8-0-0)**

**BOS recommends the Town vote to approve this Article (5-0-0)**

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### **Article 3: Water Facilities Contract Operator Term (DPW)**

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to award a contract for an initial term of up to 10 years with an option to extend for two up to five year terms or such other duration as Town Meeting may approve, for the purpose of operating and maintaining services related to its water treatment facilities, or take any other action thereon.

*The current contract to operate the town's drinking water facilities expires June 30, 2021 and cannot be extended. A new contract must be awarded. The existing contract has been in place for twenty years and comprised a 10 year initial term with two five year extensions. Development of a request for proposals (RFP) is ongoing. The contract term is a key component of the RFP. The recommended term for the new contract is the same as the existing contract, 10 years, plus option for five, plus option for 5). A contract term longer than three years must be approved by a majority town meeting vote.*

**AFC recommends the Town vote to approve this Article (8-0-0)**

**BOS recommends the Town vote to approve this Article (5-0-0)**