



TOWN OF WEST NEWBURY

James RW Blatchford
Town Clerk

381 Main Street
West Newbury, MA 01985
978-363-1100 ext. 110
Townclerk@wnewbury.org

May 18, 2022

Mr. Angus Jennings, Town Manager
Town of West Newbury
381 Main Street
West Newbury, MA 01985

Dear Mr. Jennings,

The following is a report of expenditures voted at the Spring Special Town Meeting which convened on May 14, 2022 and adjourned the same date, together with other votes affecting the finances of the Town.

Pursuant to the Warrant issued by the Select Board on April 25, 2022, which was posted on April 26, 2022 according to law by Constable Brian Richard, who made proper return of his doings thereon, the Spring Special Town Meeting was to be held on May 14, 2022 outdoors in the bandstand and parking lot located behind the Town Annex, 379 Main Street, West Newbury, MA. The meeting was called to order at 9:24 A.M. by the Moderator Kathleen C. Swallow, upon report of a quorum of 90 or more registered voters. 226 voters were in attendance. The Town Clerk read the return of service. There were no objections to non-resident Town Officials who were in attendance addressing the meeting, if necessary.

ARTICLE 1.

The Finance Committee recommended approval of this Article 4-0-0.

Select Board member Richard Parker moved that the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$73,700 from the Water Enterprise Fund Retained Earnings Account to fund engineering services for updating the Water Department's existing hydraulic model and water distribution system study, updating the capital improvement plan associated with the distribution system study, and conducting a water rate study, with any remaining funds to be closed out to the Water Enterprise fund balance at the close of Fiscal Year 2024.

The motion was seconded by Select Board member David Archibald.

With there being no discussion, the Town Moderator called for a vote, and declared that the Motion carried.

ARTICLE 2.

The Finance Committee recommended approval of this Article 5-0-0.

Select Board member Richard Parker moved that the Town vote to rescind a \$1,250,000 portion of the \$1,500,000 appropriation and the related borrowing authority voted by the Town under Article 10 of the November 4, 2019 Town Meeting.

The motion was seconded by Select Board member David Archibald.

There was discussion with several members of Town Meeting. A few voters expressed their opposition to rescinding this borrowing and the next two articles regarding the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial building. A few voters said that they felt the building should be fixed by the Town. Other voters recommended that the best way to preserve the building would be to allow Article 3 to pass. There was a question regarding how much had been spent on the building by the Town so far. Town Manager Jennings stated that about \$250,000 had been spent including the CPC funds approved in 2019 and 2015, and including some monies donated to a gift account in support of the project. There was a question of whether a two thirds (2/3) vote was required to rescind the borrowing since it took a 2/3 vote to allow for the borrowing. Town Counsel Tim Zessin stated no, rescinding borrowing does not require a 2/3 majority.

With there being no further discussion, the Town Moderator called for a vote, and declared that the Motion carried.

ARTICLE 3.

The Finance Committee made no recommendation.

Select Board member Richard Parker moved that the Town authorize the disposition, by sale or lease, of the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Building, located on Assessors' parcel R10-34, located at 363 Main Street, subject to procurement requirements, subject to a Historic Preservation Restriction, and in anticipation of proposing a zoning amendment at a future Town Meeting to expand the allowable uses in this location, and to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$28,000 to fund costs associated with the preparation of such Historic Preservation Restriction and costs associated with disposition, with any remaining funds to be closed out to the general account fund balance at the close of Fiscal Year 2024.

The motion was seconded by Select Board member David Archibald.

With there being no discussion, the Town Moderator called for a vote, and declared that the Motion carried.

ARTICLE 4.

The Finance Committee made no recommendation.

Select Board member Richard Parker moved that the Town transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$115,000 to fund the removal of the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Building, located on Assessors' parcel R10-34, located at 363 Main Street, site stabilization, site survey, and the preparation of a design plan by a landscape architect to establish a veterans' memorial park on the site, with any remaining funds to be closed out to the general account fund balance at the close of Fiscal Year 2023.

The motion was seconded by Select Board member David Archibald.

With there being no discussion, the Town Moderator called for a vote, and declared that the Motion failed.

ARTICLE 5.

The Finance Committee recommended approval of this Article 4-1-0.

Select Board member Richard Parker moved that the Town transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$97,244.81 to fund the existing year snow and ice deficit during the fiscal year 2022.

The motion was seconded by Select Board member David Archibald.

A few voters requested that the DPW use less salt and at a lower frequency whenever possible.

With there being no further discussion, the Town Moderator called for a vote, and declared that the Motion carried.

ARTICLE 6.

The Finance Committee made no recommendation on the full article.

Select Board member Richard Parker moved that the Town transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$47,845 to fund several facility improvements throughout the town, with any remaining funds to be closed out to the general account fund balance at the close of Fiscal Year 2024.

The motion was seconded by Select Board member David Archibald.

With there being no discussion, the Town Moderator called for a vote, and declared that the Motion carried.

ARTICLE 7.

The Finance Committee recommended approval of this Article 4-1-0.

Select Board member Richard Parker moved that the Town transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$34,000 to fund a Town-wide audit of the effects of the Emerald Ash Borer on all our public right-of-way ash trees, with any remaining funds to be closed out to the general account fund balance at the close of Fiscal Year 2023.

The motion was seconded by Select Board member David Archibald.

A few members of Town Meeting asked for clarification regarding cost and use of these funds. The DPW Director Wayne Amaral spoke about the cost of removing a tree being in the \$4,000 range, and this money would be used to audit the ash trees in Town on public right-of-ways and inject any trees that can be saved, also about how this article will allow for tracking and prioritizing trees for treatment or removal. Some voters spoke in favor of this article and the importance of saving as many of the ash trees in town as possible.

With there being no further discussion, the Town Moderator called for a vote, and declared that the Motion carried.

ARTICLE 8.

The Finance Committee recommended approval of this Article 5-0-0.

Select Board member Richard Parker moved that the Town transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$15,000 to fund the purchase of six new automated external defibrillators for use by public safety responders and at town facilities, with any remaining funds to be closed out to the general account fund balance at the close of Fiscal Year 2024.

The motion was seconded by Select Board member David Archibald.

With there being no discussion, the Town Moderator called for a vote, and declared that the Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

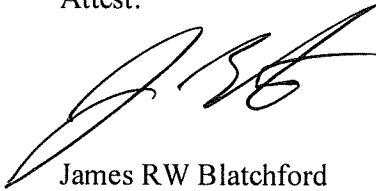
There was a motion to adjourn the Special Spring Town Meeting by Select Board member David Archibald.

The motion was seconded by Select Board member Richard Parker.

With there being no discussion, the Town Moderator declared that the Motion passed unanimously.

Town Meeting adjourned at 9:57 A.M.

Attest:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JWB', is written over the printed name of the Town Clerk.

James RW Blatchford
Town Clerk

cc: Town Accountant (2)
Selectmen Board
Finance Committee
Board of Assessors