

April 27, 2015

Dear Fellow Residents of West Newbury:

We have prepared this booklet to assist you in making informed decisions on this year's warrant Articles.

The Articles of the Special Town Meeting are requests to be included in the Town's budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015. The Articles presented on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant are requests for expenditures in addition to the Town's annual budget for fiscal year ending June 30, 2016. The Finance Committee has reviewed each of these Articles and reports to you our recommendation to approve or disapprove each Article, together with our reasons. At the end of this booklet you will find a Glossary of Terms, overview of Finance Committee responsibilities and a spreadsheet of Town fund balances, we thought you would find helpful.

We began this budget year with the goal of keeping this year's expenses within our levy limit with thoughtful attention to budget line items and judicious use of our Free Cash. The Finance Committee met with all our Department Heads, and we thank them for helping us understand their responsibilities and financial needs.

Our estimated fiscal year 2016 revenues available for operating expenses are \$13,994,604, and are comprised primarily of Real Estate Taxes, supplemented with previously approved general overrides, licenses, motor vehicle excise taxes, fees and receipts from the Commonwealth.

Our operating budget is \$13,551,291, which is a 3.49% increase over last year. It is important to note that this incorporates a 5.18% increase in education costs. The effect on your taxes will be an increase of approximately \$215 per year on a home valued at \$472,242.

The "Money" Articles on the warrants for the Special Town Meeting and the Annual Town Meeting will be funded from Free Cash, and will have no direct effect on your taxes for FY 2016. We maintain a strong Free Cash position, our Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Account is fully funded, and we have a healthy Stabilization Account. Strong Free Cash and Stabilization balances demonstrate financial health and flexibility to lenders. West Newbury has an Aa2 bond rating, which makes us very competitive when we need to borrow.

If all the proposed Articles to be funded from Free Cash are passed, \$798,122.00 will remain in that account. Likewise, if the Articles proposed to be funded from Stabilization are passed, the Stabilization Account balance will be \$1,432,965.52.

The Finance Committee meets Monday evenings at 7:00 p.m. at the 1910 Building, or as posted. We welcome your participation

The principle involved here is time-honored and true: and that is, it's your money. Robert Dole

Sherrie H. Gadd, Chairman

The West Newbury Finance Committee

Sherrie Gadd, chair
Kymberly Codair, vice chair and secretary
Carroll Winch
Scott Fallavollita
Peter Phillips
Nicholas DeLena
Michael Bertino, ex officio
Elisa Grammer, administrative assistant

**TOWN OF WEST NEWBURY
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
WARRANT - ANNUAL TOWN MEETING – MONDAY, April 27, 2015
7:00 p.m.**

Essex, ss.

To any of the Constables of the Town of West Newbury:

In the name of the Commonwealth, you are hereby required to notify and warn all the inhabitants of the Town of West Newbury, who are qualified to vote in the elections and Town affairs, to meet at the Annex at 379 Main Street, at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, April 27, 2015 to act upon or take any other action relative to all but the first two of the following Articles.

Also to meet in the Annex at 379 Main Street on Monday, May 4, 2015 to act on Article 1 which calls for the election of Town Officials. Polls will be open at 7:00 a.m. and will close at 8:00 p.m.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT MATTERS

ARTICLE 1. To give their votes to the election of the following offices:

<u>Position</u>	<u>Term</u>
Selectman	Three Years
Assessor	Three Years
Water Commissioner	Three Years
School Committee	Three Years
Library Trustees (3)	Three Years
Planning Board	Five Years
Park & Recreation Commissioner	Three Years
Board of Health	Three Years
Housing Authority	Five Years
Town Moderator	Three Years
Constable	Two Years

ARTICLE 2. To hear and act upon the reports of Town officers and committees.

ARTICLE 3. To determine what sums of money the town will raise and appropriate for defraying the expenses of the Town for the ensuing fiscal year and for the payment of Town debt. By request of the Board of Selectmen.

Selectmen Recommendation::
FinCom Recommendation:

Approve: 3-0-0
Approve: 6-0-0



GENERAL GOVERNMENT

1 MODERATOR

Salary & Wages	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	-	200.00	200.00	-	
Expenses	-	-	60.00	60.00	-	60.00	60.00	-	

SUBTOTAL	200.00	200.00	260.00	260.00	-	260.00	260.00	-	
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2 SELECTMEN

Selectmen's Stipend	2.00	1.00	3.00	3.00	-	3.00	3.00		
Salary & Wages	62,280.00	64,015.20	65,171.00	66,721.00	1,550.00	66,721.00	66,721.00	-	
Temporary Pay			3,060.00	1.00	(3,059.00)	1.00	1.00	-	
Overtime			983.00	1,493.00	510.00	1,493.00	1,493.00	-	
Professional & Technical Services	4,915.00	9,900.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	-	10,000.00	10,000.00	-	
Expenses	4,461.64	6,103.49	8,100.00	8,100.00	-	8,100.00	8,100.00	-	

SUBTOTAL	71,658.64	80,019.69	87,317.00	86,318.00	(999.00)	86,318.00	86,318.00	-	-1.14%
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3 FINANCE COMMITTEE

Salary			1,800.00	1,800.00	-	1,800.00	1,800.00		
Expenses	921.50	1,864.74	2,000.00	2,000.00	-	2,000.00	2,000.00		
Reserve Fund	-	9,451.73	60,000.00	60,000.00	-	60,000.00	60,000.00		

SUBTOTAL	921.50	11,316.47	63,800.00	63,800.00	-	63,800.00	63,800.00	-	
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4 BOARD OF ASSESSORS

Board of Assessors Salary	3.00	2.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	-	3,000.00	3,000.00	-	
Salary	79,052.97	75,700.37	94,679.00	103,892.00	9,213.00	103,892.00	103,892.00	-	
Expense	18,891.92	41,880.65	42,000.00	42,000.00	-	40,400.00	40,400.00	(1,600.00)	
Vehicle Allowance	750.00	112.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	-	1,500.00	1,500.00	-	

SUBTOTAL	98,697.89	117,695.02	141,179.00	150,392.00	9,213.00	148,792.00	148,792.00	(1,600.00)	5.39%
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5 FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Salary & Wages	242,616.17	249,481.51	254,037.00	273,394.00	19,357.00	273,394.00	273,394.00	-	
Annual Audit	21,478.00	18,500.00	23,000.00	23,000.00	-	20,000.00	20,000.00	(3,000.00)	
Tax Title & Foreclosure	2,850.00	2,837.25	2,000.00	2,000.00	-	2,000.00	2,000.00	-	
1910 Building Technology Expense	32,986.00	31,224.39	33,006.00	35,744.00	2,738.00	35,744.00	35,744.00	-	
1910 Building Telephone Expense	7,242.22	6,857.09	8,000.00	8,000.00	-	8,000.00	8,000.00	-	
1910 Building Postage Expense	11,904.92	12,771.58	12,800.00	13,056.00	256.00	13,056.00	13,056.00	-	
Expenses	35,081.91	37,288.85	38,000.00	38,000.00	-	36,400.00	36,400.00	(1,600.00)	

SUBTOTAL	354,159.22	358,960.67	370,843.00	393,194.00	22,351.00	388,594.00	388,594.00	(4,600.00)	4.79%
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	FY 2013 Actual Expended	FY 2014 Actual Expended	FY 2015 Approved Budget	FY 2016 Requested Budget	FY2015/2016 Dollar Change	FY 2016 BOS Recommend	FY 2016 FinCom Recommend	FY 2016 Change from Requested	FY 2016 % Chge from FY2015
6 SPECIAL COUNSEL					-				
Legal Fees	10,000.00	-	2,500.00	1.00	(2,499.00)	1.00	1.00	-	
SUBTOTAL	10,000.00	-	2,500.00	1.00	(2,499.00)	1.00	1.00	-	-99.96%
7 TOWN CLERK/TOWN COUNSEL					-				
Salary & Wages	96,731.22	98,307.90	100,727.00	102,786.00	2,059.00	102,786.00	102,786.00	-	
Preservation of Town Records				-	-	-	-	-	
Operation of Facsimile Machine/Photocopiers	5,601.31	5,048.26	6,200.00	4,750.00	(1,450.00)	4,750.00	4,750.00	-	
Expenses	7,960.05	8,209.23	9,475.00	9,475.00	-	9,475.00	9,475.00	-	
SUBTOTAL	110,292.58	111,565.39	116,402.00	117,011.00	609.00	117,011.00	117,011.00	-	0.52%
8 BOARD OF REGISTRARS/ELECTIONS					-				
Town Clerk Compensation	150.00	150.00	150.00	150.00	-	150.00	150.00	-	
Salary & Wages	5,175.50	2,346.50	5,300.00	4,845.00	(455.00)	4,845.00	4,845.00	-	
Expenses	6,178.32	6,717.90	7,150.00	6,100.00	(1,050.00)	6,100.00	6,100.00	-	
SUBTOTAL	11,503.82	9,214.40	12,600.00	11,095.00	(1,505.00)	11,095.00	11,095.00	-	
9 CONSERVATION COMMISSION					-				
Salary & Wages	11,679.20	18,007.26	24,398.00	27,998.00	3,600.00	24,998.00	24,998.00	(3,000.00)	
Expenses	831.36	2,703.09	1,710.00	3,100.00	1,390.00	3,100.00	3,100.00	-	
Vehicle Allowance		240.00	600.00	600.00	-	600.00	600.00	-	
SUBTOTAL	12,510.56	20,950.35	26,708.00	31,698.00	4,990.00	28,698.00	28,698.00	(3,000.00)	7.45%
10 PLANNING BOARD					-				
Salary & Wages	26,694.89	30,718.07	33,863.19	39,855.00	5,991.81	39,855.00	39,855.00	-	
Expenses	4,038.01	1,089.40	4,250.00	3,000.00	(1,250.00)	3,000.00	3,000.00	-	
MVPC Assessment	1,366.20	1,400.22	1,436.00	1,436.00	-	1,436.00	1,436.00	-	
SUBTOTAL	32,099.10	33,207.69	39,549.19	44,291.00	4,741.81	44,291.00	44,291.00	-	11.99%
11 BOARD OF APPEALS					-				
Salary & Wages	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	-	1,000.00	1,000.00	-	
Expenses	204.00	455.00	500.00	500.00	-	500.00	500.00	-	
SUBTOTAL	1,204.00	1,455.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	-	1,500.00	1,500.00	-	
12 OPEN SPACE & RECREATION COMMITTEE					-				
Expenses	576.63	638.55	750.00	750.00	-	750.00	750.00	-	
SUBTOTAL	576.63	638.55	750.00	750.00	-	750.00	750.00	-	



	FY 2013 Actual Expended	FY 2014 Actual Expended	FY 2015 Approved Budget	FY 2016 Requested Budget	FY2015/2016 Dolllar Change	FY 2016 BOS Recommend	FY 2016 FinCom Recommend	FY 2016 Change from Requested	FY 2016 % Chge from FY2015
13 CABLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE					-				
Expenses	-	850.00	-	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00		
SUBTOTAL	-	850.00	-	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	-	
TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT	703,823.94	746,073.23	863,408.19	900,311.00	36,902.81	891,111.00	891,111.00	(9,200.00)	3.21%
PUBLIC SAFETY					-				
14 POLICE DEPARTMENT					-				
Salary & Wages	671,529.27	729,912.71	755,584.00	759,288.00	3,704.00	759,288.00	759,288.00	-	
Overtime	43,265.56	39,181.37	45,000.00	45,000.00	-	35,000.00	35,000.00	(10,000.00)	
Expenses	81,429.26	69,081.85	94,075.00	91,405.00	(2,670.00)	90,000.00	90,000.00	(1,405.00)	
Capital Outlay				33,662.00	33,662.00	-	-	(33,662.00)	
SUBTOTAL	796,224.09	838,175.93	894,659.00	929,355.00	34,696.00	884,288.00	884,288.00	(45,067.00)	-1.16%
15 FIRE DEPARTMENT					-				
Alarms	65,916.82	75,093.33	77,176.00	78,720.00	1,544.00	78,720.00	78,720.00	-	
Drills	20,050.70	18,133.02	21,224.00	24,648.00	3,424.00	24,648.00	24,648.00	-	
Miscellaneous Fire Department Wages	16,396.55	11,608.43	21,224.00	21,648.00	424.00	21,648.00	21,648.00	-	
Administration	22,679.17	17,868.23	23,654.00	24,127.00	473.00	24,127.00	24,127.00	-	
Fire Protection Fees	62,872.00	62,872.00	64,758.00	64,758.00	-	64,758.00	64,758.00	-	
Fire Alarm & Communications	8,533.98	9,151.83	9,500.00	9,500.00	-	9,500.00	9,500.00	-	
Expenses	37,001.16	37,315.11	39,600.00	39,600.00	-	39,600.00	39,600.00	-	
Capital Outlay	44,781.55	44,781.55	44,782.00	44,782.00	-	44,782.00	44,782.00	-	
Medical Exams	2,029.00	410.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	-	3,000.00	3,000.00	-	
SUBTOTAL	280,260.93	277,233.50	304,918.00	310,783.00	5,865.00	310,783.00	310,783.00		1.92%
16 AMBULANCE SERVICE					-				
Ambulance Retainer		-		-	-	-	-	-	
SUBTOTAL		-		-	-	-	-	-	
17 INSPECTION DEPARTMENT					-				
Salary & Wages	90,716.22	93,456.50	101,510.00	112,981.00	11,471.00	110,481.00	110,481.00	(2,500.00)	
Expenses	6,999.74	7,623.71	9,490.00	9,490.00	-	9,490.00	9,490.00	-	
Vehicle Allowance	4,980.00	4,755.00	4,980.00	4,980.00	-	4,980.00	4,980.00	-	
SUBTOTAL	102,695.96	105,835.21	115,980.00	127,451.00	11,471.00	124,951.00	124,951.00	(2,500.00)	7.73%



	FY 2013 Actual Expended	FY 2014 Actual Expended	FY 2015 Approved Budget	FY 2016 Requested Budget	FY2015/2016 Dollar Change	FY 2016 BOS Recommend	FY 2016 FinCom Recommend	FY 2016 Change from Requested	FY 2016 % Chge from FY2015
18 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY					-				
Salary & Wages	5,953.45	4,729.94	7,117.00	7,117.00	-	7,117.00	7,117.00		
Expenses	2,718.13	333.95	3,265.00	3,265.00	-	3,265.00	3,265.00		
SUBTOTAL	8,671.58	5,063.89	10,382.00	10,382.00	-	10,382.00	10,382.00	-	
19 ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER					-				
Salary & Expense	12,887.75	1,408.00	22,000.00	-	(22,000.00)	-	-	-	
Expenses	1,309.71	14,390.49		21,500.00	21,500.00	21,500.00	21,500.00	-	
SUBTOTAL	14,197.46	15,798.49	22,000.00	21,500.00	(500.00)	21,500.00	21,500.00	-	-2.27%
20 HARBORMASTER					-				
Salary & Wages	1,983.78	1,197.94	6,011.00	6,011.00	-	3,000.00	3,000.00	(3,011.00)	
Expenses	1,064.27	806.13	6,000.00	6,000.00	-	3,000.00	3,000.00	(3,000.00)	
Wages & Expense	3,048.05			-	-	-	-	-	
SUBTOTAL	3,048.05	-	12,011.00	12,011.00	-	6,000.00	6,000.00	(6,011.00)	-50.05%
21 PUBLIC SAFETY DISPATCH					-				
Salary & Wages	218,159.22	173,788.04	209,990.00	205,597.00	(4,393.00)	205,597.00	205,597.00		
Overtime	20,798.03	27,099.61	18,104.00	15,028.00	(3,076.00)	15,028.00	15,028.00		
Expenses	21,607.00	18,247.15	29,560.00	21,910.00	(7,650.00)	21,910.00	21,910.00		
SUBTOTAL	260,564.25	219,134.80	257,654.00	242,535.00	(15,119.00)	242,535.00	242,535.00	-	-5.87%
TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY	1,465,662.32	1,461,241.82	1,617,604.00	1,654,017.00	36,413.00	1,600,439.00	1,600,439.00	(53,578.00)	-1.06%

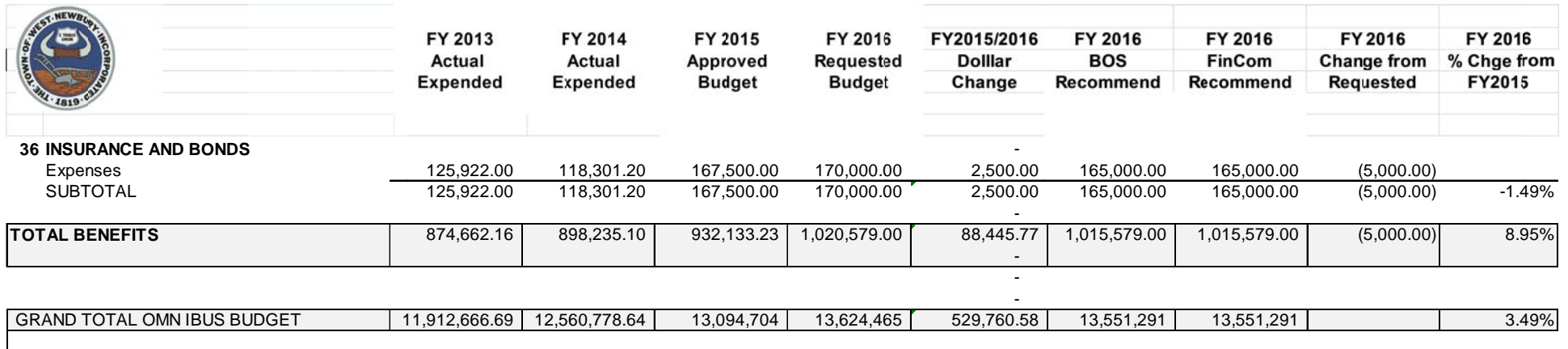
	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY2015/2016	FY 2016	FY 2016	FY 2016	FY 2016
	Actual	Actual	Approved	Requested	Dollar	BOS	FinCom	Change from	% Chge from
	Expended	Expended	Budget	Budget	Change	Recommend	Recommend	Requested	FY2015
EDUCATION					-				
22 EDUCATION					-				
Pentucket Minimum Contribution	4,612,097.00	4,822,218.00	5,064,710.00	5,147,674.00	82,964.00	5,147,674.00	5,147,674.00		
Pentucket Other Assessment	941,803.00	1,034,063.76	1,148,731.00	1,389,129.00	240,398.00	1,389,129.00	1,389,129.00		
Pentucket Capital Assessment	107,895.00	134,418.61	171,195.00	139,140.00	(32,055.00)	139,140.00	139,140.00		
Page School Phase II	384,066.00	432,085.00	426,685.00	421,285.00	(5,400.00)	421,285.00	421,285.00		
Whittier Minimum Contribution	121,260.00	162,247.00	160,320.00	217,106.00	56,786.00	217,106.00	217,106.00		
Whittier Other Assessment	26,012.00	32,265.00	31,377.00	31,377.00	-	31,377.00	31,377.00		
Whittier Capital Assessment		13,674.00	13,552.00	13,250.00	(302.00)	13,250.00	13,250.00		
Essex North Shore RegVoc Tech(Essex Agg)	62,375.00	-	-	20,750.00	20,750.00	20,750.00	20,750.00		
SUBTOTAL	6,255,508.00	6,630,971.37	7,016,570.00	7,379,711.00	363,141.00	7,379,711.00	7,379,711.00	-	5.18%
TOTAL EDUCATION	6,255,508.00	6,630,971.37	7,016,570.00	7,379,711.00	363,141.00	7,379,711.00	7,379,711.00	-	5.18%
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS					-				
23 DPW					-				
Salary & Wages	382,873.88	396,364.51	408,493.00	412,951.00	4,458.00	412,951.00	412,951.00		
Overtime Wages	7,977.24	10,406.76	10,404.00	10,404.00	-	10,404.00	10,404.00		
Snow & Ice Removal	192,907.39	240,602.71	150,000.00	150,000.00	-	150,000.00	150,000.00		
Town Buildings Operating Expenses	183,399.94	192,920.09	185,400.00	185,400.00	-	185,400.00	185,400.00		
Town Buildings Improvements	40,297.83	47,400.29	51,000.00	55,500.00	4,500.00	55,500.00	55,500.00		
Childrens Castle Operating Expense			25,000.00	16,000.00	(9,000.00)	16,000.00	16,000.00		
Childrens Castle Building Repairs			-	-	-	-	-	-	
Road Improvement Program	94,649.80	95,000.00	70,000.00	70,000.00	-	70,000.00	70,000.00	-	
Highway, Sidewalk & Trees	104,746.70	109,100.00	115,000.00	115,000.00	-	115,000.00	115,000.00		
Vehicle Allowance	4,800.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	-	6,000.00	6,000.00		
Expenses	3,756.58	3,770.08	4,000.00	4,000.00	-	4,000.00	4,000.00		
Parks & Playground Expenses	14,741.05	14,966.40	15,000.00	15,000.00	-	15,000.00	15,000.00		
Road Machinery Expense	48,287.79	48,187.91	49,000.00	49,000.00	-	49,000.00	49,000.00		
ATM & STM					-				
Street Lighting	12,000.00	12,844.08	13,000.00	13,000.00	-	13,000.00	13,000.00		
SUBTOTAL	1,090,438.20	1,177,562.83	1,102,297.00	1,102,255.00	(42.00)	1,102,255.00	1,102,255.00	-	0.00%
TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS	1,090,438.20	1,177,562.83	1,102,297.00	1,102,255.00	(42.00)	1,102,255.00	1,102,255.00	-	0.00%



	FY 2013 Actual Expended	FY 2014 Actual Expended	FY 2015 Approved Budget	FY 2016 Requested Budget	FY2015/2016 Dolllar Change	FY 2016 BOS Recommend	FY 2016 FinCom Recommend	FY 2016 Change from Requested	FY 2016 % Chge from FY2015
HUMAN SERVICES					-				
24 BOARD OF HEALTH					-				
Salary & Wages	90,641.90	92,143.98	96,640.00	101,977.00	5,337.00	101,977.00	101,977.00		
Newburyport Health Center	2,135.79	1,325.00	5,500.00	5,500.00	-	5,500.00	5,500.00		
Waste Collection	284,784.10	290,271.91	309,188.00	314,900.00	5,712.00	314,900.00	314,900.00		
Hazardous Waste Collection	1,737.37	2,235.14	2,500.00	2,500.00	-	2,500.00	2,500.00		
Expenses	5,364.94	5,767.15	10,415.00	10,915.00	500.00	10,915.00	10,915.00		
				-	-	-	-		
SUBTOTAL	384,664.10	391,743.18	424,243.00	435,792.00	11,549.00	435,792.00	435,792.00	-	2.72%
					-				
25 COUNCIL ON AGING					-				
Salary & Wages	47,111.58	49,288.28	52,644.00	56,947.00	4,303.00	54,051.00	54,051.00	(2,896.00)	
Expenses	13,665.68	14,267.40	17,000.00	17,000.00	-	17,000.00	17,000.00	-	
		-			-				
SUBTOTAL	60,777.26	63,555.68	69,644.00	73,947.00	4,303.00	71,051.00	71,051.00	(2,896.00)	2.02%
					-				
26 VETERANS					-				
Rental C.L. Carr Post	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	-	300.00	300.00		
Soldiers' Graves Expenses	1,200.00	1,032.00	1,200.00	2,600.00	1,400.00	2,600.00	2,600.00		
Assessment	15,650.21	15,382.92	19,030.00	19,030.00	-	19,030.00	19,030.00		
N. Essex Veterans Services Benefits	8,045.00	8,850.00	8,850.00	9,355.00	505.00	9,355.00	9,355.00		
Memorial Day Expense		600.00	600.00	600.00	-	600.00	600.00		
					-				
SUBTOTAL	25,195.21	26,164.92	29,980.00	31,885.00	1,905.00	31,885.00	31,885.00	-	6.35%
					-				
TOTAL HUMAN SERVICES	470,636.57	481,463.78	523,867.00	541,624.00	17,757.00	538,728.00	538,728.00	(2,896.00)	2.84%
					-				
CULTURE & RECREATION					-				
27 LIBRARY					-				
Salary & Wages	202,533.91	212,021.05	224,910.00	234,737.00	9,827.00	232,237.00	232,237.00	(2,500.00)	
Expenses	27,638.48	32,186.83	30,195.00	31,481.00	1,286.00	31,481.00	31,481.00	-	
Books & Periodicals	58,180.48	57,655.39	61,895.00	62,000.00	105.00	62,000.00	62,000.00	-	
					-				
SUBTOTAL	288,352.87	301,863.27	317,000.00	328,218.00	11,218.00	325,718.00	325,718.00	(2,500.00)	2.75%
					-				
28 RECREATION					-				
Parks & Recreation Expense	5,414.67	5,100.00	5,100.00	5,700.00	600.00	5,700.00	5,700.00	-	
Mill Pond Operating Expense	4,008.37	4,388.84	4,450.00	4,450.00	-	4,450.00	4,450.00	-	
Bandstand Operating Expense	2,800.00	2,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	-	3,000.00	3,000.00	-	
					-				
SUBTOTAL	12,223.04	11,488.84	12,550.00	13,150.00	600.00	13,150.00	13,150.00	-	4.78%



	FY 2013 Actual Expended	FY 2014 Actual Expended	FY 2015 Approved Budget	FY 2016 Requested Budget	FY2015/2016 Dollar Change	FY 2016 BOS Recommend	FY 2016 FinCom Recommend	FY 2016 Change from Requested	FY 2016 % Chge from FY2015
29 CULTURAL COUNCIL					-				
Expenses	-	78.40	100.00	100.00	-	100.00	100.00		
SUBTOTAL	-	78.40	100.00	100.00	-	100.00	100.00	-	
30 HISTORICAL COMMISSION					-				
Expenses	500.00	-	500.00	500.00	-	500.00	500.00		
SUBTOTAL	500.00	-	500.00	500.00	-	500.00	500.00	-	
TOTAL CULTURE & RECREATION	301,075.91	313,430.51	330,150.00	341,968.00	11,818.00	339,468.00	339,468.00	(2,500.00)	2.82%
DEBT SERVICE					-				
31 DEBT SERVICE					-				
Maturing Debt	630,000.00	735,000.00	625,000.00	620,000.00	(5,000.00)	620,000.00	620,000.00	-	
Interest & Paydowns on Long/Short Term Det	120,859.59	116,800.00	83,675.00	64,000.00	(19,675.00)	64,000.00	64,000.00	-	
SUBTOTAL	750,859.59	851,800.00	708,675.00	684,000.00	(24,675.00)	684,000.00	684,000.00	-	-3.48%
TOTAL DEBT SERVICE	750,859.59	851,800.00	708,675.00	684,000.00	(24,675.00)	684,000.00	684,000.00	-	-3.48%
BENEFITS					-				
32 ESSEX COUNTY RETIREMENT FUND					-				
Assessment	416,929.49	436,153.64	468,843.00	494,917.00	26,074.00	494,917.00	494,917.00		
SUBTOTAL	416,929.49	436,153.64	468,843.00	494,917.00	26,074.00	494,917.00	494,917.00	-	5.56%
33 UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION					-				
Expense	-	-	1,000.00	1.00	(999.00)	1.00	1.00		
SUBTOTAL	-	-	1,000.00	1.00	(999.00)	1.00	1.00		-99.90%
34 EMPLOYEES' HEALTH INSURANCE					-				
Expenses	194,141.60	203,455.13	233,300.75	316,652.00	83,351.25	316,652.00	316,652.00	-	
OPEB - GF	103,000.00	103,000.00	23,749.48	1.00	(23,748.48)	1.00	1.00	-	
SUBTOTAL	297,141.60	306,455.13	257,050.23	316,653.00	59,602.77	316,653.00	316,653.00	-	23.19%
35 MEDICARE INSURANCE (FICA)					-				
Expenses	34,669.07	37,325.13	37,740.00	39,008.00	1,268.00	39,008.00	39,008.00		
SUBTOTAL	34,669.07	37,325.13	37,740.00	39,008.00	1,268.00	39,008.00	39,008.00	-	3.36%



WATER ENTERPRISE FUND

ARTICLE 4. In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 38 of the Acts of 1936, to see what instructions, rules and regulations the town may wish to impose on the Board of Water Commissioners. By request of the Board of Water Commissioners.

ARTICLE 5. To see if the town will vote to appropriate, in anticipation of Water Department revenue, the sum of \$633,835.00 of which \$179,458.00 for Salaries and Wages which include \$1,700.00 for Water Commissioners stipends, \$24,514.00 for Insurances, \$340,396.00 for Expenses, \$30,772.00 for Debt Service, \$12,000.00 for Extraordinary and Unforeseen, and \$46,695.00 for Indirect Cost. By request of the Board of Water Commissioners.

Selectmen Recommendation::

Approve: 3-0-0

FinCom Recommendation:

Approve: 4-0-0

***Rationale:** This Article asks the Town to approve the operating budget of the Water Department. Since the Water Department operates as a Revolving Fund and is funded entirely from user fees, its budget is not included in the Town's line item budget. This Article shows the Water Department's budgeted line items totaling \$633,835 for fiscal year ending June 30, 2016.*

ARTICLE 6. To see if the town will vote to transfer the sum of \$36,000.00 from the Water Enterprise Fund Free Cash Account to the Water Enterprise Stabilization Fund. By request of the Board of Water Commissioners.

Selectmen Recommendation::

Approve: 3-0-0

FinCom Recommendation:

Approve: 4-0-0

***Rationale:** The Water Department Stabilization Fund is established to pay for prioritized capital item replacement projects. This systematic approach in conjunction with their schedule of capital item replacements and building repairs will enable the department to better plan for longer term projects. This \$36,000 request represents the connection fees from 12 new homes at \$3,000 each. These fees are historically designated for capital items. This fund is subject to state laws governing Stabilization Funds, and requires a 2/3 vote to transfer any monies.*

ARTICLE 7. To see if the town will vote to transfer the sum of \$30,000.00 from the Water Enterprise Fund Stabilization Fund Account to purchase and/or repair valves, hydrants, water main, meter pits, or any other devices that are associated with the water distribution system. By request of the Board of Water Commissioners.

Selectmen Recommendation::

Approve: 3-0-0

FinCom Recommendation:

Approve: 4-0-0

***Rationale:** The Water Department seeks funding to improve the water delivery infrastructure. The Finance Committee supports the investment of these funds to install valves on long runs, install meter pits at critical junctures and implement other maintenance measures in order to meet the Department's internal goal of less than 10% water system losses.*

APPROPRIATIONS

ARTICLE 8. To see if the town will vote in accordance with the provisions of MGL Ch. 40 Section 3 and every other lawful authority to grant the Water Commissioners of the Town of West Newbury the right to use in common with others the “Existing 50 Ft. Wide R.O.W.” for all purposes for which roadways could be used in the Town of West Newbury and the right to use the “Proposed Easement Area = 94,514±” for Water Department purposes all as shown on the plan of land entitled, “Proposed Easement Plan for Town of West Newbury Water Department, West Newbury, Massachusetts (Assessors’ Map 2 Lot 35, by Apple Associates, Inc. dated 06-17-2009” which plan is on file with the Office of the Town Clerk, or take any other action with respect thereto. By request of the Board of Selectmen.

Selectmen Recommendation::

Approve: 3-0-0

FinCom Recommendation:

Approve: 4-0-0

***Rationale:** This Article allows the Water Department the right to use an existing easement owned by the Town as well as the right to use Town land for access and Water Department purposes. This is in accordance with the provisions of MGL c. 40 Sec. 3 which permits Town Meeting to “...make such orders as it may deem necessary or expedient for the disposal or use of its corporate property.” This would be such an order. The Finance Committee recommends Town Meeting approval to ensure Water Department access to its water tower site.*

ARTICLE 9. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds the sum of \$300,000.00 to be added to the Stabilization Fund. By request of the Board of Selectmen.

Selectmen Recommendation::

Approve: 3-0-0

FinCom Recommendation:

Approve: 6-0-0

***Rationale:** The Stabilization Account is the Town’s savings account. Systematic appropriation of funds to the Stabilization Account in conjunction with re-evaluating our schedule for capital replacements and building repairs are an important part of the Town’s sound fiscal standing. This account enables the Town to pay for major expenditures from available funds, thus avoiding costly short-term borrowing. Annual funding of the Stabilization Fund also enables the Town to spread out the cost of major purchases over a period of time, thus stabilizing the tax burden. This year we are unable to fund the Stabilization Account from our operating budget without increasing taxes more than we thought was desirable. Free Cash, however, has an adequate balance fund the entire \$300,000 appropriation. Therefore, the Finance Committee recommends funding the Stabilization Account with \$300,000 from Free Cash.*

ARTICLE 10. To see if the town will vote to transfer the sum of \$21,191.73 from the Septic Loan Revolving Account for the repayment of debt service. By request of the Board of Health.

Selectmen Recommendation::

Approve: 3-0-0

FinCom Recommendation:

Approve: 6-0-0

***Rationale:** In 2001 the Town enrolled in a 20 year state-financed program to loan resident’s money to help them rebuild septic systems that do not conform to Title V. This Mass DEP program offers 0% loans to communities, which in turn provide low-interest betterment loans to eligible homeowners with failed septic systems through our local Board of Health. The Town loans money to homeowners at an interest rate of 3%. This interest charge is primarily to cover the cost of administering the program. The homeowners repay the loan money to the Town and the Town repays the state. Neither the Town nor the state profits from this transaction. This Article is for the payment of the principal. We have been making these payments annually since 2001 with the amount of repayment dependent upon the number of borrowers. This year the amount is \$21,191.73. This program is no longer open to new participants. The program will be complete in 2021.*

ARTICLE 11. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds the sum of \$110,400.00 to pay the debt service associated with the Dunn Property Acquisition. By request of the Board of Selectmen.

Selectmen Recommendation::

Approve: 3-0-0

FinCom Recommendation:

Approve: 6-0-0

Rationale: The Town purchased the 71 acre Dunn Property in May, 2003 for \$3,500,000. The purchase was intended to be made with matching funds from the state. However, there was a delay in receiving the \$1,775,000 grant. As a result, the purchase was made and an amount equal to the state grant was separately bonded. Shortly after the purchase the \$1,775,000 grant funds were received from the state, and they were deposited into a separate account dedicated to servicing the \$1,775,000 debt. Every year we transfer the amortized debt service amount from the dedicated “grant” account to the debt service line to of the omnibus budget. This year the debt service amount to be transferred is \$110,400.00. This sum covers all but a minimal amount of interest due to the bondholders. The loan will be entirely paid off on June 30, 2020.

ARTICLE 12. To see if the town will vote to allocate and/or reserve from the Community Preservation Fund annual revenues, the amounts recommended by the Community Preservation Committee for Community Preservation Projects, Committee Administrative Expenses, and other expenses in Fiscal Year 2016, with each item to be considered a separate appropriation.

Allocate Reserves:

From FY 2016 estimated revenues for Community Housing Reserve	\$ 35,687.00
From FY 2016 estimated revenues for Historic Resources Reserve	\$ 35,687.00
From FY 2016 estimated revenues for Open Space Reserve	\$ 35,687.00
From FY 2016 estimated revenues for Committee Administrative Expenses	\$ 16,472.00
From FY 2016 estimated revenues for Budgeted Reserve	\$ 233,341.00

Or take any other action relative thereto. By request of the Community Preservation Committee.

Selectmen Recommendation::

Approve: 3-0-0

FinCom Recommendation:

Approve: 6-0-0

Rationale: In 2006 the Town adopted the Community Preservation Act (CPA), which establishes an account to provide funding for open space recreational use, community housing, and historical preservation. The state mandates that CPA funds be allocated annually. The Article presents to the Town the Community Preservation Committee’s (CPC) recommended distribution, which earmarks the required minimum of 10% to each of the three categories. To spend funds in any of the three CPA areas, additional approval must be given by both the CPC and Town Meeting. This Article also allocates funds for the Committee Administrative Expenses, which is no greater than 5%. It is estimated that 75% of these funds will be raised from the CPA surcharge and 25% will be from state matching funds.

ARTICLE 13. To see if the town will vote to re-authorize the Summer Recreation Revolving Fund for the Park and Recreation Commission as described in Chapter 44, Section 53E ½ of the Massachusetts General Laws, for FY 2016. This revolving fund would be to accept receipts from fees charged to participants of the Summer Recreation Program. The receipts would be expended, not to exceed \$40,000.00 in FY 2016 by the Park and Recreation Commission for the payment of program-related wages, expenses and field trips of the 2016 Summer Recreation Program or to take any other action relative thereto. By request of the Park and Recreation Commissioners.

Selectmen Recommendation::
FinCom Recommendation:

Approve: 3-0-0
Approve: 6-0-0

Rationale: *This Article requests re-authorization of the Summer Recreation Program revolving account that was established at the April 2013 Town Meeting. The account must be reauthorized every year. The Summer Recreation Program begins in June, before the end of the Town's fiscal year, and continues into the next fiscal year. This account accepts participant fees, and the fees are used for program-related expenses. Without this account participant fees would be deposited into the Town's General Fund and the Program would not have access to them. Expenses from this account are capped at \$40,000 without additional authority from the Town.*

ARTICLE 14. To see if the town will vote to accept the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44 Section 53F^{3/4} to authorize the Town to establish in the treasury a separate revenue account to be known as the PEG Access and Cable Related Fund, into which may be deposited funds received in connection with a franchise agreement between a cable operator and the Town, or take any related action relative thereto. By request of the Board of Selectmen.

Selectmen Recommendation::
FinCom Recommendation:

Approve: 3-0-0
Approve: 6-0-0

Rationale: *Historically all PEG funds received in connection with the franchise agreements between the cable operators and the Town were deposited into the General Fund. The PEG program mandates that these funds be allocated to specific expenses and projects. Having these funds within the General Fund made proper identification and allocation difficult. Until recently, Massachusetts law did not allow for a dedicated revenue account to segregate these funds. However, recent clarifications within Massachusetts General law Chapter 44 Sec 53F^{3/4}, have now created the provision which authorizes towns to create this needed revenue account for any and all incoming PEG funds. This account will identify monies generated from this source and allow for proper allocation.*

ARTICLE 15. To see if the town will vote to authorize a Revolving Fund for FY 2016 for the Cable Advisory Committee as described in Chapter 44, Sections 53E^{1/2} and 53F^{3/4} of the Massachusetts General Laws. This revolving fund would be to accept funds received in connection with a franchise agreement between a cable operator and a municipality commonly referred to as PEG (Public Education and Government). The receipts would be expended, not to exceed \$55,000.00 in FY 2016 by the Cable Advisory Committee for the payment of program-related wages, expenses, and equipment or such other purposes as permitted by the statute, or to take any other action relative thereto. By request of the Cable Advisory Committee.

Selectmen Recommendation::
FinCom Recommendation:

Approve: 3-0-0
Approve: 6-0-0

Rationale: *This Article allows for two acts. This first act is to authorize the creation of a revolving fund for the PEG funds received by the Town. The purpose of this revolving fund is to ensure that these PEG funds with mandated use be segregated from Free Cash. The second act is to establish the limit of \$55,000 for funds expended within the 2016 fiscal year.*

ARTICLE 16. To see if the town will vote pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40 Section 5B to create a special purpose Municipal Stabilization Fund in order to fund future capital expenditures for school related building projects; and to raise and appropriate and or transfer from available funds the sum of \$50,000.00 for such stabilization fund, or take any other action related thereto. By request of the Board of Selectmen.

Selectmen Recommendation::
FinCom Recommendation:

Approve: 3-0-0
Approve: 5-0-0

Rationale: It is expected that the high school will require major renovation or replacement in upcoming years. In an effort to avoid significant tax overrides at that time, it would be prudent to begin to set money aside each year for this purpose. It is expected that as the Town retires debt, it will make equivalent payments into this fund to ensure growth in the savings without significantly impacting your taxes. This method of saving for that project will allow for a steady and predictable tax impact over time, and help to ensure the Town has the needed funds at the time of the project. This Article allows for the creation of the Special Purpose Stabilization Fund along with an initial funding of \$50,000. This initial funding will come from Free Cash.

ARTICLE 17. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds the sum of \$5,000.00 for establishment of a special fund in accordance with the provisions of MGL Chapter 44, Section 53I for a celebration of West Newbury's Bicentennial in 2019. By request of the Board of Selectmen.

Selectmen Recommendation::
FinCom Recommendation:

Approve: 3-0-0
Approve: 5-0-0

Rationale: In 2019 West Newbury will celebrate its bicentennial. State law allows for the creation of a celebration fund up to five years prior to the event. This Article would allow West Newbury to open such a fund along with its initial funding of \$5,000, to be transferred from Free Cash. The Town will form a bicentennial committee to develop and manage the celebration.

ARTICLE 18. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds the sum of \$30,000.00 to the Cable Advisory Expense Account. By request of the Board of Selectmen.

Selectmen Recommendation::
FinCom Recommendation:

Approve: 3-0-0
Approve: 6-0-0

Rationale: This Article relates to Article 16, above, that calls for the establishment of a revolving fund for FY-2016, pursuant to Chapter 44, Sections 53E 1/2 and 53F 3/4 of the Massachusetts General Laws, in order to accept and expend funds received under franchise agreements between cable operators and the Town, commonly referred to as the "PEG" fund. Until the regular quarterly payments become available, this Article permits access up to \$30,000 to be used in accordance with applicable law. Once the revolving fund is established by Town meeting, monies need to be placed into the fund in order for it to function. While this Article calls for placing \$30,000 into the fund, these monies have already been received from the cable providers, Comcast and Verizon. But the funds still need to be specifically appropriated by the Town in order to pay expenses for FY 2016. In accordance with applicable law, these funds may only be used for local cable-related services, such as cameras to broadcast Town and Board of Selectmen meetings, computers to store copies of the broadcasts, and the payment of wages for video personnel. The \$30,000 for the Cable Advisory Expense Account will be transferred from Free Cash.

ARTICLE 19. To see if the town will vote to ratify and approve an agreement made between the Board of Selectmen and West Newbury Main Street Solar, LLC pursuant to MGL, Ch. 59 §38H, and regulations promulgated thereunder, with respect to annual payments in lieu of real and personal property taxes over a 20-year period relative to a portion of a one hundred twenty-nine acre +/- parcel of land located at 694 Main Street, West Newbury; said PILOT agreement is based upon the proposed construction and operation of a solar photovoltaic power plant with an expected nameplate capacity of approximately 440 kilowatts and shall be executed in conjunction with a Massachusetts Solar Power Purchase Agreement executed on January 5, 2015, or take any other action relating thereto. By request of the Finance Director.

Selectmen Recommendation::
FinCom Recommendation:

Approve: 3-0-0
Approve: 6-0-0

Rationale: The 2013 Fall Town Meeting authorized the Selectmen to enter into a lease of the 5 acres west of the Page School, which had been designated as a Solar Overlay District. After an appropriate bid process the Selectmen chose solar developer, Ameresco. Under the lease agreement, it is anticipated that the solar energy generated will provide approximately 90% of the municipal energy needs. A conservative estimate is that the first year's savings on energy costs will be \$54,440. The Town also authorized the Selectmen to enter into a PILOT (payment in lieu of taxes) Agreement with Ameresco. The Town is entitled to assess Ameresco personal property taxes on the large scale photovoltaic system installed on Town property, but the solar energy infrastructure would be very difficult to value. The PILOT Agreement solves this problem by establishing the fixed sum of \$5,786 to be paid to the Town, annually for the next 20 years. The PILOT payment together with the lease payments and net metering credits will provide a conservative estimated benefit to the Town of over \$1,000,000 over the term of the contract. The Selectmen have already signed the PILOT agreement. However, Bond Counsel asked that the Town ratify the PILOT Agreement.

BYLAWS - OTHERS

ARTICLE 20. To see if the town will vote to amend the West Newbury Town Bylaws by adding a new provision to Chapter VI., Animal Bylaw, Section 3.3.2 to wit:

Section 3.3.2.: No person owning, harboring, or having custody and/or control of 4 or more dogs shall permit such dogs to run at-large in the Town of West Newbury at any time. A dog shall be deemed running at-large when it is both off the premises of the owner or such person in custody or control of, and is not on a leash, or electronic leash collar (also known as an electric leash). Any violation of this Section shall be considered a violation of Restraining of Dogs and subject to the fines and fees set forth therein. By request of the Animal Control Officer and the Board of Selectmen.

Selectmen Recommendation::
FinCom Recommendation:

Approve: 3-0-0
Approve: 4-0-1

Rationale: The current Town bylaws require dogs be leashed or under immediate control of their custodian. The proposed change to the bylaw would state that any person with 4 or more dogs would need to have the animals leashed AND under their immediate control. There have been multiple occurrences on Town property where professional dog walkers and related businesses are allowing for packs of dogs to run loose and out of their direct control. These instances have created disturbances to individuals utilizing the same public space.

You are hereby directed to serve this warrant by posting attested copies thereof at least 14 days before the date of the Annual Town Meeting, as provided within the Town By-Laws.

LOCATIONS TO POST WARRANT:

Town Hall
1910 Town Office Building
G.A.R. Memorial Library
Post Office
Laurel Grange

Hereof fail not to make due return of this warrant with your doings thereon at the time and place of holding said meeting.

Given under our hands this ____ day of April, 2015.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN:

Glenn A. Kemper, Chairman

Joseph Anderson

David Archibald

A true copy, Attested:

Michael P. McCarron, Town Clerk

Pursuant to the above warrant to me directed, I hereby notify and warn all the inhabitants of the Town of West Newbury who are qualified to vote to meet at said time and place.

Constable

Date of Posting

**TOWN OF WEST NEWBURY
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
WARRANT - SPECIAL TOWN MEETING – MONDAY, APRIL 27, 2015**

Essex, ss.

To any of the Constables of the Town of West Newbury:

In the name of the Commonwealth, you are hereby required to notify and warn all the inhabitants of the Town of West Newbury, who are qualified to vote in the elections and Town affairs, to meet at the Town Annex, 379 Main Street, at 8:00 p.m. on Monday, April 27, 2015 to act upon or take any other action relative to all of the following Articles.

ARTICLE 1. To hear and act upon the reports of Town officers and committees.

ARTICLE 2. To see if the town will vote to transfer the sum of \$25,000.00 from the Water Enterprise Fund Free Cash Account to purchase water from the City of Newburyport. (Any remaining fund in this account at the end of Fiscal Year 2015 will close out to the Water Enterprise Fund Free Cash Account.) By request of the Board of Water Commissioners.

Selectmen Recommendation::

Approve: 3-0-0

FinCom Recommendation:

Approve: 4-0-0

***Rationale:** This is a transfer to increase the Water Department's line item to make additional funds available in case they are needed to purchase water from Newburyport. About 64% of the Town (approximately 1000 customers) uses Water Department services. Demand is growing, but water supplies are not. About 40% of the Town's water is purchased from Newburyport at retail rates; hence, West Newbury's water rates are among the highest in the state. Predicting water purchase costs is difficult because they vary depending on demand, production from West Newbury wells and the need for water system shut downs for maintenance of Town facilities.*

ARTICLE 3. To see if the town will vote to transfer the sum of \$5,000.00 from the Water Enterprise Fund Free Cash Account to conduct a survey and establish the side lines from Hilltop Circle to the "CRAVEN" property for the access road to the Brake Hill Standpipe. By request of the Board of Water Commissioners.

Selectmen Recommendation::

Approve: 3-0-0

FinCom Recommendation:

Approve: 4-0-0

***Rationale:** The \$5,000 requested by the Water Department will cover the cost of a side-lines survey on the easement, which connects Hilltop Circle to the Brake Hill water tank. This survey will delineate the path of the easement allowing for subsequent work to be performed towards the construction of a utility road.*

ARTICLE 4. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds the sum of \$205,000.00 for costs associated with potential well field development, to include all necessary expenses associated there with. By request of the Board of Water Commissioners.

Selectmen Recommendation::

Approve: 3-0-0

FinCom Recommendation:

Approve: 6-0-0

Rationale: West Newbury is currently unable to meet all of its water needs, and purchases 40% of its water from the City of Newburyport. The Board of Water Commissioners has identified an available, in-Town parcel of property that appears to have potential as an ample water supply to augment its one well field.

The Finance Committee supports the goal of water independence and believes it is imperative the Town explore all options that relieve the high cost of purchasing at full price from Newburyport. In addition to supplementing its one well field, the Town should also seek to control 100% of its water resources in order to better manage the costs, conservation measures and water quality decisions that follow.

The Board of Water Commissioners and Selectmen propose to fund this initiative using \$140k from the Water Department Stabilization Funds and \$65k from the Town's Free Cash.

ARTICLE 5. To see if the town will vote to transfer from available funds the sum of \$171,448.57 to fund the Snow and Ice deficit. By request of the DPW Director.

Selectmen Recommendation::

Approve: 3-0-0

FinCom Recommendation:

Approve: 6-0-0

Rationale: Snow removal is an annual expense that is difficult to budget precisely. It is the only line item that the Department of Revenue permits towns to deficit spend. This year we have seen and dug out of a record-breaking amount of snow. The line item budget for FY 2015 for this item was set at \$150,000. After a declaration of a snow emergency, the Town has actually spent \$321,448.57. This transfer from Free Cash is needed to cover this year's expenditure in excess of the budgeted amount.

ARTICLE 6. To see if the town will vote to transfer from available funds the sum of \$90,800.00 to purchase a new Dispatch Console. By request of the Police Chief and Fire Chief.

Selectmen Recommendation::

Approve: 3-0-0

FinCom Recommendation:

Approve: 4-0-1

Rationale: This Article requests the replacement of the antiquated dispatch console that is presently in use in the Town's public safety complex. The console presently experiences episodes of failure and repair parts are increasingly difficult to obtain. This is a critical piece of equipment for the emergency and law enforcement services performed by the Town, including emergency fire and police calls, as well as operating the security doors for prisoner transfer within the police station. Use of alternative and less costly dispatch services have been considered, such as use of the regional dispatch center in Amesbury. But those services have been found to lack local knowledge of street names and have also experienced their own infrastructure problems. By maintaining its own dispatch center, citizens of West Newbury will be able to walk into the public safety building and speak with a dispatcher, which would not occur if the Town were to contract with a regional dispatch system. The new console will be computer based and use readily available parts. Due diligence has been exercised in obtaining competitive pricing. The new console, as proposed, was costed out at \$83,000 as of December 2014, with that price lasting into early April, after which it is expected to increase by 9%. Best efforts will be utilized to ensure receipt of the \$8,000 savings quoted in December. This console will be purchased from Free Cash.

ARTICLE 7. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds the sum of \$15,750.00 to provide replacement of self-contained breathing apparatus air tanks and related breathing equipment, or take any action related thereto. This appropriation is contingent upon acknowledgement that the related Federal grant applied for through FEMA; under the Assistance to Firefighters program; which comprises 95% of the total cost of the breathing apparatus' and other breathing equipment; has been secured by the Town of West Newbury by contract with the Federal Government. By request of the Board of Fire Engineers.

Selectmen Recommendation::
FinCom Recommendation:

Approve: 3-0-0
Approve: 6-0-0

Rationale: Previous Town Meetings had appropriated \$15,750.00 to purchase self-contained breathing apparatus, assuming a 95% federal match would be forthcoming. Until now the federal grants were disapproved, citing that some useful life remained in the existing equipment. Now the equipment is at the end of its useful life, and approval of the federal grant is more likely. This equipment is essential for continued Fire Department certification. This purchase will be made from Free Cash.

ARTICLE 8. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds the sum of \$60,000.00 for the purchase of a van for the use by the West Newbury Senior Center and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to dispose of the old vehicle in the best interest of the Town. By request of the Finance Director and the Board of Selectmen.

Selectmen Recommendation::
FinCom Recommendation:

Approve: 3-0-0
Approve: 6-0-0

Rationale: The van used by the Council on Aging for the transport of our senior citizens has recently been taken off the road due to safety concerns relating to its deteriorating condition and its failure to pass inspection. This service is utilized on average for 15 hours per week and last year provided 500 rides to 70 seniors. The transportation service is currently being performed with the driver's personally owned vehicle. This Article seeks the appropriation of \$60,000 to purchase and equip a new van for this service. The \$60,000 figure is reflective of a Mass DOT estimate. To address rust issues, the new van will have a unibody-style construction and will be washed and housed by the Fire Department. This should provide a longer lifespan for the vehicle. The purchase would be made from Free Cash.

ARTICLE 9. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds the sum of \$33,662.00 to purchase a 2015 Ford Interceptor utility vehicle for the Police Department and to authorize the Chief of Police and the Board of Selectmen to dispose of the old vehicle in the best interest of the Town. By request of the Chief of Police.

Selectmen Recommendation::
FinCom Recommendation:

Approve: 3-0-0
Approve: 6-0-0

Rationale: The Police Department has requested \$33,662.00 to purchase a 2015 Ford Interceptor SUV. This vehicle would replace the Department's 2007 Ford F150 pickup truck. It is important for the Department to have a utility vehicle for the transport of equipment as well as have a vehicle that is safe in inclement weather or off-road conditions. The F150 that this vehicle would replace has over 150,000 miles and needs to be repaired often. The purchase would be made from Free Cash.

ARTICLE 10. To see if the town will vote to rescind the residual available appropriation of \$25,288.20; where the original appropriation of \$26,548.00 was made at the Annual Town Meeting of April 29, 2013, within Article 9, which was funded from Free Cash for anticipated Veterans' Benefit needs in that particular year; said project has been completed and there are no further commitments to this source. The balance is to be returned to the General Fund equity balance for inclusion in this year's Free Cash determination. By request of the Finance Director.

Selectmen Recommendation::
FinCom Recommendation:

Approve: 3-0-0
Approve: 6-0-0

Rationale: This is essentially a “bookkeeping” Article, in which \$25,288.20 of encumbered and unexpended monies that were appropriated for anticipated Veterans’ Benefit needs in 2013 will be placed in the Town’s General Fund equity balance. The matter has been completed and there are no further commitments to this source, but since these monies were appropriated for that express purpose, they must be converted into the Free Cash account by action of the Town.

ARTICLE 11. To see if the town will vote to rescind the residual available appropriation of \$52,186.00; where the original appropriation of \$260,930.00 was made at the Special Town Meeting of April 28, 2014, within Article 21, which was funded from Free Cash for the Town’s share of costs for repairs to the Pentucket Middle School; said project has been completed and there are no further commitments to this source. The balance is to be returned to the General Fund equity balance for inclusion is this year’s Free Cash determination. By request of the Finance Director.

Selectmen Recommendation::

Approve: 3-0-0

FinCom Recommendation:

Approve: 6-0-0

Rationale: This is essentially a “bookkeeping” Article, in which \$52,186 of unexpended monies that were appropriated for the cost of repairs to the Pentucket Middle School in 2014 will be placed in the Town’s General Fund equity balance. The project has been completed, but since these monies were appropriated for that express purpose, they must be converted into the Free Cash account by action of the Town.

ARTICLE 12. To see if the town will vote to rescind the residual available appropriation of \$35,268.71; where the original appropriation of \$50,000.00 was made at the Special Town Meeting of November 4, 2013, within Article 15, which was funded from Free Cash for the Town’s share of utility costs for the John C. Page School; said project has been completed and there are no further commitments to this source. The balance is to be returned to the General Fund equity balance for inclusion is this year’s Free Cash determination. By request of the Finance Director.

Selectmen Recommendation::

Approve: 3-0-0

FinCom Recommendation:

Approve: 6-0-0

Rationale: This is essentially a “bookkeeping” Article, in which \$35,268.71 of unexpended monies that were appropriated to cover the Town’s share of utility costs at the John C. Page School in 2013 will be placed in the Town’s General Fund equity balance. The project has been completed, but since these monies were appropriated for that express purpose, they must be converted into the Free Cash account by action of the Town.

ARTICLE 13. To see if the town will vote to rescind the residual available appropriation of \$8,880.00; where the original appropriation of \$35,000.00 was made at the Special Town Meeting of November 8, 2012, within Article 6, which was funded from Free Cash for repairs to the lobby of the John C. Page School; said project has been completed and there are no further commitments to this source. The balance is to be returned to the General Fund equity balance for inclusion is this year’s Free Cash determination. By request of the Finance Director.

Selectmen Recommendation::

Approve: 3-0-0

FinCom Recommendation:

Approve: 6-0-0

Rationale: This is essentially a “bookkeeping” Article, in which \$8,880 of unexpended monies that were appropriated for the cost of repairs to the lobby of the John C. Page School in 2012 will be placed in the Town’s General Fund equity balance. The project has

been completed, but since these monies were appropriated for that express purpose, they must be converted into the Free Cash account by action of the Town.

ARTICLE 14. To see if the town will vote to rescind the residual available appropriation of \$16,384.77; where the original appropriation of \$105,690.00 was made at the Special Town Meeting of April 29, 2013, within Article 13, which was funded from Free Cash for repairs to the cafetorium floor at the John C. Page School; said project has been completed and there are no further commitments to this source. The balance is to be returned to the General Fund equity balance for inclusion is this year's Free Cash determination. By request of the Finance Director.

Selectmen Recommendation::

Approve: 3-0-0

FinCom Recommendation:

Approve: 6-0-0

Rationale: *This is essentially a “bookkeeping” Article, in which \$16,384.77 of unexpended monies that were appropriated for the cost of repairs to the cafetorium floor of the John C. Page School in 2013 will be placed in the Town’s General Fund equity balance. The project has been completed, but since these monies were appropriated for that express purpose, they must be converted into the Free Cash account by action of the Town.*

ARTICLE 15. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds the sum of \$10,039.86 to pay for the Town’s share of costs owned to the Essex North Shore Technical School, or take any action related thereto. By request of the Finance Director.

Selectmen Recommendation::

Approve: 3-0-0

FinCom Recommendation:

Approve: 6-0-0

Rationale: *One West Newbury student is attending Essex North Shore Technical School. In the past, the Commonwealth disbursed tuition money directly to the school; however, last year it was sent to the Town. Without an appropriation, the Town could not pay Essex North Shore the tuition due. The \$10,039.86 represents the remaining 50% of the tuition due. The first 50% was paid via a Reserve Fund transfer approved by the Finance Committee. The remaining tuition will be paid from Free Cash.*

ARTICLE 16. To see if the town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept by gift, donation, or otherwise the land with buildings thereon commonly referred to as the “Charles L. Carr Post” and as further described in the deed from Marion H. W. Nason and Parker H. Nason dated November 22, 1923 and recorded with Essex South District of Deeds in Book 2584, Page 32, and to take any other action in furtherance thereof. Will of the town.

Selectmen Recommendation::

Will of the town

FinCom Recommendation:

Approve: 5-1-0

Rationale: *With dwindling membership and insufficient funds, the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial (“Carr Post”) property is in serious decline and its members are no longer able to maintain the building.*

This Article asks the Town to accept a gift of the Carr Post building and property. The Article does not address the disposition of the property, but simply whether the Town agrees to accept a clean, unconditional transfer of ownership from the Carr Post.

The Finance Committee recommends an affirmative vote on this matter. Although the property is tax-exempt, without any intervention and based on its current trajectory, the Town may eventually be forced to condemn the building, go through the legal system to obtain a clean title and then incur further costs to raze it. And the deteriorated structure is in such desperate condition that remedial action is of the essence should the Town opt to rehabilitate and restore the property.

A clean transfer of title now will enable the Town to control outcomes and make timely decisions on the fate of the Carr Post.

ARTICLE 17. To see if the town will vote to transfer from Community Preservation Act funds in the sum of \$99,905.00, with \$41,083.79 coming from the CPA Historic Resources Reserve and \$58,821.21 coming from CPA Unrestricted Fund Balance, for work to be performed at the American Legion Carr Post, 363 Main Street, to perform critical work to stabilize the building and to prevent further deterioration, or take any other action relative thereto. Will of the town.

Selectmen Recommendation::

FinCom Recommendation:

Will of the town

Approve: 3

Disapprove: 3

Rationale: *The FinCom is divided on the merits of investing CPA funds and other resources into the Carr Post.*

On one hand, the building is of novel design and has a long history of public and private service over the last 115 years. On the other, it's been neglected and is in deplorable condition. There is a dire need for immediate, and costly, repairs to stopgap water penetration into the building's interior and for provision of structural supports to correct bowing walls and a sagging foundation (estimated cost of \$140k- \$150k).

Proponents for the financial and physical resuscitation of the Carr Post property focus on preserving its one-of-a-kind structural design. And there are CPA funds allocated precisely for this type of project. The building not only has architectural significance, but is also a memorial, built to honor the service and sacrifice of West Newbury residents during the Civil War. The Massachusetts Historical Society has expressed its view of the significance of this building and has offered assistance to help us through certain steps with both funding and expedition of our application. In fact the Massachusetts Historical Society has offered to pay for the application and provide a grant writer to get the Carr Post listed on the National Register of Historic Places, which may help the Town qualify for more funding grants. That commitment confirms the importance of retaining this structure. It is important to note: that any funding would be for rehab items only and not for engineering, design, septic or electrical work. Grants would be capped at \$100k per year.

With proper planning, the restoration of the building could be accomplished such that state funding would be maximized and CPC funds would be utilized in the manner for which they were designed. It is likely that a project of this size would take several years. This elongated time frame would allow for proper research of fundraising, grants, and endowment opportunities.

This building holds such history and represents our Town character and should be saved. We have the time and the funds needed to bring the Carr Post back to its original condition. It is our duty to maintain any and all historic structures within this Town. They are of limited supply and cannot be replaced.

There is also a case to be made against rehab:

- *This building is in a serious state of disrepair and initial monies will stabilize the damage, but are only temporary to buy time until a full rehab can be undertaken.*
- *The project will take years to complete and cost over \$1M.*
- *It will consume CPA funds that may be needed for other projects.*
- *There is limited parking available on the 0.2 acre lot, so usage would be constrained or land would have to be purchased to create on-site parking.*
- *There is no compelling vision for its future use as a public building.*
- *The property doesn't have a conforming septic system, and with standing water in the dirt basement from Nov-Aug, we are uncertain about how this will be addressed once it becomes a Town building.*
- *Historic buildings are not exempt from the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the expectation is that the building will be upgraded to meet full compliance with the ADA.*

- *Article 17 offers to buy time, but could be a slippery slope. There will be no appetite to stop the rehab process once these initial costs are sunk into the structure.*

In closing, the Fin Com's task is to present a balanced review of differing courses of action available to the Town. In this case, we are split and not able to fully recommend either, as both options have merits and shortcomings. We do agree the Town should be fully aware of the building's current state of disrepair, the extended time frame before it can be used to serve the public and the substantial price tag for its recovery. We also recognize the historical and architectural imperatives at stake, and that we cannot foresee future resolutions to some of the limitations presented in this rationale.

We also agree that emotionally we want to save the Carr Post, but for some, its woeful neglect consigns it to "money pit" status, with questionable future utility to the Town.

The bottom line question for the West Newbury taxpayer - Do you believe the building is worth saving without knowing the cost?

You are hereby directed to serve this warrant by posting attested copies thereof at least 14 days before the date of the Annual Town Meeting, as provided within the Town By-Laws.

LOCATIONS TO POST WARRANT:

Town Hall
1910 Town Office Building
G.A.R. Memorial Library
Post Office
Laurel Grange

Hereof fail not to make due return of this warrant with your doings thereon at the time and place of holding said meeting.

Given under our hands this ____ day of April, 2015.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN:

Glenn A. Kemper, Chairman

Joseph Anderson

David Archibald

A true copy, Attested:

Michael P. McCarron, Town Clerk

Pursuant to the above warrant to me directed, I hereby notify and warn all the inhabitants of the Town of West Newbury who are qualified to vote to meet at said time and place.

Constable

Date of Posting

Role of the Finance Committee: The Finance Committee is an appointed, standing committee consisting of six qualified voters. The Finance Committee is specifically chartered with the following responsibilities:

- Prepare recommendations regarding all Articles in the warrant, especially those involving the appropriation of money.
- Consider all municipal questions affecting the revenue, indebtedness or expenditures of the funds of the Town, and for this purpose the committee shall have access to all books and records of the Town.
- Present the Annual Budget to the Town.
- Confer with and advise the Board of Selectmen whenever so requested.
- One member of the Finance Committee shall be a member of the advisory Capital Improvements Committee.
- Authorize transfers from the Reserve Fund.
- Authorize year-end budget line item transfers.
- Declare a Snow Emergency to allow deficit spending of the Snow Removal budget.

In addition to these statutory responsibilities, the Finance Committee serves as your investigative agent to make sure that all proposed expenditures are thoroughly vetted before they come before the Town.

GLOSSARY

1. **Article:** The topic to be considered and voted at Town Meeting.
2. **Assessment:** The Board of Assessors judgment of the value of a property.
3. **Bond:** A means to raise money through the issuance of debt. The Town (borrower) promises in writing to repay a specified sum of money, alternately referred to as face value, par value or bond principal, to the buyer of the bond on a specified future date (maturity date), together with periodic interest at a specified rate. The term of a bond is always greater than one year.
4. **Capital Expenditure:** An expense for a tangible asset or project that costs at least \$10,000 and has a useful life of at least 5 years.
5. **Chapter 70:** The Chapter of Massachusetts law that governs the funding of the schools. The formula is designed to distribute state aid to help establish educational equity among municipal and regional school districts. It is also the name for the largest part of state funding to schools.
6. **Chapter 90:** The Chapter of Massachusetts law that governs the funding of roads and highway improvements. It is also the common name for the largest part of state funding to highways.
7. **Cherry Sheet:** State aid to the Town, so called as they used to be printed on red paper.
8. **Credit Rating:** The evaluation given by lenders indicating the Town's ability to repay a Loan or Bond. A good credit rating allows the Town to borrow at a lower interest rate.
9. **Free Cash:** Funds remaining from the operations of a previous fiscal year (June 30) which may be appropriated after they have been certified by the Massachusetts Department of Revenue. These include unspent appropriations and revenue collected in excess of estimates.

10. **Levy:** The revenue the Town can raise through real and personal property tax and motor vehicle excise taxes.
11. **Levy Limit:** The maximum tax amount the Town can levy in a given year. The limit can grow 2 ½% of the prior year's levy limit plus new growth and any overrides.
12. **New growth:** The taxing capacity and thereby revenue added by new construction and other increases in the property tax base.
13. **Operating Expenses:** The budget for routine, recurring expenses during the fiscal year starting on July 1 through June 30. It includes all labor and expenses. Typical examples are Police and Fire Department salaries, the Town's assessment from the Pentucket Regional School District, road repairs, snow removal and the solid waste pickup (trash) contract.
14. **Override:** Proposition 2 ½ allows a Town to increase the Town's taxes greater than 2 ½% by one of 3 methods, if approved by the voters:
 - a. Capital Outlay Expenditure Override– allows override of Prop 2 ½, only for a one-time purchase.
 - b. Debt Exclusion Override–allows over-ride of Prop 2 ½ only for the term of the debt repayment schedule.
 - c. General Override–increases the total tax beyond 2 ½% permanently.
15. **Pension Obligations:** Contributions to the Essex Regional Retirement Board and to the Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) for eligible Town employees to pay for negotiated benefits.
16. **Pentucket Regional School District (PRSD) Assessment:** What the Town must pay to the PRSD each year for the schools. It includes:
 - a. Minimum contribution established by the Massachusetts Department of Education based on Town demographics, real estate values, and income.
 - b. Other Assessment. Remainder of operating budget of the PRSD, which is calculated based on the number of West Newbury pupils in the district.
 - c. Capital assessment is the district wide debt service on borrowing also apportioned based on the number of West Newbury pupils in the district and some Green Repair town specific debt and reimbursements.
17. **Proposition 2 ½:** The state law that limits the amount of increase in total real estate taxes, which the Town may assess, to a maximum of 2 ½% per year on existing properties. It does not include taxes that may be levied on new construction or additions (so called new growth).
18. **Raise and Appropriate:** Town Meeting authorization to expend a certain amount of money for a specific purpose by raising that amount of taxes to pay for that expenditure.
19. **Sources of Revenue:** Local receipts collected by the Town such as boat and auto excise tax taxes, fines and interest, real estate property taxes, state aid and grants.
20. **Stabilization Account:** A general or special purpose savings account deposited into or withdrawn from at Town Meetings with a 2/3 vote. West Newbury uses this account to save for capital expenditures.

MEETING IMPACTS ON TOWN ACCOUNTS

	Town Stabilization	Town Free Cash	Special School Stabilization	Water Stabilization	Water Free Cash	CPC Housing	CPC Historical	CPC Open Space	CPC Undesignated	CPC Budget Reserve
Balances as of 4-12-2015	\$1,082,969	\$1,629,823	\$0	\$192,676	\$265,430	\$326,767	\$41,084	\$264,267	\$817,689	\$214,374
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING										
Special Water --Newburyport					-\$25,000					
Craven Property--Water					-\$5,000					
Well Field		-\$65,000			-\$140,000					
Snow Ice Deficit		-\$171,449								
Dispatch Console		-\$90,800								
Fire Dept Grant Match		-\$15,750								
Council On Aging Van		-\$60,000								
Police Truck		-\$33,662								
Essex Aggie Tuition		-\$10,040								
Carr Post							-\$41,084		-\$58,821	
Balances After Special	\$1,082,969	\$1,183,122	\$0	\$192,676	\$95,430	\$326,767	\$0	\$264,267	\$758,868	\$1,023,134
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING										
Annual CPC Amount						\$35,687	\$35,687	\$35,687		\$233,341
Water to Stabilization				\$36,000	-\$36,000					
Water Valves & Improvements				-\$30,000						
Annual Stabilization	\$300,000	-\$300,000								
Special School Stabilization		-\$50,000	\$50,000							
Bicentennial		-\$5,000								
Cable Advisory		-\$30,000								
Balances After All Articles Both Meetings	\$1,382,969	\$798,122	\$50,000	\$198,676	\$59,430	\$362,454	\$35,687	\$299,954	\$758,868	\$1,256,475