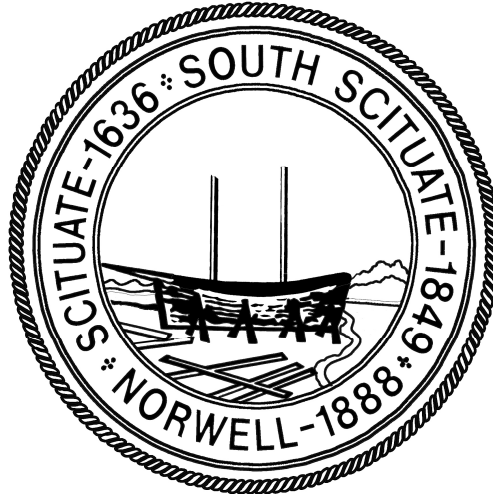


TOWN OF NORWELL



Transcript of Articles in the Warrant for the
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

Monday, November 21, 2011

At 7:30 p.m.

Please bring this report to the meeting for use in the proceedings at the

**NORWELL MIDDLE SCHOOL
Henry E. Goldman Gymnasium
328 Main Street**

TOWN OF NORWELL

WARRANT

Special Town Meeting

Monday, November 21, 2011

At 7:30 o'clock in the evening at Norwell Middle School
Henry E. Goldman Gymnasium

Plymouth, ss

To one of the Constables of the Town of Norwell, in said County of Plymouth, Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

GREETINGS:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Norwell, qualified to vote in elections and Town affairs to meet at the Norwell Middle School, Henry E. Goldman Gymnasium, 328 Main Street, in said Norwell, on Monday, the twenty-first of November 2011 at 7:30 p.m.; then and there to act upon the enclosed articles, to wit:

In case all articles in the foregoing Warrant shall not be acted upon at the Meeting called for on Monday, November 21, 2012, to meet in Adjourned Sessions at such time and place as the meeting shall determine.

This building is accessible to the handicapped and designated parking is provided. If requested, at least one week before the meeting, warrants with large print can be available. Anyone requiring a Sign Language Interpreter should call the Town Clerk's office at least two weeks before the Special Town Meeting at 781-659-8072.

Town of Norwell
Report of the Advisory Board
October 21, 2011

To the Citizens of Norwell:

Beginning Monday, November 21, 2011, the Town of Norwell will hold a Special Town Meeting. This Special Town Meeting will cover matters that need to be voted upon since the last Annual Town Meeting on May 9, 2011. During Town Meeting, the citizens of Norwell will vote on the proposal to build a new police station adjacent to the existing Fire Station on Washington Street (Route 53) as well as Community Preservation Articles and other business matters.

This Special Town Meeting is when the voters, the legislative branch in Norwell, discuss, debate and determine whether to appropriate monies for various expenditures for the remainder of the current fiscal year through June 30, 2011. Your elected and appointed officials will present their recommendations to you to help with this process. The recommendations contained in this Warrant are made by the Advisory Board after hearings with the appropriate town departments and after careful deliberation of all the facts. Our board is a diverse group, whose role is to represent the residents of Norwell. All registered voters are entitled to attend, ask questions, express their opinions, and vote on all matters. The Board of Selectmen, the Community Preservation Committee, and other Town committees and officials propose expenditures, transfers, etc. We, the Advisory Board, recommend on each; but **ONLY YOU DECIDE WHAT PASSES AND WHAT DOES NOT**. Given the important impact of the decisions made at this Special Town Meeting for the services and infrastructure of our Town, we strongly encourage your attendance and participation.

We thank the employees and volunteers across all Departments, Boards, and Committees for the information they prepared and the hearings they attended, in some cases on multiple occasions. Through these discussions, and the cooperative spirit with which the departments engaged, we have reached the conclusions explained herein.

We look forward to seeing you at Town Meeting on November 21st.

Sincerely,

The Norwell Advisory Board

Timothy Greene, Chairman
Gary Thomas, Vice Chairman
Mary Ellen Coffey, Clerk
Peter Shea
Ralph Gordon

Spencer A. Joseph
George Jamieson
Jacky McClean
Megan Collins

TOWN BUDGET

Glossary of Terms

Appropriation: An authorization to make expenditures and to incur obligations for specific purposes. An appropriation is granted by Town Meeting and is usually limited in time and amount as to when it may be expended. Any part of the general appropriation not spent or encumbered by June 30 automatically reverts to surplus. A specific appropriation is carried forward from year to year until spent for the designated purpose or transferred by Town Meeting vote to another account.

Assessed Valuation: A valuation set upon real or personal property by the Board of Assessors as a basis for levying taxes.

Budget: A plan of financial operation consisting of an estimate of proposed expenditures for a given period and the means of financing them. The budget is voted in the spring at Town Meeting for the fiscal year that begins the following July 1st.

Capital Budget: A plan of proposed capital outlays and the means of financing them for the current year.

Cherry Sheet: An annual statement received from the Massachusetts Department of Revenue detailing estimated receipts for the next fiscal year and the estimated state and county government charges payable. These amounts are used by the assessors in setting the tax rate. The actual receipts and charges may vary from the estimates.

Community Preservation Act (CPA): The Town adopted the Community Preservation Act (CPA) in 2002. This Act allows the town to collect a 3% surcharge on property tax bills (the funds can be matched up to 100% by the state when funds are available), which creates the Community Preservation Fund, to use for Community Preservation purposes. Each year, the town must appropriate, or reserve (but not necessarily spend), 10% of the funds for each of the three Community Preservation purposes: Open Space, Historic Resources, and Community Housing. The remaining 70% of the funds can be appropriated or reserved used for any of the three purposes and for Recreation and for administration.

Debt Service: Payment of interest and repayment of principal to holders of the Town's debt instruments.

Fiscal Year: A 12 month period, commencing July 1 and ending June 30, to which the annual budget applies. Fiscal years are often denoted FYXX with the last two numbers representing the calendar year in which it ends, for example FY04 is the fiscal year ended June 30, 2004.

Free Cash: Free cash is the portion of unreserved fund balance available for appropriation. It is not cash but rather is approximately the total of cash and receivables less current liabilities and earmarked reserves reduced also by reserves for uncollected

taxes. This is also referred to as “available cash”. The amount is certified annually by the Massachusetts Department of Revenue.

General Fund: The major town owned fund which is created with town receipts and which is charged with expenditures payable from revenues.

Grant: A contribution of assets by one governmental unit or other organization to another. Typically, these contributions are made to local governments from the state and federal governments. Grants are usually made for specific purposes.

Line-Item Budget: A format of budgeting which organizes costs by type of expenditure such as expenses, equipment, and salaries.

Overlay: The amount set aside to allow for uncollected property taxes. An amount for overlay is added to the appropriations and other charges. The “Overlay Surplus” is the portion of each year’s overlay account no longer required to cover property tax abatements.

Overlay Surplus: The unused amount of the overlay for prior years which may be transferred, by vote of the Town, to the reserve account or used for extraordinary items.

Property Tax Levy: The amount produced by multiplying the assessed valuation of property by the tax rate. The tax rate is expressed “per thousand dollars” of assessed valuation.

Reserve Fund: Money set aside by Town Meeting to be allocated by the Advisory Board for extraordinary or unforeseen expenditures.

Stabilization Fund: A special reserve funded by Town Meeting for future expenditures.

Terms associated with Proposition 2 1/2;

Debt or Capital Exclusion: The Town can assess taxes in excess of the levy limit by voting a debt exclusion or capital outlay exclusion. This amount does not become a permanent part of the levy limit base, but does allow the Town to assess taxes for a specific period of time in excess of the limit for payment of debt service costs or for payment of capital expenditures.

Excess Levy Capacity: The difference between the Town's tax levy limit and its actual tax levy for the current year. It is the additional tax levy that could be raised without asking for an override.

New Growth: The amount of property tax revenue that the Town can add to its allowable tax levy as a result of new construction, alterations, subdivisions or change of use which increases the value of a parcel of land by more than certain amounts.

Override: An amount, voted by the Town, that is permanently added to the levy limit. A majority vote of the Selectmen allows an override question to be put on the ballot. Override questions must be presented in dollar terms and must specify the purpose of the override. Overrides require a majority vote of approval by the Town.

Tax Levy Limit: The maximum amount of the tax levy for a period under the restrictions of Proposition 2 1/2. It is calculated as the prior year limit plus new growth plus 2 1/2 of the prior year levy limit.

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TOWN OF NORWELL

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

WARRANT FOR SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

Monday, November, 21, 2011

At Seven-Thirty O'clock in the Evening

At the Norwell Middle School, Henry E. Goldman Gymnasium, Main Street

ARTICLE 1: To see if the Town will raise and appropriate, borrow or transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide the sum of \$4,722,955 to be expended under the direction of the Permanent Building and Maintenance Committee for professional fees, constructing, equipping and furnishing a new police station, to be located at 300 Washington Street as an addition to the existing Fire Station, and to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to issue any bonds or notes that may be necessary for that purpose, or act on anything relative thereto?

Requested by the Board of Selectmen

The Advisory Board recommends this Article 7-1. The Police Station is in dire need of replacement and the Town will be able to take advantage of favorable interest rates and construction costs.

ARTICLE 2: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to file any necessary legislation (Home Rule Petition) to authorize the transfer of no more than 1.5 acres located on Washington Street being a portion of Block 58, Lot 64, Map 21A acquired by the Water Commissioners on December 29, 1970 for the purpose of constructing a police station as an addition to the existing fire station.

Requested by the Board of Selectmen

The Advisory Board recommends this Article. The transfer of land is necessary to meet the requirements of the Aquifer Protection District. The final determination of the amount of land necessary will be approved by the Water Commissioners prior to the filing of the required legislation.

ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town will raise and appropriate, or appropriate from available funds a sum of money to meet obligations for union and personal contracts, said sum to be apportioned by the Town Accountant to the applicable line items in Article 2, or act on anything relative thereto.

Requested by the Board of Selectmen

The Advisory Board will make its recommendation at Town Meeting. When the warrant went to the printer there were still contracts that had not been settled.

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds or otherwise provide a sum of money to be used to purchase portable, electronic sign boards, so-called, for the purpose of improving communications with town residents, or act on anything relative thereto.

Requested by the Board of Selectmen

The Advisory Board will make its recommendation at Town Meeting. The Selectmen are seeking other methods of securing these sign boards.

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds or otherwise provide the sum of \$15,000 to conduct a town-wide Technology study with recommendations for improvements and cooperation, or act on anything relative thereto.

Requested by the Board of Selectmen

The Advisory Board recommends this article.

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds or otherwise provide the sum of \$5,000 to conduct a required Phase 1 safety assessment of the Jacobs Pond Dam, or act on anything relative thereto.

Requested by the Board of Selectmen

The Advisory Board does not recommend this Article. The Conservation Commission has money in a dedicated fund that can be used for this purpose.

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to transfer a portion of town owned property on Wildcat Lane to the care and custody of the Conservation Commission for open space and wildlife habitat protection as shown on a plan of Land titled “Open Space Conservation Restriction Plan – Pleasant Street, Circuit Street and Wildcat Lane Norwell, Massachusetts ” prepared by Merrill Associates, Inc, dated May 12, 2011, or act on anything relative thereto.

Requested by the Board of Selectmen

The Advisory Board recommends this article.

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will raise and appropriate, or appropriate from available funds, or otherwise provide a sum of money to be expended under the direction of the Highway Surveyor for engineering and ensuing work related purposes of bringing the Highway Department facility into Compliance with a Conservation Commission Order of Conditions and EPA/DEP Regulations, or act on anything relative thereto.

Requested by the Highway Surveyor

The Advisory Board recommends this Article in the amount of \$66,000. These funds will be used to complete the first phase of the clean-up of the Highway Barn and explore alternative sources of funding for future phases.

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds or otherwise provide a sum of money to be added to line item 1-543-0218-05770, Veterans Benefits, or act on anything relative thereto.

Requested by the Veterans Agent

The Advisory Board recommends this article in the amount of \$20,000. These funds will be used to pay for mandated benefits to eligible Norwell residents. The Town has seen an increase in eligible veterans during the current fiscal year.

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$35,500 or any other sum from the Community Preservation Fund FY2012 Revenues pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44B for historic preservation purposes for the moving of the circa 1678 Sgt. Samuel Stetson House. The Sgt. Samuel Stetson House shall be moved from Assessors Block 73, Lot 9, Map 27C to the cul-de-sac at the end of Stetson Shrine Road for temporary storage. This project shall be administered by the Norwell Historical Commission with expenditures under the approval of the Community Preservation Committee, or act on anything relative thereto.

Requested by the Community Preservation Committee

The Advisory Board recommends this Article.

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will transfer the sum of \$225,000.00 from Community Preservation Fund FY2012 revenues, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44B, for recreational purposes, as set forth in Article 33 from the Annual Town Meeting of May 12, 2008 (the "Pathways Article"), or act on anything relative thereto.

Requested by the Community Preservation Committee

The Advisory Board recommends this Article. This is the balance of the funds necessary to complete the bike path from the High School to the Middle School.

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds or otherwise provide a sum of money to complete the design, permitting, plans and specifications of phase 1 of the proposed cemetery at Stetson Meadows, said funds to be expended under the direction of the Cemetery Committee. Any unexpended funds transferred to this article from the Norwell Cemetery Sale of Lots Fund be returned to said fund, or act on anything relative thereto.

Requested by the Cemetery Committee

The Advisory Board recommends this article in the amount of \$20,000. These funds will come from the Cemetery's Reserve for Sale of Lots fund and will be used to complete the design of the proposed cemetery at Stetson Meadows.

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds or otherwise provide a certain sum of money to be added to the Stabilization Fund as established in accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 40, Section 5B, or act on anything relative thereto.

Requested by the Board of Selectmen

The Advisory Board voted to make its recommendation at Town Meeting 7-1.

EMERGENCIES – HOW TO STAY INFORMED

In the wake of Tropical Storm Irene, the Selectmen would like to remind residents how to stay informed during emergencies.

Communication TO You

We want to do everything possible to communicate information to residents before and during emergencies. Since most of these require electronics, **we urge everyone to have a battery-operated radio as a back-up.**

Sources of Information:

*WATD radio 95.9

*www.townofnorwell.net

*www.norwellpolice.com; sign up for EMAS (Emergency Alert System)

*Norwell Police Dept. Facebook and Twitter

*Norwell's government access cable channels (10 on Comcast & 40 on Verizon)

*Plymouth Co. Sheriff's Dept. Code Red calls (sign up @ www.pcsdma.org)

*School Department ConnectEd calls & emails

*Norwell Mariner & wickedlocal.com/norwell

*Patriot Ledger & patriotledger.com

We are also asking to purchase digital signboards for Main St. and Rt. 53, pursuing a website and Facebook page for the Fire Department, and possibly creating a Facebook page and Twitter account for the town.

Communication FROM You

In the event of an emergency, whether small or large, **ALWAYS call 9-1-1.**

To report a power outage, call National Grid at 1-800-322-3223 or 1-800-465-1212.

Support

When appropriate, we will provide additional services such as an extra dumpster at the recycling yard for spoiled food, water and MRE's (Meals Ready to Eat) at the Fire Station, and lunches at the Council on Aging. Under extreme circumstances, we would open a shelter at Norwell Middle School.

We hope you will retain this information about how to access up-to-date information during future emergencies. We are committed to providing the best services and communication possible at such times.

You are directed to serve this Warrant by posting a copy thereof attested to by you in writing in each of five public places in the Town at least fourteen days before the time for holding and meeting called for in the Warrant. Hereof, fail not and make due return of the Warrant with your doings thereon to the Town Clerk of said Town on or before the ___ day of _____, 2011.

Given under our hands at Norwell this _____ day of October in the year of our Lord, 2011.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Norwell, Massachusetts

John G. Mariano, Chairman

Gregg McBride

Ellen Allen

A TRUE COPY ATTEST: _____

Constable _____ Date _____

**Office of the Board of Selectmen
Town of Norwell
Norwell, Massachusetts 02061**

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