

June 14, 2016

Special Town Meeting

Article 1 – Salaries Elected Officials

To see if the town will vote to amend the vote taken under Article 8 of the Annual Town Meeting of May 9, 2016, and to rescind a portion thereof, by striking the action made thereunder fixing at \$29,536.00 the salary of the Town Clerk of the town, and by fixing and appropriating in lieu thereof, the sum of \$32,536.00, or some other sum.



Article 2 – FY2015 Snow & Ice Deficit

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or borrow pursuant to any applicable statute, or any combination thereof, a sum or sums to pay the amortized amounts for FY2017 and FY2018 for the FY2015 Snow and Ice Deficit, or take any action in relation thereto.



Article 3 – Operating Budget

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or borrow pursuant to any applicable statute, or any combination thereof, a sum or sums to fund the various departments, boards, committees, commissions, and other operating expenses of the town for Fiscal Year 2017, beginning July 1, 2016, or take any action in relation thereto.



FY2017 Budget Options Overview

An approved, balanced budget is required for the town to continue operations after June 30, 2016.

With or without an override, a number of municipal cuts will be required.

Budget Option 1 – No Override

- Not dependent on an override
- Results in substantial municipal cuts
- Does not meet GDRSD certified budget for FY17

Budget Option 2 - Proposed

- Contingent upon override of \$475,000
- Lessens (but does not eliminate) cuts to municipal departments
- Fully funds the town's FY17 revised GDRSD assessment



Reductions to Municipal Services Regardless of Which Budget Approved

- Town Engineer
 - Budget cut by 25%
- Police
 - Eliminate one planned cruiser replacement
- Fire
 - Reduced Fire Chief training
- Highway
 - Building repair cut by half
 - No replacement pick-up truck
 - No replacement tires for multiple trucks
- Transfer Station
 - Eliminate town subsidy: sticker prices increase to cover all expenses
- Library
 - Closes on Saturday



Additional Cuts If No Override

- Police
 - Eliminate one officer from staff
 - Cut part-time wages by 25% and cruiser repair by half
- Highway
 - Reduces paving budget by 70%, allows for pothole repair only
- Town Employees
 - Forego cost of living increases and salary increases recommended by Personnel Board
 - Various administrative assistants lose one day of work (from 4 to 3)
 - Selectmen's Assistant loses one day of work (from 5 to 4)
- Library
 - Closes a second day (Friday)
 - Reduce maintenance budget
- GDRSD
 - Not funded at certified budget request
 - Opens possibility of two-town district meeting (if Groton approves override)
- Additional
 - Defers re-assessment of 1/3 of town property values
 - Eliminates Emergency Management supplies budget
 - Cuts Tree Warden property services by 70%

Groton Dunstable Regional School District

- Previously requested approximately \$4 million increase over FY16 budget for Groton and Dunstable
 - Increased Dunstable's assessment by \$933,042
- Revised request is \$2.65 million increase over FY16 for Groton and Dunstable
 - Includes \$1.6 million for carry-forward costs, needed to maintain services from FY16
 - Additional \$1.05 million for the highest priority and most urgent needs, as identified by the Superintendent, reviewed and vetted by the School Committee
 - Dunstable's total additional assessment for certified budget is approximately \$627,000
- Additional details on Needs Assessment available at <http://gdrsd.org/needs-assessmentfy17-budget/>



Greater Lowell Tech Debt Exclusion

- \$65 million renovation and expansion to repair buildings and infrastructure, and to meet state educational and building code requirements
- 75% reimbursement from MSBA; \$15 million cost shared by member towns
- Dunstable's total assessment is \$450,952
 - Based on student populations from all towns
- 20 year bond
 - First payment was \$1,700
 - FY17 payment is \$21,000
 - Peaks at nearly \$40,000 within a few years
- Excluding debt allows money to be allocated to other departments



More Information...

- Concert on the Common, Wednesday June 22, 6:30 p.m.
- Master Plan Visioning Session, Town Hall, Thursday, June 23, 7 p.m.

Questions?

Article 4 – Free Cash Transfer

To see what sum the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash (Surplus Revenue) to meet the appropriations of Fiscal Year 2017, beginning July 1, 2016 or to authorize the Assessors to use to establish the tax rate, or take any other action relative thereto.



Article 5

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen, or Conservation Commission, or other appropriate agency or board of the town, to apply to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs for approval and placement of statutory Conservation Restrictions under General Laws, Chapter 184, Sections 31 through 33, on the Best, Ferrari, and Carter properties, and including the property at Main and Forest Streets owned by the Miller family, or to renew, ratify or modify any existing votes in such regard, or take any action in relation thereto.



Special Town Election

Thursday, June 30, 2016

Noon to 8 p.m.

Dunstable Free Public Library

Absentee Ballots

http://www.dunstable-ma.gov/Pages/DunstableMA_Clerk/results/Absentee