



**TOWN OF DUNSTABLE**  
**WARRANT ANNUAL TOWN MEETING - May 8, 2023**

The Annual Town meeting was held in the gymnasium of the Swallow Union Elementary School. Meeting was called to order by Town Moderator, Rafael Glod at 7:03 PM.

The Tellers who included John Callahan, Brian Reynolds, Jon Swift and Brian Lacopo were sworn in by the Town Clerk. Town Moderator, Rafael Glod determined a quorum was present and offered opening remarks. The colors were presented by the Boy Scouts, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Town Moderator then introduced new Town employees, Town Administrator Jason Silva, Assistant to the Town Administrator and Select Board, Sue Fayne, and Town Clerk, Ellen Faiella. Following introduction, Acting Treasurer/Collector Bonnie Ricardelli was recognized and thanked for coming out of retirement and serving in the Treasurer/Collector position, once again, this time in an interim capacity.

The Town Moderator made a motion to allow the Town Administrator to sit in the front of the room and to make motions on all warrant articles. Motion carried by a majority vote.

**REPORTS**

**ARTICLE 1 - Reports:** To hear and act upon the reports of Town Officers, Boards, Committees, Commissioners, and Trustees, or take any action in relation thereto.

**Motion:** Selectmen Chair Meehan moved, seconded by Selectman Basbanes, that the Town accept the 2022 Annual Town Report as printed as well the reports from Town Officers, Boards, Commissioners, and Trustees offered at this Town Meeting.

Resident, David Tully, Sr. notified Town Meeting that the Town Report did not list Raymond Kelly Richardson as an appointed official, however, Mr. Richardson serves on the Greater Lowell Regional Technical High School Board of Directors.

Town Meeting voted in the affirmative by majority vote.

**FISCAL YEAR 2022**

**ARTICLE 2 - Unpaid Bills of FY22:**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Free Cash (Surplus Revenue) a sum of money for the purpose of paying unpaid bills of FY2022, including the following, or take any action in relation thereto.

Sponsored by the Board of Selectmen

**Motion:** Town Administrator Silva moved, seconded by Chairman Meehan, that the Town take no action on this article.

A 4/5ths Vote is Required

Town Meeting voted in the affirmative by majority vote unanimously.

### **FISCAL YEAR 2023**

#### **ARTICLE 3 – Transfer to Water Enterprise Fund:**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate or transfer from available funds to the Water Enterprise Fund or Capital account a sum of money for the purpose of funding operating expenses or other purposes as deemed necessary by the Board of Water Commissioners for FY2023 or take any action in relation thereto.

Sponsored by the Advisory Board

**Motion:** Town Administrator Silva moved, seconded by Chairman Meehan, that the Town take no action on this article.

Town Meeting voted in the affirmative by majority vote.

### **FISCAL YEAR 2024**

The Town Moderator offered remarks on the approval process for the FY24 operating budget. The Moderator explained that any individual who wished to speak on a budget should request that a budget be held to allow for additional discussion and debate.

#### **ARTICLE 4 - 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, to fund the various departments, boards, committees, commissions, and other operating expenses of the Town for Fiscal Year 2024 beginning July 1, 2023, or take any action in relation thereto.

Sponsored by the Advisory Board

Presenters: Town Administrator, Jason Silva, Chair, Board of Selectmen, Kieran Meehan and Chair of the Advisory Board, Jake Lewon

**Motion A:** Town Administrator Silva moved, seconded by Chairman Meehan, that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$13,059,629, within the Town’s levy limit, to fund the various departments, boards, committees, commissions, and other operating expenses of the Town for the Fiscal Year 2024, beginning July 1, 2023, in the sums listed at lines 1 through 70 in the column “Balanced Budget FY24” in the printed budget handout made available at this Town Meeting;

And further moved that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$222,410 from Water Enterprise revenues to operate the Water Department for the Fiscal Year 2024, beginning July 1, 2023, in the amounts listed in the column “Balanced Budget FY24” in the printed budget handout made available at this Town Meeting.

There was a discussion regarding whether there would be a General Override question on the local election ballot. It was explained that the Town is required to vote to approve a balanced budget without the reliance on a General Override which was being presented to Town Meeting under this first motion.

Following that discussion, Jake Lewon, the Chair of the Advisory Board, read budget line items as presented under the motion as follows:

Department/Account		Balanced Budget FY24
<b>GENERAL GOVERNMENT</b>		
<i>Town Administrator</i>		
	SALARIES	175,600
	EXPENSES	3,280
	<i>Total</i>	<i>178,880</i>
<i>Selectmen</i>		
	EXPENSES	10,003
	<i>Total</i>	<i>10,003</i>
<i>Fincom</i>		
	Dues and Memberships	150
	Reserve Account	30,000
	<i>Total</i>	<i>30,150</i>
<i>Accountant</i>		
	SALARIES	12,289
	EXPENSES	64,700

<i>Total</i>	<b>76,989</b>
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<i>Assessors</i>	
SALARIES	52,690
EXPENSES	20,875
<i>Total</i>	<b>73,565</b>

<i>Treasurer</i>	
SALARIES	65,850
EXPENSES	26,090
<i>Total</i>	<b>91,940</b>

<i>Town Counsel</i>	
Professional and Technical	<b>32,000</b>

<i>Dog Program</i>	
<i>Total</i>	<b>800</b>

<i>Town Clerk</i>	
SALARIES	51,314
EXPENSES	2,100
<i>Total</i>	<b>53,414</b>

<i>Elections</i>	
SALARIES	3,000
EXPENSES	8,250
<i>Total</i>	<b>11,250</b>

<i>Registrar</i>	
Salary	<b>\$ 850</b>

<i>Conservation</i>	
SALARIES	14,560
EXPENSES	2,000
<i>Total</i>	<b>16,560</b>

<i>Planning Board</i>	
SALARIES	14,560
EXPENSES	1,400
<i>Total</i>	<b>15,960</b>

<i>Zoning Board</i>	
EXPENSES	1,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,500</b>

<i>Town Hall</i>	
SALARIES	5,267
EXPENSES	47,950
<b>Total</b>	<b>53,217</b>

<i>Town Reports</i>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,025</b>

<i>Town Engineer</i>	
Engineering Services	10,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 10,000</b>

<b>TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT</b>	<b>660,102</b>
SALARIES	395,979
EXPENSES	264,123
	660,102

## PUBLIC SAFETY

<i>Police Department</i>	
SALARIES	1,024,151
EXPENSES	239,150
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,263,301</b>

<i>Fire Department</i>	
SALARIES	220,718
EXPENSES	87,950
<b>Total</b>	<b>308,668</b>

<i>Inspectors</i>	
SALARIES	62,843
EXPENSES	3,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>66,343</b>

<i>Emergency Management</i>	
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<i>Total</i>	2,900
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<i>Tree Warden</i>	
<i>Total</i>	\$ 24,435

<i>TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY</i>	<i>1,665,646</i>
SALARIES	1,307,711
EXPENSES	357,935

## SCHOOLS

<i>GDRSD</i>	
Operating	\$7,742,721
Capital	188,281
Debt	130,148

<i>GLRVTS</i>	
Operating	199,740
Debt	31,883

<i>TOTAL SCHOOLS</i>	<i>8,292,773</i>
	\$ <i>8,292,773</i>

## PUBLIC WORKS

<i>Highway Department</i>	
SALARIES	322,695
EXPENSES	245,296
<i>Total</i>	<i>567,991</i>

<i>Snow Removal</i>	
SALARIES	56,175
EXPENSES	229,710
<i>Total</i>	<i>285,885</i>

<i>Street Lights</i>	
Energy	<i>10,000</i>

<i>Transfer Station</i>	
EXPENSES	22,500

<i>Total</i>	<b>22,500</b>
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<i>Cemetery</i>	
SALARIES	15,000
EXPENSES	10,600
<b>Total</b>	<b>25,600</b>

	\$	911,976
<b>TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS</b>	<b>911,976</b>	
SALARIES	393,870	
EXPENSES	518,106	

## HUMAN SERVICES

<i>Board of Health</i>	
SALARIES	14,373
EXPENSES	21,325
<b>Total</b>	<b>35,698</b>

<i>Council on Aging</i>	
SALARIES	9,171
EXPENSES	8,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,171</b>

<i>Veterans Affairs</i>	
SALARIES	6,041
EXPENSES	19,472
<b>Total</b>	<b>25,513</b>

<b>TOTAL HUMAN SERVICES</b>	<b>78,382</b>
SALARIES	29,585
EXPENSES	48,797

## LIBRARY, PARKS & RECREATION

<i>Library Operations</i>	
SALARIES	122,908
EXPENSES	65,913
<b>Total</b>	<b>188,821</b>

<i>Library Consortium</i>	
M.V.L. Consortium Dues	<b>13,500</b>

<i>Technical Expenses</i>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>30,250</b>

<i>Recreation Department</i>	
Rec. Other Purchased Service	<b>11,400</b>

<i>Parks Department</i>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>62,500</b>

<i>Memorial Day Committee</i>	
Expenses	<b>700</b>

<b>TOTAL LIBRARY &amp; RECREATION</b>	<b>307,171</b>
SALARIES	122,908
EXPENSES	184,263

#### DEBT & INTEREST

<i>Long Term Principal</i>	
Long Term Principal	\$ 139,744

<i>Long Term Interest</i>	
Long Term Interest	44,175

<i>Temporary Loan Interest</i>	
Temporary Loan Interest	3,774

<b>TOTAL DEBT &amp; INTEREST</b>	<b>187,693</b>
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#### INSURANCE & ASSESSMENTS

<i>County Retirement</i>	
County Retirement System	365,094

<i>Group Health Insurance - 914</i>	
Group Health Insurance	386,428

<i>Unemployment Account</i>	
Unemployment	20,000

<i>FICA Town Share</i>	
Medicare Town Share	36,720

<i>Bldg./Vehicle Liab. Ins/Workers Compensation, Etc</i>	
Bldg./Vehicle Liab. Ins.	147,644

<b>TOTAL INSURANCE &amp; ASSESSMENTS</b>	955,886
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<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>13,059,629</b>
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Resident Joan Simmons offered remarks on the motion and commented on the growth of the Regional School District's budget and also referenced the debt exclusion for school capital projects that was approved in the Spring of 2022. She also compared the history of override requests in the Towns of Dunstable and Groton. Following her comments, Ms. Simmons made a motion to amend the original motion, which was seconded by a member of Town Meeting, to reduce the School's capital budget line item by \$100,000 and apply it to our reserve free cash balance.

School Committee Member, Lacey McCabe then explained that if Ms. Simmons' motion is successful that would equal a total reduction to the School District's Budget of approximately \$400,000.

On Ms. Simmons' motion, Town Meeting voted 52 in the affirmative, and 54 in the negative. The motion failed.

Resident, Erica Flynn then asked a question about the budget line item that funds the library consortium fee. It was explained to her that participation in the consortium allows Dunstable residents access to libraries and their resources throughout the Commonwealth without being limited to library resources owned by the Dunstable Public Library.

Following Ms. Flynn, there was a discussion about the School District's budget, the District's enrollment, and the per pupil cost which included a response from the School Superintendent, Dr. Laura Chesson.

Town Meeting then voted in the affirmative on the original motion by majority vote.

**Motion B:**

And further, Town Administrator Silva moved, seconded by Chairman Meehan, that the Town vote to raise and appropriate an additional \$301,162 to be raised by taxation outside of the Town's current level limit, to fund an increase in budget line items for the Fiscal Year 2024, beginning July 1, 2023, as is listed in the column "TA Proposed FY24" in the printed budget handout made available at this Town Meeting, provided, however, that this additional appropriation shall be contingent upon passage of a Proposition 2½ ballot question under General Laws Chapter 59, § 21C.

The Advisory Board and Board of Selectmen recommended support of the override budget.

Increases under the motion include the following:

Line Number	Department	Expenditure	Increase	Total Budget
3	Selectmen	Expenses	\$5,000	\$15,003
11	Treasurer	Salaries	\$5,000	\$70,850
29	Police Department	Salaries	\$82,374	\$1,106,525
30	Police Department	Expenses	\$2,500	\$241,650
31	Fire Department	Salaries	\$46,824	\$267,542
32	Fire Department	Expenses	\$6,000	\$93,950
42	Highway Department	Salaries	\$58,464	\$381,159
43	Highway Department	Expenses	\$15,000	\$260,296
61	Parks Department	Expenses	\$5,000	\$67,500

Resident, Joan Simmons offered comments on the General Override ballot questions and stated she was in favor of the override.

Resident, Erica Flynn spoke against the override. Ms. Flynn believed that additional budget reductions need to be made.

Following Ms. Flynn, there was a question about the Town's free cash balance if the override fails. Town Administrator, Jason Silva responded that approximately \$66,000 free cash would remain.

Resident, Joan Simmons also offered clarifying comments that the 2022 ballot question vote was Debt Exclusion Override not a General Fund Override.

Resident, Niki Rockwell, a former educator and resident offered comments on her perspective as a former educator as it relates to the School District and school spending.

Resident, Bob Jenkins offered comments comparing Dunstable now versus when he first moved to Town in the 1990s. Mr. Jenkins then asked a question about what has changed from then to now that justify increases in the Police and Fire Departments.

Fire Chief William Farrell addressed Mr. Jenkins comments and explained that there is a need for more training, call volume has increased, and the vast majority of firefighters do not live in Dunstable anymore, which effects emergency response times.

Resident, Jeff Fayne commented on the excellent work of the Dunstable Highway Department, especially their efforts to clear snow during the winter, and also mentioned the work of the Police and Fire Departments.

Following discussion, Town Meeting voted in the affirmative by majority vote.

**ARTICLE 5 - Free Cash Transfer for FY24:**

To see what sum the Town will vote to appropriate from Free Cash (Surplus Revenue) to meet the appropriations of Fiscal Year 2024, beginning July 1, 2023, or to authorize the Assessors to utilize said transfer in order to reduce the tax rate, or take any action in relation thereto.

Sponsored by the Advisory Board

The Advisory Board and Board of Selectmen recommended support of this Article.

**Motion A:** Town Administrator Silva moved, seconded by Chairman Meehan, that the Town vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$479,343 to meet the appropriations of Fiscal Year 2024, beginning July 1, 2023.

Town Meeting voted in the affirmative by majority vote.

**Motion B:** Town Administrator Silva moved, seconded by Chairman Meehan, that the Town vote to transfer from Free Cash the additional sum of \$95,000 to meet the appropriations of Fiscal Year 2024, beginning July 1, 2023, provided, however, that this additional transfer shall be contingent upon the failure of a Proposition 2½ ballot question under General Laws Chapter 59, § 21C for said fiscal year.

Town Meeting voted in the affirmative by majority vote.

**ARTICLE 6 - Revolving Fund Expenditure Limits:** To see if the Town will vote pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53E½, to set the annual expenditure limits for Fiscal Year 2024 for all revolving funds established by the General Bylaws, as follows, or take any action in relation thereto:

Cemetery	\$8,500
Recreation	\$7,000
COA Transport	\$3,500
Permit Application Fees	\$5,000
Approval Not Required Plans	\$15,000
Transfer Station	\$155,400

Sponsored by the Advisory Board  
Presenter: Chair of the Advisory Board, Jake Lewon

**Motion:** Town Administrator Silva moved, seconded by Chairman Meehan, that the Town vote to set the annual expenditure limits for Fiscal Year 2024 for all revolving funds established by the General Bylaws as set forth under Article 6 of the warrant for this Town Meeting.

The Advisory Board and Board of Selectmen recommended support of this article.

Town Meeting voted in the affirmative by majority vote.

**ARTICLE 7 – Establishment of Regional School District Stabilization Fund for the Greater Lowell Regional Vocational Technical School District:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Greater Lowell Regional Vocational Technical School District to establish a Regional School District Stabilization Fund in accordance with Chapter 71, Section 16G1/2, of the Massachusetts General Laws, or take any action in relation thereto.

Sponsored by School Committee, Greater Lowell Regional Technical High School

**Motion:** Town Administrator Silva moved, seconded by Chairman Meehan, that the Town vote to authorize the Greater Lowell Regional Vocational Technical School District to establish a Regional School District Stabilization Fund in accordance with Chapter 71, Section 16G1/2, of the Massachusetts General Laws.

The Advisory Board and Select Board do not recommend support of this article.

Town Meeting voted in the negative, the motion did not pass.

**ARTICLE 8 - Community Preservation Committee Recommendations:** To see what transfers or other actions the Town may vote with respect to any recommended action of the Community Preservation Committee or take any action in relation thereto.

Sponsored by the Community Preservation Committee  
Presenter: Joan Simmons, Chair of the Community Preservation Committee

**Motion:** Town Administrator Silva moved, seconded by Chairman Meehan, that the Town appropriate from the Community Preservation revenue the following sums for the following purposes:

Principle payment of Ferrari Farm Note: \$75,000  
Interest on Ferrari Farm Note: \$11,025  
Administrative Expense: \$20,000  
Historic Reserve: \$46,000

Community Housing Reserve: \$46,000  
Open Space Reserve: \$46,000  
Balance to Undesignated: \$215,975

The Advisory Board and Board of Selectmen recommend support of this article.

Town Meeting voted in the affirmative by majority vote.

**ARTICLE 9 – Removal of Invasive Weeds at Lake Massapoag:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds, including CPA funds, a sum of money for the continued removal of invasive weeds in Lake Massapoag, based upon the recommendation of the Community Preservation Committee, or take any action in relation thereto.  
Sponsored by the Community Preservation Committee

Presenter: Joan Simmons, Chair of the Community Preservation Committee

Motion: Town Administrator Silva moved, seconded by Chairman Meehan, that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$3,000 from the CPA Open Space/Recreation allocation for the continued removal of invasive weeds in Lake Massapoag.

The Advisory Board and Board of Selectmen recommend support of this article.

Town Meeting voted in the affirmative by majority vote.

**ARTICLE 10 – Acquisition of Morgan’s Pond on Mill Street:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds, including CPA funds, a sum of money for the purchase of Morgan’s Pond on Mill Street, based upon the recommendation of the Community Preservation Committee, or take any action in relation thereto.

Sponsored by the Community Preservation Committee and Conservation Commission  
Presenters: Joan Simmons, Chair of the Community Preservation Committee, and Alan Chaney, Chair of the Conservation Commission

**Motion:** Town Administrator Silva moved, seconded by Chairman Meehan, that the Town vote to authorize the Conservation Commission to acquire by gift, purchase, eminent domain, or otherwise, certain real property together with any improvements thereon known as Morgan’s Pond located off of Mill Street, identified as [a portion of] Assessor’s Parcel 11-46, and being [a portion of] the premises described in a deed dated November 12, 2019, recorded with Middlesex North District Registry of Deeds in Book 33545, Page 204, containing 4.76 acres, more or less, and shown on a plan labeled “Preliminary Plan of Land, Mill Street, Dunstable, MA” prepared by Norse Design Services, Inc. and dated November 8, 2019, a copy of which is on file with the Conservation Commission, and to fund the costs of such acquisition of said property, appropriate the sum of \$60,000 from the CPA Undesignated allocation, and further to authorize the Board of

Selectmen, Conservation Commission, and/or the Community Preservation Committee to grant a conservation restriction over such property and to enter into any grant agreement or other agreements related to the purpose of this article.

Resident, David Todd raised questions about the property's condition, the Town's responsibility, and asked if an appraisal had been done. Alan Chaney, Chair of the Conservation Commission, responded that there was an appraisal performed on the property.

The Advisory Board and Board of Selectmen recommend support of this article.

Town Meeting voted in the affirmative by greater than a 2/3rds majority vote.

**ARTICLE 11 – Drew's Landing Boardwalk Construction:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds, including CPA funds, a sum of money for the construction of a Boardwalk at Drew's Landing, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen and the Community Preservation Committee to enter into any grant agreement or other agreements related to such appropriation, based upon the recommendation of the Community Preservation Committee, or take any action in relation thereto.

Sponsored by the Community Preservation Committee and Conservation Commission  
Presenters: Joan Simmons, Chair of the Community Preservation Committee, and Alan Chaney, Chair of the Conservation Commission

**Motion:** Town Administrator moved, seconded by Chairman Meehan, that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$46,332 from the CPA Undesignated allocation for the construction of a Boardwalk at Drew's Landing, located on Main Street including all costs incidental and related thereto, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen, Conservation Commission, and/or the Community Preservation Committee to enter into any grant agreement or other agreements related to such appropriation.

The Advisory Board and Board of Selectmen recommend support of this article.

Town Meeting voted in the affirmative by majority vote.

**ARTICLE 12 – Improvements to Storage Sheds at Larter Field:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds, including CPA funds, a sum of money to make improvements to the storage sheds at Larter Field, based upon the recommendation of the Community Preservation Committee, or take any action in relation thereto.

Sponsored by the Community Preservation Committee  
Presenter: Joan Simmons, Chair of the Community Preservation Committee

**Motion:** Town Administrator Silva moved, seconded by Chairman Meehan, that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$9,640 from the CPA Open Space/Recreation allocation for the purpose of making improvements to the storage sheds at Larter Field located off of Groton Street, including all costs incidental and related thereto.

The Advisory Board and Board of Selectmen recommend support of this article.

Town Meeting voted in the affirmative by majority vote.

**ARTICLE 13 – Reallocate CPA Funds Appropriated for Rehabilitating Existing Tennis Courts:**

To see if the Town will vote to amend the vote taken under Article 15 of the July 30, 2020, Town Meeting, to transfer the \$152,000 previously appropriated from the Community Preservation Undesignated Reserve account and \$30,000 previously appropriated from the Open Space Reserve account thereunder for the purpose of rehabilitating the existing tennis courts, for the new purpose of constructing new tennis courts at Larter Field, including all costs incidental and related thereto, or take any action in relation thereto.

Sponsored by the Community Preservation Committee

Presenter: Joan Simmons, Chair of the Community Preservation Committee

**Motion:** Town Administrator Silva moved, seconded by Chairman Meehan, that the Town vote to transfer the balance of \$150,000 previously appropriated from the Community Preservation Undesignated Reserve account and \$30,000 previously appropriated from the Open Space Reserve account for the purpose of rehabilitating the existing tennis courts, for the new purpose of constructing new tennis courts at Larter Field located off of Groton Street, including all costs incidental and related thereto.

An explanation was provided that this article was repurposing previously allocated funds and not a request for new funding.

The Advisory Board and Board of Selectmen recommend support of this article.

Town Meeting voted in the affirmative by majority vote.

**ARTICLE 14 – Renovation of Wells at Larter Field:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds, including CPA funds, a sum of \$33,600 for the renovation of wells at Larter Field, based upon the recommendation of the Community Preservation Committee, or take any action in relation thereto.

Sponsored by the Community Preservation Committee

Presenter: Joan Simmons, Chair of the Community Preservation Committee

**Motion:** Town Administrator Silva moved, seconded by Chairman Meehan, that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$33,600 from the CPA Open Space/Recreation allocation for the purpose of making renovations to the wells at Larter Field located off of Groton Street, including all costs incidental and related thereto.

The Advisory Board and Board of Selectmen recommend support of this article.

Town Meeting voted in the affirmative by majority vote.

**ARTICLE 15 – Woodward’s Mill Dam Improvements:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds, including CPA funds, the sum of \$61,308 for consulting services to conduct and complete a Phase II assessment of Woodward's Mill Dam, based upon the recommendation of the Community Preservation Committee, or take any action in relation thereto.

Sponsored by the Community Preservation Committee

Presenter: Joan Simmons, Chair of the Community Preservation Committee

**Motion:** Town Administrator Silva moved, seconded by Chairman Meehan, that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$61,308 from the CPA Open Space/Recreation allocation for consulting services to conduct and complete a Phase II assessment of Woodward's Mill Dam.

The Advisory Board and Board of Selectmen recommend support of this article.

Town Meeting voted in the affirmative by majority vote.

**ARTICLE 16 – Union School Building Restoration and Rehabilitation Planning:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds, including CPA funds, the sum of \$25,000 for consulting services to work with the Town to develop a plan to restore and rehabilitate the Union School Building, based upon the recommendation of the Community Preservation Committee, or take any action in relation thereto.

Sponsored by the Community Preservation Committee

Presenter: Joan Simmons, Chair of the Community Preservation Committee

**Motion:** Town Administrator Silva moved, seconded Chairman Meehan, that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$25,000 from the CPA Historic allocation for consulting services to work with the Town to develop a plan to restore and rehabilitate the Union School Building.

The Advisory Board and Board of Selectmen recommend support of this article.

Town Meeting voted in the affirmative by majority vote.

**ARTICLE 17 - Chapter 90 Funds:** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate any sums of money received by the Town under provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 90 for the purposes authorized by Chapter 90 or take any action in relation thereto.

Sponsored by the Board of Selectmen  
Presenter: Kieran Meehan

**Motion:** Town Administrator Silva moved, seconded by Chairman Meehan, that the Town vote to appropriate any sums of money received by the Town under provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 90 for the purposes authorized by Chapter 90.

The Advisory Board and Board of Selectmen recommend support of this article.

Town Meeting voted in the affirmative by majority vote.

**ARTICLE 18 – Reallocate Funds for Police Station Improvements:** To see if the Town will vote to amend the vote taken under Article 9 of the July 30, 2020, Town Meeting, to transfer the sum of \$15,000 previously appropriated thereunder for the purpose of replacing the Police Department computer server, for the new purposes of paying for capital improvements and operations of the Police Department including all costs incidental and related thereto.

Sponsored by the Board of Selectmen and Advisory Board  
Presenter: Police Chief, Eric Hoar

**Motion:** Town Administrator Silva moved, seconded by Chairman Meehan, that the Town vote to transfer the \$15,000 previously appropriated for the purpose of replacing the Police Department computer server, for the new purposes of paying for capital improvements and operations of the Police Department.

The Advisory Board and Board of Selectmen recommend support of this article.

Town Meeting voted in the affirmative by majority vote.

**ARTICLE 19 – Revenue Dedication of Opioid Settlements to Special Purpose Stabilization Fund:** To see if the Town will vote pursuant to Chapter 40, Section 5B, of the Massachusetts General Laws, to establish a special purpose stabilization fund, known as the Opioid Settlement Stabilization Fund, for the money received from judgments or settlements in litigation or claims against the opioid manufacturers or distributors, to be expended for all of the purposes allowed by law, including those outlined in applicable opioid litigation settlement documents consistent with any state guidelines or regulations further clarifying allowable uses of opioid litigation settlement funds; and further, to see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of the fourth

paragraph of said Section 5B to dedicate all or a percentage, which may not be less than 25 percent, of the money received from judgments or settlements in litigation or claims against opioid manufacturers or distributors to the special purpose stabilization fund established under this article, effective for Fiscal Year 2024, beginning on July 1, 2023; and further to transfer from free cash the amount of such judgments and settlements received by the Town before July 1, 2023 to the special purpose stabilization fund established under this article; or to take any other action in relation thereto.

Sponsored by the Board of Selectmen

**Motion:** Town Administrator Silva moved, seconded by Chairman Meehan, that the Town vote to establish a special purpose stabilization fund, known as the Opioid Settlement Stabilization Fund, in accordance with Chapter 40, Section 5B, of the Massachusetts General Laws for the Town to dedicate 100% of the money received from judgments or settlements in litigation or claims against opioid manufacturers or distributors to the special purpose stabilization fund.

The Advisory Board and Board of Selectmen recommend support of this article.

Town Meeting voted in the affirmative unanimously.

**ARTICLE 20 – Right-of-Way Bylaw:** To see if the town will vote to amend the General Bylaws by adding a new Right-of-Way Bylaw as follows:

### **Right-of-Way Bylaw**

#### **Section 1. Purpose**

The purpose of this bylaw is to ensure public safety and visibility along the Town’s public ways.

#### **Section 2. Improvements in Rights-of-Way Prohibited**

- a. For the purposes of this bylaw, the term “improvement” includes, but is not limited to, structures, fences, walls, railings, trees, shrubs, landscaping features, and sprinkler systems.
- b. For the purposes of this bylaw, the term “right-of-way” means any area of real property under the care, custody, or control of the Town of Dunstable through a fee interest, easement, or otherwise, for public way purposes, regardless of whether such area is paved or contains any infrastructure.
- c. No improvement shall be installed or maintained within the right-of-way of any Town public way without the approval of the Town’s Board of Road Commissioners, subject to the requirements of the Scenic Roads Bylaw.
- d. Mailboxes may be located within the right-of-way of a Town public way if installed and maintained in accordance with the rules and regulations of the U.S. Postal Service and any rules and regulations of the Town’s Board of Road Commissioners.

- e. Abutting property owners, or their agents, may perform mowing and weed removal in vegetated areas within the right-of-way of any Town public way between the pavement and boundary of the right-of-way in order to maintain a well-kept appearance.

### **Section 3. Enforcement**

- a. This bylaw shall be enforced by the Board of Road Commissioners or its designated agent. In addition to any other means of enforcement provided by law, this bylaw may also be enforced at the election of the Board of Road Commissioners by non-criminal disposition in accordance with the Non-Criminal Disposition Bylaw and Section 21D of Chapter 40 of the General Laws.
- b. Any person who installs an improvement within the right-of-way of any Town public way after December 31, 2022, shall be subject to a fine of \$100. Each day that any violation is allowed to continue shall constitute a separate violation of this bylaw.
- c. Any improvement within the right-of-way of any Town public way installed prior to January 1, 2023, may be subject to removal in accordance with Section 3 and Section 4 of Chapter 86 of the General Laws.
- d. The Board of Road Commissioners is authorized to adopt rules and regulations to carry out its duties under this bylaw.

And further, by amending the Non-Criminal Disposition Bylaw by inserting in § 5 the following:  
Right-of-Way Bylaw                                      Board of Road Commissioners

or take any action in relation thereto.

Sponsored by the Planning Board and Board of Road Commissioners  
Presenter: Joe Vlcek, Planning Board

**Motion:** Town Administrator Silva moved, seconded by Chairman Meehan, that the Town vote to amend the Town of Dunstable General By-Laws as set forth under Article 20 of the warrant for this Town Meeting.

Resident, Brian Flynn speaks in the article and offers comments on safety concerns related to speed limits on Town roads.

There were several residents who asked questions and commented on the possibility of losing frontage on their property and about ownership of Town roadways.

The Advisory Board has no position on this article and Board of Selectmen recommend support of this article.

Town Meeting voted in the affirmative by majority vote.

Motion from the floor to adjourn sine die and seconded from the floor. Town Meeting voted in the affirmative unanimously.