

Town of Arlington Massachusetts

Report of the Finance Committee

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING Monday, January 25, 2016

The Finance Committee recommends passages of the following votes:

(Unless otherwise indicated, the following recommendations were by unanimous votes: any exceptions are noted in parentheses following the text of the recommended vote. The Chairman votes only when the recommendation of the Finance Committee will be affected.)

ARTICLE 2 CAPITAL BUDGET/STRATTON SCHOOL MODULAR CLASSROOMS

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money for temporary classroom space for the Stratton School to be utilized during building renovations, determine how the money shall be raised and expended, including the possibility of borrowing all or some of same; or take any action related thereto.

(Inserted at the request of the Town Manager and the Capital Planning Committee)

VOTED: That the sum of \$3,100,000 be and hereby is appropriated to fund temporary classroom space for the Stratton School to be utilized during building renovations and for costs incidental and related thereto; that to raise this appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, is authorized to borrow \$3,100,000 under and pursuant to Chapter 44 Section 7 of the General Laws, as amended, or any other enabling authority and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefore; said sums to be expended under the direction of the Town Manager.

COMMENT: An explanation of the above recommendation can be found in the Capital Planning Committee Report.

ARTICLE 3 CAPITAL BUDGET/STRATTON SCHOOL RENOVATION

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money for renovations to the Stratton School, determine how the money shall be raised and expended, including the possibility of borrowing all or some of same; or take any action related thereto.

(Inserted at the request of the Town Manager and the Capital Planning Committee)

VOTED: That the sum of \$11,608,000_ be and hereby is appropriated to fund renovations to the Stratton School and for costs incidental and related thereto; that that to raise this appropriation \$28,959 is transferred from the prior capital budget voted under Article 45 of the 2007 Annual Town Meeting, \$1,113,773 is transferred from the prior appropriation under Article 5 of the May 9, 2011 Special Town Meeting and it is further voted that the vote under Article 24 of the 2015 Annual Town Meeting is amended to apportion \$499,268 of the \$7,647,000 authorization to be borrowed for the Phase-3 Community Safety Building Renovation Project, for the purposes of funding Stratton elementary school renovations, and with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, the Treasurer is authorized to borrow \$9,966,000_ under and pursuant to Chapter 44 Section 7 of the General Laws, as amended, or any other enabling authority and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefore, provided however that any proceeds of sale up to \$1,000,000 of an asset of the Town identified as a Building and Lot located at 1207 Massachusetts Avenue Parcel Id. No. 57-4-14 (Page No. 5873 Lot No. 485) shall be used as a cash authorization to offset debt authorized under this vote, said sums to be expended under the direction of the Town Manager.

COMMENT: The estimates of the above costs will be continuing past the date that this report is mailed. Because of this continuing process, there may be changes at Town Meeting. An explanation of the above recommendation can be found in the Capital Planning Committee Report.

ARTICLE 4 CAPITAL BUDGET/SCHOOL CAPACITY EXPANSION

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money for capacity expansion, temporary or permanent, at any of the Town's school buildings, determine how the money shall be raised and expended, including the possibility of borrowing all or some of same; or take any action related thereto.

(Inserted at the request of the Town Manager and the Capital Planning Committee)

VOTED: That the Town Meeting supports the transfer of funds by the Finance Committee from the Town's reserve fund of a sum of money to fund temporary classroom space for the Thompson School and for costs incidental and related thereto.

COMMENT: The above recommendation is made in response to a unanimous vote of the Enrollment Task Force which has been meeting in December and January to

review, discuss and make recommendations on the space needs of the Arlington school system. The increase in enrollment over the last several years has used up many of the available classrooms in the system. The recommendation temporarily eases the problem at the Thompson, without the need of busing the students across town to the Peirce school and allows for careful review of actual numbers from next fall's enrollment. Over the next several months, the Enrollment Task Force will be studying the challenges at the Ottoson Middle School with the goal of making recommendation at a future town meeting.

This proposed resolution supports the use of reserve fund monies to begin the process as soon as possible in order to speed the project towards implementation for the 2016-2017 school year.

ARTICLE 5 COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

To see if the Town will vote to fund any fiscal items in the event that any are contained in collective bargaining agreements between the Town and the following named collective bargaining units, determine how the money shall be raised and expended; or take any action related thereto:

- A. Local 680, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees
(Inserted at the request of the Town Manager)

VOTED: That the Town hereby ratifies the following financial items in the collective bargaining agreement with the following enumerated collective bargaining unit:

- A. Local 680, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees**
 - (1) a 2% general wage increase effective July 1, 2015;**
 - (2) a 2% general wage increase effective July 1, 2016;**
 - (3) a 2% general wage increase effective July 1, 2017;**
 - (4) an adjustment to the snow and ice incentive; and**

that for this purpose the sum of \$144,056.00 be and hereby is transferred from Warrant Article 20 set aside by vote of the 2015 Annual Town Meeting and expended under the direction of the Town Manager.

COMMENT: All town unions are now settled through July 1, 2018.

ARTICLE 6 MINUTEMAN REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL: BOND AUTHORIZATION FOR MINUTEMAN SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION

To see if the Town will vote to approve debt authorized by vote of the Minuteman Regional Vocational Technical School District for the purpose of paying Arlington's apportioned capital costs for the construction of a new Regional Vocational Technical School building in Lincoln, Massachusetts, the design for which having been approved by the Regional School Committee, said sum to be expended at the direction of the Minuteman School Building Committee; or take any action related thereto.

(Inserted at the request of the Town Manager)

VOTED: That no action be taken under this article.

COMMENT: The Minuteman Regional school committee has not taken action at this time to recommend a bond authorization for the Town Meeting to consider.

**ARTICLE 7 MINUTEMAN REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL:
AMENDMENT TO THE DISTRICT AGREEMENT OF THE MINUTEMAN
REGIONAL VOCATIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT TO ALLOW WAYLAND 'S
WITHDRAWAL FROM THE DISTRICT**

To see if the Town will accept and approve the "Amendment to Minuteman Regional Agreement regarding the Withdrawal of the Town of Wayland from the Minuteman Regional School District" which was approved by the Minuteman Regional School Committee on July 7, 2015 and which has been submitted to the Board of Selectmen consistent with the current Minuteman Regional Agreement, or take any action related thereto.

(Inserted at the request of Minuteman Regional Vocational School District Committee)

VOTED: The Finance Committee supports the no action motion of the Board of Selectmen.

COMMENT: The Town Meeting of Lexington has already voted no on this request making any action by Arlington moot.

**ARTICLE 8 MINUTEMAN REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL:
SUBSTANTIVE AMENDMENTS TO THE DISTRICT AGREEMENT, INCLUDING AN
"INITIAL WITHDRAWAL PROCESS"**

To see if the Town will vote, consistent with Section VII of the existing Minuteman "Agreement With Respect to the Establishment of a Technical and Vocational Regional School District," to accept and approve amendments to said Agreement approved by the majority of the Regional School Committee, and which have been submitted to the Board of Selectmen of each member town prior to its respective vote on this article, including amendments which would allow for the withdrawal of present members of the District, or take any action related thereto.

(Inserted at the request of the Town Manager)

VOTED: The Finance Committee supports the favorable action motion of the Board of Selectmen.

COMMENT: These amendments will become effective when all of the town meetings of the 16 member towns vote favorable action.