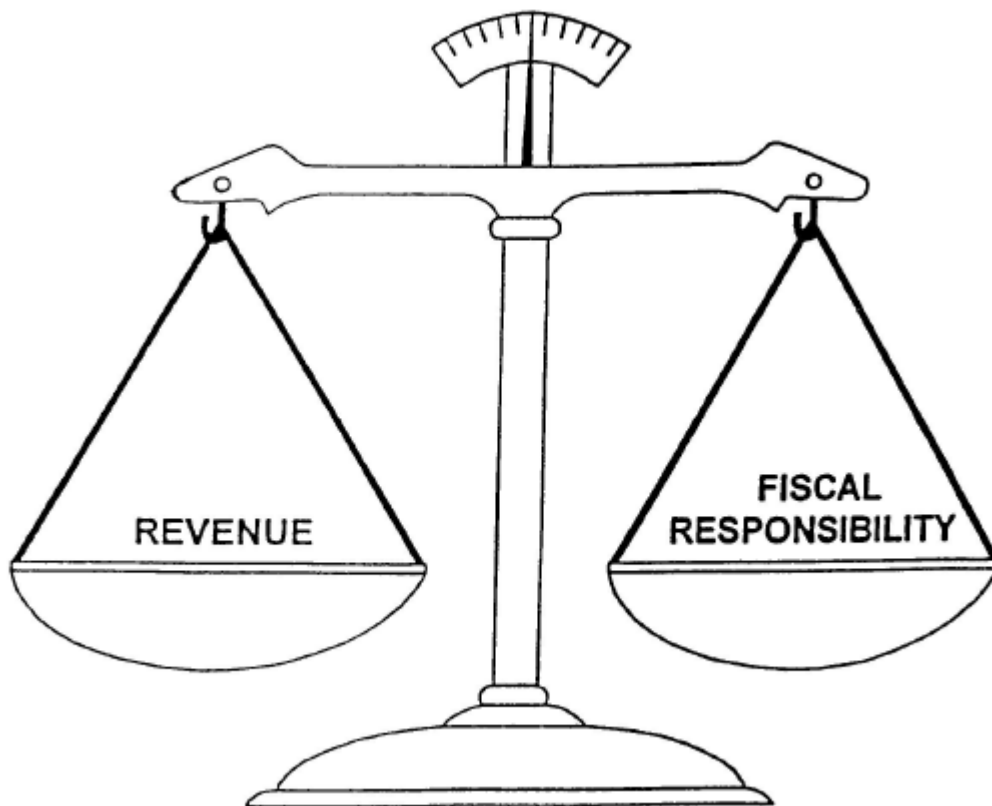


**REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS  
OF THE  
NORTHBRIDGE FINANCE COMMITTEE**



**Fall Annual Town Meeting  
Tuesday, October 28, 2014  
7:00 p.m.**

**Northbridge Middle School Auditorium  
171 Linwood Avenue  
Whitinsville, MA**

# THINK

## VOTERS CHECK LIST

### To be considered on each vote:

1. IS IT NECESSARY? Or is it something that is not really needed or perhaps already being provided by a private or public group?
2. CAN WE AFFORD IT? Remember, there is no limit to what we would like, but there is a limit to what we can afford.
3. WHAT WILL IT COST ULTIMATELY? Many proposals are like icebergs - only a small fraction of the total is apparent on the surface.
4. HOW WILL IT AFFECT BASIC LIBERTIES? If it imposes unreasonable or illegal restraints on your life or that of others, it should be vigorously opposed.
5. IS IT IN THE BALANCED BEST INTEREST OF ALL? If it is designed to benefit a small group or special interests, while taking unfair advantage of others, work for its defeat.
6. IS IT A "FOOT-IN-DOOR" PROPOSITION? Compromising a little now may bring an oppressive burden later, either in more regulation or more taxes or a combination of both.
7. DOES IT PLACE TOO MUCH POWER IN THE HANDS OF ONE INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP? Once decisive power is granted to a non-elected public official, a commission or a municipal authority, the private citizens may lose effective control.
8. DOES IT RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF THE INDIVIDUAL AND THE MINORITY? This is a cornerstone of our Republic.
9. IS ITS APPEAL BASED ON EMOTIONAL PROPAGANDA OR FACTS? The farther a proposition gets away from facts, the more critical one should be.
10. DOES IT SQUARE WITH YOUR MORAL CONVICTIONS? If so, fight for it. If not, oppose it.

*From Finance Committee Handbook*

October 1, 2014

Dear Voters:

Enclosed is the warrant for the Fall Session of the Annual Town Meeting along with a short summary prepared by the Town Manager, and recommendations of the Finance Committee for each article.

The warrant addresses several financial and nonfinancial issues. Voters are being asked to consider additional funding for the road maintenance and repair program and several purchases for the school department, all of which are subject to a capital outlay expenditure exclusion under Proposition 2 ½. Also, funding is needed to supplement a grant for a new fire truck and to purchase and install new water meters. Additionally, voters are asked to consider the approval of a Payment in Lieu of Taxes agreement and a local meals tax option both of which will generate additional annual revenue.

Finally, the Planning Board is seeking approval to change our existing bylaws to allow for the increase in building heights while the Board of Health is seeking restrictions on the depositing of hazardous waste and contaminated soils within the Town. There is also an article to allow the Board of Selectmen to enter into a contract to purchase electricity allowing individual consumers the option of participating in the contract.

Please review the information in this booklet, make note of any questions you might have, and bring the booklet with you to Town Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Plato Adams, Chairman  
James Barron  
Lisa Ferguson  
Steven Gogolinski  
Jill Meagher  
Paul Murray  
Christopher Thompson



**TOWN OF NORTHBRIDGE**

**WARRANT FOR  
FALL ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2014 - 7:00 P.M.**

**ARTICLE 1: (Board of Selectmen)**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds the following sums of money and authorize the payment of prior year bills; or take any other action relative thereto.

**TOWN MANAGER'S SUMMARY:** This article seeks authorization to pay a bill or bills of a prior year.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION:** The finance committee supports *passing over* this article. There are no prior year bills to be paid. Vote: The Finance Committee voted unanimously to pass over Article 1.

**VOTER'S COMMENTS AND/OR QUESTIONS:**

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**ARTICLE 2: (Board of Selectmen)**

To see if the Town will vote to amend the votes taken under Article 3 of the 2014 Spring Session of the Annual Town Meeting (May 6, 2014), appropriations and transfers under the Omnibus Budget Article, to raise and appropriate, and/or to transfer a sum or sums of money from the undesignated fund balance (free cash) and/or the Health Insurance Stabilization Fund to supplement appropriations under the Omnibus Budget Article; or take any other action relative thereto.

**TOWN MANAGER'S SUMMARY:** The purpose of this article is to amend the FY 2015 Budget approved at the Spring Session of the Annual Town Meeting (May 6, 2014).

**BUDGET ADJUSTMENT**

**EDUCATION:**

Line 20C: Blackstone Regional

By raising and appropriating the additional sum of \$33,040  
for the annual appropriation of the BVRV FY 15 operating budget

**FINANCE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION:** The Finance Committee *recommends passage* of this article. At the spring town meeting, the Fiscal 2015 budget was approved with reductions to the budget for the Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School. However, with a majority of towns supporting the School's budget request, we are required under the district agreement to support the School's budget request. Vote: The Finance Committee voted unanimously to support Article 2.

**VOTER'S COMMENTS AND/OR QUESTIONS:**

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**ARTICLE 3: (Board of Selectmen)**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds and/or the Stabilization Fund a sum of money for the purchase of a Fire Department Ladder Truck and associated appurtenances and equipment; or take any other action relative thereto.

**TOWN MANAGER'S SUMMARY:** This article seeks the funding necessary to complete the purchase of a Fire Department Ladder Truck.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION:** The Finance Committee *recommends passage* of this article. The fire department was able to obtain a grant to purchase a ladder truck, however the grant does not cover the total cost of the truck. The town will have to fund \$240,000 of the total cost from higher than anticipated revenues and transferring funds from the property and liability account. The new truck will replace the 1982 Ladder Truck, which was refurbished in 2000 and was estimated to last an additional 15 years at that time. Vote: The Finance Committee voted unanimously to support Article 3.

**VOTER'S COMMENTS AND/OR QUESTIONS:**

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**ARTICLE 4: (Board of Selectmen)**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$300,000 for the purpose of a road maintenance and repair program, said sum of money to be spent under the direction of the Department of Public Works, contingent upon the passage of a capital outlay expenditure exclusion under Proposition 2½, so-called; or take any other action relative thereto.

**TOWN MANAGER'S SUMMARY:** The purpose of this article is to seek \$300,000 for a road maintenance and repair program with funding to be spent under the direction of the Department of Public Works.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION:** The Finance Committee *recommends passage* of this article. This article raises additional capital that will keep the present 5-year road maintenance and repair program fully funded and on track. These funds will be spent subject to the passage of a capital outlay expenditure exclusion under Proposition 2½. Vote: The Finance Committee voted unanimously to support Article 4.

**VOTER'S COMMENTS AND/OR QUESTIONS:**

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**ARTICLE 5: (Board of Selectmen)**

To see if the Town will vote to initiate the process to aggregate electrical load for its residents and businesses, pursuant to M.G.L. c. 164, § 134, and further, to adopt the following **Resolution to Seek Lower Electric Rates in a Competitive Market** as follows:

Whereas, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, by enacting Chapter 164 of the Acts of 1997, has established a competitive marketplace through deregulation and restructuring of the electric utility industry; and

Whereas, the citizens of the Town of Northbridge in Worcester County have substantial economic, environmental, and social interests at stake; and

Whereas, Northbridge's residential and business consumers are interested in reducing their electricity rates;

Be it therefore resolved, that the Town Meeting of Northbridge grants the Board of Selectmen authority to develop and participate in a contract, or contracts, for power supply and other related services, independently, or in joint action with other municipalities or regional governmental entities.

If such contracts are to be approved, individual consumers would retain the option not to participate and to choose any alternative service they desire; and

Be it further resolved, that the Board of Selectmen may establish, and/or appoint representatives for, a committee to oversee such independent or joint action.

or take any other action relative thereto.

**TOWN MANAGER'S SUMMARY:** This article seeks approval of a Resolution to Seek Lower Electric Rates in a Competitive Market. If said resolution is approved, the Board of Selectmen will have the authority to develop and participate in a contract or contracts for power supply and other related services for town residents—independently or jointly with other municipalities.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION:** The Finance Committee *recommends passage* of this article. This article will allow the Board of Selectmen to enter into an agreement for residential power supplies. Residential consumers would be under no obligation to participate in this program and have the option to opt out of the agreement after any 30-day billing cycle. Vote: The Finance Committee voted unanimously to support Article 5.

**VOTER'S COMMENTS AND/OR QUESTIONS:**

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**ARTICLE 6: (Board of Selectmen)**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds and/or borrow a sum of money for the purchase and installation of water meters and associated equipment, including a meter reading system, for the Town of Northbridge Water Distribution System; or take any other action relative thereto.

**TOWN MANAGER'S SUMMARY:** The purpose of this article is to seek funding to purchase and install water meters and other associated equipment for the Town of Northbridge Water Distribution System.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION:** The Finance Committee *recommends passage* of this article. This article is for the purchase and installation of water meters for the Town of Northbridge Water Distribution System. The water meters will be purchased through a combination of borrowing and reserves from the Water Enterprise Fund. Vote: The Finance Committee voted unanimously to support Article 6.

**VOTER'S COMMENTS AND/OR QUESTIONS:**

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**ARTICLE 7: (Board of Selectmen)**

To see if the Town will vote to approve a Tax Payment Agreement pursuant to the provisions of MGL Chapter 59, Section 38H(b), and Chapter 164, Section 1, or any other enabling authority, for a certain sum and a certain term of years, between the Town and the property owner for real property and personal property relating to a Renewable Energy Generation Facility on the land located on Lasell Road known as Oakhurst Farm and shown on Assessors' Map 1, as Parcel 97 [containing approximately 11.19 acres] and Assessors' Map 1, as Parcel 98 [containing approximately 9.40 acres]; or take any other action relative thereto.

**TOWN MANAGER'S SUMMARY:** The purpose of this article is to approve a Tax Payment Agreement between the Town and property owner for real property and personal property relating to a Renewable Energy Generation Facility on the land located on Lasell Road known as Oakhurst Farm and shown on Assessors' Map 1 as Parcel 97 [11.19 acres] and Assessors' Map 1 as Parcel 98 [9.40 acres].

**FINANCE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION:** The Finance Committee *recommends passage* of this article. This article seeks approval for a PILOT agreement between the Town and the land owner of a power generating facility located on Lasell Road. This is a 20-year agreement, which will generate \$19,149 per year in additional revenue. Vote: The Finance Committee voted unanimously to support Article 7.

**VOTER'S COMMENTS AND/OR QUESTIONS:**

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**ARTICLE 8: (Board of Selectmen)**

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into an Intermunicipal Agreement with Town of Sutton for the expansion of the sanitary sewer on Main Street in Whitinsville; or take any other action relative thereto.

**TOWN MANAGER'S SUMMARY:** This article grants permission to the Board of Selectmen to enter into an Intermunicipal Agreement with the Town of Sutton for the expansion of the sanitary sewer on Main Street in Whitinsville.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION:** The Finance Committee *recommends passage* of this article. This article allows the Board of Selectmen to enter into an Intermunicipal Agreement with the Town of Sutton for the expansion of the Sutton sewer system on Main Street. The sewer system will be extended to Walmart. This is the closest way to connect to sewer and will be done at no cost to the Town. Vote: The Finance Committee voted unanimously to support Article 8.

**VOTER'S COMMENTS AND/OR QUESTIONS:**

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**ARTICLE 9: (Board of Selectmen)**

To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of G.L. c. 64L, §2 authorizing the imposition of a local sales tax in the statutory amount of .75% on the sale of restaurant meals originating within the Town, such tax to take effect January 1, 2015; or take any other action relative thereto.



**TOWN MANAGER'S SUMMARY:** This article seeks to accept G.L. c. 64L, §2(a) to impose a local excise in the amount of .75% on the sale of restaurant meals originating within the town to take effect January 1, 2015.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION:** The Finance Committee *recommends passage* of this article. This article will allow the imposition of a local tax of .75% on restaurant meals originating within the town. Based on the Department of Revenue estimates, this program will generate more than \$100,000 year in local tax receipts to be used to support the Town's budget. Currently, more than 190 communities in the Commonwealth have adopted this tax including Sutton, Millbury and Grafton. Vote: The Finance Committee voted unanimously to support Article 9.

**VOTER'S COMMENTS AND/OR QUESTIONS:**

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**ARTICLE 10: (School Committee)**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money to fund the following capital purchases for the School Department: pick-up truck replacement; kitchen repairs at the Balmer School; air conditioner replacement for the Middle School auditorium; locker room HVAC unit replacement for the Middle School; building and grounds security cameras and key card/fob boxes at the High School, Middle School, Balmer School, and Northbridge Elementary School; and technology switch additions and replacements at the High School, Middle School, Balmer School, and Northbridge Elementary School, contingent upon the passage of a capital outlay expenditure exclusion under the provisions of Proposition 2 ½ so called, MGL Chapter 59, Section 21C (i½); or take any action relative thereto.

**TOWN MANAGER'S SUMMARY:** This article seeks funding for the following capital purchases for the School Department: pick-up truck replacement; kitchen repairs at the Balmer School; air conditioner replacement for the Middle School auditorium; locker room HVAC unit replacement for the Middle School; building and grounds security cameras and key card/fob boxes at the High School, Middle School, Balmer School, and Northbridge Elementary School; and technology switch additions and replacements at the High School, Middle School, Balmer School, and Northbridge Elementary School. This article is also contingent upon the passage of a capital outlay expenditure exclusion under the provisions of Proposition 2½ so called, MGL Chapter 59, Section 21C (i½).

**FINANCE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION:** The Finance Committee *recommends passage* of this article in an amount not to exceed \$311,000. These funds will be spent subject to the passage of a capital outlay expenditure exclusion under Proposition 2½ to support purchases for the School Department. The purchases include the replacement of a pickup truck, technology switches, air conditioner replacements, kitchen repairs, and security equipment. Vote: The Finance Committee voted unanimously to support Article 10.

**VOTER'S COMMENTS AND/OR QUESTIONS:**

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**ARTICLE 11: (Planning Board)**

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Northbridge Zoning Bylaw, Chapter 173 of the Code of Northbridge, Section 173-20 [Table of Height and Bulk Regulations] by (1) increasing the maximum permitted height in the I-1 and I-2 (Industrial) zones from 30 and 45 feet respectively to 60 feet and (2)

increasing the maximum permitted height (stories) in the I-1 & I-2 (Industrial) zones from 2 and 3 stories respectively to 4 stories, as shown below:

**Table of Height and Bulk Regulations**

District	Maximum Permitted Height (feet) <sup>1</sup>	Maximum Permitted Height (stories)	Maximum Building Coverage of Lot (covered area as percent of total lot area)
R-1	40	3	10
R-2	35	2 1/2	20
R-3	35	2 1/2	25
R-4	40	2 1/2	40
R-5	45	3	50
R-6	40	2 1/2	see §173-17
B-1	30	2	75
B-2	20	1	75
B-32	45	3	60
I-1	30 60	2 4	75
I-2	45 60	3 4	50

Or take any other action relative thereto.

**TOWN MANAGER'S SUMMARY:** This article seeks to amend the Northbridge Zoning Bylaw, Chapter 173 of the Code of Northbridge, Section 173-20 [Table of Height and Bulk Regulations] by increasing the maximum height permitted and the number of stories allowed within the Industrial-One (I-1) and Industrial-Two (I-2) Zoning Districts.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION:** The Finance Committee *recommends passage* of this article. This article will amend the Zoning Bylaw which will allow an increase in building heights from 35 and 45 feet to 60 feet in an I-1 and I-2 zone. A change in building heights will allow the Town to compete with surrounding communities for new businesses. Vote: The Finance Committee voted unanimously to support Article 11.

**VOTER'S COMMENTS AND/OR QUESTIONS:**

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**ARTICLE 12: (Board of Health)**

To see if the Town will vote to amend Section 9-400 of the Code of the Town of Northbridge by inserting the following paragraph in §9-402, PROHIBITED REFUSE:

- C. No person shall deposit within the Town of Northbridge any hazardous wastes or contaminated soils taken from without the Town limits, including but not limited to, those wastes or contaminated soils as defined in DEP Policy # COMM-97-001 (Reuse and Disposal of Contaminated Soil at Massachusetts Landfills), including Construction & Demolition fines and/or residuals, and grading and shaping materials, as well as sediments, including dredged sediments, which are subject to compliance requirements of DEP Interim Policy # COMM-94-007 (Interim Policy for Sampling, Analysis, Handling and Tracking Requirements for Dredged Sediment Reused or Disposed at Massachusetts Permitted Landfills).

or take any other action relative thereto.

**TOWN MANAGER'S SUMMARY:** This article seeks to amend Section 9-400 of the Code of Regulations for the Town of Northbridge by inserting the following under §9-402 PROHIBITED REFUSE: C. No person shall deposit from without the Town limits into the Town of Northbridge any hazardous wastes or contaminated soils, including but not limited to, those wastes or contaminated soils as defined by DEP Policy # COMM-97-001, including Construction & Demolition fines and/or residuals, and grading and shaping materials, as well as sediments, including dredged sediments, required to comply with DEP Interim Policy # COMM-94-007.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION:** The Finance Committee ***recommends passage*** of this article. The Board of Health seeks to amend the Town's Code of Regulations prohibiting the deposit of hazardous materials or contaminated soil with the Town. Vote: The Finance Committee voted unanimously to support Article 12.

**VOTER'S COMMENTS AND/OR QUESTIONS:**

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**Town of Northbridge  
Department of Public Works**

11 Fletcher Street, P.O. Box 88

Whitinsville, Massachusetts 01588-0088

**Tel. No. (508) 234-3581 – Fax. No. (508) 234-0807**

*James Shuris, P.E., MBA*  
*Director of Public Works*

01 October 2014

## ARTICLE 4:

(Board of Selectmen)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$300,000 for the purpose of a road maintenance and repair program, said sum of money to be spent under the direction of the Department of Public Works; and to determine whether such appropriation shall be subject to a capital outlay expenditure exclusion under Proposition 2½, so-called; or take any other action relative thereto.

**Northbridge Department of Public Works: 5-Year Plan - “NO ROAD LEFT BEHIND” Program:**

*At the 01 May 2012 Town Meeting, the voters of the Town of Northbridge favorably supported and approved a 5-Year Plan (i.e. “NO ROAD LEFT BEHIND” Program) and ARTICLE 17 – as presented by the Department of Public Works – “to raise and appropriate, and/or borrow a sum of money for the purpose of a road maintenance program, said sum of money to be spent under the direction of the Department of Public Works; and to determine whether such appropriation shall be subject to a debt exclusion or a capital outlay expenditure exclusion under Proposition 2-1/2, so-called; or take any other action relative thereto”.*

*ARTICLE 17 appropriated a total amount of \$625,000 for equal distribution over a 5-year period. To date, we have exhausted \$375,000 of these funds, resulting in a remaining balance of \$250,000 for equal distribution over the next two (2) years.*

*In 2012, the 5-Year Plan was based on securing a consistent annual funding commitment of \$570,000 per year, consisting of a portion of our annual Chapter 90 State Aid funding allotment (i.e. \$445,000) and the \$125,000 mentioned above.*

*Given the extraordinary winter season that the Commonwealth faced this past year and the serious toll that it took on our roads, MassDOT issued the Town an additional \$71,257 in direct aid to patch potholes, cracking and other surface defects, and for other paving projects. This additional funding assisted the Department of Public Works to perform more maintenance-related road improvements.*

*This year, and as a result of this additional funding, we aggressively performed additional and needed road improvements throughout the Town resulting in approximately \$667,593 in completed road construction work. This year we aggressively completed approximately 4.9-miles of road improvements which include portions of Hill Street, Sprague Street, Douglas Road and Old Quaker Street. It is our intent to continuing forward with our aggressive “piece-it-together” roads program.*

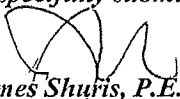
*In 2015, we plan to aggressively complete approximately 5.9-miles or approximately \$1,000,000 in road improvements, many of which will complete the balance of remaining portions of roads completed this year. Other projects include portions of Main Street from North Main Street to Memorial Square, and improvements to Ovian Square.*

*At the end of this construction season our estimated remaining uncommitted Roads Fund balance of \$101,424 added to next year's projected Chapter 90 State Aid funding of \$445,000 and "Year-4" of the 01 May 2012 Town Article No. 17 funding of \$125,000, amounts to \$671,424, resulting in a <\$300,000> shortfall to completed the planned road improvement activities.*

*ARTICLE 4 will provide the necessary funding to continue our ongoing aggressive approach to making our roads better.*

*We look forward to receiving the Town's continued support and confidence in the Department of Public Works and to make our" bad roads good".*

*Respectfully submitted,*

  
*James Shufis, P.E., MBA*  
*Director of Public Works*

## **ARTICLE 5**

Article 5 will allow the Board of Selectmen to seek lower electric rates through competitive electrical suppliers for aggregate electrical load for residents and businesses in the community.

MGL Chapter 164 Section 134 allows municipalities to purchase electricity in bulk to help reduce the cost of electrical supply.

Transmission and distribution will still be provided by National Grid, which is half of a resident's bill. This program only applies to the supply side of the bill, which is currently passed through National Grid.

The goal of the aggregate electrical load program is to provide savings on residential electric bills and provide stability to prices over a period of time.

Residents will have the option to opt out of the municipal program at any time without any fees or penalties.

The program is regulated under the Department of Public Utilities. All billing information will be handled by National Grid in the same format and timelines that residents now experience. Residents will receive educational materials on the program prior to implementation.

## Article 10 - School Committee Capital Exclusion Request

Item	Cost	Procurement Method
Pick-up truck replacement	\$33,290	State Contract
<p>This request is for the purchase of a 2015 F-350 pick-up truck with plow to replace the existing 2001 pick-up truck. This vehicle is used in the day to day operations of the maintenance and custodial department to transport equipment from building to building, transport custodial supplies from the main stock room to all schools, pick up building materials when needed, move furniture from building to building when needed, and serve as the maintenance director's mode of transportation between buildings. In addition, this vehicle is used for plowing our parking lots and driveways in the winter months. The current vehicle is 13 years old and in disrepair. It has become undependable and has broken down multiple times during recent snow storms. It requires expensive repairs and has excessive body rot. The cost listed takes into account the trade in value on the existing truck.</p>		

Item	Cost	Procurement Method
Balmer kitchen repairs	\$36,800	Invitation For Bid
<p>The Balmer kitchen exhaust unit and associated gas lines, which are original from 1967, need to be updated and/or replaced to bring them up to 2014 National Gas Codes. Towards the end of last school year, after multiple emergency response calls were made by N-Star Gas, the Fire Department, and the building and gas inspectors, N-Star Gas shut off the gas to the Balmer kitchen. The School Department was required to bring the gas lines and exhaust systems up to today's code before the gas could be turned back on. Having the gas shut off to the Balmer kitchen prevented the Balmer School from cooking and serving hot meals. A summary of required work in the Balmer kitchen includes providing and installing new welded exhaust ductwork, a new up-blast grease ventilator, a fire suppression system under the existing hood, new gas mains and gas lines to existing equipment, a solenoid operated gas valve on the main, and a commercial C.O. detector with a manual reset.</p>		

Item	Cost	Procurement Method
Middle School auditorium air conditioner	\$28,940	Invitation For Bid
<p>The condensing unit that serves as the Middle School Auditorium's air conditioning unit has a badly damaged condenser coil. Due to the amount of leaks and its installed location, the coil is beyond repair. The unit would need to be cut apart in order to get the coil out and replaced. Welding the unit back together would jeopardize the structural integrity; therefore, the unit as a whole, which dates back to the early 1990's, needs to be replaced. This replacement is beneficial to the students who are in the auditorium at the beginning and end of the school year when the weather is warm, and it also benefits the public groups who rent the auditorium in the spring and summer for concerts, recitals, and camps.</p>		

Item	Cost	Procurement Method
Middle School locker room HVAC unit	\$24,350	Invitation For Bid
<p>The make-up air units that serve the locker rooms at the Middle School have multiple deficiencies. These are the original make-up air units from 1986. Due to the age of the units, they are obsolete and parts are unavailable. These units provide fresh air and heat to the locker rooms. These locker rooms are not only used by the students during the school day, but they are also utilized by the public during athletic events and other town leagues who rent the Middle School gymnasium.</p>		

Item	Cost	Procurement Method
Additional security cameras	\$57,070	State Contract
<p>The District currently has a total of 86 security cameras across our four schools. Of those 86 cameras, 51 were added last year through the safety warrant article funding. Our request is to add 26 additional cameras to further improve the safety and security of our students. These cameras will be installed across all four schools in strategic locations identified by the engineer and building administrators.</p>		

Item	Cost	Procurement Method
Additional key fob boxes	\$5,981	Written Quotation
<p>In an effort to continue to improve student safety, the initiative to install key fob boxes on main entrance doors at the schools is being expanded. Currently, there is not a key fob box on the doors used for Balmer recess. When the teachers bring their classes out for recess, the door secures behind them. The only accessible door to bring the classes in after recess is the front main door. Adding a key fob box to the recess door will allow the door to remain secured during recess and improve the speed and efficiency of getting the students back into the classrooms after recess has ended. It will also provide an additional access point into the building in the event there is a medical emergency on the playground and a student needs to be brought in to see the nurse.</p>		

Item	Cost	Procurement Method
Technology switch replacements	\$124,539	National Cooperative Contract
<p>A network switch is a hardware device that serves as a controller, enabling networked devices to talk to each other efficiently. All devices that connect to the internet on our network, including computers, printers, copiers, cameras, key fob systems, HVAC systems, phone systems, financial systems, and servers, such as the website server, student information server, and learning management system server, are connected to switches. Many of the switches on our network are starting to fail and are no longer covered under warranty. When switches fail, the devices connected to those switches are disabled. This can take down all technology, security, and communication systems in the wing of a building, or in an entire building, depending on which switch fails. We need to upgrade our infrastructure to support the current and growing needs and network demands. This request is to replace the 179 switches that we currently have in place.</p>		

**TOTAL of Items Listed Above**

**\$310,970**





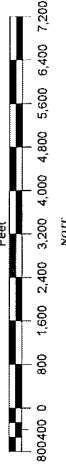
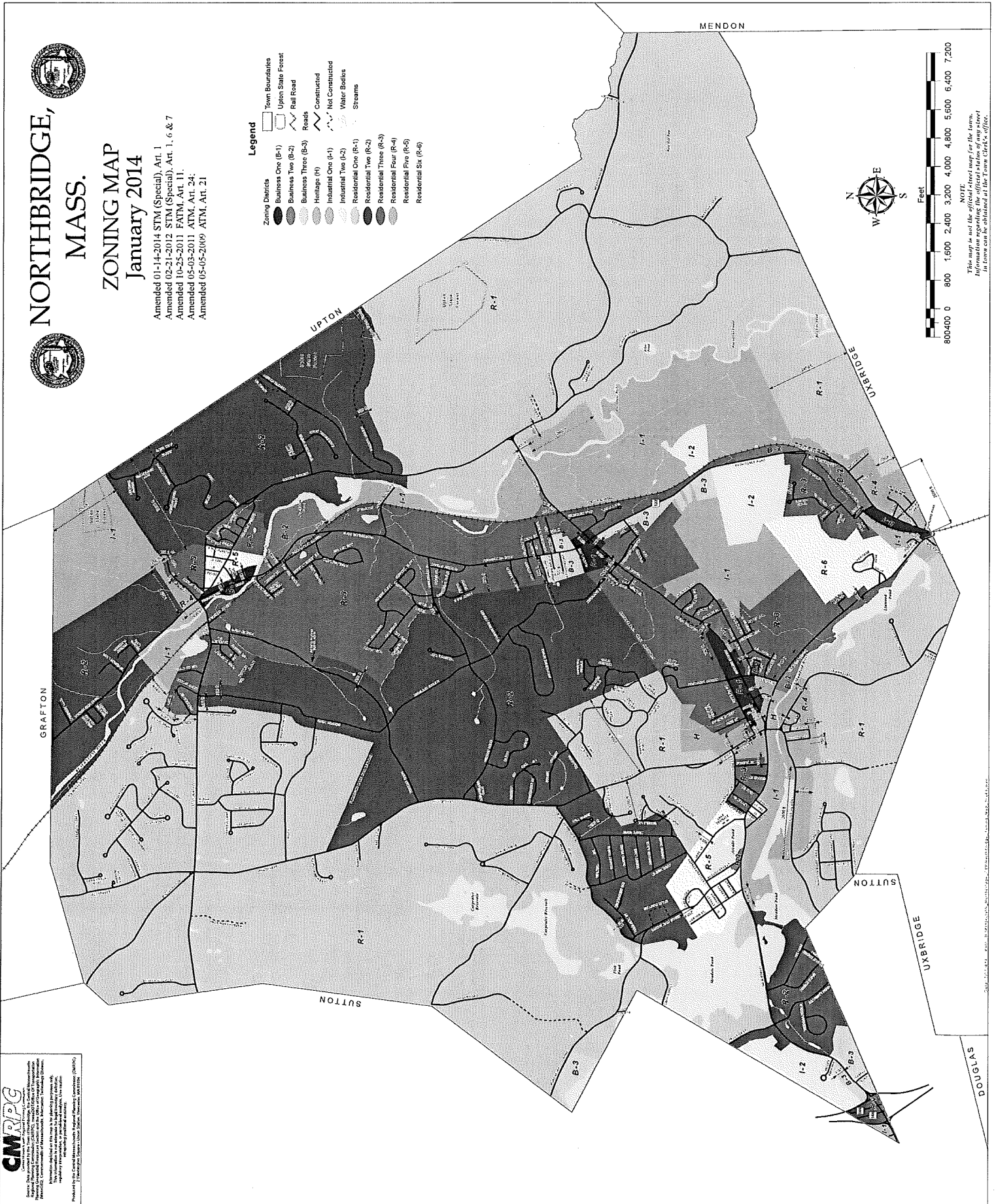
# NORTHBRIDGE, MASS.



## ZONING MAP January 2014

Amended 01-14-2014 STM (Special), Art. 1  
Amended 02-21-2012 STM (Special), Art. 1, 6 & 7  
Amended 10-25-2011 FATH, Art. 11  
Amended 05-03-2011 ATM, Art. 24  
Amended 05-05-2009 ATM, Art. 21

- Legend**
- Zoning Districts
  - Town Boundaries
  - Union State Forest
  - Rail Road
  - Roads
  - Heritage (H)
  - Constructed
  - Not Constructed
  - Water Bodies
  - Streams
  - Business One (B-1)
  - Business Two (B-2)
  - Business Three (B-3)
  - Industrial One (I-1)
  - Industrial Two (I-2)
  - Residential One (R-1)
  - Residential Two (R-2)
  - Residential Three (R-3)
  - Residential Four (R-4)
  - Residential Five (R-5)
  - Residential Six (R-6)



**NOTE:**  
This map is not the official record map for the town.  
Refer to the official record map for the town.  
In town can be obtained at the Town Clerk's office.

**CMRPG**  
Consulting Mapmakers & Planners  
1000 Main Street, Suite 200  
Northbridge, MA 01532  
Phone: 508-833-1111  
Fax: 508-833-1112  
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## **SOME COMMON TOWN FINANCE TERMS**

### **APPROPRIATION**

An amount of money voted to be spent for specific purposes.

### **ARTICLES**

Each of the numbered items of business in the Warrant is called an Article. Articles for a town meeting are submitted to the selectmen by boards, departments, and by citizens of Northbridge. All Articles must be voted upon; none can be withdrawn from the Warrant.

### **CHERRY SHEET**

The cherry colored form received each year from the state listing the town's State Aid and county and state charge against the town.

### **FISCAL YEAR**

July 1<sup>st</sup> through June 30<sup>th</sup> and normally designated by the year in which it ends.

### **FREE CASH – AVAILABLE FUNDS**

Surplus revenue less all uncollected taxes from prior years. A source for funds at special town meetings, special projects, or lowering the tax rate. Actual amount is determined at the close of each fiscal year. Free Cash should be thought of as being the town's "Savings Account"

### **GENERAL FUND**

The fund into which the general (not-earmarked) revenues of the town are deposited and from which money is appropriated to pay the general expenses of the municipality.

### **LOCAL RECEIPTS**

Money collected by the town departments for Automobile Excise taxes, licenses issued by the clerk's office, Parks and Recreation activities, etc.

### **OVERLAY**

The amount raised by the Assessors in excess of appropriations and other charges to cover abatements granted and avoiding fractions.

### **OVERLAY SURPLUS**

The accumulated amount of the not used overlay for various years which may be used for extraordinary or unforeseen purposes or voted into the Reserve Fund.

### **OVERRIDE**

A referendum question on the ballot in a general election which allows a town to assess taxes in excess of the allowable 2 ½ % yearly increased allowed by law. Override questions must specify the purpose of the override and require a majority vote for approval.

### **RESERVE FUND**

A fund to provide for extraordinary or unforeseen expenditures. A sum may be appropriated at the Annual Town Meeting not to exceed 5% of the tax levy of the preceding year.

### **SPECIAL EDUCATION (SPED)**

Special Education is a program that serves students who have disabilities that impair learning. The town is partially reimbursed through Chapter 70 based on availability of funds and through recently enacted circuit breaker legislation.

### **SURPLUS REVENUE**

The amount by which cash, accounts receivable and other assets exceed liabilities and reserve (a bookkeeping item not be confused with Available Funds.) Actual amount is determined at the close of each fiscal year.

### **TAX LEVY**

The revenue a community can raise through real estate and personal taxes. This is limited by Proposition 2 ½ but can be increased by an override.

### **TRANSFER**

The authorization to use an appropriation for a different purpose or from the Reserve Fund for extraordinary or unforeseen expenditures.

### **WARRANT**

The list of items, known as Articles, to be considered at the town meeting is called the Town Warrant. The only business that may be considered is that listed in the Town Warrant.

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**SAVE THE DATE**

**OCTOBER 28, 2014**

**Fall Annual Town Meeting**

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