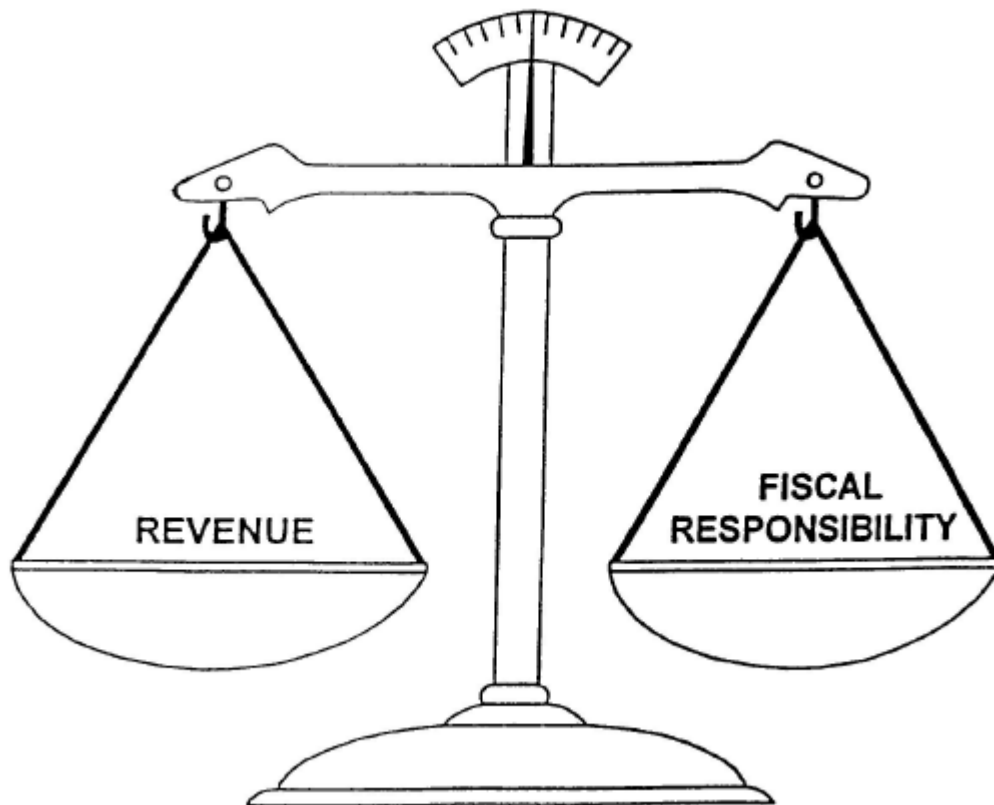


**REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS  
OF THE  
NORTHBRIDGE FINANCE COMMITTEE**



**Spring Annual Town Meeting  
Tuesday, May 5, 2015  
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*

May 2015

Dear Voters:

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

The Town Budget was constructed using the Governor's estimate of Local Aid. Article Three of the warrant details the proposed Fiscal Year 2016 budget of approximately \$39.6 million, which is an increase of approximately \$800,000 or two percent over the previous year's appropriations. A majority of the budget increase is reflected in an increase in the Town's contribution to the School Department budget and costs related to the completion of the merger of the emergency dispatching operations.

There are articles seeking authorization to purchase a Street Sweeper and a Truck/Plow for the Highway Division of the Department of Public Works. These articles will seek budget funding through the passage of a one year capital exclusion under Proposition 2½. Other warrant articles include such things as a request for the purchase of a vehicle for the Sewer Department and an ambulance from available funds, the creation of revolving fund accounts for the Board of Health and the creation and funding for an account to pay for future employee costs at the time of their termination of their service to the Town.

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  
Robert Brochu  
Lisa Ferguson  
Steven Gogolinski  
Jill Meagher  
Christopher Thompson

**TOWN OF NORTHBRIDGE**  
**WARRANT FOR**  
**SPRING ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**  
**TUESDAY, MAY 5, 2015 - 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 in the Treasury and/or transfer from the unexpended appropriated funds of one or more of the departments of the Town 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 prior year bills.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION:** The Finance Committee *recommends passing over* this article because there are no prior year bills. The vote was unanimous.

**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), and under Article 2 of the 2014 Fall Session of the Annual Town Meeting (October 28, 2014), appropriations and transfers under the Omnibus Budget Article; or take any other action relative thereto.

**BUDGET TRANSFERS:**

**GENERAL GOVERNMENT:**

**PLANNING BOARD**

Line 10A: Planning Board Personnel

By **transferring from Line 23A [Landfill Analysis]**

the additional sum of

	\$ 1,671
<b>TOTAL GENERAL GOVT.:</b>	<b>\$ 1,671</b>

**PUBLIC SAFETY:**

**POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Line 14B: Police Expenses

By **transferring from Line 14A [Police Personnel]**

the additional sum of

\$ 15,000

**FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Line 15A: Fire Personnel

By **transferring from Line 14A [Police Personnel]**

the additional sum of

\$ 60,000

and

By transferring from Line 40 [Unemployment]

the additional sum of

\$ 20,000

**TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY:**

**\$ 95,000**

**PUBLIC WORKS:**

**DPW HIGHWAY DIVISION**

Line 21B: DPW Highway Expenses

By transferring from Line 21A [DPW Highway Personnel]

the additional sum of

\$ 12,000

**TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS:**

**\$ 12,000**

**HUMAN SERVICES:**

**BOARD OF HEALTH**

Line 22A: Board of Health Personnel

By transferring from Line 23A [Landfill Analysis]

the additional sum of

\$ 1,066

**TOTAL HUMAN SERVICES:**

**\$ 1,066**

**NON-DEPARTMENTAL**

Line 36: Medicare

By transferring from Line 26B [Veterans Expenses]

the additional sum of

\$ 10,000

**TOTAL NON-DEPARTMENTAL:**

**\$ 10,000**

**TOTAL ARTICLE 2: \$ 119,737**

**TOWN MANAGER'S SUMMARY:** This article seeks to allow amendments to the FY 2015 operating budget, which was also amended at the Fall Session of the Annual Town Meeting held October 28, 2014.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION:** This article authorizes transfers between departmental accounts established in the 2015 budget. The Finance Committee ***recommends passage*** of this article. The vote was unanimous.

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

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**ARTICLE 3: (Finance Committee)**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds in the Treasury and/or transfer from the Health Insurance Stabilization Fund such sums of money not to exceed \$39,640,000 to defray the necessary and usual expenses of the several departments of the Town for FY 2016, beginning July 1, 2015 and ending June 30, 2016, as follows:

LINE #	ACCOUNT NAME	FY 2015 Approved	FY 2016 Recommended	%
<b>GENERAL GOVERNMENT</b>				
<b>RAISE AND APPROPRIATE</b>				
<b>1</b>	<b>SELECTMEN</b>			
	1A Personnel	5,150	5,150	
	By allocating \$1,150 to the Chairman and \$1,000 to each of the other 4 Selectmen			
	1B Expenses	121,485	121,485	
	<b>Total Selectmen</b>	<b>126,635</b>	<b>126,635</b>	
<b>2</b>	<b>TOWN MANAGER</b>			
	2A Personnel	243,527	243,527	
	2B Expenses	12,509	12,509	
	<b>Total Town Manager</b>	<b>256,036</b>	<b>256,036</b>	
<b>3</b>	<b>FINANCE COMMITTEE</b>			
	3B Expenses	15,000	15,000	
	<b>Total Finance Committee</b>	<b>15,000</b>	<b>15,000</b>	
<b>4</b>	<b>TOWN ACCOUNTANT</b>			
	4A Personnel	106,972	109,786	
	4B Expenses	18,775	15,350	
	<b>Total Town Accountant</b>	<b>125,747</b>	<b>125,136</b>	
<b>5</b>	<b>ASSESSORS</b>			
	5A Personnel	149,768	155,003	
	5B Expenses	12,200	12,200	
	<b>Total Assessors</b>	<b>161,968</b>	<b>167,203</b>	
<b>6</b>	<b>TREASURER/COLLECTOR</b>			
	6A Personnel	152,757	148,829	
	<b>APPROPRIATE FROM PARKING TICKET RECEIPTS</b>			
	6A Personnel	5,000	5,000	
	<b>RAISE AND APPROPRIATE</b>			
	6B Expenses	54,214	58,240	
	<b>Total Treasurer/Collector</b>	<b>211,971</b>	<b>212,069</b>	
<b>7</b>	<b>INFORMATION SYSTEMS</b>			
	7A Personnel	69,858	72,360	
	7B Expenses	68,786	67,295	
	<b>Total Information Systems</b>	<b>138,644</b>	<b>139,655</b>	

<b>8 TOWN CLERK/ELECTIONS</b>			
8A Personnel	105,322	113,230	
8B Expenses	41,920	33,720	
<b>Total Town Clerk/Elections</b>	<b>147,242</b>	<b>146,950</b>	
<b>9 CONSERVATION</b>			
9A Personnel	14,973	15,248	
<b>APPROPRIATE FROM WETLAND FEES</b>			
9A Personnel	5,000	5,000	
9B Expenses			
<b>RAISE AND APPROPRIATE</b>			
9B Expenses	1,915	1,923	
<b>Total Conservation</b>	<b>21,888</b>	<b>22,171</b>	
<b>10 PLANNING BOARD</b>			
10A Personnel	88,396	91,073	
10B Expenses	6,227	6,227	
<b>Total Planning Board</b>	<b>94,623</b>	<b>97,300</b>	
<b>11 ZONING/APPEALS BOARD</b>			
11A Personnel	9,088	9,088	
11B Expenses	6,255	6,255	
<b>Total Zoning/Appeals Board</b>	<b>15,343</b>	<b>15,343</b>	
<b>12 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT</b>			
12A Personnel & Expenses	0	0	
<b>Total Economic Development</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>13 TOWN HALL/CENTRAL SERVICES</b>			
13A Personnel	24,000	24,000	
13B Expenses	43,125	43,125	
<b>Total Town Hall/Central Services</b>	<b>67,125</b>	<b>67,125</b>	
<b>TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT</b>	<b>1,382,222</b>	<b>1,390,623</b>	<b>0.61%</b>
<b>PUBLIC SAFETY</b>			
<b>RAISE AND APPROPRIATE</b>			
<b>14 POLICE</b>			
14A Personnel	2,175,941	2,343,445	
14B Expenses	275,392	248,892	
<b>Total Police</b>	<b>2,451,333</b>	<b>2,592,337</b>	

**15 FIRE**

15A Personnel	466,796	507,775
15B Expenses	135,811	131,963
<b>Total Fire</b>	<b>602,607</b>	<b>639,738</b>

**APPROPRIATE FROM AMBULANCE RECEIPTS****16 AMBULANCE**

16A Personnel	606,553	606,553
16B Expenses	70,000	70,000
<b>Total Ambulance</b>	<b>676,553</b>	<b>676,553</b>

**RAISE AND APPROPRIATE****17 CODE ENFORCEMENT**

17A Personnel	140,309	140,564
<b>APPROPRIATE FROM WEIGHTS AND MEASURES RESERVE ACCOUNT</b>		
17A Personnel	0	4,000

**RAISE AND APPROPRIATE**

17B Expenses	9,865	9,865
<b>APPROPRIATE FROM WEIGHTS AND MEASURES RESERVE ACCOUNT</b>		
17B Expenses	1,500	1,500
<b>Total Code Enforcement</b>	<b>151,674</b>	<b>155,929</b>

**RAISE AND APPROPRIATE****18 CIVIL DEFENSE**

18A Personnel	3,500	3,500
18B Expenses	9,500	9,500
<b>Total Civil Defense</b>	<b>13,000</b>	<b>13,000</b>

<b>TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY</b>	<b>3,895,167</b>	<b>4,077,557</b>	<b>4.68%</b>
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**EDUCATION****RAISE AND APPROPRIATE****20 SCHOOL DEPARTMENT**

20	SCHOOL DISTRICT	21,329,443	21,829,443	
20A	TRANSPORTATION	0	0	
20B	TRADE SCHOOL	275,000	275,000	
20C	BLACKSTONE REGIONAL	974,466	1,152,230	
<b>TOTAL EDUCATION</b>		<b>22,578,909</b>	<b>23,256,673</b>	<b>3.00%</b>

**PUBLIC WORKS****RAISE AND APPROPRIATE**

<b>21 DPW HIGHWAY DIVISION (Includes Snow &amp; Ice)</b>			
21A	Personnel	494,437	500,326
21B	Expenses	522,497	522,273
21C	Snow and Ice	75,000	75,000
<b>TOTAL HIGHWAY DIVISION</b>		<b>1,091,934</b>	<b>1,097,599</b>
 <b>21 DPW FACILITIES DIVISION</b>			
21D	Energy & Utilities	0	0
21E	Building Maintenance (non-personnel)	0	0
<b>TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS</b>		<b>1,091,934</b>	<b>1,097,599</b> <b>0.52%</b>
 <b>BUILDING, PLANNING &amp; CONSTRUCTION COMM. RAISE AND APPROPRIATE</b>			
<b>21F BUILDING, PLANNING &amp; CONSTRUCTION COMM.</b>			
	Expenses	0	0
<b>TOTAL BUILDING, PLAN, &amp; CONSTRUC.</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
 <b>HUMAN SERVICES</b>			
<b>RAISE AND APPROPRIATE</b>			
<b>22 BOARD OF HEALTH</b>			
	22A Personnel	54,484	50,229
	22B Expenses	28,128	15,583
<b>Total Board of Health</b>		<b>82,612</b>	<b>65,812</b>
 <b>23 LANDFILL ANALYSIS</b>			
	23A Expenses	19,600	15,000
<b>Total Landfill Analysis</b>		<b>19,600</b>	<b>15,000</b>
 <b>24 COUNCIL ON AGING</b>			
	24A Personnel	138,896	143,638
	24B Expenses	20,508	20,508
<b>Total Council On Aging</b>		<b>159,404</b>	<b>164,146</b>
 <b>26 VETERANS</b>			
	26A Personnel	64,598	72,598
	26B Expenses	208,000	200,000
<b>Total Veterans</b>		<b>272,598</b>	<b>272,598</b>
<b>TOTAL HUMAN SERVICES</b>		<b>534,214</b>	<b>517,556</b> <b>-3.12%</b>

**CULTURE & RECREATION****RAISE AND APPROPRIATE****27 LIBRARY**

27A Personnel	140,800	144,540
27B Expenses	22,420	25,250
<b>Total Library</b>	<b>163,220</b>	<b>169,790</b>

**28 RECREATION**

28A Personnel	0	0
28B Expenses	12,000	12,000
28C Youth League Equipment	0	0
<b>Total Recreation</b>	<b>12,000</b>	<b>12,000</b>

**29 HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

29A Expenses	500	500
<b>Total Historical Commission</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>500</b>

**30 MEMORIALS**

30A Soldiers Memorials	5,000	5,000
30B Veterans Celebrations	1,900	1,900
<b>Total Memorials</b>	<b>6,900</b>	<b>6,900</b>

**31 RECYCLING**

31A Personnel	0	0
31B Expenses	0	0
<b>Total Recycling</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

<b>TOTAL CULTURE &amp; RECREATION</b>	<b>182,620</b>	<b>189,190</b>	<b>3.60%</b>
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**DEBT SERVICE****RAISE AND APPROPRIATE**

32 Debt Principal	232,000	232,000
<b>APPROPRIATE FROM RECEIPTS RESERVED – TITLE V</b>		
32 Debt Principal	15,297	15,108

**RAISE AND APPROPRIATE**

33 Debt Interest	96,870	87,175
34 Short Term Interest	20,000	20,000
35 BVRS Debt	94,065	83,487

<b>TOTAL DEBT SERVICE</b>	<b>458,232</b>	<b>437,770</b>	<b>-4.47%</b>
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## NON-DEPARTMENTAL

### RAISE AND APPROPRIATE

36 Medicare	305,000	315,000	
37 Life Insurance	10,000	10,000	
38 Retirement System	1,374,229	1,470,405	
39 Workers' Compensation	166,000	146,000	
40 Unemployment Comp.	131,300	131,300	
41 Employee Ins. Benefits	5,419,225	5,178,123	
<b>APPROPRIATE FROM AVAILABLE FUNDS [FREE CASH]</b>			
41 Employee Ins. Benefits	765,775	756,877	
<b>APPROPRIATE FROM OVERLAY SURPLUS</b>			
41 Employee Ins. Benefits	50,000	50,000	
<b>APPROPRIATE FROM HEALTH INSURANCE STABILIZATION ACCOUNT</b>			
41 Employee Ins. Benefits	0	150,000	
<b>RAISE AND APPROPRIATE</b>			
42 Property & Liability Ins.	386,400	356,400	
43 Reserve for Wage Adj.	12,500	12,500	
44 Stabilization Fund	0	0	
45 Reserve Fund	50,000	50,000	
46 Retirement Benefits	24,750	24,750	
<b>TOTAL NON-DEPARTMENTAL</b>	<b>8,695,179</b>	<b>8,651,355</b>	<b>-0.50%</b>
<b>TOTAL ARTICLE 3: \$ 38,818,477 \$ 39,618,323 2.06%</b>			

\*FOR FURTHER BUDGET DETAILS, PLEASE VISIT THE TOWN'S WEBSITE AT [WWW.NORTHBRIDGEMASS.ORG](http://WWW.NORTHBRIDGEMASS.ORG)

**TOWN MANAGER'S SUMMARY:** This article is the Town's Omnibus Operating Budget Article for FY 2016, which cannot exceed \$39,640,000. Sewer and Water are enterprise funds that are approved by separate articles.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION:** This article seeks to establish the Fiscal Year 2016 budget in an amount of \$39,618,323. The Finance Committee ***recommends passage*** of this article. The vote was unanimous.

### 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 and/or transfer from the Retained Earnings Account of the Sewer Enterprise Fund a sum of money to operate the Sewer Enterprise Operation of the Department of Public Works for FY 2016; or take any other action relative thereto.

**TOWN MANAGER'S SUMMARY:** This article seeks to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,242,656 for expenses and debt service to operate the Sewer Enterprise Operation of the Department of Public Works for FY

2016, said sum to be offset by the sum of \$2,242,656 from betterments and other revenues received by the Sewer Enterprise Fund during Fiscal Year 2016, said appropriations to be used for the following purposes:

Wages and Salaries	\$ 388,945
Expenses	\$ 859,391
Interest on long term debt	\$ 158,145
Sewer maturing principal	\$ 592,615
Total:	\$1,999,096;

and to transfer \$243,560 from said \$2,242,656 to the General Fund as reimbursement for shared costs and fringe benefits.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION:** This article seeks to appropriate funding in the amount of \$2,242,656 for the operation of the Sewer Enterprise Operation. The Finance Committee ***recommends passage*** of this article. The vote was unanimous.

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

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

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from the Retained Earnings Account of the Water Enterprise Fund a sum of money to operate the Water Enterprise Operation of the Department of Public Works for FY 2016; or take any other action relative thereto.

**TOWN MANAGER'S SUMMARY:** This article seeks to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,645,005 for expenses and debt service to operate the Water Enterprise Operation of the Department of Public Works for FY 2016, said sum to be offset by the sum of \$1,645,005 from revenues received by the Water Enterprise Fund during Fiscal Year 2016, said appropriation to be used for the following purposes:

Wages and Salaries	\$ 23,911
Expenses	\$1,541,662
Interest on long term debt	\$ 19,637
Water maturing principal	\$ 28,697
Total:	\$1,613,907;

and to transfer \$31,098 from said \$1,645,005 to the General Fund as reimbursement for shared costs and fringe benefits.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION:** This article seeks to appropriate funding in the amount of \$1,645,005 for the operation of the Water Enterprise Operation. The Finance Committee ***recommends passage*** of this article. The vote was unanimous.

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

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

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money and such additional funds as may become available from the Commonwealth's Department of Transportation, Chapter 90 Bond Issue proceeds, to be used by the Department of Public Works for the repair and maintenance of Town roads in conformance with MGL and further to see if the Town will vote to meet said appropriation by borrowing and to authorize the Treasurer/Collector, with approval of the Board of Selectmen, to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor in anticipation of the receipt of said State Aid; or take any other action relative thereto.

**TOWN MANAGER'S SUMMARY:** This article is an annual request to authorize the Board of Selectmen to expend Chapter 90 State Road funds for FY 2016.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION:** This article allows for the expenditure of Chapter 90 road funds and allows the Treasurer to borrow in anticipation of receiving Chapter 90 funds. The Finance Committee ***recommends passage*** of this article. The vote was unanimous.

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

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

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer/Collector to enter into a compensating balance agreement or agreements for FY 2016, pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 53F of the M.G.L.; or take any other action relative thereto.

**TOWN MANAGER'S SUMMARY:** This article authorizes the Treasurer/Collector to enter into agreements with banks and to manage Town funds.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION:** This is an annual article that allows the Treasurer to enter into agreements with banks to manage Town funds. The Finance Committee ***recommends passage*** of this article. The vote was unanimous.

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

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**ARTICLE 8: (Playground and Recreation Commission and Board of Selectmen)**

To see if the Town will vote to reauthorize a revolving account pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 53E 1/2 for the Playground & Recreation Commission, to which account shall be credited any grants, donations, program user fees and fund raising proceeds received by said Commission and from which funds may be expended by said Commission to maintain the Town's playgrounds and recreation fields, to make improvements thereto and to purchase, lease or rent equipment and support facilities for programs and activities taking place thereon provided, however, that the total amount which may be expended from the account in FY 2016 is \$20,000; or take any other action relative thereto.

**TOWN MANAGER'S SUMMARY:** The purpose of this article is for the annual reauthorization of the Playground & Recreation Commission's revolving account not to exceed \$20,000.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION:** This is an annual reauthorization of the Playground and Recreation Commission's revolving account. The Finance Committee ***recommends passage*** of this article. The vote was unanimous.

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

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

To see if the Town will vote to authorize a revolving account pursuant to MGL Chapter 44 Section 53E ½ for the Northbridge Board of Health to which shall be credited funds received for food related permit fees, plan reviews, and non-compliance fees and from which funds may be expended to carry out the duties of the Board of Health related thereto including but not limited to inspections, plan reviews, purchasing of supplies and any other administrative related costs, provided, however, that the maximum amount of money that can be expended from the account for FY 2016 is \$20,000; or take any other action relative thereto.

**TOWN MANAGER'S SUMMARY:** This article seeks to create a revolving account for the Board of Health from funds received for food related permit fees, plan reviews, and non-compliance fees to carry out the duties of the Board of Health related thereto. The maximum amount of money that can be expended from the account is \$20,000.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION:** This article seeks to authorize the establishment of a revolving account for the Northbridge Board of Health from food related permit fees, site stickers and non-compliance fees to carry out the duties of the Board of Health. The Finance Committee ***recommends passage*** of this article. The vote was unanimous.

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

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**ARTICLE 10: (Board of Health and Board of Selectmen)**

To see if the Town will vote to authorize a revolving account pursuant to MGL Chapter 44 Section 53E ½ for the Northbridge Board of Health to which shall be credited funds received from the sale of compost site stickers and from which funds may be expended to carry out the duties of the Board of Health related thereto including but not limited to the salary of the compost site monitor, the purchase of supplies and any other administrative related costs, provided, however, that the maximum amount of money that can be expended from the account for FY 2016 is \$10,000; or take any other action relative thereto.

**TOWN MANAGER'S SUMMARY:** This article seeks to create a revolving account for the Board of Health from funds received from the sale of compost site stickers to carry out the duties of the Board of Health related thereto. The maximum amount of money that can be expended from the account is \$10,000.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION:** This article seeks to authorize the establishment of a revolving account for the Northbridge Board of Health from the sale of compost site stickers to carry out the duties of the Board of Health. The Finance Committee ***recommends passage*** of this article. The vote was unanimous.

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

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**ARTICLE 11: (Board of Selectmen)**

To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of M.G.L c. 40, §13D for the creation of a reserve fund, to be known as the Compensated Absences Fund, for future payment of accrued liabilities for compensated absences owed to employees and full-time officers of the Town when they terminate employment; or take any other action relative thereto.

**TOWN MANAGER'S SUMMARY:** The purpose of this article is to accept the provisions of M.G.L c. 40, §13D for the creation of a reserve fund, to be known as the Compensated Absences Fund, for future payment of accrued liabilities for compensated absences owed to employees and full-time officers of the Town when they terminate employment.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION:** The article authorizes the creation of a reserve fund for the future payments of accrued liabilities for compensated absences such as sick or vacation time for employees who terminate employment. The Finance Committee ***recommends passage*** of this article. The vote was unanimous.

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

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**ARTICLE 12: (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), and under Article 2 of the 2014 Fall Session of the Annual Town Meeting (October 28, 2014), appropriations and transfers under the Omnibus Budget Article, by transferring a sum of money to the newly created Compensated Absences Fund; or take any other action relative thereto.

**TOWN MANAGER'S SUMMARY:** The purpose of this article is to transfer funds to the newly created Compensated Absences Fund for FY 15.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION:** This article seeks to fund the account established in Article 11 in the amount of \$49,750 by transferring \$24,750 in funds from retirement benefits and \$25,000 in funds from property and liability accounts established in the Fiscal Year 2015 budget. The Finance Committee ***recommends passage*** of this article. The vote was unanimous.

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

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**ARTICLE 13: (Board of Selectmen)**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, and/or transfer from available funds in the Treasury, and/or transfer from the undesignated fund balance (free cash), and/or transfer from the Stabilization Fund a sum of money for the Compensated Absences Fund for FY 2016; or take any other action relative thereto.

**TOWN MANAGER'S SUMMARY:** The purpose of this article is to raise and appropriate, and/or transfer from available funds in the Treasury, and/or transfer from the undesignated fund balance (free cash), and/or transfer from the Stabilization Fund a sum of money for the Compensated Absences Fund for FY 2016.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION:** This article authorizes funding of the compensated absences account for Fiscal Year 2016 in the amount of \$25,000. The Finance Committee ***recommends passage*** of this article. The vote was unanimous.

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

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**ARTICLE 14: (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), and under Article 2 of the 2014 Fall Session of the Annual Town Meeting (October 28, 2014), appropriations and transfers under the Omnibus Budget Article, by transferring a sum of money to the Health Insurance Stabilization Fund; or take any other action relative thereto.

**TOWN MANAGER'S SUMMARY:** This article seeks to transfer a sum of money to the Health Insurance Stabilization Fund.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION:** This article authorizes the transfer of \$150,000 from savings in the Fiscal Year 2015 budget to the Health Insurance Stabilization Fund. The Finance Committee ***recommends passage*** of this article. The vote was unanimous.

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

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**ARTICLE 15: (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), and under Article 2 of the 2014 Fall Session of the Annual Town Meeting (October 28, 2014), appropriations and transfers under the Omnibus Budget Article, by transferring a sum of money to the Stabilization Fund; or take any other action relative thereto.

**TOWN MANAGER'S SUMMARY:** This article seeks to transfer funds to the Stabilization Fund.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION:** The Board of Selectmen recommends passing over this article. At this time there are no funds to be transferred to the Stabilization Fund. The Finance Committee ***recommends passing over*** this article. The vote was unanimous.

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

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**ARTICLE 16: (Board of Selectmen)**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from the Pine Grove Cemetery Trust to fund operations of the Pine Grove Cemetery for FY 2016 beginning July 1, 2015 and ending on June 30, 2016, said funds to be expended under the direction of the Director of Public Works; or take any other action relative thereto.

**TOWN MANAGER'S SUMMARY:** The purpose of this article is to transfer funds from the Pine Grove Cemetery Trust to fund operations of the Pine Grove Cemetery for FY 2016 beginning July 1, 2015 and ending on June 30, 2016, said funds to be expended under the direction of the Director of Public Works.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION:** This article seeks to transfer funds from the Pine Grove Cemetery Trust to fund the operations of the cemetery during Fiscal Year 2016. The Finance Committee ***recommends passage*** of this article in the amount of \$12,700. The vote was unanimous with one abstention.

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

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**ARTICLE 17: (Board of Selectmen)**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money for the purpose of financing the purchase of a 2015 Street Sweeper for use by the Highway Division 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.

**TOWN MANAGER'S SUMMARY:** The purpose of this article is to finance the purchase of a 2015 Street Sweeper for use by the Highway Division of the Department of Public Works. It is to be determined whether such appropriation shall be subject to a capital outlay expenditure exclusion under Proposition 2½.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION:** This article seeks to authorize funding for the purchase of a 2015 Street Sweeper for use by the Highway Division of the Department of Public Works. This Street Sweeper will replace a 1998 Sweeper. The purchase will be subject to passage of a capital outlay expenditure exclusion under Proposition 2½ with a one year increase in property taxes. The Finance Committee ***recommends passage*** of this article in an amount not to exceed \$192,500. The vote was unanimous.

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

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**ARTICLE 18: (Board of Selectmen)**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money for the purpose of financing the purchase of a 2015 Combination Dump Truck with Wing Plow for use by the Highway Division 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.

**TOWN MANAGER'S SUMMARY:** The purpose of this article is finance the purchase of a 2015 Combination Dump Truck with Wing Plow for use by the Highway Division of the Department of Public Works. It is to be

determined whether such appropriation shall be subject to a capital outlay expenditure exclusion under Proposition 2½.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION:** This article seeks to authorize funding for the purchase of a 2015 Combination Dump Truck with Wing Plow for use by the Highway Division of the Department of Public Works. This Truck will replace a 2001 Truck/Plow. The purchase will be subject to passage of a capital outlay expenditure exclusion under Proposition 2½ with a one year increase in property taxes. The Finance Committee ***recommends passage*** of this article in an amount not to exceed \$189,000. The vote was unanimous.

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

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**ARTICLE 19: (Board of Selectmen)**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and/or transfer from the Retained Earnings Account of the Sewer Enterprise Fund a sum of money for the purpose of financing the purchase of a 2015 4-Wheel Drive Utility Body Truck – with snow plow (with foil), hydraulic crane, radio and light safety package for use by the Sewer Division of the Department of Public Works; or take any other action relative thereto.

**TOWN MANAGER'S SUMMARY:** This purpose of this article is to finance the purchase of a 2015 4-Wheel Drive Utility Body Truck – with snow plow (with foil), hydraulic crane, radio and light safety package for use by the Sewer Division of the Department of Public Works.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION:** This article seeks to authorize the transfer of funds from the Retained Earnings Account of the Sewer Enterprise Account for the purpose of purchasing a 2015 4-Wheel Drive Utility Body Truck with snow plow (with foil), hydraulic crane, radio and light safety package for use by the Sewer Division of the Department of Public Works. The Finance Committee ***recommends passage*** of this article in an amount not to exceed \$73,000. The vote was unanimous.

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

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**ARTICLE 20: (Board of Selectmen)**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds [free cash and/or ambulance receipts reserve fund] a sum of money for the purchase of an ambulance and associated appurtenances and equipment; or take any other action relative thereto.

**TOWN MANAGER'S SUMMARY:** This article seeks funding to purchase an ambulance and associated appurtenances and equipment.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION:** This article seeks to authorize funding from free cash and ambulance receipts reserve fund for the purchase of a new ambulance and associated appurtenances and equipment. The Finance Committee ***recommends passage*** of this article as follows: \$109,972 from Free Cash and \$95,028 from Ambulance Receipts with the total amount not to exceed \$205,000. The vote was unanimous.

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

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**ARTICLE 21: (Board of Selectmen)**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from the Retained Earnings Account of the Water Enterprise Fund a sum of money for the purchase and installation of radio communication equipment for a meter reading system, for the Town of Northbridge's Water Distribution System; or take any other action relative thereto.

**TOWN MANAGER'S SUMMARY:** This articles seeks funding for the purchase and installation of water meters and associated equipment, including a meter reading system, for the Town of Northbridge Water Distribution System.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION:** This articles seeks funding from the Retained Earnings Account of the Water Enterprise Fund for the purchase and installation of radio units for a Fixed Network Water Metering System for the Northbridge Water Distribution System. The Finance Committee ***recommends passage*** of this article in the amount of \$300,000. The vote was unanimous.

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

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**ARTICLE 22: (Board of Selectmen)**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and/or transfer from the Retained Earnings Account of the Sewer Enterprise Fund a sum of money to be expended under the direction of the Director of Public Works, for the purpose of financing reporting and document preparation required under the EPA issued Wastewater Treatment Plant NPDES discharge permit, including a collection system annual operations report, a full collection system operations and maintenance (O&M) plan with gap analysis, system capacity, management operations and maintenance (CMOM), user fees evaluation, public outreach, an emergency overflow response plan, a preventative maintenance plan, EPA coordination and an update of the collection system mapping; or take any other action relative thereto.

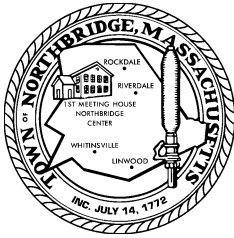
**TOWN MANAGER'S SUMMARY:** This articles seeks funding for the purpose of financing reporting and document preparation required under the EPA issued Wastewater Treatment Plant NPDES discharge permit, including a collection system annual operations report, a full collection system operations and maintenance (O&M) plan with gap analysis, system capacity, management operations and maintenance (CMOM), user fees evaluation, public outreach, an emergency overflow response plan, a preventative maintenance plan, EPA coordination and an update of the collection system mapping. Funds to be expended under the direction of the Director of Public Works.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION:** This article authorizes funding from the Retained Earnings Account of the Sewer Enterprise Fund for costs associated with the sewer discharge permit. The Finance Committee ***recommends passage*** of this article in the amount of \$140,000. The vote was unanimous.

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

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**Jamie Luchini**  
Highway Superintendent

# **Town of Northbridge**

## **Department of Public Works**

**11 Fletcher Street, P.O. Box 88**  
**Whitinsville, Massachusetts 01588**  
**Phone: 508-234-3581      Fax: 508-234-0807**

### **NARRATIVE FOR ARTICLE 17**

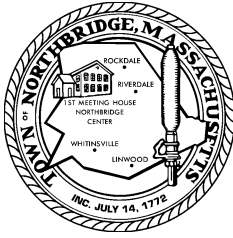
The article before you is to replace an existing 1998 Elgin Pelican street sweeper. This piece of heavy equipment is one of the most vital in the day to day operation of any highway department. It is solely responsible for the yearly spring cleanup of all the sand and salt that is spread throughout all roads and public ways over the course of a winter in Northbridge. This totals over 83 miles of roadways, as well as all town owned parking lots, municipal building parking lots and all school parking lots as well. Also, this machine is tasked with the ongoing cleanup of all roads through the year for such events as road races and other special events that take place on your public ways. In addition this vital piece of equipment is used to clean up after accidents as well as many other spills and messes that take place through the year. It is truly a beast of burden, collecting sand, dirt and uncountable other such items that would otherwise be left in the roads. The sweeping up of all road sand before it enters the water ways via catch basins is also an important part of the Storm Water Act and will continue to be as regulations surrounding this Act become more stringent in upcoming years.

The current machine that is deployed by the Northbridge DPW is quite frankly on its last leg. Last fall it lost its ability to sweep gutters by way of a broken gutter broom shaft. This costly repair had to be made in order for the machine to maintain any usability at all. Structurally this machine is a severe risk. The whole floor of the hopper is rotted out due to years of salt and sand collection in it. To put it plainly the big tub in the front of the sweeper that collects everything has holes all throughout and the corner welds that hold it all together are cracked. Our mechanic pieced together metal to overlay the floor so we could send out the sweeper this spring. How long it will hold is anyone's guess. In addition to that a major problem with the clutch was detected and "band aided" before it was tucked away in the basement of the fire station for its winter storage.

The street sweeper we are seeking approval for is a 2015 Elgin Pelican NP. This machine is the industry standard for street sweeping in this state, and can be found virtually in any town throughout the Commonwealth. The bid for the Elgin Street Sweeper is available for purchase on the Plymouth County Cooperative and the N.J.P.A Contact. It is my hope that you will vote favorably for this article in order to facilitate the DPW to better serve you the taxpayers and keep the streets of Northbridge clean.

The appropriation amount for this article is \$192,500. This article is subject to a one-year capital exclusion, which, for the average single family home valued at \$266,000, equates to a one-time property tax increase of \$37.24 for FY16. It also requires passage at the annual Town Election, May 19, 2015.

Very truly yours,  
Jamie Luchini  
Highway Superintendent



**Jamie Luchini**  
Highway Superintendent

# **Town of Northbridge**

## **Department of Public Works**

**11 Fletcher Street, P.O. Box 88**  
**Whitinsville, Massachusetts 01588**  
**Phone: 508-234-3581      Fax: 508-234-0807**

### **NARRATIVE FOR ARTICLE 18**

The article before you is to replace an existing 2001 combination dump truck/sander with a wing plow attachment. This piece of heavy equipment is the only truck we had with a functioning wing plow in operation. Sadly this is no longer the case. Heading into this winter drastic improvisations had to be made on this truck just in order for it to be used at all last winter. The main drive shaft was broken in the front assembly. Basically this means that you could not drive it. We had to send it out and have the front driveshaft cut out and pieced the front end back together. Another mechanical failure was detected this fall, in preparation for the upcoming winter. The body rot had reached the point that our mechanic could no longer weld anything on it to stop salt and sand from pouring out of the bottom of the dump. We plugged on with it right up until the point the body could no longer be used at all. Through the severity of this winter the dump body had reached the point that you could no longer lift it to salt and sand the streets with. The 9 yard sander body was now useless. We continued to use the truck as a plow, it just had no capability to treat the roads it was plowing. The next item that failed on it was the main hydraulic valve bank. In simple terms, the part of the truck that makes everything else move. At this point it was "Mickey Moused" together to last a few weeks and thankfully the snow let up. This large truck's area to cover is the Mendon Road, Quaker and Church Street area. As you well know a very heavily traveled area of town. It became increasingly difficult to cover this trucks route as it quite literally began to fall apart. We had to pull other trucks off their routes to sand and salt this area, which led to very long delays in between plowing and treating the road surface for safer traffic flow.

The truck we are seeking in this article is a replacement for this front line snow fighter. It also is a combination dump truck/sander with a wing plow attachment. It is a 2015 Freightliner model. This is the company who has the state bid for this year. It comes with all the technical and practical options that I feel are necessary to make this truck a front line snow fighting piece of equipment. This bid was put together with overall cost in mind without forgoing all that is needed in this truck. Some highlights of this would be the wing plow attachment, the combination dump body/sander and all the other safety features built into this bid. It is my hope that you the taxpayers will support this article to help us, as a department, better plow and treat your roads in the upcoming winters.

The appropriation amount for this article is \$189,000. This article is subject to a one-year capital exclusion, which, for the average single family home valued at \$266,000, equates to a one-time property tax increase of \$34.58 for FY16. It also requires passage at the annual Town Election, May 19, 2015.

Very truly yours,  
Jamie Luchini  
Highway Superintendent

**TOWN OF NORTHBRIDGE  
2016 TOWN DEBT  
DRAFT DOCUMENT**

	<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>EXCLUDED</u>	<u>PRINCIPAL</u>	<u>INTEREST</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
<b>1</b>	School Land Acquisition	YES	90,000.00	18,450.00	108,450.00
<b>2</b>	TITLE V	NO	10,421.00 4,687.00	-	15,108.00
<b>3</b>	Town/School Roof Plans	NO	11,000.00	4,697.00	15,697.00
<b>4</b>	Police Roof	YES	11,000.00	5,228.00	16,228.00
<b>5</b>	Middle School Roof	YES	113,000.00	55,370.00	168,370.00
<b>6</b>	Fire Roof	NO	7,000.00	3,430.00	10,430.00
<b>7</b>	BVRVTHS Expansion	YES	-	83,487.00	83,487.00
<hr/>					417,770.00

**TOTAL PRINCIPAL FY'16: 247,108.00**

**TOTAL INTEREST FY'16: 170,662.00**

**TOTAL EXCLUDABLE DEBT FY'16 376,535.00**

**ONE-TIME CAPITAL EXCLUSIONS**

**FY 2016 – STREET SWEEPER, TRUCK, EQUIPMENT [New capital / to be added to calculation]  
\$381,500 = \$71.82 on an average single family home**

**FY 2015 – ROADS PROGRAM [completed / to be removed from calculation]  
\$300,000 = \$55.86 on an average single family home**

**NET INCREASE FOR AN AVERAGE SINGLE FAMILY HOME: \$15.96**

## **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.

### **ENTERPRISE FUND**

Accounts for activities for which a fee is charged to external users for goods or services. Accounts for operations that are financed and operated in a manner similar to private business enterprises - where the intent of the governing body is that the costs (expenses including depreciation) of providing goods and services to the general public on a continuing basis be financed or recovered primarily through user charges.

### **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.

### **NET ASSETS UNRESTRICTED** (formerly Retained Earnings)

An equity account reflecting the accumulated earnings of an enterprise fund that may be used to fund capital improvements, to reimburse the general fund for prior year subsidies, or to reduce user charges and to provide for enterprise revenue deficits (operating loss).

### **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.

### **USER CHARGES/FEES**

A municipal funding source where payment is collected from the user of a service to help defray the cost of providing the service.

### **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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Presort Standard  
US Postage Paid  
Permit No. 108  
Whitinsville, MA  
01588

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**SAVE THE DATE**

**MAY 5, 2015**

**Spring Annual Town Meeting**

**To: Postal Customer**