

# **Finance Committee**

## **Votes and Recommendations**

**2024 ANNUAL  
TOWN MEETING**

**MAY 6, 2024**

## **1. TOWN OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES**

**The Finance Committee recommends this customary article be accepted and adopted.**

**VOTE: YES-6, NO-0.** Peter Hughes, Dana DeCosta, Mark Kelleher, Dan Tworek, Robert MacCready, Michele Gallucci

## **2. REPORTS OF TOWN OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES**

**The Finance Committee recommends this customary article be accepted and adopted.**

**VOTE: YES-6, NO-0.** Peter Hughes, Dana DeCosta, Mark Kelleher, Dan Tworek, Robert MacCready, Michele Gallucci

## **3. ELECTED OFFICIAL SALARIES**

**The Finance Committee recommends this customary article be accepted and adopted. Setting the Town elected officials' salaries at Town Meeting is a Harwich Home Rule Charter requirement which the Finance Committee supports. The funding for this article is contained in the general government operating budget article.**

**VOTE: YES-6, NO-0.** Peter Hughes, Dana DeCosta, Mark Kelleher, Dan Tworek, Robert MacCready, Michele Gallucci

## **4. TOWN OPERATING BUDGET**

**The Finance Committee recommends this article be accepted and adopted to fund the annual operation of the Town for FY 2025 and that \$45,732,309 be funded with \$2,690,639 be taken from available funds, \$16,307,350 be taken from estimated receipts, and \$26,734,320 be raised and appropriated for this purpose, with the following changes to APPENDIX-B the 2025 Select Board Recommended budget, line item 131 Finance Committee Reserve Fund increase by \$75,000 to a total of \$125,000, and line item 220 Fire – S&W decrease by \$75,000 to a total of \$5,410,115. The total increase for the fire department overtime account this year is over \$231,000 and the Finance Committee feels that the total budget for this line item is sufficient to support the needs of the department with \$75,000 moved into the Reserve Fund. This amount represents less than 6% of the total overtime budget. The Finance Committee will hold those funds with the expectation the department needs are less but make them available if needed. Having a higher reserve fund is beneficial to the Town as considered by Mass DOR and helps the Town to maintain our AAA rating.**

**VOTE: YES-6, NO-0.** Peter Hughes, Dana DeCosta, Mark Kelleher, Mark Ameres, Robert MacCready, Michele Gallucci

## **5. MONOMOY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET**

**The Finance Committee recommends this article be accepted and adopted to fund the annual operation of the Monomoy Regional School District for FY 2025, and that \$29,876,982 be raised and appropriated for this purpose.**

**VOTE: YES-5,** Peter Hughes, Mark Kelleher, Mark Ameres, Robert MacCready, Michele Gallucci  
**NO,** Dana DeCosta

## **6. CAPE COD REGIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET**

**The Finance Committee recommends this article be accepted and adopted for the Harwich assessment to fund the annual operation of the Regional Technical High School for FY 2025, and that, \$2,204,820 be raised and appropriated for this purpose.**

**VOTE: YES-6, NO-0.** Peter Hughes, Dana DeCosta, Mark Kelleher, Dan Tworek, Robert MacCready, Michele Gallucci

## **7. WATER DEPARTMENT BUDGET**

**The Finance Committee recommends this article be accepted and adopted to fund the annual operation of the Water Department for FY 2025, and that \$4,831,887 be transferred from the water enterprise fund for this purpose.**

**VOTE: YES-5, NO-0.** Peter Hughes, Dana DeCosta, Mark Kelleher, Mark Ameres, Robert MacCready

## **8. WASTEWATER DEPARTMENT BUDGET**

**The Finance Committee recommends this article be accepted and adopted to fund the annual operation of the Wastewater/Sewer Department for FY 2025, and that \$700,432 be raised and appropriated for this purpose.**

**VOTE: YES-5, NO-0.** Peter Hughes, Dana DeCosta, Mark Kelleher, Mark Ameres, Robert MacCready

## **9. MONOMOY MIDDLE SCHOOL RENOVATION PROJECT**

**The Finance Committee recommends this article be accepted and adopted to fund the Monomoy Middle School siding project with a total estimated cost of \$2,500,000. This fund is subject to a 2 1/2% override question which is on this year's ballot.**

**VOTE: YES-5, NO-0.** Peter Hughes, Mark Kelleher, Mark Ameres, Robert MacCready, Michele Gallucci, Dana DeCosta

## **10. PETITIONED ARTICLE – TREE PRESERVATION BYLAW**

**The Finance Committee recommends indefinite postponement (IPP) on this article. This article will take away property rights that are currently held by all Harwich landowners. The article accounts for all the land under the current setback rules of the Town which are a significant part of many properties in the Town. Landowners will be required to assess and pay for changes made on these areas of their land, and this article is retroactive up to 12 months after the bylaw takes effect. The Finance Committee is recommending a “NO” vote on this article to not burden property owners with these requirements. There are public shade tree laws in the Town to protect our most valuable trees. There is “No” money associated with this article for enforcement or education, there are no funds for the Town to take any responsibility for the health and safety of any of these trees even though the Town has rights concerning those trees, and there are no additional funds for lawsuits that may result from ambiguities within the language of this bylaw.**

**IPP VOTE: YES-6, NO-0.** Peter Hughes, Dana DeCosta, Mark Kelleher, Mark Ameres, Robert MacCready, Michele Gallucci

## **11. FUND CAPE COD COMMUNITY MEDIA CENTER**

**The Finance Committee recommends this article be accepted and adopted to fund access to local television for the coming year, and that \$158,273 be transferred from PEG Access Funds for this purpose.**

**VOTE: YES-5, NO-0.** Peter Hughes, Dana DeCosta, Mark Kelleher, Mark Ameres, Robert MacCready

## **12. LEASE PURCHASE AGREEMENTS**

**The Finance Committee recommends this article be accepted and adopted to meet State requirements of Municipal Finance lease purchase rules.**

**VOTE: YES-6, NO-0.** Peter Hughes, Dana DeCosta, Mark Kelleher, Dan Tworek, Robert MacCready, Michele Gallucci

**13. PETITIONED ARTICLE – HOME RULE PETITION: PESTICIDES**

The Finance Committee recommends this article be accepted and adopted to help curtail the use of pesticides in our Town.

**VOTE: YES-4**, Mark Ameres, Dan Tworek, Robert MacCready, Michele Gallucci **NO-3**, Dana DeCosta, Mark Kelleher, Peter Hughes

**14. PETITIONED ARTICLE – AUTHORIZE SPECIAL ACT TO ENABLE HARWICH TO REGULATE THE APPLICATION OF FERTILIZERS**

The Finance Committee recommends this article be indefinitely postponed. There are no funds available in this article for implementation or education. It is felt this article will hurt local businesses and homeowners who correctly apply fertilizers on their lawns and gardens.

**VOTE: YES-4**, Mark Ameres, Dana DeCosta, Mark Kelleher, Peter Hughes **NO-3**, Dan Tworek, Robert MacCready, Michele Gallucci

**15. PETITIONED ARTICLE - AFFIRM SUPPORT FOR A PUBLIC ACCESS OLYMPIC SWIMMING POOL AND FACILITIES AT THE HARWICH COMMUNITY CENTER**

The Finance Committee recommends this article be indefinitely postponed. The Finance Committee is aware this resolution is intended to inspire discussion on a pool in Harwich, this article as written is misleading and may lead votes in the wrong direction. An “Olympic” sized pool may be the wrong size needed for residents of the Town, and the Committee feels a price tag of \$18,000,000 which was developed pre-COVID in 2018 is no longer an appropriate measure for the potential cost. We would rather have a Town committee develop the needs of the Town and place the project on the Capital Plan the way all other Town projects are done.

**VOTE: YES-5**, Mark Ameres, Dana DeCosta, Peter Hughes, Dan Tworek, Robert MacCready **NO-2**, Mark Kelleher, Michele Gallucci

**16. ADOPT THE CAPITAL OUTLAY PLAN**

The Finance Committee recommends this article be accepted and adopted with the following changes to the FY 2025 column as set forth in Appendix C of this warrant, under the FY 2025 column add \$1,160,000 to the *Facility Maintenance 80 Parallel Street (Brooks Academy)* project, add \$2,500,000 to the *Golf Irrigation Update* project, and add \$1,500,000 to the *Public Works Road Maintenance/improvements* project. This motion will be made by the Finance Committee to restore the amounts in the Capital Plan. The Select Board has publicly indicated they wish to address these items at a Fall Town meeting, and the Finance Committee feels it is better to keep these amounts in the FY funding year instead of a \$0.

**VOTE: YES-6, NO-0**. Peter Hughes, Dana DeCosta, Mark Kelleher, Mark Ameres, Robert MacCready, Michele Gallucci

**17. CAPITAL OUTLAY PROJECTS FUNDED FROM VARIOUS SOURCES**

The Finance Committee recommends this article be accepted and adopted, and that \$437,863 be transferred from various sources for this purpose including \$150,000 of grant money. Improvements to cable access, improvements to Herring River access, the harbormaster maintenance building, as well as preserving the public records of the Town will be funded through various available funds.

**VOTE: YES-6, NO-0**. Peter Hughes, Dana DeCosta, Mark Kelleher, Mark Ameres, Robert MacCready, Michele Gallucci

### **18. CAPITAL OUTLAY PROJECTS FUNDED FROM FREE CASH**

The Finance Committee recommends this article be accepted and adopted, and that \$2,892,000 be transferred from available funds for this purpose. This article will provide vehicle replacements, equipment, technology, and building maintenance for many departments across the Town.

**VOTE: YES-5**, Peter Hughes, Mark Kelleher, Mark Ameres, Dana DeCosta, Michele Gallucci  
**NO-1**, Robert MacCready

### **19. CAPITAL OUTLAY PROJECTS FUNDED FROM WATER RETAINED EARNINGS AND BORROWING**

The Finance Committee recommends this article be accepted and adopted, and that \$2,402,000 from Water Retained Earnings be made available or borrowed for this purpose. These funds will provide the usual vehicle and equipment replacements for FY 2025 and will allow for well rehabilitation and the painting of the Pleasant Lake Avenue water tank.

**VOTE: YES-7, NO-0.** Peter Hughes, Dana DeCosta, Mark Kelleher, Mark Ameres, Robert MacCready, Dan Tworek, Michele Gallucci

### **20. CAPITAL OUTLAY PROJECTS FUNDED FROM WASTEWATER RETAINED EARNINGS**

The Finance Committee recommends this article be accepted and adopted, and that \$75,000 be transferred from the Wastewater retained earnings to make collection system improvements for FY 2025.

**VOTE: YES-6, NO-0.** Peter Hughes, Dana DeCosta, Mark Kelleher, Mark Ameres, Robert MacCready, Michele Gallucci

### **21. ACQUISITION OF A CONSERVATION RESTRICTION FOR 1039 ROUTE 28**

The Finance Committee recommends this article be accepted and adopted, contingent upon successful awarding to the Town of a Commonwealth of Massachusetts Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) program reimbursement grant; and, further, to authorize the Town to accept the sum of \$2,000,000 from The Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trust, Inc.

**VOTE: YES-7, NO-0.** Peter Hughes, Dana DeCosta, Mark Kelleher, Mark Ameres, Robert MacCready, Dan Tworek, Michele Gallucci

### **22. EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FROM SALE OF 276 QUEEN ANNE ROAD**

The Finance Committee recommends this article be accepted and adopted to allow the Select Board to access \$1,505,001 from a previous sale of land for future land purchases.

**VOTE: YES-6**, Peter Hughes, Dana DeCosta, Mark Kelleher, Mark Ameres, Michele Gallucci, Dan Tworek  
**NO-1**, Robert MacCready

### **23. CORRECT ARTICLE 24 FROM THE 2023 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

The Finance Committee recommends this article be accepted and adopted, to provide better legal clarification to the original motion.

**VOTE: YES-6, NO-0.** Peter Hughes, Dana DeCosta, Mark Kelleher, Mark Ameres, Robert MacCready, Michele Gallucci

### **24. COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT –HOUSEKEEPING EXPENSES**

The Finance Committee recommends this article be accepted and adopted. This customary article sets the limits for each designated fund. Open space, historic preservation, and community housing at \$199,500 each. This article also provides for \$75,000 for administrative purposes. This is an increase from the usual \$50,000 administrative costs.

**VOTE: YES-5**, Peter Hughes, Mark Kelleher, Mark Ameres, Robert MacCready, Michele Gallucci

NO-1, Dana DeCosta

**25. COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT – BEACH AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR (AED) ACQUISITION**

**The Finance Committee recommends this article be accepted and adopted, and that \$39,000 be transferred from Community Preservation Act funds for this purpose.**

**VOTE: YES-6, NO-0.** Peter Hughes, Dana DeCosta, Mark Kelleher, Mark Ameres, Robert MacCready, Michele Gallucci

**26. COLD BROOK TRAILHEAD AND PUBLIC ACCESS PROJECT**

**The Finance Committee recommends this article be accepted and adopted, and that \$250,000 be transferred from Community Preservation Act funds for this purpose.**

**VOTE: YES-6, NO-0.** Peter Hughes, Dana DeCosta, Mark Kelleher, Mark Ameres, Robert MacCready, Michele Gallucci

**27. HARWICH POLICE SOCCER CLUB STREET SOCCER PITCH**

**The Finance Committee recommends this article be accepted and adopted, and that \$48,700 be transferred from Community Preservation Act funds for this purpose.**

**VOTE: YES-6, NO-0.** Peter Hughes, Dana DeCosta, Mark Kelleher, Mark Ameres, Robert MacCready, Michele Gallucci

**28. AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST FUNDS**

**The Finance Committee recommends this article be accepted and adopted, and that \$500,000 be transferred from Community Preservation Act funds for this purpose.**

**VOTE: YES-6, NO-0.** Peter Hughes, Dana DeCosta, Mark Kelleher, Mark Ameres, Robert MacCready, Michele Gallucci

**29. LOWER CAPE HOUSING INSTITUTE**

**The Finance Committee recommends this article be accepted and adopted, and that \$7,500 be transferred from Community Preservation Act funds for this purpose.**

**VOTE: YES-4,** Peter Hughes, Dana DeCosta, Mark Kelleher, Mark Ameres  
**NO-1,** Michele Gallucci, **Abstain-1,** Robert MacCready

**30. MONOMOY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT PRESS BOX PROJECT**

**The Finance Committee recommends this article be accepted and adopted, and that \$100,000 be transferred from Community Preservation Act funds for this purpose.**

**VOTE: YES-4,** Peter Hughes, Mark Kelleher, Mark Ameres, Michele Gallucci  
**NO-2,** Dana DeCosta, Robert MacCready

**31. NORTH WOODS AND WATER SUPPLY PROTECTION PROJECT**

**The Finance Committee recommends this article be accepted and adopted, and that \$100,000 be transferred from Community Preservation Act funds for this purpose.**

**VOTE: YES-6, NO-0.** Peter Hughes, Dana DeCosta, Mark Kelleher, Mark Ameres, Robert MacCready, Michele Gallucci

**32. 203 BANK STREET FIREHOUSE HOUSING**

**The Finance Committee recommends this article be accepted and adopted, and that \$400,000 be transferred from Community Preservation Act funds for this purpose.**

**VOTE: YES-5,** Peter Hughes, Dana DeCosta, Mark Ameres, Robert MacCready, Michele Gallucci

NO-1, Mark Kelleher

**33. RED RIVER VALLEY LAND AND WATER PROTECTION PROJECT**

The Finance Committee recommends this article be accepted and adopted, and that \$150,000 be transferred from Community Preservation Act funds for this purpose.

VOTE: YES-6, NO-0. Peter Hughes, Dana DeCosta, Mark Kelleher, Mark Ameres, Robert MacCready, Michele Gallucci

**34. SENIOR MEMORIAL SOFTBALL FIELD FENCING**

The Finance Committee recommends this article be accepted and adopted, and that \$110,000 be transferred from Community Preservation Act funds for this purpose.

VOTE: YES-6, NO-0. Peter Hughes, Dana DeCosta, Mark Kelleher, Mark Ameres, Robert MacCready, Michele Gallucci

**35. SOUTH HARWICH GRAVESTONE CONSERVATION**

The Finance Committee recommends this article be accepted and adopted, and that \$23,000 be transferred from Community Preservation Act funds for this purpose.

VOTE: YES-6, NO-0. Peter Hughes, Dana DeCosta, Mark Kelleher, Mark Ameres, Robert MacCready, Michele Gallucci

**36. VETERANS MEMORIAL COMPLEX ELECTRIC IRRIGATION REPLACEMENT**

The Finance Committee recommends this article be accepted and adopted, and that \$37,000 be transferred from Community Preservation Act funds for this purpose.

VOTE: YES-6, NO-0. Peter Hughes, Dana DeCosta, Mark Kelleher, Mark Ameres, Robert MacCready, Michele Gallucci

**37. REPURPOSE ARTICLE 31 OF THE 2013 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

The Finance Committee recommends this article be accepted and adopted, and that \$25,000 be transferred from the previous article for this purpose.

VOTE: YES-7, NO-0. Peter Hughes, Dana DeCosta, Mark Kelleher, Mark Ameres, Robert MacCready, Dan Tworek, Michele Gallucci

**38. FUND FISCAL YEAR 2024 WASTEWATER DEBT**

The Finance Committee recommends this article be accepted and adopted, and that \$858,742 be transferred from Wastewater Retained Earnings into the FY 2024 Wastewater Operating budget to pay for issued debt due in this year. This will allow the Wastewater Department to close their FY 2024 books without a significant deficit.

VOTE: YES-7, NO-0. Peter Hughes, Dana DeCosta, Mark Kelleher, Mark Ameres, Robert MacCready, Dan Tworek, Michele Gallucci

**39. ANNUAL DEPARTMENTAL REVOLVING FUNDS AUTHORIZATION**

The Finance Committee recommends indefinite postponement (IPP) on this article. The Finance Committee feels that needed changes must be made to the concept of revolving funds so the cost of overhead, (treasury and accounting departments), to maintain and otherwise administer these revolving funds is deposited in the general fund of the Town, in the meantime it is felt that the Select Board should make the positive motion on this article.

VOTE: YES-6, NO-0. Peter Hughes, Dana DeCosta, Mark Kelleher, Mark Ameres, Robert MacCready, Michele Gallucci

**40. TRANSFER 172 QUEEN ANNE ROAD FOR DISPOSITON**

**The Finance Committee recommends this article be accepted and adopted.**

**VOTE: YES-6, NO-0.** Peter Hughes, Dana DeCosta, Mark Kelleher, Mark Ameres, Robert MacCready, Michele Gallucci

**41. TRANSFER 174 QUEEN ANNE ROAD FOR DISPOSITON**

**The Finance Committee recommends this article be accepted and adopted.**

**VOTE: YES-6, NO-0.** Peter Hughes, Dana DeCosta, Mark Kelleher, Mark Ameres, Robert MacCready, Michele Gallucci

**42. TRANSFER 246 QUEEN ANNE ROAD FOR DISPOSITON**

**The Finance Committee recommends this article be accepted and adopted.**

**VOTE: YES-6, NO-0.** Peter Hughes, Dana DeCosta, Mark Kelleher, Mark Ameres, Robert MacCready, Michele Gallucci

**43. AMEND CHAPTER 7 OF THE GENERAL BYLAWS**

**The Finance Committee recommends this article be accepted and adopted to allow alternate members for the Board of Health to better assist them in maintaining a quorum for important votes.**

**VOTE: YES-7, NO-0.** Peter Hughes, Dana DeCosta, Mark Kelleher, Mark Ameres, Robert MacCready, Dan Tworek, Michele Gallucci

**44. AMEND CHAPTER 271 OF THE GENERAL BYLAWS**

**The Finance Committee recommends this article be accepted and adopted to allow the bylaws of the Town to better match the Town Charter.**

**VOTE: YES-6,** Peter Hughes, Dana DeCosta, Mark Kelleher, Mark Ameres, Robert MacCready, Dan Tworek, **NO-1.** Michele Gallucci

**45. AMENDMENTS TO THE HARWICH CHARTER**

**The Finance Committee recommends this article be accepted and adopted to allow for some “housekeeping” changes to the Charter. A previous article changing “Selectmen” to “Select Board” did not fully address all of the needed changes which makes this article necessary.**

**VOTE: YES-7, NO-0.** Peter Hughes, Dana DeCosta, Mark Kelleher, Mark Ameres, Robert MacCready, Dan Tworek, Michele Gallucci

**46. PETITIONED ARTICLE - HOME RULE PETITION – ATTAINABLE HOUSING**

**The Finance Committee recommends this article be accepted and adopted to allow access to affordable housing trust funds to a wider range of people in need of affordable housing.**

**VOTE: YES-6,** Peter Hughes, Mark Kelleher, Mark Ameres, Robert MacCready, Michele Gallucci, Dan Tworek, **NO-1.** Dana DeCosta

**47. DEFRAID THE EXPENSES OF THE CHASE LIBRARY AND HARWICH PORT LIBRARY**

**The Finance Committee recommends this article be accepted and adopted, and that \$20,000 be transferred from available funds for this purpose for this customary article.**

**VOTE: YES-6, NO-0.** Peter Hughes, Dana DeCosta, Mark Kelleher, Mark Ameres, Robert MacCready, Michele Gallucci



**48. PROMOTE THE TOWN OF HARWICH**

**The Finance Committee recommends this article be accepted and adopted, and that \$50,000 be raised and appropriated for this purpose for this customary article.**

**VOTE: YES-7, NO-0.** Peter Hughes, Dana DeCosta, Mark Kelleher, Mark Ameres, Robert MacCready, Dan Tworek, Michele Gallucci

**49. ANNUAL ALLOCATION FOR LOCAL CULTURAL COUNCIL GRANTS**

**The Finance Committee recommends this article be accepted and adopted, and that \$4,000 be transferred from available funds for this purpose for this customary article.**

**VOTE: YES-7, NO-0.** Peter Hughes, Dana DeCosta, Mark Kelleher, Mark Ameres, Robert MacCready, Dan Tworek, Michele Gallucci

**50. FUND ELECTRONIC VOTING AT TOWN MEETINGS**

**The Finance Committee makes No Recommendation Pending Further Information, (NRPFI). The Finance Committee recommends no recommendation pending further information when, at the time of the printing of the warrant, it had insufficient or incomplete information to make an informed recommendation. It does not imply a negative view, only an incomplete understanding of the article at the print deadline. The Finance Committee will make its final recommendation at Town meeting after having received further information.**

**VOTE: YES-7, NO-0.** Peter Hughes, Dana DeCosta, Mark Kelleher, Mark Ameres, Robert MacCready, Dan Tworek, Michele Gallucci

**51. SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION FOR PHASE 3 WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS**

**The Finance Committee recommends this article be accepted and adopted. This article is to transfer the unused funds from the Route 28 dry pipe sewer project to the general sewer collection project.**

**VOTE: YES-6, NO-0.** Peter Hughes, Dana DeCosta, Mark Kelleher, Mark Ameres, Robert MacCready, Michele Gallucci

**52. FUND A SEWER ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM**

**The Finance Committee recommends this article be accepted and adopted. This article was placed in the warrant by the Select Board one day before the final meeting of the Finance Committee prior to the printing of the warrant. The Finance Committee voted to support this article and expects to learn the details of the grant program prior to Town meeting.**

**VOTE: YES-4,** Peter Hughes, Dana DeCosta, Mark Kelleher, Mark Ameres, **NO-2,** Robert MacCready, Michele Gallucci

**53. HERRING FISHERIES**

**The Finance Committee recommends this customary article be accepted and adopted.**

**VOTE: YES-6, NO-0.** Peter Hughes, Dana DeCosta, Mark Kelleher, Mark Ameres, Robert MacCready, Michele Gallucci