

Town of Arlington Massachusetts

Report of the Finance Committee

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING Monday, February 12, 2018

The Finance Committee recommends passages of the following votes:

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

ARTICLE 4 BYLAW AMENDMENT/PARKING BENEFITS DISTRICT EXPENDITURES

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town Bylaws to establish processes by which parking benefits district expenditures shall be reviewed and endorsed by the Finance Committee, Capital Planning Committee, and Town Meeting; or take any action related thereto.

(Inserted at the request of the Town Manager)

**VOTED: That the Finance Committee supports the recommendation of the
Selectmen.**

COMMENT:

With positive action on Article 26 of the 2017 Annual Town Meeting, the Town adopted a provision of the Municipal Modernization Act which allows for the establishment of Parking Benefit Districts. The Town may now segregate its parking revenues from those districts for expenditures in same related to districts' improvement. For example, operating costs, such as parking meter maintenance or snow removal can be paid for directly out of Town parking revenues. Similarly, larger capital improvements such as street and infrastructure improvements can also be paid for out of parking district revenues.

However, at the recommendation of the Finance Committee, both the Board of Selectmen and the Town Manager pledged to develop a process by which these operating and capital expenditures would be vetted and endorsed annually by the Finance and/or Capital Planning Committees respectively, and then Town Meeting.

ARTICLE 5 ENDORSEMENT/PARKING BENEFITS DISTRICTS OPERATING AND CAPITAL COSTS

To see if the Town will endorse proposed expenditures relative to established parking benefits districts; or take any action related thereto.

(Inserted at the request of the Town Manager)

VOTED: That the Town does hereby endorse the following expenditures from the Parking Fund:

	Operating	Capital
Russell Common Parking Lot Design		\$50,000
Sidewalk Snow Bank Removal	\$25,000	
Sidewalk Cleaning	\$10,000	
Installation of Bike Racks		\$4,000
Replacement of Benches		\$16,000
Solar Trash Receptacles		\$5,000
Removing Heaved Granite Edges		\$20,000
Total	\$35,000	\$95,000
Total Operating + Capital		\$130,000

COMMENT:

Given the Finance and Capital Planning Committees' shared commitment to the primacy of Town Meeting review of all Town of expenditures and the Town Manager and Board of Selectmen's agreement, until positive action is garnered on Article 4 (and approved by the Attorney General), and in the absence of more specific guidance from the Department of Revenue, the above motion is recommended for Town Meeting's review and endorsement of Parking Benefit District operating and capital expenditures.

Parking meter receipts in FY 2018 are projected to total \$538,232, including both the kiosks and street meters. Direct expenses are projected to total \$273,384, including credit card processing fees, coin collection, leased spaces, and a share of parking enforcement and administration. The surplus is expected to be \$264.848, and the proposed \$130,000 expenditures will leave around \$135,000 to carry into FY 2019.

**ARTICLE 6 APPROPRIATION/CAPITAL BUDGET/HARDY SCHOOL
RENOVATION OR CAPACITY EXPANSION**

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

(Inserted at the request of the Town Manager)

VOTED: That the sum of \$_____ be and hereby is appropriated for the purpose of paying costs of the design, reconstruction of and additions to the Hardy elementary school, and for costs incidental and related thereto; and with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, the Treasurer is authorized to borrow \$_____ under and pursuant to Chapter 44 Section 7 of the General Laws, as amended, or any other enabling authority and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefore, said sums to be expended under the direction of the Town Manager. Any premium received by the Town upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount.

COMMENT:

This article supplements the previous \$3.5 million appropriation and borrowing authorization approved under Article 3 of the April 2017 Special Town Meeting for the Hardy School renovation and/or capacity expansion.

In anticipation of final review of bids by the Permanent Town Building Committee, the specific amounts in the above vote will be presented at Town Meeting.