

ARLINGTON FINANCE COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING
7:30PM O'NEIL ROOM COMMUNITY SAFETY BUILDING
2/22/12

ATTENDEES:

Bayer*	Padaria*	Jenkins*	White*	McKenna*
DeCoursey*	Connors*	Simmons*	Gibian*	
Tosti*	Foskett*	Deyst*	Ronan	
Ferrara*	Beck*	Jones*	Deshler*	
Franclemont*	Howard*	Fanning*	Carman	Turkall*

* Indicates present

VISITORS: School Committee Members Bill Hayner, Joe Curro, Leba Heigham; Joe Carabello, Steven Harrington, Chair Uncle Sam Committee Lawrence McKinney, Secretary Uncle Sam Committee Hugh McCory, AHS Athletic Director Ted Dever, Bob Bertholomew, Joe Curran, Matt Pallett, Dennis Corbett, Matt Hanley, Doug Grant, ACMI Video Camera

MINUTES: The minutes of 2/15 were accepted as corrected. Unanimous.

ART 23 SECOND WATER METERS: Carabello, using a handout (Ref 1) stated that residents should not pay sewer charges on water that does not go to the sewer. He provided a handout listing 7 nearby communities that allow residents to install a second meter for this purpose. He estimated \$1500 to install and 5 years to breakeven with sewer charges saved. Ferrara stated that some of the water used outside goes into the sewers through leaks. Members concerned w/ admin costs and cheating. Carabello asked to find out how many residents in other communities have 2nd meters & whether cheating has been a problem. Ferrara to inquire about admin & capital costs and sewer infiltration.

ART 58 ARS CONCUSSION REDUCTION: Harrington, using a handout (Ref 2), stated that the rate of concussions suffered during AHS athletics was significantly greater than at other local schools. Also, the football helmets are much older on average. He said he was unable to address this problem with the schools, the School Committee or the Capital Planning Committee (CPC). He suggests that helmets and pads for all sports should be considered safety equipment, like bullet proof vests for police, and thus a legitimate capital expense. Curro said School Committee had not voted on this matter. Heigham said they had heard Harrington's request. Hayner said he had heard nothing from the school administration. Bartholomew and Grant agreed w/ Harrington's description of the concussion problem. Foskett described the CPC's efforts to bring this matter to the school administration. Members said this matter should be handled by the schools, not directly by Town Meeting. Tosti to talk w/ Superintendent.

ART 56 UNCLE SAM COMMITTEE: McKinney supported by McCory requested \$1500 to light the statue, put up a tourist signboard, and print promotional materials. In response to questions about why they can't raise funds, they said the appropriation is needed first.

VOTED \$1500. 15-3

COMMITTEE: Next mtg 2/27. The hearing schedule was updated. Another draft Warrant was provided. The Special Town Meeting now has 10 articles.

RESERVE FUND BALANCE: \$620,000

Peter Howard 2/23/12 Revised 2/27/12

cc FinCom Members, Town Web Site, Robbins Library

Ref 1 2nd Water Meter Material

Ref 2 Concussion Material
Ref 3 Uncle Sam Committee Request

**ARTICLE 23
METERS**

BYLAW AMENDMENT/SECOND WATER

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town Bylaws to allow for the installation of second water meters for non-domestic water usage, including but not limited to water used for lawns, gardens, swimming pools, and washing cars; or take any action related thereto.

(Inserted at the request of Joseph Carabello and 10 registered voters)

Finance Committee Members

I am submitting a bylaw amendment allowing homeowners to install a 2nd water meter in their homes for non-domestic water usage. The purpose of the article is so water that is not returning into the sewage system will not be charged to the homeowner with a sewer charge. Only a water charge and not a sewer charge will be assessed to the homeowners with the 2nd meters. (Examples are outside water used for lawns, gardens, pools and washing cars etc.)

Sum Team

The homeowner would be responsible for the cost of the 2nd meter and would have a licensed plumber install the meter at the homeowners cost. The home owner would be required to apply for a plumbing permit through the Town of Arlington and would be responsible for those charges. The homeowner would also be responsible for the cost of the town installing the outside meter reading device for the 2nd meter.

Neighboring Communities that allow 2nd water meters

- Belmont
- Cambridge
- Medford
- Lexington
- Burlington
- Stoneham
- Winchester

Joseph Carabello
156 Lake St.
Arlington, MA 02474



Town of Belmont

Department of Public Works

Cemetery • Highway • Parks & Facilities • Water

Peter J. Castanino
Director

Second Water Meter Regulation Acknowledgement

I / We have read the regulations regarding 2nd water meters.

I / We agree to comply with these regulations now in effect and as may be amended in the future, the purpose of which is intended to protect the health of the citizens of Belmont.

Signature

Date

Printed Name

Phone

Address

2nd Meter Address

City / Town State Zip Code

2nd Meter Purpose (irrigation, apartment etc.)

Meter size 5/8" 1"

(Larger sizes need Water Manager's approval)

Do not Use Office Only			
Account #	_____		
Plumber's Permit Received?	Yes	No	
Payment for 2 nd Meter Received?	Yes	No	
Appointment Made?	Yes	No	If Yes Date _____
Clerk's Initials	_____		



Town of Belmont

Department of Public Works

Cemetery • Highway • Parks & Facilities • Water

Peter J. Castanino
Director

Second Water Meter Regulations and Fee Schedule

1. Water meters will only be installed on copper water services, these services need to be verified by the Water Division PRIOR to submittal of application.
2. Customer must show proof of plumbing permit
3. The fee for a 5/8 meter is \$270.00; larger meters shall incur additional costs. Please call 617-993-2700 for larger meter costs.
4. Only water meters installed by the Belmont Water Division are acceptable.
5. Property Owners must furnish sufficient room for meter installation
6. A ball type valve shall be installed on house side of water meter.
7. Backflow prevention devices must be installed in accordance with The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection Agency Regulation 310 CMR 22.22
8. All outside hose bibs shall be equipped with atmospheric vacuum breakers
9. A licensed plumber must make all necessary connections from the water meter outlet to all plumbing involved after the meter is installed. Plumbing expenses are the sole responsibility of the property owner.

Second Water Meter Regulation Acknowledgement must be completed and included with your payment(s) to:

Town of Belmont Water Division
PO Box 56
Belmont, Ma 02478



Search

Water & Sewer Division

Department of Public Works

Second Meter for Outdoor Watering

Board of Selectmen policy allows a separate water meter to be installed for outdoor watering. Consumption from this meter will be charged a water rate only.

Required procedure to install a separate meter:

- Hire a plumber. **Your plumber must obtain a plumbing permit** from the Office of Community Development located in the basement of the Town Office Building.
- Once your plumber has completed the necessary work for the installation (tail pieces must be installed), your plumber must call the Office of Community Development at (781) 862-0500 x211 or x212 to make an appointment to have the work inspected. **No bypass (jumper) is allowed.**
- Bring the Plumbing Permit receipt to the Department of Public Works Operations Facility at 201 Bedford St. to pay for the meter. The price of the permit will be deducted from the meter price.

■ 1" meter	\$275.00	Spacing end to end – 11"
■ 3/4" meter	\$250.00	Spacing end to end – 9 ¼"
■ 5/8" meter	\$225.00	Spacing end to end – 7 ¾"
- After the work has been inspected and the meter has been paid for, call the Water/Sewer Division at (781) 274-8353 or (781) 274-8354 to make an appointment for the Water/Sewer employees to install the meter.

Commercial properties must purchase their own water meter as specified by the Lexington Water/Sewer Division. All required backflow devices must be installed and a cost of \$500.00 must be paid prior to any meters being installed.

Both Meters Must be Installed in a Horizontal Position (see below):

Second Meter Policy

Printer-Friendly Version

SECOND WATER METER POLICY

Customer must hire a licensed plumber who will be responsible to obtain a plumbing permit from the Building Department

The plumber would then purchase the water meter from the Public Works, 16 Pine Street. The plumber must have a copy of the plumbing permit and a bank check for the water meter made out to **Ti-Sales**. (Contact the Public Works for current meter prices). In addition, the plumber must also have a **bank check (or cash)** made out to the **Town of Stoneham**. (Contact the Public Works for current fees)

The plumber is responsible to install the water meter so that all water passes through the primary meter first. All second water meters are to be installed with the current outside reading device. All meters are to be installed horizontally.

There are absolutely no inside connections (drawoffs, spigots, etc.) allowed after the second water meter inside the dwelling.

Second water meters are for outside usage only (example: filling of pools, washing vehicles, watering gardens/lawn). Any customer that is found using the second water meter for inside use, will lose the second water meter privileges and will be fined.

An inspection must be made by the Public Works Department and the Plumbing Department before any credits will be issued on water/sewer/trash bills.

Any water that is used on the second water meter will be forfeited if an inspection has not been made by this Department for an inspection prior to the use of the second water meter. Second water meters are the **HOMEOWNER'S RESPONSIBILITY**. If the meter breaks or fails to register, the **HOMEOWNER** is responsible to purchase a new one from this Department.

The Town Meeting of May 2011 authorized the conversion of the Town's Water/Sewer Reading System to a Radio Transmitter System. Customers with second meters will be charged for the second water meter transmitter (Department of Public Works will install the device) on a future water/sewer bill.

The HOMEOWNER is responsible for.....

- ▶ The purchase of a water meter from DPW.
There must not be any outstanding water & sewer bills AND presently have an outside viewer for the 1st meter (if not, an appointment must be made to have one installed with DPW, call 781-270-1670).
 - \$100.00 payable to *Town of Burlington* at Tax Collectors Office (Town Hall 1st Floor)
 - Before you can pick up your water meter from DPW (Annex 2nd Floor) you need following...
 - Paid receipt of plumbing permit application
 - Paid receipt from Tax Collector for meter
 - Approved DPW Cross Connection Plan (see plumbers responsibilities)

- ▶ contract a licensed plumber

*NOTE:**DPW will conduct an initial test and annual test on all *testable backflow devices*, as required. The homeowner will be billed for the cost of these tests (\$20 yearly).

The PLUMBER is responsible for....

- ▶ The Plumbing Permit Application.
The Plumber will apply for the Plumbing Permit
Include the homeowners telephone number and not whether for sillcocks and/or new or existing lawn sprinkler system (\$25.00 - 2 fixtures).

- ▶ The complete of DPW Cross Connection Plan.
(form provided by DPW or Building Dept on backflow device w/schematic) FAX to 781-238-4695. *Plan on up to 2 weeks for approval of plan.

▶ The INSTALLATION...

- DPW Cross Connection Plan must be pre-approved by DPW-Including schematic
 - Must have a non-removable backflow device (must be State and Town approved)
 - **In-ground sprinkler systems must have a testable backflow device. This must be verified by the plumbing contractor submitting plumbing permit application.
 - If sill cocks, install hose bibb vacuum breakers with a non testable, dual-check valve in line after meter.
 - Run wire from 2nd water meter to the outside viewer (leave slack for mounting)
- Pipe from outdoor watering shall not have a bypass jumper*

▶ The INSPECTIONS will be scheduled by the licensed PLUMBER after the approved installation

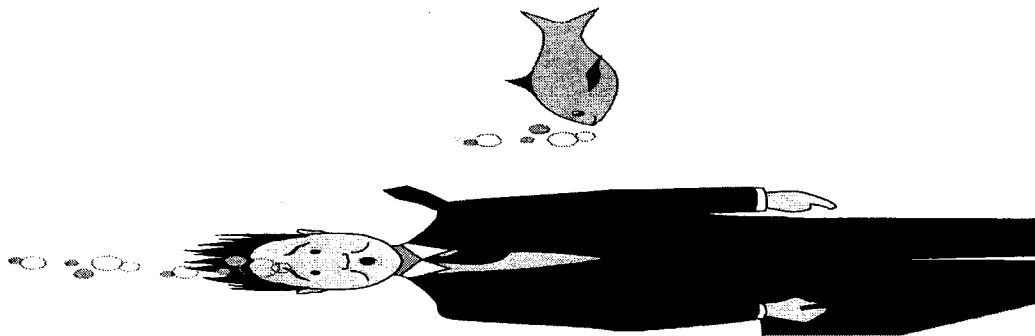
- Final inspection, approved & tagged by the Plumbing Inspector (781-270-1618).
- The Water Department will then inspect the new meter, install & reconnect the outside viewer and seal the meter.
This inspection requires 24 hours notice

The outside view will be color coded to properly identify and read meter

The Town reserves the right to inspect the second meter with 24-hour notice.

**IN CASE OF AN OUTSIDE WATERING BAN,
THE TOWN RESERVES THE RIGHT TO
TURN OFF THE OUTSIDE METER.**

2nd Water Meter Guidelines



The HOMEOWNER is responsible for...

- * any outstanding water & sewer bills AND presently have an outside viewer for the 1st meter (if not, an appointment must be made to have one installed with DPW, Call 270-1677).

* contracting a licensed plumber

- **NOTE: ** DPW will conduct an initial test and annual test on all testable backflow devices, as required. The homeowner will be billed for the cost of these tests (approximate \$20 yearly, subject to change).**

The PLUMBER is responsible for ...

DPW Cross Connection Plan Form provided by DPW or Building Dept. This form must be completed and requires knowledge of the backflow device and a schematic
 Mail or FAX to 781-270-1699

DPW Cross Connection Plan must be pre-approved by DPW before installation. The plumber will receive notice of approval.
 Plan on up to 2 weeks for approval of plan.

After approval, apply for Plumbing Permit in the Building Department. Cost will be \$45. At this time \$100 payment for water meter can be processed.

- ◆ Before you pick up your water meter from DPW (Annex, 2nd Floor)...you need the following...

- Paid receipt of plumbing permit application
- Paid receipt for meter
- ◆ \$100.00 payable to *Town of Burlington*
- Approved DPW Cross Connection Plan (See plumbers responsibilities)

* The INSTALLATION...

- ◆ Must have a non-removable backflow device (must be State & Town approved).
- ◆ **In ground sprinkler systems must have a testable backflow device. The plumbing contractor submitting plumbing permit application must verify this.
- ◆ If sill cocks, install hose bib vacuum breakers with a non-testable, dual-check valve in line after meter
- ◆ Run wire from the 2nd water meter to the outside viewer (leave slack for mounting)
Pipe from outdoor watering shall not have a bypass (jumper).

* The **INSPECTIONS** will be scheduled by the licensed **PLUMBER** after BOTH the plan approval and notification of the approved installation by DPW is received by the plumbing inspector.

- ◆ Final inspection by the Plumbing inspector is required after installation is approved (Call 781-270-1618 for appointment)

- ◆ The Water Department will install & connect the outside viewer and seal the meter. This inspection requires 24-hour notice... Call 781-270-1677.

The outside viewer will be color coded to properly identify and read meter.

The Town reserves the right to inspect the second meter with 24-hour notice.

IN CASE OF AN OUTSIDE WATERING BAN, THE TOWN RESERVES THE RIGHT TO TURN OFF THE OUTSIDE METER.

RESIDENTIAL ONLY!

What is the Problem?

Traumatic Brain Injuries, aka concussions, are a poorly understood and growing public health hazard in our youth. The leading cause of TBI in recreational activities for youths is falling off a bike. 20 years ago, few wore bike helmets; I know when growing up in Arlington in the 1970s, few if any children wore bike helmets. Today, bike helmets are required for children. We now know that a bike helmet reduces the risk of a concussion by 85%. What many still don't realize is that a bike helmet (as well as a motorcycle helmet) is good for one fall before it should be replaced.

In organized sports, concussions were once thought as a necessary evil. Anyone remember the Bobby Orr era in hockey? Few if any hockey players wore helmets. Goalies did not wear helmets, many did not use face masks. Today, we would be appalled at a professional hockey player who did not wear a helmet. Yet, skate guards and many attending a public skate in Arlington do not wear a helmet.

Technology for safety equipment, modern helmets and pads, has advanced dramatically in just the past few years. As well, research has made great strides in identifying the risks associated with repeated TBIs. Combined with new laws, reporting requirements and public education, reducing traumatic brain injury in youth sports is at the forefront of public health initiatives.

More needs to be done, and WE can do a better job in Arlington. That is why I am here tonight, to lay out a program to help reduce the likelihood of traumatic brain injuries in public high school student-athletes.

I'll begin with asking again:

What is the Problem?

Arlington has skimped on providing adequate, modern safety equipment to public school students participating in high school athletics. Furthermore, there exists no program in the FY13 budget plans designed to reduce the likelihood of concussions.

The *stated* policy of the APS superintendent is to meet the minimum safety requirements defined by equipment manufacturers, a standard set in the 1960s designed to reduce skull fractures. A standard that does little to address traumatic brain injury in student-athletes. A standard that allows safety equipment to be in service for 2-3X beyond the manufacturer's warranty expiration date.

For example, as of last fall, the average age of helmets in the AHS football program was 10 years, with some helmets 15 years old. Almost 40 helmets in the AHS inventory fail to meet the minimum safety standard and almost 60 helmets currently are not covered by the manufacturer's warranty period. There is no regular program for replacing football pads with most of the pad inventory well beyond the manufacturer's warranty expiration date.

Manufacture Date – AHS Football Helmets*

Year	Count	Year	Count	Year	Count
1995	1	1997	1	1998	3
1999	3	2000	7	2001	15
2002	6	2003	7	2004	1
2005	9	2006	2	2007	2
2008	8	2009	0	2010	1

*Certified by Riddell for the FY12 football season. The warranty on Riddell helmet shells is five (5) years for polycarbonate varsity helmets and three (3) years for ABS youth helmets.

The *unstated* policy of the APS requires parents to provide safety equipment for most athletic programs including lacrosse, hockey, soccer and other athletic endeavors at Arlington High School. This policy that requires parents to provide the necessary safety equipment for AHS athletics puts children at unnecessary risk for brain injuries, assumes each parent has the training and financial ability to select, fit and monitor proper safety equipment and ignores an important public health issue.

For example, there are no modern helmets provided by the APS in boys lacrosse or hockey putting the youngest, most inexperienced players most at risk.

The problem has come about because safety equipment is not a priority in the APS operating budget. A false choice between providing safety equipment and hiring classroom teachers/aides has resulted in a substandard inventory of safety equipment over the past decade.

Why do we care?

Poor management of high school players' concussions "isn't just a football issue," said Robert Sallis, president of the American College of Sports Medicine. "It's a matter of public health."

Reducing unnecessary risk in childhood brain injuries is enough reason to care. Protecting children from unnecessary risk is the right thing to do.

For those more analytically minded, consider the Town's liability in the future. The NFL, NCAA and other professional and amateur sports associations are being held responsible for not addressing brain injuries in athletes. It is just a matter of time before minimum safety standards and failure to provide adequate safety equipment may not be sufficient to protect a municipality from liability.

Over 160 residents signed this warrant article and they believe this is a matter that needs the attention of Town Meeting. The administration in the Arlington Public Schools has failed to adequately address the issue of appropriate safety equipment, articulate a program to reduce TBIs in high school athletics and have repeatedly refused to discuss the matter with all concerned parties.

What can we do about it?

We can fund replacement of all athletic equipment at AHS to reduce the likelihood of traumatic brain injuries in high school athletics. This warrant article is the first year of a proposed three year capital program

to replace all safety equipment in the AHS athletics program. Along with the capital expense we propose here tonight, we also know we can:

- 0. Recognize that TBI in high school athletes is a public health issue.
- 0. Advocate for a policy of "best practices" and not settle for a minimum standard for student-athletes' safety.
- 0. newer helmets reduce the likelihood of TBI by 55% or more.
- 0. researchers at Virginia Tech University determined that modern football helmets reduce the risk of concussion significantly. *"You can cut your risk of concussion 55 percent by switching from the VSR-4 to the Xenith XI."*
- 0. Initiate a three year concussion reduction program funded through the capital budget.
- 0. Replace all safety equipment currently in use at the APS that extend beyond the manufacturer's warranty expiration date.
- 0. Provide safety equipment for all AHS athletic programs including lacrosse, hockey and soccer.
- 0. Institute a baseline testing program for all students.
- 0. Develop an inventory control and tracking system matching safety equipment to students and monitoring ongoing efficacy of safety equipment.

Members of the Finance Committee can vote to support this warrant article and find a place in the FY2013 capital budget for this critical expense.

This warrant article provides the AHS administration with the necessary flexibility to prioritize which safety equipment needs to be replaced, who to purchase it from and when to start. From conversations with coaches and parents, the safety equipment that needs to be replaced and/or purchased consists, minimally, of about \$75,000 of expense:

- 0. Baseline testing of all AHS students = \$2,000/year
- 0. 70 pairs of football helmets and pads with a unit cost of \$375/ea = \$26,250
- 0. 50 pairs of helmets and pads for lacrosse with a unit cost of \$250/ea = \$12,500
- 0. 70 hockey helmets with a unit cost of \$150/ea = \$10,500
- 0. Advanced mouthguards for soccer, basketball and other sports with a unit cost of \$15/ea = \$3,000
- 0. New floor mats/pads for cheering and wrestling = \$15,000

Once the currently identified needs in some of the high contact sports are taken care of, subsequent annual requests for safety equipment in other programs will be brought to the finance and the capital planning committees.

Why the capital budget?

Municipalities have wide latitude in deciding what can be funded through capital budgets and what must be funded through operating budgets.

0. Athletic safety equipment meets the definition of a capital asset. From the Finance Committee Report to Town Meeting 2011. "The Capital Planning Committee uses the following definitions when deciding whether a particular budget item shall be in the Capital Budget or the Operating Budget. Other communities may define these terms differently. Capital Asset: An asset that
 0. Has an expected useful life of at least two years and
 0. Either has a unit cost of at least \$3,000 or is purchased in a program to gradually purchase a quantity of essentially identical units such that the total quantity price is over \$25,000."
0. The highest priority for inclusion in the capital budget is: "Imminent threat to the health and safety of citizens/property."

As well, the capital budget already contains purchases for safety equipment. For example, safety equipment for fire (protective equipment) and police (bullet proof vests) are line items in the FY13 capital budget. There is no financing difference between capitalizing employee, or public school student, safety equipment.

Funding safety equipment through the capital budget:

 0. Removes discretion in providing safety equipment from the APS operating budget.
 0. Eliminates the choice between public safety and staffing goals in the APS operating budget.
 0. Compares safety equipment with other public safety initiatives; e.g. snow plow blade Vs. athletic safety equipment.

Also from the FY12 capital planning report to TM, we know that :

0. "The capital budget is prepared from a town wide perspective. There is no assumption of a budget quota for individual departments."

0. "The sum of money available to fund the Town's Capital program is approximately five (5) percent of the total revenue."

With the \$6.5M June, 2011 override this means that an additional \$325,000 is available in FY13. Our request is less than 8% of this additional amount. Our request is less than 0.2% of the capital budget. Our request is less than 0.02% of the Town wide FY13 budget.

Athletic equipment in the public schools historically has not been considered a capital asset. This warrant article aims to change that. In the past, as well as not maintaining this capital asset, the APS has:

0. Charged capital, multi-season expenses such as jump pits with a useful life of more than five years and a unit cost of more than \$5,000 to students participating in track.
0. Underutilized the capital budget for equipment. The APS requests for FY13 is less than 4% of the total capital budget.

The APS has claimed that they are addressing some of these concerns (such as baseline testing and a modest football helmet replacement) through the operating budget. As we all know, the APS does not provide Town Meeting, nor the public, with anywhere near the detail to insure that this occurs. In any case, putting this expense where it belongs, in the capital budget, frees up the APS operating budget for other expenses. I can't imagine why the APS would not support more funds to accomplish its goals as well as additional funds to protect our children.

Why a Warrant Article?

The capital planning process has no mechanism for considering citizen initiated requests. When we made an application for a capital request in November, we received no response. Furthermore, the capital planning process only recognizes end-users as town employees. In the case of athletic safety equipment, the end users are the students, their parents and the coaches of the various teams. The 160+ residents who signed this warrant article are the end users. Every coach we talked to supports improved safety equipment for their athletes. This equipment is not intended for the heads and shoulders of administration personnel.

Because of these reasons, only a warrant article insured that this important and neglected public safety issue would be addressed.

Thank you for listening tonight. I urge all of you to consider a favorable vote in support of the Concussion Reduction Program at Arlington High School warrant article. I'd be happy to entertain any questions you might have.

Uncle Sam Committee

Request for 2012 Funding: Projects and Management

Submitted to the Arlington Finance Committee

February 22, 2012

1. Lighting for the Samuel Wilson Statue: \$500.00

We have discussed this long overdue project with town engineer Wayne Chouard and Allen Hadley of the Lexington Department of Public Works. Effective lighting can be provided by a single 150 metal halide outdoor floodlight. Whether this should be ground-mounted or affixed to existing light fixtures will determine the actual model.

The models used in Lexington are sourced at Wesco, and a search of similar fixtures indicates a cost of between \$275.00 and \$375.00 depending on the model. The cost to operate a single floodlight will not impact the utility bill for the town in any significant manner and the remainder of the sum would be applied to mounting hardware and installation labor.

2. Preliminary Design Budget: Tourist Signboard: \$500.00

With the MAOC "Battle Road" Scenic Byway, the Minuteman Bike Path, the re-design of the Arlington Center Intersection and the improvements on Massachusetts Avenue, more visitors that ever will be passing right in front of this space. Most of them don't know that most of Arlington's historic sites are only few blocks away, or even right across the street.

We have met and spoken with representatives of the Dallin Museum, the Arlington Historical Society and other interested parties. All agree that this would be an idea location for a tasteful, decorative tourist signboard to tell visitors about their efforts to promote the history and heritage of our town. Two local sign makers have expressed an interest on bidding on such a project, to be finished next year.

3. Uncle Sam Bicentennial Activities: \$500.00

From programs with the USS Constitution Museum, to a proclamation from the Governor, to the historic groundbreaking for the re-designed Uncle Sam Park on Town Day, 2012, we will be celebrating the 200th anniversary of the appearance of Uncle Sam during the War of 1812. Although it's not Sam Wilson's bicentennial, it is the 200th of the character he inspired, who became the lasting symbol of America. It cannot be said that we are doing anything like Troy New York, but we hope to serve some cake and ice cream at our location on Town Day, and light the statue that evening so those coming back from the fireworks will see our famous native lit up for the first time. We need a small budget for posters, programs, materials for public talks, as well as the cake and ice cream. Let it not be said we forgot Uncle Sam on his 200th birthday

Results of the 2011 Town Day Uncle Sam Plaza Poll

With thanks to the 87 who filled out all or part of the questionnaire

Did you know Uncle Sam was born 100 feet from here? Y (46) N (32)

A majority knew that Sam Wilson did, in fact, live near the statue.

Did you know Sam Wilson watched the Revolution begin? Y (18) N (58)

Sam Wilson saw it all - and his father was later wounded at Bunker Hill. One thing we'll be concentrating on will be young Sam's witness to the local events of 1775.

I learned about it in School? (26) Reading? (17) Friends? (8) Internet ? (4)

The Arlington schools are doing a good job. We were glad to see this.

I heard about the Plaza Project from the *Advocate* (25) *Town Meeting* (12)

This is new to me; I'm hearing about it for the first time (40)

This was particularly good for us. Between Town Meeting and The Arlington Advocate nearly half had already heard about it. We're making good use of the local media.

Uncle Sam Plaza would be good for *Arlington* (6) *Tourists* (11) *Both* (71)

This is the most significant finding. Despite resistance of the Town to promote or fund any form of tourism year after year the citizens speak. This is the largest single response.

Funding? *Town* (17) *Arlington Businesses* (33) *Popular "buy a brick"* (29)

***State promotion* (18) *National promotion* (6) *All of them* (38)**

There's a general consensus that this is something that we can do on a local level if the Town, our local business community, and interested citizens all pitch in.

***I'd like to see:* *Contemporary Landscape* (11) *Historical Landscape* (55)**

***Better Lighting* (34) *Benches, etc. for sitting* (49) *Attractive Planting* (32)**

***Historical Plaque* (41) *Water Feature* (23) *Tourist Information Board* (29)**

We agree with the historical theme, maybe bringing it back to 1775. The themes of history and places to sit down were foremost, with better lighting, nice plantings, and an information board following. I guess we can forget about the waterfall. (just kidding)

Uncle Sam Committee Questionnaire Results

Did you know the story of "Uncle Sam" Wilson

Yes	38
No	23

We should celebrate "Uncle Sam" Wilson

More	55
Less	2

"Real Uncle Sam" items for tourists and visitors?

Yes	61
No	

Uncle Sam essay/t-shirt art competition in schools?

Yes	51
No	4

Occasional Uncle Sam Features in the **Arlington Advocate**? 48

Supporting the Celebration

The promotion of Arlington as "*Birthplace of the Real Uncle Sam*" should be supported by

Town Funding	3
Citizen Donations & Programs	19
Commercial Sponsorships	16
All of the above	23

Under *Commercial Sponsorships*, what would you like to see?

Merchants selling Uncle Sam items (posters, t-shirts, stickers)	35
Sponsorship by major banks, real estate firms, etc.	32
"Real Uncle Sam" promotions by small businesses in Arlington	37

Volunteer for the Uncle Sam Committee Brigade

Media Intern	Historical Intern	Website Design	Friend	Computer Aid	Marketing Maven	Event Designer	Other
2	2	1	7	1	1	1	0