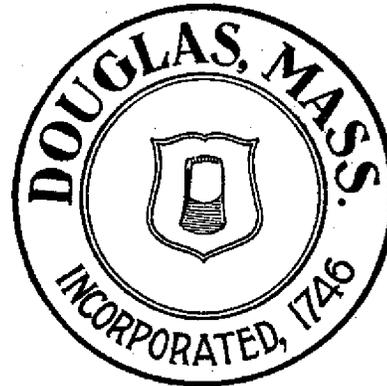


TOWN OF DOUGLAS VOTER INFORMATION BULLETIN
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
MONDAY, MAY 15, 2000 AT 7:00 PM

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Article 1. Finance Committee Report

To see whether the Town will vote to hear and act upon the report and recommendations of the Finance Committee as presented at and printed in the Finance Committee's Annual Town Meeting recommendations, or to take any other action related thereto.

Article 2. FY2001 Budget

To see if the Town will vote to fix the salary and compensation of all elected officials of the

Town as provided by Chapter 41, Section 108 of the Massachusetts General Laws, as amended; and to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate by transfer from available funds in the Treasury such sums of money as may be necessary to defray the regular expenses of the Town for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2000 (Fiscal Year 2001), or to take any other action related thereto.

Finance Committee recommends the article

Article 3. FY01 Water/Sewer Enterprise Fund

To see if the Town will vote to approve the sum of \$440,920 to operate and maintain the Water/Sewer Department from the following sources: (1) to raise and appropriate \$337,420 from Water/Sewer user charges, (2) to transfer \$83,500 from Water Development fees, and (3) to transfer \$20,000 from Sewer Development fees; and further to see if the Town will vote to approve the sum of \$158,835 to pay Water/Sewer Debt and Interest from the following sources: (1) to transfer \$122,575 from the Fund Balance Reserved for Water Well Bond Charges and (2) to transfer \$36,260 from Water/Sewer Unreserved Fund Balance; or to take any other action related thereto.

Finance Committee recommends the article

FY01 Town of Douglas General Fund Expenses

Department	FY00	FY01 Requested	FY01 FinCom
Selectmen			
Selectmen - Personnel Services	77,114	105,782	105,782
Selectmen - Expenses	99,726	94,698	94,698
Total Selectmen	176,840	200,480	200,480
Accountant			
Accountant - Personnel Services	36,000	37,800	37,800
Accountant - Expenses	11,765	11,935	11,935
Total Accountant	44,025	49,735	49,735
Assessors			
Assessors - Personnel Services	59,559	70,851	69,910
Assessors - Expenses	6,800	6,800	6,630
Revaluation	13,500	43,600	43,600
Special Mapping	10,000	-	-
Total Assessors	89,859	121,251	120,140
Tax Collector			
Tax Collector - Personnel Services	41,423	44,516	44,516
Tax Collector - Expenses	16,005	16,705	15,925
Tax Taking Expense	2,800	2,800	2,000
Total Tax Collector	60,228	64,021	62,441
Treasurer			
Treasurer - Personnel Services	46,568	55,204	52,704
Treasurer - Expenses	14,350	11,900	11,850
Tax Title Expense	10,000	10,000	9,000
Total Treasurer	70,918	77,104	73,554
Finance Committee			
Finance Committee - Reserve Fund	25,000	25,000	25,000
Finance Committee - Expenses	3,000	7,297	7,297
Total Finance Committee	28,000	32,297	32,297
Technology			
Technology - Personnel	-	10,000	10,000
Technology - Expenses	43,200	52,033	42,333
Total Technology	43,200	62,033	52,333
Town Clerk			
Town Clerk - Personnel Services	43,221	41,224	41,224
Town Clerk - Expenses	4,205	4,755	4,075
Total Clerk	47,426	45,979	45,299
Town Buildings			
Town Buildings - Personnel Services	29,682	32,594	32,594
Town Buildings - Expenses	62,824	71,500	69,500
Total Town Buildings	92,506	104,094	102,094
Community Development			
Community Development - Personnel Services	19,398	111,699	104,032
Expenses - Personnel Services	33,000	20,000	19,000
Planning Board	4,550	4,550	4,550
Master Plan Implementation Committee	-	10,300	8,200
Economic Development Commission	-	5,000	5,000
Z.B.A	5,140	5,140	5,140
Open Space Committee	-	1,000	1,000
Conservation Commission	7,100	7,150	2,150
Total Community Development	69,188	164,839	149,072

Department	FY00	FY01 Requested	FY01 FinCom
Other General Government			
Moderator's Salary	250	250	250
Personnel Board	-	-	14,000
Total Other General Government	250	250	14,250
Fire			
Fire - Personnel Services	42,975	80,570	80,570
Fire - Expenses	35,500	42,500	39,550
Total Fire	78,475	123,070	120,120
Ambulance			
Ambulance - Personnel Services	20,800	85,002	81,002
Ambulance - Expenses	4,800	12,100	12,100
Total Ambulance	25,600	97,102	93,102
Police			
Police - Personnel Services	649,402	719,834	719,834
Police - Expenses	111,525	131,750	122,250
Total Police	760,927	851,584	842,084
Building			
Building - Personnel Services	85,576	69,611	69,611
Building - Expenses	9,475	5,475	4,918
Total Building	95,051	75,086	74,528
Trees			
Tree - Personnel Services	500	500	500
Tree - Expenses	4,800	5,000	5,000
Total Trees	5,300	5,500	5,500
Other Public Safety			
Civil Defense	300	300	300
Total Other Public Safety	300	300	300
Board of Health			
Bd of Health - Personnel Services	27,737	30,209	30,150
Bd of Health - Expenses	6,895	7,195	7,195
Bd of Health - Nurse	9,136	9,593	9,319
Animal Inspection	1,548	1,585	1,573
Total Board of Health	45,316	48,582	48,237
Council On Aging			
Council on Aging - Personnel Services	18,952	21,729	21,729
Council on Aging - Expenses	6,200	7,200	6,800
Total Council on Aging	25,152	28,929	28,529
Housing Authority	-	500	500
Veterans			
Veterans Agent - Personnel Services	3,638	3,638	3,638
Veterans - Expenses	300	500	500
Veterans Benefits	3,000	3,000	2,700
Total Veterans	6,938	7,138	6,838
Cemetery			
	5,000	5,500	5,500
Highway			
Highway - Personnel Services	291,909	304,236	304,236
Highway - Expenses	48,800	66,711	64,711
Highway - Maintenance	138,930	134,930	134,930
Highway - Special	2,000	2,000	2,000
Highway - Snow & Ice	72,500	74,500	74,500
Total Highway	554,139	582,377	580,377
Other Public Works			
Monitor Landfill	2,000	2,000	2,000
Monitor Wells	9,000	9,000	9,000
Streetlighting	35,100	35,587	35,587
Total Other Public Works	46,100	46,587	46,587

Department	FY00	FY01 Requested	FY01 FinCom
Recreation			
Recreation - Personnel Services	6,400	6,400	6,400
Recreation - Expenses	22,611	27,700	26,700
Total Recreation	29,011	34,100	33,100
Library			
Library - Personnel Services	63,150	73,245	73,245
Library - Expenses	27,870	30,830	30,710
Total Library	91,020	104,075	103,955
Memorial Day	1,500	1,500	1,500
Douglas Schools			
Schools - Personnel Services & Expenses	6,516,254	7,132,727	7,132,727
Schools - Transportation/Fixed Assets	427,233	509,347	509,347
Medicaid Administration Expenses	15,000	-	-
Total Douglas Schools	6,958,487	7,642,074	7,642,074
Blackstone Valley Regional			
Blackstone Valley Regional Assessment	495,015	534,224	534,224
Blackstone Valley Regional Dump Truck	-	4,301	4,301
Regional Representative Expense	200	500	500
Total Blackstone Valley Regional	495,215	539,025	539,025
Insurance/Employee Benefits			
Insurance - Prop, Liab & Workmen's Comp	67,000	85,065	85,065
Unemployment	25,062	20,000	20,000
Insurance - Health & Life	679,366	775,496	775,496
Retirement	267,816	217,318	217,318
Medicare	73,000	78,000	78,000
Total Insurance/Employee Benefits	1,112,244	1,175,879	1,175,879
Debt Service	1,318,540	1,139,406	1,139,406
Capital Outlay			
• Library Renovation/ Addition Plans & Specifications		\$ 30,000	\$30,000
• Martin Road Tennis Courts		\$ 30,000	\$30,000
• Municipal Facilities Master Plan - Phase 1		\$ 10,000	\$30,000
• Sidewalk Construction		\$ 28,000	\$28,000
• Architectural Planning Services		\$ 50,000	\$24,500
Total Capital Outlay		148,000	142,500
TOTALS	12,376,755	13,578,397	13,531,337

Article 4. Establishing a Transfer Station Enterprise Fund

To see if the Town will vote to (1) establish a Transfer Station Enterprise Fund pursuant to 44 MGL 53F-1/2 for the purpose of consolidating into one account all costs and revenues related to the collection and disposal of solid waste and recyclable materials, including but not limited to the costs of operating the transfer station, contracting for transfer station collection services, providing related clerical services through the Board of Health, and funding the improvement, alteration, equipping, furnishing, maintenance, use, operation, and repair of the transfer station; (2) transfer to the Transfer Station Enterprise Fund the balance of unencumbered funds remaining in the Board of Health's Section 53E 1/2 Transfer Station revolving fund for the operation and maintenance of the Transfer Station, and that such revolving fund be thereafter dissolved; or to take any other action related thereto.

Finance Committee recommends the article. Board of Selectmen recommend the article.

Article 5. FY01 Transfer Station Enterprise Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$275,246 from Transfer Station charges and fees to operate and maintain the Transfer Station, or to take any other action related thereto.

Finance Committee recommends the article. Board of Selectmen recommend the article.

Article 6. Separate Account Funds

To see if the Town will vote to continue the following separate account funds and to authorize the expenditure of funds from said funds for the below indicated purposes and not to exceed amounts, or to take other actions related thereto:

#	Department	Receipts	Expenditures
1	Animal Control pursuant to	All receipts received in connection	Not to exceed the sum of twenty-six

	MGL Chapter 44, Section 53E 1/2	with the operation of the Dog Control Program	thousand, six hundred and thirty dollars (\$26,630) for the purpose of operating & maintaining the Animal Control Program including the operation & maintenance of a Town or regional animal kennel, if any provided.
2	Board of Health Sanitation Fee Account	All receipts from the various sanitation fees paid to the Town	Not to exceed sum of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) for the purpose of offsetting the cost of operating the Board of Health

Finance Committee recommends the article

Article 7. Recurring Business

- (a) State and Federal Grants: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to apply for and accept state or federal grants they deem beneficial to the Town, provided that the Board of Selectmen shall hold a public hearing prior to the Board's acceptance of any such grant, if said grant requires the town to meet future conditions or requirements. Or do or take any other action in this matter. On request of the Board of Selectmen.
- (b) Assessor's To Work Additional Hours: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Assessors to appoint one or more of their members to work for compensation, in accordance with the provisions of the Town's Personnel Bylaw, and to establish such compensation to be paid said member for Fiscal Year 2001.
- (c) Compensating Balance Agreements: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer to enter into a compensating

balance agreement or agreements for Fiscal Year 2001 pursuant to 44 MGL 53F, or to take any other action related thereto.

- (d) Ambulance Receipts Reserved For Appropriation: To see if the Town will vote to reserve all receipts received by the Town from ambulance user charges, user billings, and ambulance donations and gifts to the Ambulance Receipts Reserved Account, or take any other action related thereto.
- (e) Simon Fairfield Public Library: To see if the Town will vote to require that all funds received into the General Fund during the FY 2001 from State Aid Grants for the Public Library be transferred to the Special Interest Bearing Account for the Simon Fairfield Public Library and further, that all fines received during FY 2001 by the Simon Fairfield Library be retained by the library for the purpose of purchasing books, films and other library supplies and materials, or take any other action related thereto.

Finance Committee recommends the article

Article 8. Fire Pumper Tanker Purchase

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$225,000 to purchase a new fire pumper tanker vehicle, subject to approval by the voters of a capital exclusion ballot question, or to take any other action related thereto.

Finance Committee does not recommend the article

Article 9. Comprehensive Economic Development Plan

To see if the Town will vote to (1) authorize the Economic Development Commission to create a comprehensive economic development plan for the purpose of assisting the expansion of existing businesses and the attraction of new businesses which are consistent with the character of the Town, said plan to be presented for discussion and endorsement at a special town meeting, and (2) request all Town boards, officials and personnel to cooperate in

the preparation of said plan, or to take any other action related thereto.

Finance Committee has no recommendation on the article. Board of Selectmen recommend the article.

Article 10. Tax Increment Financing Agreement

To see if the Town will vote to approve a certain Tax Increment Financing Agreement between the Town of Douglas and **Digital Systems Service, Inc. (DSS, Inc.)**, a Massachusetts corporation, having a principal place of business at 5 Boyd Road, Hopedale, MA 01747 (hereinafter called "The Company"), and Chris Gardella, 19 Perry Street, Douglas, MA, ("owner"), a copy of said agreement being on file in the Board of Selectmen's Office; the Board of Selectmen to enter into said agreement providing for the construction and equipping of a new 4,500 square foot facility on Route 16 (hereinafter called the "New Facility") and the creation and maintenance of 7 to 11 new full time positions over the next ten years in the new facility with a preference to hiring qualified Douglas residents; and further to authorize the Board of Assessors to grant the below tax exemption terms consistent with the terms of 23A MGL 3 et. seq.; 40 MGL 59; and 59 MGL 5:

This exemption shall be valid for a period of ten (10) years, beginning with the first year in which the Douglas Board of Assessors places an assessed value on the new facility. The following exemption schedule and percentages shall apply toward the assessed value, as determined by the Douglas Board of Assessors.

Fiscal Year	Non-Exempted Percent	Exempted Percent
Year 1	40%	60%
Year 2	55%	45%
Year 3	65%	35%
Year 4	80%	20%
Year 5	85%	15%
Year 6	85%	15%
Year 7	85%	15%
Year 8	85%	15%
Year 9	85%	15%
Year 10	85%	15%

Finance Committee recommends the article. Board of Selectmen recommend the article.

Article 11. Certification of Town Clerk. To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 41, Section 19K, or to take any other actions related thereto.

[Section 19K. In any town, that accepts this section, a town clerk who has completed the necessary courses of study and training, and has been awarded a certificate by the Massachusetts Town Clerks' Association as a certified Massachusetts municipal clerk, shall receive as compensation from such town, in addition to the regular annual compensation paid by such town for services in such office, an amount equal to 10 per cent of such regular annual compensation, but not more than \$1,000 per year. In order to qualify for such additional compensation, a town clerk shall submit to the board of selectmen of such town proof of the award of such certificate. The additional compensation provided in this section shall be prorated for any 12 month period in which an eligible person does not hold the office of town clerk for 12 consecutive months. Such additional compensation shall discontinue when certification is discontinued or withdrawn.]

Finance Committee recommends the article

Article 12. Certification of Collector and Treasurer. To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 41, Section 108P, or to take any other actions related thereto.

[Section 108P. In any city, town or district that accepts this section, a collector or a treasurer who has completed the necessary courses of study and training and has been awarded a certificate by the Massachusetts Collectors and Treasurers Association as a certified Massachusetts municipal collector or a certified Massachusetts municipal treasurer or a certified Massachusetts district treasurer, shall receive as compensation from such city, town or district, in addition to the regular annual compensation paid by such city, town or district for services in such office, an amount equal to 10 per cent of such regular annual compensation, but not more than \$1,000 per

year. A collector or treasurer who has been awarded both certificates referred to above shall receive such additional compensation for only one such certificate. In order to qualify for such additional compensation, a collector or treasurer shall submit to the mayor or the board of selectmen of such city or town, or the governing board of a district proof of the award of either or both such certificates. The additional compensation provided in this section shall be prorated for any 12 month period in which an eligible person does not hold the office of collector or treasurer for 12 consecutive months. Such additional compensation shall be discontinued when certification is discontinued or withdrawn.]

Finance Committee recommends the article

Article 13. State Forest Open Space District

To see if the Town will vote to amend its zoning bylaws, or to take any other action related thereto, to add a new zoning district - State Forest Open Space (SFOS) and to revise the schedule of use regulations and table of dimensional requirements accordingly as follows:

Paragraph 2.01 CLASSES OF ZONING DISTRICTS

Add new zoning district: State Forest Open Space (SFOS)

Paragraph 3.02 SCHEDULE OF USE REGULATIONS

Add column for State Forest Open Space (SFOS) district. Also add new item to Section E (Public, Semi-Public, Institutional, Recreational) as follows:

6. Forestry and Conservation

In the newly added SFOS column, add "P" (permitted) to Item E.4 "Public or private outdoor recreational use" and also to Item E.6 "Forestry and conservation".

Add "-" (not permitted) to all other uses in the SFOS column.

Paragraph 4.02 SECTION IV- DIMENSIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Add State Forest Open Space (SFOS) district to this table as follows:

Zoning District: SFOS
Use: Public Recreation, Conservation land, Forestry
Min. Lot Area: 4 acres
Min. Lot Frontage on Public Street: 300 feet
Min. Yard Size, Front: 75 feet
Min. Yard Size, Side: 25 feet
Min. Yard Size, Rear: 25 feet
Maximum Height: 35 feet, 2 stories

Finance Committee has no recommendation on the article

Article 14. State Forest Rezoning

To see if the Town will vote to amend its zoning bylaws, or to take any other action related thereto, to rezone the entire area of the Douglas State Forest from RA to SFOS, and to amend the Town of Douglas Zoning Map accordingly. The area to be rezoned is shown on a map on file at the Town Clerk's Office.

Finance Committee has no recommendation on the article

Article 15. Personnel Bylaw Amendments

To see if the Town will vote to amend its general bylaws, or to take any other action related thereto, as follows:

Delete the Personnel Bylaw, as adopted on May 17, 1986 and amended on May 16, 1992, in its entirety and insert the following as a new Section 8, Article II in the Town of Douglas General Bylaws:

Article II: Administration and Finance

Section 8. Personnel Bylaws.

A. Purpose and Intent.

The purpose of the personnel bylaw is to establish fair and equitable personnel policies and to establish a system of personnel administration based on merit principles that ensure uniform, efficient application of personnel policies.

B. Application.

All town departments and positions shall be subject to the provisions of this bylaw and policies adopted pursuant to this bylaw, except elected officers and employees of the school department. To the extent that any collective bargaining agreement conflicts with any provision of this bylaw or personnel policies adopted pursuant to Section 5, the provisions of the collective bargaining agreement shall prevail.

C. Personnel Board Established.

The Board of Selectmen shall appoint three members and the Finance Committee shall appoint two members to a Personnel Board for terms of three years each so arranged that the term of office of an equal number of members expires each year.

D. Responsibility of the Personnel Board/Personnel Administration.

The Personnel Board shall be responsible for the development of a human resources system which meets the needs of the Town. The Personnel Board committee shall conduct such research including, but not limited to, review of compensation for employees, benefits, methods of selection of personnel, performance appraisal, and personnel procedures. The Executive Administrator or a designee of the Executive Administrator shall be the personnel officer for the Town and shall be responsible for the daily administration of the personnel system.

E. Personnel Policies.

The personnel policies shall establish a personnel system which shall include, but need not be limited to, the following elements:

- (1) Method of administration. A system which assigns responsibility for the personnel system, including maintaining personnel records, implementing effective recruitment and selection processes, maintaining the classification and compensation plans, monitoring the application of policies and periodic reviews and evaluation of the personnel system.
- (2) Classification and compensation plan(s), as deemed appropriate.
- (3) Recruitment and selection policies.
- (4) Record keeping system.
- (5) Rights and obligation of employees.
- (6) Other elements of

a personnel system as deemed appropriate or necessary.

F. Adoption of Policies.

The Personnel Board is empowered and authorized by this bylaw to adopt personnel policies defining the rights, benefits and obligations of employees subject to this bylaw. Such policies shall become effective in accordance with the following procedure:

(1) The Personnel Board may propose new, amended or revised policies; any such proposed policy may be proposed at any meeting of the Board. (2) Any proposed new, amended or revised policies shall be posted for a period of at least ten days after being proposed by the Board, during which time comments, information and questions regarding any proposed policy may be provided to the Board of Selectmen. (3) Any new, amended or revised policies shall become effective upon approval by the Board of Selectmen, unless a specific effective date is provided by the Board. (4) Copies of new or amended policies shall be posted in prominent locations within the Municipal Center.

G. Severability.

The provisions of this bylaw and the policies adopted pursuant to this bylaw are severable. If any bylaw provision or policy is held invalid, the remaining provisions of the bylaw or policy shall not be affected thereby.

H. Effective Date.

This bylaw shall take effect on July 1, 2000.

Finance Committee has no recommendation on the article. Board of Selectmen and Personnel Board recommend the article.

Article 16. Road Acceptance Bylaw Amendment

To see if the Town will vote to amend its general bylaws at Section 3 of Article V, or to take any other action related thereto.

Article V. Regulation of Property

Section 3

All private ways to be accepted by the town must be petitioned for [~~not later than October 1st in each year for~~] submission to the next ensuing [annual] town meeting four months in advance of such meeting. Petitioners for laying out, relocating or altering a street, highway, or private way, or part thereof, shall, in all cases first pay the cost, if any, of surveying, giving of notices, making of plans and other expenses of such proceedings. The Board of Selectmen may adopt regulations governing the standards for road acceptance. If the Planning Board has not approved a "Certificate of Completion" prior to the scheduled town meeting, the Board of Selectmen may enter into a Roads Acceptance Agreement with the petitioner to provide for the posting of a security instrument sufficient to cover all costs for completing necessary repairs, if any, and for inspecting the road prior, during and upon the completion of any repairs. Except as otherwise provided by law, the development and construction of said streets shall be in accordance with the specifications for ways established by the Planning Board for the purposes of subdivision of land.

Finance Committee has no recommendation on the article. Board of Selectmen recommend the article.

Article 17. Acceptance of Sandra Circle, Tucker Circle, and Marilyn Drive

To see if the Town will vote to accept as public ways: Sandra Circle, Tucker Circle, and Marilyn Drive, as shown on the plan entitled "Definitive Plan of Tucker Landing" dated June 15, 1989, as revised October 19, 1990 and prepared by Andrews Survey & Engineering, Inc., laid out by order of the Board of Selectmen and filed with the Town Clerk, and will further vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by gift, purchase or eminent domain an easement to use said way for all purposes for which public ways are used in the Town of Douglas, or to take any other actions related thereto.

Finance Committee has no recommendation on the article. Board of Selectmen do not recommend the article.

Article 18. Acceptance of Royal Crest Drive

To see if the Town will vote to accept as a public way: Royal Crest Drive, as shown on the plan entitled "Definitive Plan of Kingwood Estates" dated October 4, 1995 and prepared by Yerka Engineering Associates, and "Kingwood Estates Extension" dated April 3, 1998 as revised on June 21, 1998 and prepared by Guerriere & Halnon, laid out by order of the Board of Selectmen and filed with the Town Clerk, and will further vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by gift, purchase or eminent domain an easement to use said way for all purposes for which public ways are used in the Town of Douglas, or to take any other actions related thereto.

Finance Committee has no recommendation on the article. Board of Selectmen do not recommend the article.

Article 19. Acceptance of Mt. Daniels Way

To see if the Town will vote to accept as a public way: Mt. Daniels Way, as shown on the plan entitled "Mt. Daniels Estates" dated February 7, 1991 and prepared by Paul J. Coutu, laid out by order of the Board of Selectmen and filed with the Town Clerk, and

will further vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by gift, purchase or eminent domain an easement to use said way for all purposes for which public ways are used in the Town of Douglas, or to take any other actions related thereto.

Finance Committee has no recommendation on the article. Board of Selectmen recommend the article.

Article 20. Acceptance of Brookside Drive

To see if the Town will vote to accept as a public way: Brookside Drive, as shown on the plan entitled "Modified Definitive Plan of Brookside Estates" dated March 25, 1993 and prepared by Andrews Survey & Engineering, Inc., laid out by order of the Board of Selectmen and filed with the Town Clerk, and will further vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by gift, purchase or eminent domain an easement to use said way for all purposes for which public ways are used in the Town of Douglas, or to take any other actions related thereto.

Finance Committee has no recommendation on the article. Board of Selectmen recommend the article.

FY2001 Budget Initiatives

The proposed budget includes two major new initiatives:

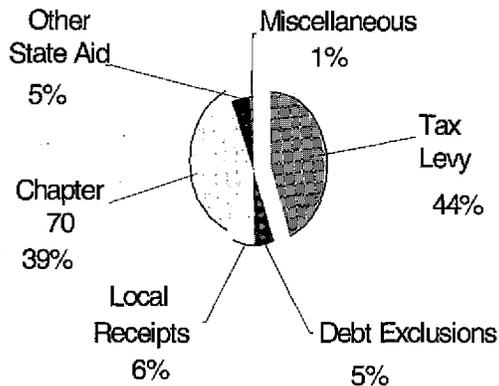
First: With the completion of the Town's new Fire Station, this budget proposes to move the Fire Chief to full time status and to hire two full-time Firefighter/EMTs to provide day-time coverage Monday - Friday. Salary expenses would be offset by ambulance receipts. The Town has had increasing difficulty staffing emergency services on a volunteer on-call basis during regular work day hours. These additions will dramatically improve response times which have frequently exceeded 20 minutes with current reliance upon out-of-town private ambulance services.

Second: This budget would create a new Community Development Department. Improving support to the Planning Board, Conservation Commission and other boards and committees involved in the land development review process was a top priority identified this year by the Board of Selectmen. With the high rate of residential growth, it is important to assure a full level of application review and infrastructure inspection to protect the Town's interests. The new department would hire a Town Engineer and a Planning/Conservation Agent to provide professional support; salary expenses would largely be offset by development fees.

Proposed Capital Outlay Projects

\$ 30,000	Library Renovation/ Addition Plans & Specifications	Library Trustees intend to apply for a 45% State reimbursement construction grant to renovate and construct an addition with parking in time for its 100th anniversary in 2003
\$ 30,000	Martin Road Tennis Courts	Recreation Commission would add two tennis courts to the new Martin Road Park to compliment new baseball fields, and the soccer field and playground in progress
\$ 30,000	Municipal Facilities Master Plan - Phase 1	This project would accomplish two objectives: (1) a structural and building systems inspection of municipal buildings to determine what kinds of preventative maintenance measures or repairs should be programmed and (2) a space and use study to develop a long-range plan for municipal buildings, including the Municipal Center, Town Garage, and Police Station.
\$ 28,000	Sidewalk Construction	In FY01, the Annual Sidewalk Construction Program would construct new sidewalks on North Street and Main Street from Douglas Center Cemetery to the Family Convenience Center
\$ 24,500	Architectural Planning Services	Services to assist the school Building Committee in evaluating building options
\$ 142,500	Total	

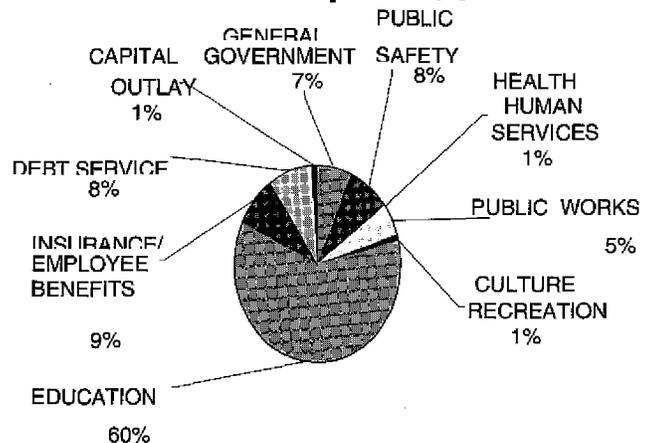
FY01 Revenues



Tax Levy	5,994,059
Debt Exclusions	714,364
Local Receipts	754,900
Chapter 70	5,223,002
Other State Aid	717,780
Miscellaneous	127,277
Total	13,531,382

Revenues

FY01 Expenses



General Government	901,696
Public Safety	1,135,635
Health & Human Services	84,103
Public Works	632,464
Culture & Recreation	138,555
Education	8,181,099
Insurance/ Employee Benefits	1,175,879
Debt Service	1,139,406
Capital Outlay	142,500
Total	13,531,337

Expenses

Finance Committee Message

The annual Town Meeting Warrant brings some long overdue improvements to the municipal operations. As the Town has grown, many improvements have been delayed due to budgetary constraints.

Drivers to this budget include for the first time: 2 Full Time EMT/Firefighters along with our 1st full-time Fire Chief, a Planning/Conservation Agent, a Town Engineer, and the promotion of the Selectmen's administrative secretary to Assistant to the Executive Administrator and refilling the full time secretarial role that had been previously eliminated due to budgets. A long overdue dispatcher has also been added to the public safety roles. And, we have again this year been able to exceed the minimum requirements of Net School Spending to support the educational needs of our children.

Unlike last year when we had to eliminate monies for capital improvements, we are able to support a number of under \$30k initiatives such as the library, town buildings and recreation. This budget also includes the

addition of two dump trucks for the highway replacing two of our 1970s vintage vehicles.

One article to take note of is a proposal to replace a fire pumper tanker. FINCOM did not recommend the pumper, not because we do not need it, but rather because the proposed one year capital exclusion would have caused a significant increase to the taxes in the next fiscal year. We feel a better funding package with a better stabilized impact can be developed.

Bylaw changes, two economic development articles, acceptance of private roads, and the traditional administrative articles round out the remainder of this warrant.

We currently have a Free Cash balance of \$283,180. Due in part to increased Chapter 70 funds, good budget planning, and sharp eyes, we are pleased to present you with a balanced budget at this year's ATM.

Dennis Bishop
Chairman, Finance Committee

Town of Douglas

29 Depot Street

Douglas, MA 01516

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