

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
Monday, November 6, 2017 at 7:00 pm
Douglas High School Auditorium
33 Davis Street

FINANCE COMMITTEE MESSAGE

The Special Town Meeting will be held on Monday, November 6th at 7 PM at Douglas High School. The Finance Committee strongly encourages you to attend.

There are ten articles on the warrant. The first article has some transfers to approve to amend the 2018 fiscal budget. Article three is looking for approval to purchase new cardiac monitor/defibrillators for the Fire Department. Article eight asks that the town approve \$2,100 for economic planning. Article nine is a bylaw change regarding special permits for drive-through windows. It aims to move the approval responsibility from the Zoning Board of Appeals to the Planning Board.

We hope to see you on November 6th. Please come, have your voice heard, and help make Douglas a great place to live.

Article 1.	Fiscal Year 2018 Budget Transfers/Amendments
Article 2.	Transfer from Free Cash to the OPEB Account
Article 3.	Capital Projects
Article 4.	Prior Year Bills
Article 5	Rescind Debt Authorization - Highway Catch Basin Cleaner Truck/Sander/Plow
Article 6.	Rescind Debt Authorization - Purchase of Rescue Pumper
Article 7.	Acquire Gilboa Street Land
Article 8	Economic Development Initiative
Article 9.	Zoning Bylaw Amendment – Schedule of Use Regulations
Article 10.	Subdivision Parcel Takings – Brookside Drive, Royal Crest Drive

Article 1. Fiscal Year 2018 Budget Transfers/Amendments

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds such sums of money as are necessary to fund the following amendments to Article 2 of the Annual Town Meeting of May 1, 2017:

Increase Library Expense by	\$512
Increase Ambulance Wages by	\$125,000
Increase Norfolk County Agricultural by	\$16,000
Increase Douglas Schools - Personnel & Expenses by	\$16,640
Increase Tree Warden Expense by	\$5,000
Increase Police Wages by	\$25,000
Increase Technology Expense by	\$1,200
Increase Insurance / Employee Benefits	\$12,368
Decrease Selectmen Wages by	\$10,000
Decrease Town Clerk Expense	\$1,200
Decrease Highway Wages by	\$10,000
Decrease Assessors Revaluation by	\$5,520

Explanation: This article amends the 2018 budget voted at the May Annual Town Meeting.

• **The Finance Committee unanimously recommends.**

Article 2. Transfer from Free Cash to the OPEB Account

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of **\$66,842** from Free Cash to the Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Account, or take any other action related thereto.

Explanation: This article uses the remaining balance in the Health Insurance Reimbursement account from the prior Fiscal Year to continue the program of funding for future retiree health benefits. This action is strongly recommended by our town's Auditor.

- **The Finance Committee unanimously recommends.**

Article 3. Capital Projects

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer the sum of **\$63,000** to fund the purchase of two cardiac monitor/defibrillators and all necessary related accessories for their use, or take any other action relative thereto.

Explanation: This article approves the replacement of failing equipment for the ambulances. The current machines are near their end of life and will soon not be able to be serviced by the vendor.

- **The Finance Committee unanimously recommends.**

Article 4. Prior Year Bills

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the following sums of money to pay the following prior year's bills.

Explanation: If there are no bills from the prior year to be paid. This article will be passed over at town meeting.

Article 5. Rescind Debt Authorization - Highway Catch Basin Cleaner Truck/Sander/Plow

To see if the Town will vote to rescind the authorization to issue Bonds in the amount of **\$235,000** to pay for the costs of purchasing and equipping a catch basin cleaner truck, with plow and sander, for the use of the Highway Department, as was approved by Article 7 at the Special Town Meeting of November 14, 2016, or take any other action relative thereto.

Explanation: This will rescind the unused borrowing authorization for the Highway Catch Basin Cleaner Truck/Sander/Plow. Funds to purchase the Highway Catch Basin Cleaner Truck/Sander/Plow were transferred from the completed school construction projects at the May 1, 2017 STM. This saved the town borrowing costs.

- **The Finance Committee unanimously recommends.**

Article 6. Rescind Debt Authorization - Purchase of Rescue Pumper

To see if the Town will vote to rescind the authorization to issue Bonds in the amount of **\$475,000** to pay for the costs of purchasing and equipping a rescue pumper truck for the use of the Fire Department, and for the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, as was approved by Article 6 at the Special Town Meeting of November 14, 2016, or take any other action relative thereto.

Explanation: This will rescind the unused borrowing authorization for the Rescue Pumper. Funds to purchase the Rescue Pumper were transferred from the completed school construction projects at the May 1, 2017 STM. This saved the town borrowing costs.

- **The Finance Committee unanimously recommends.**

Article 7. Acquire Gilboa Street Land

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by gift, purchase or eminent domain a parcel of land located at 43 Gilboa Street, shown as Assessors’ Map 141 Parcel 19, and at Book 5293 Page 237 at the Worcester County Registry of Deeds, and to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds or borrow a sum sufficient to fund any taking or purchase, or take any other action relative thereto.

- **The Finance Committee had questions about this article at the last meeting. We will meet prior to the Special Town Meeting to discuss a recommendation.**

Article 8. Economic Development Initiative

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds the sum of **\$2,100** to pay for consultants, for planning, grant writing, and other services associated with economic development in the Town of Douglas, under the direction of the Board of Selectmen, or take any other action relative thereto.

Explanation: This approval will allow the town administrator to fund a market range study of the town and region. This study would define which economic opportunities would be most successful in the town.

- **The Finance Committee unanimously recommends.**

Article 9. Zoning Bylaw Amendment – Schedule of Use Regulations

To see if the Town will vote to modify Town of Douglas Zoning Bylaws, Appendix A Schedule of Use Regulations, Page 4 of 4, as follows:

Change:

USE	Districts							
	R-A	RC-1	RC-2	VR	VB	Comm	Ind	SFOS
F. Other Uses								
1. Drive-through or drive-up window or facility at otherwise authorized use or as free-standing structure or kiosk	BA	BA	BA	BA	BA	BA	BA	N

To:

USE	Districts							
	R-A	RC-1	RC-2	VR	VB	Comm	Ind	SFOS
F. Other Uses								
1. Drive-through or drive-up window or facility at otherwise authorized use or as free-standing structure or kiosk	PB	PB	PB	PB	PB	PB	PB	N

BA – Allowed by Special Permit from the Zoning Board of Appeals

PB – Allowed by Special Permit from the Planning Board

Or take any other action relative thereto.

Explanation: This bylaw change would move the special permit approval for a drive-through window from the Zoning Board of Appeals to the Planning Board.

- **The Finance Committee unanimously recommends.**

Article 10. Subdivision Parcel Takings – Brookside Drive, Royal Crest Drive

To see if the Town will vote to acquire by gift, purchase or eminent domain, the property or properties described below, and raise and appropriate, transfer or borrow sums sufficient for such purpose, or take any other action relative thereto:

(1) Brookside Drive and shown as Lots 6 and 11 on Assessor’s Map 170, and as further described in the same manner on a certain Road Layout and Acceptance Plan, entitled “Plan of Brookside Drive, as Altered and Laid Out, for Acceptance as a Public Street, Douglas, Massachusetts (Worcester County)” and dated January 12, 2012, recorded with the Worcester County Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 896 as Plan No. 117, and

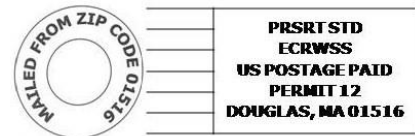
(2) Royal Crest Drive and shown as Lots 15 and 21 on Assessor’s Map 249, and as further described as “Road A” and “Future Road Extension” respectively, on a certain Road Layout and Acceptance plan entitled “Street Acceptance Plan, Royal Crest Drive in the Town of Douglas, Massachusetts for the Douglas Board of Selectmen” and dated December 10, 2008, recorded with the Worcester County Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 876 as Plan No. 102

or take any other action with respect thereto.

• The Finance Committee had questions about this article at their last meeting. We will meet prior to the Special Town Meeting to discuss a recommendation.



Town of Douglas
29 Depot Street
Douglas, MA 01516



**CURRENT RESIDENT
DOUGLAS, MA 01516**