

Special Town Meeting
Monday, June 21, 2010
Douglas High School Auditorium

Finance Committee Budget Message for Fiscal Year 2011

The Annual Town Meeting is set to continue on Monday, June 21, along with a brief Special Town Meeting. The purpose of the Special Town Meeting is to amend the Wind Energy Bylaw that was approved in May for purposes of clarifying its application to the ongoing Douglas Woods Project and to approve the use of Free Cash for purposes of funding the snow and ice deficit.

At the continued Annual Town Meeting, the Town will address the Fiscal Year 2011 budget and other financial matters. As you will recall, the May 3 meeting was continued to allow the Town more time to obtain information on funding of local aid, and while the state legislature has not finalized its budget, its current proposal reflects a reduction of approximately 4% in Chapter 70 School Aid and Unrestricted Government Aid. This presents many difficulties for the Town as it seeks to prepare a balanced budget for FY 11 and beyond. Nevertheless, the Board of Selectmen, School Committee, Executive Administrator and other Town Officials have worked together to identify areas for budget reductions and will present a balanced budget proposal to the Town on June 21.

The Finance Committee will post an updated Voter Information Flyer on the Town's website (www.douglasma.org) so that you can read the updated finance committee recommendations and details of the budget proposal. In addition, copies of this material will be available for voters attending the meeting. As always, we encourage your attendance at Town Meeting.

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Article 1. Wind Energy Conversion Facilities Bylaw Amendment

To see if the Town will vote to add the following new sentence to the end of Section 6.7.3.1 of the Wind Energy Conversion Facilities Bylaw:

"Any CWECF authorized pursuant to a use variance and/or other zoning relief as of the date of adoption of this Section 6.7 shall be exempt from this Section 6.7 in its entirety, including but not limited to any special permit requirement contained herein; provided that, where authorized by variance, said variance shall be exercised within one (1) year of the date of issuance thereof, pursuant to G.L. c. 40A, § 10 and as may be extended in accordance therewith; and further provided that any exempt CWECF shall be subject to all other provisions of the Zoning By-law and the requirement of site plan review."

Or take any other action related thereto.

Explanation: This article intends to clarify the applicability of the newly approved Wind Bylaw to existing wind projects.

Finance Committee: No recommendation as this is non-financial in nature.

Article 2. Snow and Ice Account:

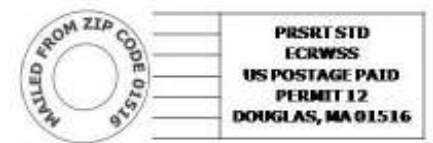
To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds the sum of \$163,324 to the Snow and Ice Account, or take any other action related thereto

Explanation: This article would approve the use of free cash to fund the snow and ice deficit

Finance Committee: Recommend.



Town of Douglas
29 Depot Street
Douglas, MA 01516



CURRENT RESIDENT

DOUGLAS, MA 01516

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