

Voter Information Bulletin

Town of Douglas

November 2009

Special Town Meeting

Monday, November 16, 2009 at 7:00 PM

Douglas High School Auditorium

Message from the Finance Committee

The November Special Town Meeting seeks to address modifications in FY 10 budgets in response to reductions in state funding and other changes. While unresolved at the time of this mailing, there remains a possibility that the ongoing negotiations with American Pro Wind LLC in regards to a Tax Increment Financing Agreement (TIF) will be finalized by the time of the STM and therefore subject to vote and the Finance Committee will make its recommendation at that time.

As always, the Finance Committee encourages your attendance and participation at Town Meeting to exercise your voting privileges.

Article 1:	Fiscal Year 2010 Budget Transfers/Amendments
Article 2:	Transfer from Free Cash (MTBE Settlement Funds)
Article 3:	Transfer Site Plan Review Authority from ZBA to Planning Board
Article 4:	Prior Year's Bill
Article 5:	Water & Sewer Budget Transfer
Article 6:	Douglas Woods Tax Increment Financing Agreement

Article 1. Fiscal Year 2010 Budget Transfers/Amendments

To see if the Town will vote to amend the action taken on Article 2 of the Annual Town Meeting of May 4, 2009 by making the following changes to the Fiscal Year 2010 Budget:

Decrease School Personnel & Expenses by	\$243,325
Decrease School Bus Transportation by	\$89,654
Decrease Norfolk Agricultural by	\$22,595
Decrease Total Debt Service by	\$61,112
Decrease Highway Maintenance by	\$17,397
Increase Health Insurance by	\$122,350
Increase Highway Wages by	\$9,010
Increase Highway Expenses by	\$8,387
Increase Selectmen Expenses by	\$5,000
Increase Property & Liability Insurance by	\$5,000

Or take any other action related thereto.

In response to reductions in state funding and higher than originally forecasted health insurance charges, this article seeks to adjust certain budgeted amounts for FY10. A

portion of this reduction was mitigated by savings in certain expenditures as reflected above due to a more favorable negotiation of the school bus transportation contract and a lower than expected attendance of Douglas Students to Norfolk Agricultural. The school department has utilized state fiscal stabilization fund grants to address the reductions in their department.

Finance Committee: Recommend

Article 2. Transfer from Free Cash (MTBE Settlement Funds)

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$293,460.54 from Certified Free Cash to the Stabilization Fund, or take any other action related thereto.

Explanation: This article seeks to transfer monies received by the town in settlement of a class action lawsuit related to MTBE contamination to the stabilization account where future designations may be made.

Finance Committee: Recommend

Article 3. Transfer Site Plan Review Authority from Zoning Board of Appeals to Planning Board

To see if the Town will vote to amend Sections 9.4 (Site Plan Review), 5.1 (Off-Street Parking Regulations), and 5.3 (General Landscaping Requirements) of the Zoning By-law to replace “Board of Appeals” wherever it appears with “Planning Board”, provided that such changes shall not become effective until July 1, 2010, and shall not apply to site plan review applications for which a public hearing has been opened prior to July 1, 2010, or take any other action relative thereto.

Finance Committee: The Finance Committee offers no recommendation on this article.

Article 4. Prior Year’s Bill

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$179.13 from Highway Expenses to pay the following prior year’s bill:

Kaman Industrial \$179.13

Or take any other action relative thereto.

Explanation: This bill is from fiscal year 2009 and was not paid due to the timing of invoice receipt and processing. The article seeks to transfer amounts from the FY 10 Highway Expenses budget to pay the bill.

Finance Committee: Recommend

Article 5. Water & Sewer Budget Transfer

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$30,000 from Water & Sewer Retained Earnings to Water & Sewer Salaries and Wages, or take any other action relative thereto.

Explanation: Upon the review of the water & sewer budget by the newly hired Systems Manager, there are certain requested changes to the budget for this department. This article will provide the necessary funding to address the differentials related to the System Manager's salary, overtime required to cover weekend operations, on-call coverage and respond to alarm calls after hours and weekends. These changes were contemplated by the department in it's recent rate study as presented in their September public hearing.

Finance Committee: Recommend

Article 6. Douglas Woods Tax Increment Financing Agreement

To see if the Town will vote to approve a Tax Increment Financing Agreement between the Town and American Pro Wind LLC, pursuant to GL c. 40, §59, and to confirm the Board of Selectmen's selection of the location of the project as an Economic Opportunity Area ("Douglas Woods Economic Opportunity Area"), and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to submit an Economic Opportunity Area Application, Tax Increment Financing Plan, and Certified Project Application to the Massachusetts Economic Assistance Coordinating Council all relating to the project as described in the TIF Agreement to be located in the Douglas Woods Economic Opportunity Area, and to take such other actions as may be necessary to obtain approval of the Certified Project Application, the Economic Opportunity Area, the Tax Increment Financing Plan and TIF Zone and to implement the TIF Agreement, or take any other action relative thereto.

Finance Committee: As this negotiation is on-going at the time of mailing, the Finance Committee offers no recommendation but will make a recommendation at the STM if this matter is resolved.



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CURRENT RESIDENT

DOUGLAS, MA 01516

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