

To: Town Representatives and Town Meeting Members *ex officio*

From: Bob Nason, Town Administrator

Date: October 12, 2016

Re: October 27 2016 (FY2017) Special Town Meeting Warrant

This memorandum conveys additional information about the articles appearing on the October 27, 2016 Special Town Meeting warrant. That warrant and this memorandum are posted on the municipal web site, lee.ma.us. Lee Public Schools Facilities Director Gary Wellington offered the Article 4. explanation and Recycling Committee Chairman Peter Hofman authored the Article 5. explanation.

Article 1. Replacement Valley Street Bridge Land Acquisition and Easements

This article authorizes the members of the Select Board to acquire parcels necessary for the replacement of the Valley Street Bridge.

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT), Highway Division plans to replace the Valley Street Bridge, which connects Lee to Lenox Dale, because it has determined that the bridge is structurally deficient and there is inadequate roadway geometry causing truck turning problems. The design and permitting process is underway, and construction is scheduled to being in the Fall of 2017. The new bridge will be built at an angle to the north of the existing bridge, which will remain open during construction. The new bridge will be wider and longer and of similar design to the existing bridge.

While Mass DOT will use state and federal funding for the design and construction, the Towns of Lee and Lenox must acquire land and/or permanent and temporary easements to construct the bridge.

Article 2. Fiscal Year 2017 Fire Department Budget Revision

This article provides funding for a full-time Fire Chief/Ambulance Service Director following Chief Alan Spark's planned retirement at the end of calendar year 2016.

In response to the May 12, 2016, Annual Town Meeting questioning the need for a full-time Fire Chief, the members of the Select Board appointed the following residents to an Advisory Committee to determine whether a full-time position was necessary:

Gordon Bailey, District Representative
Bill Brunell, Fire Department Officer & District Representative
Patricia Carlino, Select Board Member
Neil Clarke, Personnel Board Chair & District Representative
Ed North, Fire Department Officer

Jeff Roosa, Police Chief & District Representative
Pete Sorrentino, Firefighter & District Representative
Matt Tyer, Firefighter, Paramedic & District Representative

Estimating that the Fire Chief now works 16 hours each week, the members discussed the need for more hours to conduct all required fire prevention inspections; to administer the Ambulance Service and to serve as a Basic Emergency Medical Technician when needed; to attend workshops and trainings; and, to apply for grants.

During the third meeting of the Full-time Fire Chief Advisory Committee, six of the eight members voted to recommend a full-time Fire Chief/Ambulance Service Director and two members dissented.

Article 3. Fire Truck Purchase (2/3 Vote)

This article provides funds to purchase a new fire engine to replace a 1991 Pumper which has outlived its expected twenty-five year useful life. There is \$599,416 in the Fire Engine Stabilization Fund. Therefore, there will be a balance of \$124,416 toward for the purchase of a new pumper to replace the 1996 Pumper in 2021, when it reaches the end of its expected useful life.

Article 4. Middle and High School Boiler Replacement Borrowing Authorization (2/3 Vote)

This article changes the scope of the boiler replacement project, because the bids substantially exceeded the \$126,000, May 12, 2016 Annual Town Meeting borrowing authorization.

The plan was to replace one of the two faulty boilers with two smaller, more efficient condensing units. The bids have come back, and all are substantially over the estimated budget. We have since looked at options moving forward, and would like to replace the existing units with similar (but updated and under warranty) units. We estimate that this can be accomplished within the borrowing authorization.

Article 5. Thin-Film Shopping Bag Reduction Bylaw

At the request of the Recycling Committee this article makes a technical correction to the Thin-Film Shopping Bag Reduction Bylaw adopted at the May 12, 2016 Annual Town Meeting.

The plastic bag bylaw - in the definition of reusable shopping bags - requires that the manufacturer's name be included in the label on the bag. However, we have learned that many companies that sell reusable bags as a "best practice" do not disclose the name of them manufacturer. Adding two words - distributor or - before the word manufacturer will correct this unenforceable provision.

*The following information must be printed in a visible manner on the outside of the bags or on permanent tags: the name of the **distributor or manufacturer**...*