

Town of Northborough



Annual Town Meeting
April 24, 2023

Warrant Supplement & Reference Material

2023 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING INTRODUCTION

On the following pages you will find the Articles from the posted Warrant for the 2023 Annual Town Meeting. In addition to the Articles themselves, the motions that are intended to be made at Town Meeting, as of the date of printing of this document, are also included. Some of the motions may reflect changes since the time the Warrant was posted, as this document follows the culmination of review by the various Town Boards & Committees.

The Warrant sets the format for Annual Town Meeting, which commences on the fourth Monday in April (April 24, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. at the Algonquin Regional High School). This year's Warrant is composed of 50 Articles. An Article is the mechanism by which residents are asked to consider some form of action during Town Meeting. For example, Article 6 asks residents to consider acceptance of the Northborough School K-8 operational budget. Following some Articles, you will find a brief explanation (unless it is self-explanatory).

Additionally, to maximize safety of participants at Town Meeting, the Moderator will be seeking to conduct this annual meeting as efficiently as possible. Many budget presentations and hearings have been recorded and posted online. Therefore, it will be incumbent on participants to review the basic information in advance. Likewise, presentations at Town Meeting will be brief and the Moderator will also utilize a "consent agenda," as at last year's Annual Town Meeting. This is a process whereby routine articles, including any proposed to be passed over, will be grouped and voted on as a block. The consent agenda approach will not compromise the ability to take any of those articles out of the grouping and handle them separately if that is the will of Town Meeting. Following this introduction is a brief explanation of the Moderator's proposed consent agenda process and the articles which will be included on that agenda.

Also included in this document is a summary of the Town's operational budget, a summary of revenues and expenditures for the Town and Schools, consolidated Personnel Bylaw amendments, the Financial Planning Committee's report and recommendations, and the Appropriations Committee report and recommendations.

I wish to recognize the efforts of the Town's Boards, Committees, Commissions and Town Departments in contributing to the preparation of the FY2024 Budget and the drafting of the Warrant.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Reed

Interim Town Administrator

Moderator's Consent Agenda For Annual Town Meeting

In order to reduce the time during which the voters are gathered for the Annual Town Meeting during this time of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Moderator will use a procedure known as a consent agenda. It is the bundling of articles considered to be non-controversial, and/or related by subject matter, into a single motion to be voted on by Town Meeting. This practice has been used in other towns, and in some towns it is a routine part of Town Meeting. A consent agenda can save time by eliminating the need for an individual motion, a second, an explanation and a vote on individual articles that are capable of being considered together.

What Articles Are Included?

There will be one consent agenda for this Town Meeting, as follows:

Consent Agenda 1:

Article 1 – Appoint Deputy Moderator: Article 1 ratifies the routine appointment by the Moderator of Gerry Hickman to serve as Deputy Moderator in the event the Moderator is unable to continue.

Article 2 – Authorize Compensating Balance Agreements: This annual Article provides authorization for the Town to enter into a compensating balance agreement in order to obtain banking services. A compensating balance agreement is an arrangement by which a town maintains municipal funds on deposit in return for banking services.

Article 3 – Prior Years' Bills: There are no prior years' bills, so this Article will be passed over.

Article 10 – Authorize Revolving Fund Limits for FY2024: This is a housekeeping article that sets expenditure limits for special funds used to hold fees associated with providing certain Town services which are then used to offset the cost of providing the services (e.g., ambulance services).

How The Consent Agenda Will Work

When the meeting reaches the first article to be included in the consent agenda, which will be Article 1, the Moderator will explain the process. The Moderator will read the title of each article included in the consent agenda. He will pause after each article to allow any voter who has a question on the article to say, "hold."

Held articles will be set aside for separate consideration, apart from the consent agenda. Voters who hold an article will be asked to identify themselves and should be prepared to speak to the article later in the meeting.

After the meeting agrees on which articles to include in the consent agenda, there will be no debate and the Moderator will immediately call for a vote. Every article included in the consent agenda will either pass or fail depending on the single vote taken.

The articles removed from the consent agenda by a hold will be taken up individually in the order in which they appear in the Warrant.

What Voters Should Do To Prepare

Town Meeting voters should review the Warrant in advance and be ready to state which article(s) in the consent agenda they wish to hold for individual consideration.

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TOWN OF NORTHBOROUGH
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT
APRIL 24, 2023

WORCESTER, SS

GREETINGS:

To any Constable in the Town of Northborough, County of Worcester:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby commanded to warn and notify the legal voters of the Town of Northborough to meet at THE ALGONQUIN REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL on MONDAY the 24th day of April 2023 at 6:00 p.m., to act on the following warrant articles:

ARTICLE 1: Appointing Deputy Moderator

To see if the Town will vote to ratify the appointment by the Moderator of Gerald Hickman as Deputy Moderator, as provided by Article II, Section 2-2 of the Northborough Home Rule Charter.

MOTION ARTICLE 1: Appointing Deputy Moderator

I move the Town vote to ratify the appointment by the Moderator of Gerry Hickman as Deputy Moderator, as provided by Article II, Section 2-2 of the Northborough Home Rule Charter.

ARTICLE 2: Compensating Balance Agreement

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to enter into a Compensating Balance Agreement or Agreements pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 53F, if necessary.

- This Article provides authorization for the Town to enter into a compensating balance agreement to obtain banking services. A compensating balance is an arrangement by which a town maintains municipal funds on deposit in return for banking services. Under such an arrangement, the earnings retained by the bank on the account balances “compensate” the bank for the services provided.

MOTION ARTICLE 2: Compensating Balance Agreement

I move the Town vote to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to enter into a Compensating Balance Agreement or Agreements pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 53F.

ARTICLE 3: Prior Years' Bills

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from unappropriated available funds in the Treasury, or other available funds, a sum of money to pay bills incurred in prior years, or take any action relative thereto.

- Town Meeting action is required to pay bills incurred in prior fiscal years. This Article will be passed over if no bills for goods and services incurred in prior fiscal years are presented to the Town.

MOTION ARTICLE 3: Prior Years' Bills

I move the Town vote to pass over this article.

ARTICLE 4: Town Budget

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and transfer from available funds the sum of Twenty-Five Million Twelve Thousand One Hundred Twenty-Nine Dollars (\$25,012,129) for Town Government as displayed in the warrant booklet, and to meet said appropriation, the following sums available for appropriation be transferred:

From:

Transfer from Cemetery Sale of Lots	\$13,500
Transfer from Debt Exclusion Premium Reserve	\$500
Transfer from DPU Transportation Fund	\$2,278
Transfer from Conservation Commission Fees	\$2,478
Transfer from Fire Emergency Medical Services Revolving Fund	\$384,016
Transfer from Recreation Revolving Fund	\$159,969
Transfer from Animal Control Revolving Fund	\$28,000
Transfer from PEG Access Cable Related Fund	\$301,085
Free Cash	\$500,000

for a total of One Million Three Hundred Ninety-One Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty-Six Dollars (\$1,391,826) and that the sum of Twenty-Three Million Six Hundred Twenty Thousand Three Hundred Three Dollars (\$23,620,303) be raised by taxation.

MOTION ARTICLE 4: Town Budget

I move the Town vote to raise and appropriate and transfer from available funds the sum of Twenty-Five Million Twelve Thousand One Hundred Twenty-Nine Dollars (\$25,012,129) for Town Government as

displayed in the warrant booklet distributed at this Town Meeting, and to meet said appropriation, the following sums available for appropriation be transferred:

From:

Transfer from Cemetery Sale of Lots	\$13,500
Transfer from Debt Exclusion Premium Reserve	\$500
Transfer from DPU Transportation Fund	\$2,278
Transfer from Conservation Commission Fees	\$2,478
Transfer from Fire Emergency Medical Services Revolving Fund	\$384,016
Transfer from Recreation Revolving Fund	\$159,969
Transfer from Animal Control Revolving Fund	\$28,000
Transfer from PEG Access Cable Related Fund	\$301,085
Free Cash	\$500,000
Transfer from Cemetery Sale of Lots	\$13,500
Transfer from Debt Exclusion Premium Reserve	\$500
Transfer from DPU Transportation Fund	\$2,278

for a total of One Million Three Hundred Ninety-One Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty-Six Dollars (\$1,391,826) and that the sum of Twenty-Three Million Six Hundred Twenty Thousand Three Hundred Three Dollars (\$23,620,303) be raised by taxation.

ARTICLE 5: Water, Sewer and Solid Waste Enterprise Funds

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and transfer from available funds the sum of Six Million Three Hundred Twenty-One Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty Dollars (\$6,321,960) for Water, Sewer and Solid Waste Funds as displayed below for the operation of the Water, Sewer and Solid Waste Utilities, and to meet said appropriation, the following sums available for appropriation be transferred:

From:

Water Fund Free Cash	\$222,795
Solid Waste Fund Free Cash	\$165,524

Raise and Appropriate by Taxation:

Solid Waste General Fund Subsidy	\$345,160
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for a total of Seven Hundred Thirty-Three Thousand Four Hundred Seventy-Nine Dollars (\$733,479) and that the sum of Five Million Five Hundred Eighty-Eight Thousand Four Hundred Eighty-One Dollars (\$5,588,481) be financed from Water, Sewer and Solid Waste Revenues, with said sums to be allocated as follows:

Water Fund	\$2,772,795
Sewer Fund	\$2,508,481
Solid Waste	<u>\$1,040,684</u>
Total	\$6,321,960

MOTION ARTICLE 5: Water, Sewer and Solid Waste Enterprise Funds

I move the Town vote to raise and appropriate and transfer from available funds the sum of Six Million Three Hundred Twenty-One Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty Dollars (\$6,321,960) for the operation of the Water, Sewer and Solid Waste Utilities, in the amounts of Two Million Seven Hundred Seventy Two Thousand Seven Hundred Ninety-Five Dollars (\$2,772,795) for the Water Fund, Two Million Five Hundred Eight Thousand Four Hundred Eighty-One Dollars (\$2,508,481) for the Sewer Fund, and One Million Forty Thousand Six Hundred Eighty-Four Dollars (\$1,040,684) for the Solid Waste Fund; and to meet said appropriation, the following sums available for appropriation be transferred:

From:

Water Fund Free Cash	\$222,795
Solid Waste Fund Free Cash	\$165,524

Raise and Appropriate by Taxation:

Solid Waste General Fund Subsidy	\$345,160
----------------------------------	-----------

for a total of Seven Hundred Thirty-Three Thousand Four Hundred Seventy-Nine Dollars (\$733,479) and that the sum of Five Million Five Hundred Eighty-Eight Thousand Four Hundred Eighty-One Dollars (\$5,588,481) be financed from Water, Sewer and Solid Waste Revenues.

ARTICLE 6: Northborough K-8 Schools Budget

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation the sum of Twenty-Eight Million One Thousand Two Hundred Twenty-Seven Dollars (\$28,001,227) for the operation of the Northborough Public Schools, or take any action relative thereto.

MOTION ARTICLE 6: Northborough K-8 Schools Budget

I move the Town vote to raise and appropriate by taxation the sum of Twenty-Eight Million One Thousand Two Hundred Twenty-Seven Dollars (\$28,001,227) for the operation of the Northborough Public Schools.

ARTICLE 7: Algonquin Regional High School Budget

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation the sum of Fourteen Million Seventy-Two Thousand Five Hundred Thirty-Nine Dollars (\$14,072,539) for Northborough’s share of the assessment for the operation and debt service of the Northborough-Southborough Regional School District, or take any action relative thereto.

MOTION ARTICLE 7: Algonquin Regional High School Budget

I move the Town vote to raise and appropriate by taxation Northborough’s share of the assessment for the operation and debt service of the Northborough-Southborough Regional School District, the sum of Fourteen Million Seventy-Two Thousand Five Hundred Thirty-Nine Dollars (\$14,072,539).

ARTICLE 8: Assabet Valley Regional Vocational School District Budget

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation the sum of One Million Three Hundred One Thousand Five Hundred Eighty-One Dollars (\$1,301,581) for Northborough’s share of the assessment for the operation and debt service of the Assabet Valley Regional Vocational School District, or take any action relative thereto.

MOTION ARTICLE 8: Assabet Valley Regional Vocational School District Budget

I move the Town vote to raise and appropriate by taxation Northborough’s share of the assessment for the operation and debt service of the Assabet Valley Regional Vocational School District, the sum of One Million Three Hundred One Thousand Five Hundred Eighty-One Dollars (\$1,301,581).

ARTICLE 9: Establishment of Health Department Revolving Fund

To see if the Town will vote to amend Chapter 1-56 of the Northborough Town Code, section 1-56-051 Departmental revolving funds, paragraph E, by adding to the table of funds the text shown below so as to establish a revolving fund authorized to and for the use of the Northborough Health Department, and to set the annual expenditure limit for fiscal year 2024 at One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000); or take any action relative thereto.

<u>A</u> Revolving Fund	<u>B</u> Department, Board Committee, Agency or Officer Authorized to Spend from Fund	<u>C</u> Fees, Charges or Other Receipts Credited to Fund	<u>D</u> Program or Activity Expenses Payable from Fund
Health Department	Health Director	Medical insurance reimbursements and program fees	Program expenses

- The proposed revolving fund will hold fees associated with providing certain Health Department services which are then used to offset the cost of providing the services (e.g., vaccination clinics).

MOTION ARTICLE 9: Establishment of Health Department Revolving Fund

I move the Town vote to amend Chapter 1-56 of the Northborough Town Code, section 1-56-051 Departmental revolving funds, paragraph E, by adding to the table of funds the text as shown in the warrant so as to establish a revolving fund authorized to and for the use of the Northborough Health Department, and to set the annual expenditure limit for fiscal year 2024 at One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000).

ARTICLE 10: Revolving Funds Authorization of Expenditure Limits

To see if the Town will vote to authorize revolving fund annual expenditure limits for Fiscal Year 2024 as shown in the table below:

Revolving Fund	Annual Expenditure Limit
Fire Department (EMS and Haz Mat)	\$750,000
Animal Control	\$50,000
Family & Youth Services	\$20,000
Council on Aging	\$300,000
Community Affairs	\$20,000
Library	\$20,000

or take any other action relative thereto.

- Pursuant to the Town’s Revolving Fund Bylaw and the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53E½, an annual vote is required to establish expenditure limits for the revolving funds. The Recreation Department revolving fund is authorized under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53D, and does not require annual reauthorization.

MOTION ARTICLE 10: Revolving Funds Authorization of Expenditure Limits

I move the Town vote to authorize revolving fund annual expenditure limits for Fiscal Year 2024 as shown in the table in the warrant and the warrant supplement distributed at this Town Meeting.

ARTICLE 11: Appropriations Committee Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of One Hundred Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars (\$175,000) for a Reserve Fund to provide for extraordinary or unforeseen expenditures in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40, Section 6, and to meet said appropriation the sum of One Hundred Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars (\$175,000) be transferred from Free Cash, or take any action relative thereto.

- This Article provides the Town operations with an option for the funding of extraordinary or unforeseen expenditures during the year.

MOTION ARTICLE 11: Appropriations Committee Reserve Fund

I move the Town vote to appropriate the sum of One Hundred Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars (\$175,000) for a Reserve Fund to provide for extraordinary or unforeseen expenditures in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40, Section 6, and to meet said appropriation, the sum of One Hundred Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars (\$175,000) be transferred from Free Cash.

ARTICLE 12: Stabilization Fund Contribution

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000) for transfer to the Stabilization Fund, and to meet said appropriation the sum of Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000) be transferred from Free Cash, or take any action relative thereto.

- This Article provides for a contribution to the Stabilization Fund, or general savings account, for the Town.

MOTION ARTICLE 12: Stabilization Fund Contribution

I move the Town vote to appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000) for transfer to the Stabilization Fund, and to meet said appropriation, the sum of Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000) be transferred from Free Cash.

ARTICLE 13: Appropriation of Opioid Settlement Funds

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of One Hundred Seven Thousand One Hundred Twenty-Three Dollars (\$107,123) for use by the Town Administrator, through the Board of Selectmen, to provide for substance abuse abatement activities following the Town’s participation in the Statewide Opioid Settlements negotiated by the Massachusetts Attorney General, and to meet said appropriation the sum of One Hundred Seven Thousand One Hundred Twenty-Three Dollars (\$107,123) be transferred from Free Cash.

- This Article provides funds to supplement and strengthen resources for substance abuse prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery funded by direct payments received by the Town as a result of signing onto statewide settlements with opioid manufacturers, distributors, and/or pharmacies. In order to comply with settlement reporting requirements, the funds are being segregated from general revenues into a separate article.

MOTION ARTICLE 13: Appropriation of Opioid Settlement Funds

I move the Town vote to appropriate the sum of One Hundred Seven Thousand One Hundred Twenty-Three Dollars (\$107,123) for the use of the Town Administrator through the Board of Selectmen to provide for substance abuse abatement activities following the Town’s participation in the Statewide Opioid Settlements negotiated by the Massachusetts Attorney General, and to meet said appropriation the sum of One Hundred Seven Thousand One Hundred Twenty-Three Dollars (\$107,123) be transferred from Free Cash.

ARTICLE 14: Senior Tax Relief

To see if the Town will vote to increase the maximum qualifying gross receipts that seniors (persons 65 or older) may have in the prior calendar year to be eligible to defer property taxes under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59, section 5, clause 41A from \$20,000 to \$64,000; and to change the rate of interest that accrues on property taxes deferred under said clause 41A from 8% to 4%, with such rate to apply to taxes assessed for any fiscal year beginning on or after July 1, 2023, or take any action relative thereto.

- The senior property tax deferral program, known as Clause 41A, allows people 65 or older to defer their property taxes until their home is sold or conveyed, up to a limit of 50% of the owner’s share of the value of the property. This Article is designed to reduce the statutory interest rate that accrues on the deferred tax balance and to increase the income limits of the applicants.

MOTION ARTICLE 14: Senior Tax Relief

I move the Town vote to increase the maximum qualifying gross receipts that seniors (persons 65 or older) may have in the prior calendar year to be eligible to defer property taxes under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59, section 5, clause 41A from \$20,000 to \$64,000; and to change the rate of interest that accrues on property taxes deferred under said clause 41A from 8% to 4%, with such rate to apply to taxes assessed for any fiscal year beginning on or after July 1, 2023.

ARTICLE 15 (CIP): Police – Police Cruiser Replacements (3)

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of One Hundred Ninety Thousand Dollars (\$190,000) for the use of the Police Department for the purchase of three new police vehicles, and to meet said appropriation the sum of One Hundred Ninety Thousand Dollars (\$190,000) be raised by taxation, transferred from available funds, borrowed, or otherwise appropriated.

- This Article provides funds for the purchase of two replacement patrol vehicles and one replacement detective vehicle. This article supports the continued annual replacement of police vehicles on an established schedule of three vehicles one year, then two the next.

MOTION ARTICLE 15 (CIP): Police – Police Cruiser Replacements (3)

I move the Town vote to appropriate the sum of One Hundred Ninety Thousand Dollars (\$190,000) for the use of the Police Department for the purchase of three new police vehicles, and to meet said appropriation the sum of One Hundred Ninety Thousand Dollars (\$190,000) be transferred from Free Cash for expenditure in Fiscal Year 2023.

ARTICLE 16 (CIP): Police – Police Station Exterior Repairs & Painting

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of Seventy Thousand Dollars (\$70,000) for the use of the Police Department to fund the repair and painting of the exterior of the Northborough Police Station, and to meet said appropriation the sum of Seventy Thousand Dollars (\$70,000) be raised by taxation, transferred from available funds, borrowed, or otherwise appropriated.

- This Article provides funds needed to repair and paint the exterior of the Police Station. The last time the exterior was painted was approximately 10 years ago. The Town is required to pay prevailing wages under state procurement laws which significantly add to project costs.

MOTION ARTICLE 16 (CIP): Police – Police Station Exterior Repairs & Painting

I move the Town vote to appropriate the sum of Seventy Thousand Dollars (\$70,000) for the use of the Police Department to fund the repair and painting of the exterior of the Northborough Police Station and to meet said appropriation the sum of Seventy Thousand Dollars (\$70,000) be transferred from Free Cash for expenditure in Fiscal Year 2023.

ARTICLE 17 (CIP): Fire – Engine 1 Replacement

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of Nine Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$900,000) for the use of the Fire Department for the purchase of a new Fire Engine, and to meet said appropriation the sum of Nine Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$900,000) be raised by borrowing, in accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 7(1) or any other enabling authority, and the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, be authorized to issue bonds or notes therefor.

- This Article provides funds for the replacement of a 2005 fire engine. At the time of replacement, it will have exceeded its expected useful life, including approximately 10 years of front-line service, 5 years back-up service and 5 years reserve.

MOTION ARTICLE 17 (CIP): Fire – Engine 1 Replacement

I move the Town vote to appropriate the sum of Nine Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$900,000) for the use of the Fire Department for the purchase of one new Engine 1, and to meet said appropriation the sum of Nine Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$900,000) be raised by borrowing, in accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 7(1) or any other enabling authority, and the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, be authorized to issue bonds or notes therefor.

ARTICLE 18 (CIP): DPW – Road Improvements and Maintenance

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000) for Road Improvements and Maintenance, and to meet said appropriation the sum of Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000) be raised by taxation, transferred from available funds, borrowed or otherwise appropriated.

- This Article provides funds in addition to the State’s Chapter 90 transportation funding to maintain current road conditions in accordance with the Pavement Management Plan.

MOTION ARTICLE 18 (CIP): DPW – Road Improvements and Maintenance

I move the Town vote to appropriate the sum of Three Hundred Three Thousand Dollars (\$300,000) for Road Improvements and Maintenance, and to meet said appropriation the sum of Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000) be transferred from Free Cash for expenditure in Fiscal Year 2023

ARTICLE 19 (CIP): DPW – 20-Ton Dump Truck with Spreader & Plow Replacement

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of Three Hundred Fifty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$355,000) for the use of the Department of Public Works for the purchase of a 20-ton dump truck with spreader and plow, and to meet said appropriation the sum of Three Hundred Fifty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$355,000) be raised by taxation, transferred from available funds, borrowed or otherwise appropriated.

- This Article provides funds for the purchase of a 20-ton dump truck with spreader and plow to replace a 2005 truck used for salting and sanding during snow events that has surpassed its useful life. As part of this vehicle replacement, an existing similar vehicle will be repurposed to extend its useful life.

MOTION ARTICLE 19 (CIP): DPW – 20-Ton Dump Truck with Spreader & Plow Replacement

I move the Town vote to appropriate the sum of Three Hundred Fifty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$355,000) for the use of the Department of Public Works for the purchase of a 20-ton dump truck with spreader and plow, and to meet said appropriation the sum of Three Hundred Fifty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$355,000) be transferred from Free Cash for expenditure in Fiscal Year 2023.

ARTICLE 20 (CIP): DPW – Highway Garage Tight Tank DEP Compliance

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of Four Hundred Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars (\$475,000) for the use of the Department of Public Works to fund the installation of a tight tank at the highway garage located at 190 Main Street, and to meet said appropriation the sum of Four Hundred Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars (\$475,000) be raised by borrowing, in accordance with the provision of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 7(1) or any other enabling authority, and the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, be authorized to issue bonds or notes therefor.

- This Article provides funds for the installation of a tight tank at the highway garage. The existing garage was built in 1984 and no longer complies with State environmental regulations. The building is served by an onsite septic tank system which cannot accept discharge of truck wash. In accordance with MassDEP requirements, an underground holding tank is required for this wastewater.

MOTION ARTICLE 20 (CIP): DPW – Highway Garage Tight Tank DEP Compliance

I move the Town vote to appropriate the sum of Four Hundred Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars (\$475,000) for the use of the Department of Public Works to fund the installation of a tight tank at the highway garage located at 190 Main Street, and to meet said appropriation the sum of Four Hundred Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars (\$475,000) be raised by borrowing, in accordance with the provision of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 7(1) or any other enabling authority, and the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, be authorized to issue bonds or notes therefor.

ARTICLE 21 (CIP): DPW – One-Ton Truck with Plow Replacement

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000) for the use of the Department of Public Works for the purchase of a one-ton truck with plow, and to meet

said appropriation the sum of One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000) be raised by taxation, transferred from available funds, borrowed or otherwise appropriated.

- This Article provides funds for the purchase of a one-ton truck with plow, to replace a 2012 F350 with an F600 model. The 2012 truck will be past its useful life at the time of replacement. As part of this vehicle replacement, an existing similar vehicle will be repurposed to extend its useful life.

MOTION ARTICLE 21 (CIP): DPW – One-Ton Truck with Plow Replacement

I move the Town vote to appropriate the sum of One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000) for the use of the Department of Public Works for the purchase of a one-ton truck with plow, and to meet said appropriation the sum of One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000) be transferred from Free Cash for expenditure in Fiscal Year 2023.

ARTICLE 22 (CIP): DPW/WATER & SEWER – 15-Ton Dump Truck

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$225,000) for the use of the DPW, Water and Sewer Divisions, for the purchase a new 15-ton dump truck, and to meet said appropriation the sum of One Hundred Thirty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$135,000) be transferred from Water Enterprise Free Cash and the sum of Ninety Thousand Dollars (\$90,000) be transferred from Sewer Enterprise Free Cash, for a total of Two Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$225,000).

- This Article provides funds for the purchase of a new 30,000 GVW dump truck for use by the Water and Sewer Divisions. The current fleet of vehicles consists of smaller, daily task vehicles. This truck is large enough to move department equipment and materials. The cost of the new dump truck is being split 60%/40% between the Water and Sewer Enterprise Funds.

MOTION ARTICLE 22 (CIP): WATER – 15-Ton Dump Truck

I move the Town vote to appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$225,000) for the use of the DPW/Water and Sewer Division for the purchase of a new 15-ton dump truck, and to meet said appropriation the sum of One Hundred Thirty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$135,000) be transferred from Water Enterprise Free Cash and the sum of Ninety Thousand Dollars (\$90,000) be transferred from Sewer Enterprise Free Cash for a total of Two Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$225,000) for expenditure in Fiscal Year 2023.

ARTICLE 23 (CIP): DPW/SEWER – SCADA Phase II

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of One Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$125,000) for the use of the DPW Sewer Division to complete the final phase of the SCADA project, and to meet said appropriation the sum of One Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$125,000) be raised by taxation, transferred from available funds, borrowed or otherwise appropriated.

- This Article provides funds to complete the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) project by providing connectivity of the remaining sewer pump stations to the SCADA system, which will allow the Town to monitor and manage all of the Town’s utility infrastructure. Northborough recently received an 80% federal grant (\$491,000) to fund this phase. This request seeks to fund the required 20% grant match from the Sewer Enterprise Fund Free Cash.

MOTION ARTICLE 23 (CIP): SEWER – SCADA Phase II

I move the Town vote to appropriate the sum of One Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$125,000) for the use of the Sewer Division to complete the final phase of the SCADA project and to meet said appropriation, the sum of One Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$125,000) be transferred from Sewer Enterprise Free Cash for expenditure in Fiscal Year 2023.

ARTICLE 24 (CIP): SCHOOL – Zeh Elementary School Rear Entrance Repair

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000) for the use of the School Department to fund the repair of the concrete walkway area at the rear entrance of Zeh Elementary School, and to meet said appropriation the sum of Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000) be raised by taxation, transferred from available funds, borrowed or otherwise appropriated.

- This Article provides funds for the repair of the concrete area leading to the rear entrance of Zeh Elementary School, which has deteriorated. This project would also improve the transition to and from the parking lot, allowing easier access for all visitors.

MOTION ARTICLE 24 (CIP): SCHOOL – Zeh Elementary School Rear Entrance Repair

I move the Town vote to appropriate the sum of Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000) for the use of the School Department to fund the repairs of the rear entrance of Zeh Elementary School, and to meet said appropriation the sum of Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000) be transferred from Free Cash for expenditure in Fiscal Year 2023.

ARTICLE 25: Algonquin Regional High School Athletic Complex Project

To see if the Town will vote to approve the sum of Seven Million Nine Hundred Sixty Thousand Three Hundred Ninety-Three Dollars (\$7,960,393) borrowing authorized by the Regional District School Committee of the Northborough-Southborough Regional School District to pay costs of renovating and making extraordinary repairs and other improvements to the District’s athletic facilities, including, but not limited to: replacing the current football field and junior varsity practice field with turf fields, replacing the existing track, replacing the existing tennis courts, replacing the existing bleachers and press box to ensure compliance with ADA requirements, construction of a new outdoor amphitheater, renovations to the amenities building, and for the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, or to take any other action relative thereto.

- This Article would authorize the borrowing by the Regional District School Committee of the Northborough-Southborough Regional School District to pay the costs for the Algonquin

Regional High School Athletic Complex Project. The project requires approval from both member communities. Northborough will be assessed its share of debt through annual assessment per the Regional School Agreement.

MOTION ARTICLE 25: Algonquin Regional High School Athletic Complex Project

I move the Town vote to approve the of sum of Seven Million Nine Hundred Sixty Thousand Three Hundred Ninety-Three Dollars (\$7,960,393) borrowing authorized by the Northborough-Southborough Regional School District to pay costs of renovating and making extraordinary repairs and other improvements to the District’s athletic facilities, including, but not limited to: replacing the current football field and junior varsity practice field with turf fields, replacing the existing track, replacing the existing tennis courts, replacing the existing bleachers and press box to ensure compliance with ADA requirements, construction of a new outdoor amphitheater, renovations to the amenities building, and for the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto.

ARTICLE 26: 13 Church Street Easement

To see if the Town will vote to accept an easement in, over and through a portion of the property located at and known as 44 West Main Street, Northborough for the purpose of access to and use, operation and maintenance of a Town-owned sewer pump station located thereon, with the easement area being generally shown as “Proposed Easement A” on a plan entitled “ANR & Easement Plan 13 Church Street Northborough Massachusetts ‘Old Fire Station’ Owned By Town of Northborough 63 Main Street Northborough, MA 01532” dated July 1, 2022 by Chappell Engineering Associates, LLC,” a copy of which is on file in the office of the Town Clerk, and in connection with the provision of a Town sewer service connection for the property at 44 West Main Street; and to authorize the Board of Selectmen and the Water and Sewer Commissioners to take all actions and execute all documents necessary in connection therewith, or take any action relative thereto.

MOTION ARTICLE 26: 13 Church Street Easement

I move the Town will vote to accept an easement in, over and through a portion of the property located at and known as 44 West Main Street, Northborough for the purpose of access to and use, operation and maintenance of a Town-owned sewer pump station located thereon, with the easement area being generally shown as “Proposed Easement A” on a plan entitled “ANR & Easement Plan 13 Church Street Northborough Massachusetts ‘Old Fire Station’ Owned By Town of Northborough 63 Main Street Northborough, MA 01532” dated July 1, 2022 by Chappell Engineering Associates, LLC,” a copy of which is on file in the office of the Town Clerk, and in connection with the provision of a Town sewer service connection for the property at 44 West Main Street; and to authorize the Board of Selectmen and the Water and Sewer Commissioners to take all actions and execute all documents necessary in connection therewith.

ARTICLE 27: Change Name of Board of Selectmen to Select Board

To see if the Town will authorize the Board of Selectmen to petition the General Court for special legislation to change the name of the Board of Selectmen to Select Board, in the form set forth below; and

provided further that the General Court may make clerical or editorial changes of form only to the bill, unless the Board of Selectmen approves amendments to the bill before enactment by the General Court, and that the Board of Selectmen is authorized to approve amendments which shall be within the scope of the general public objectives of the petition; or take any other action relative thereto.

An Act Relative to the Select Board of the Town of Northborough:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the executive body of the town of Northborough, previously known as the board of selectmen, shall be known as the select board and shall have the powers and authority of a board of selectmen pursuant to any general or special law. The members of the select board, previously known as selectmen, shall be known as select board members.

SECTION 2. Notwithstanding sections 21 and 32 of chapter 40 of the General Laws or any other general or special law to the contrary, the select board of the town of Northborough may amend the general by-laws of the town by majority vote to revise all references to the board of selectmen and its members to select board and select board member, respectively, in accordance with section 1.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

MOTION ARTICLE 27: Change Name of Board of Selectmen to Select Board

I move the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to petition the General Court for special legislation to change the name of the Board of Selectmen to Select Board, in the form set forth in the warrant and warrant booklet distributed at this Town Meeting; and provided further that the General Court may make clerical or editorial changes of form only to the bill, unless the Board of Selectmen approves amendments to the bill before enactment by the General Court, and that the Board of Selectmen is authorized to approve amendments which shall be within the scope of the general public objectives of the petition.

ARTICLE 28: Remove Residency Requirement for Town Administrator

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to petition the General Court for a special act amending the Northborough Home Rule Charter by deleting the fourth sentence of section 4-1 so as to eliminate the requirement that the Town Administrator be a resident of Northborough, in the form set forth below; and provided further that the General Court may make clerical or editorial changes of form only to the bill, unless the Board of Selectmen approves amendments to the bill before enactment by the General Court, and that the Board of Selectmen is authorized to approve amendments which shall be within the scope of the general public objectives of the petition; or take any action relative thereto.

An Act Amending the Charter of the Town of Northborough:

SECTION 1. Section 4-1 of article IV of the charter of the town of Northborough, which is on file in the office of the archivist of the commonwealth, as provided in section 12 of chapter 43B of the General Laws, is hereby amended by striking out the fourth sentence.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

- The fourth sentence of section 4-1 reads as follows: “He need not be a resident of the town or of the commonwealth at the time of his appointment, but he must establish residence within the town within twelve (12) months following his appointment.”

MOTION ARTICLE 28: Remove Residency Requirement for Town Administrator

I move the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to petition the General Court for a special act amending the Northborough Home Rule Charter by deleting the fourth sentence of section 4-1 so as to eliminate the requirement that the Town Administrator be a resident of Northborough, in the form set forth in the warrant and warrant booklet distributed at this Town Meeting; and provided further that the General Court may make clerical or editorial changes of form only to the bill, unless the Board of Selectmen approves amendments to the bill before enactment by the General Court, and that the Board of Selectmen is authorized to approve amendments which shall be within the scope of the general public objectives of the petition; or take any action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 29: Consolidated Personnel Bylaw

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Consolidated Personnel Bylaw as shown in the appendix to this warrant entitled “Article 29 – Consolidated Personnel Bylaw Amendments – 2023 Annual Town Meeting,” a copy of which is viewable on the Town’s website at <https://www.town.northborough.ma.us>.

MOTION ARTICLE 29: Consolidated Personnel Bylaw

I move the Town vote to amend the Consolidated Personnel Bylaw as reflected in the appendix to the warrant entitled “Article 29 – Consolidated Personnel Bylaw Amendments – 2023 Annual Town Meeting,” and to authorize and approve payment of FY2024 wage increases pursuant to Section 1-64-040(H) of the Personnel Bylaw subject to and upon the settlement of union contracts for fiscal year 2024.

ARTICLE 30: Community Preservation Fund – White Cliffs Debt Service

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of One Hundred Eighty-Eight Thousand Dollars (\$188,000), or any other sum, from the Community Preservation Fund revenues to the Northborough Community Preservation Committee for Fiscal Year 2024 debt service and expenses associated with the acquisition of the property at 167 Main Street, or take any other action relative thereto.

- This Article would fund the sixth debt service payment associated with the purchase of the White Cliffs facility at 167 Main Street.

MOTION ARTICLE 30: Community Preservation Fund – White Cliffs Debt Service

I move the Town vote to appropriate the sum of One Hundred Eighty-Eight Thousand Dollars (\$188,000) from the Community Preservation Fund revenues to the Northborough Community Preservation Committee for Fiscal Year 2024 debt service and expenses associated with the acquisition of the property at 167 Main Street.

ARTICLE 31: Community Preservation Fund – Administrative Fund

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of Thirty-Eight Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$38,500), or any other sum, from the Community Preservation Fund revenues to the Northborough Community Preservation Committee for expenses associated with the implementation of the Community Preservation Act including but not limited to clerical assistance, office supplies, property surveys, appraisals, attorney’s fees, and other professional services, recording fees, printing and all other necessary and proper expenses for the Fiscal Year 2024, or take any other action relative thereto.

- This Article would fund the administrative expenses of the Community Preservation Committee.

MOTION ARTICLE 31: Community Preservation Fund – Administrative Fund

I move the Town vote to appropriate the sum of Thirty-Eight Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$38,500) from the Community Preservation Fund revenues to the Northborough Community Preservation Committee for expenses associated with the implementation of the Community Preservation Act including but not limited to clerical assistance, office supplies, property surveys, appraisals, attorney’s fees, and other professional services, recording fees, printing and all other necessary and proper expenses for the Fiscal Year 2024.

ARTICLE 32: Community Preservation Fund – Affordable Housing Reserve

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of Seventy-Seven Thousand Dollars (\$77,000), or any other sum, from the Community Preservation Fund revenues and place said amount in the Community Preservation Affordable Housing Reserve Fund, or take any other action relative thereto.

- This Article would set aside funds for the future creation of affordable housing.

MOTION ARTICLE 32: Community Preservation Fund – Affordable Housing Reserve

I move the Town vote to appropriate the sum of Seventy-Seven Thousand Dollars (\$77,000) from the Community Preservation Fund revenues and place said amount in the Community Preservation Affordable Housing Reserve Fund.

ARTICLE 33: Community Preservation Fund – Construction of Dog Park

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of Three Hundred Forty-Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$347,500), or any other sum, from the Community Preservation Fund revenues to the Northborough Recreation Department and Department of Public Works for construction of a dog park, or take any other action relative thereto.

- This Article would fund the second phase of a three-phase project to construct a community dog park.

MOTION ARTICLE 33: Community Preservation Fund – Construction of Dog Park

I move the Town vote to appropriate the sum of Three Hundred Forty-Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$347,500) from the Community Preservation Fund revenues to the Northborough Recreation Department and Department of Public Works for construction of a dog park.

ARTICLE 34: Community Preservation Fund – Construction of ADA Accessible Trails at Senior Center

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of One Hundred Nineteen Thousand Dollars (\$119,000) from the Community Preservation Fund revenues and the sum of Two Hundred Fifty-One Thousand Dollars (\$251,000) from the Community Preservation Unreserved Fund, for the total sum of Three Hundred Seventy Thousand Dollars (\$370,000), to the Northborough Trails Committee and the Department of Public Works for construction of an ADA-compliant accessible trail located at the Northborough Senior Center, or take any other action relative thereto.

- This article would fund the next phase of this project to construct an ADA-compliant accessible trail at the Northborough Senior Center.

MOTION ARTICLE 34: Community Preservation Fund – Construction of ADA Accessible Trails at Senior Center

I move the Town vote to appropriate the sum of One Hundred Nineteen Thousand Dollars (\$119,000) from the Community Preservation Fund revenues and the sum of Two Hundred Fifty-One Thousand Dollars (\$251,000) from the Community Preservation Unreserved Fund for the total sum of Three Hundred Seventy Dollars (\$370,000) to the Northborough Trails Committee and the Department of Public Works for the construction of an ADA-compliant accessible trail located at the Northborough Senior Center.

ARTICLE 35: Community Preservation Fund – Library Historic Marker

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Sixty Dollars (\$5,060), or any other sum, from the Community Preservation Unreserved Fund to the Northborough Historic District Commission for the purchase and installation of a historic marker for the Northborough Free Library, or take any other action relative thereto.

- This Article would fund the purchase and installation of a bronze historic marker highlighting the role of Cyrus Gale Jr. and his influence on the Northborough Free Library.

MOTION ARTICLE 35: Community Preservation Fund – Library Historic Marker

I move the Town vote to appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Sixty Dollars (\$5,060) from the Community Preservation Unreserved Fund to the Northborough Historic District Commission for the purchase and installation of a historic marker for the Northborough Free Library.

ARTICLE 36: Town Code General Legislation, Chapter 2-28 Earth Removal, Section 2-28-030 and Section 2-28-040

To see if the Town will vote to amend Part 2 of the Northborough Town Code, General Legislation, Chapter 2-28 Earth Removal, Section 2-28-030, by adding the underlined text shown below, and Section 2-28-040 by deleting the text shown below in strikethrough, or take any action relative thereto.

2-28-030 Work for which permit required; exemptions

B. Exemptions.

(3) A permit shall not be required under this chapter provided that a Land Disturbance Permit has been issued for all construction activity or land disturbance that individually or as part of a Common Plan of Development results in the disturbance of one acre (43,560 square feet) or more as required by the Northborough Town Code, General Legislation, Chapter 2-60 Stormwater Management and Land Disturbance.

2-28-040 Application procedure

An application for an earthwork permit shall be in writing and, among other things as required by the Earthwork Board, ~~or in the case of land in the Industrial zoning district, the Planning Board,~~ shall contain an accurate description of the portion of land from which earth is to be removed or to which earth is to be imported, shall state fully the purpose for the removal or importation thereof and shall include plans of the land involved in such form as the Earthwork Board may require. The Earthwork Board may charge reasonable fees for making an application for earthwork. Upon receipt of an application for a permit for removal of earth from any land, the Earthwork Board shall appoint a time and place for a public hearing, notice of which shall be given to the applicant and shall be published at least twenty-one (21) days before such hearing in a newspaper having a circulation in the town.

MOTION ARTICLE 36: Town Code General Legislation, Chapter 2-28 Earth Removal, Section 2-28-030 and Section 2-28-040

I move the Town vote to amend Part 2 of the Northborough Town Code, General Legislation, Chapter 2-28 Earth Removal, Section 2-28-030, by adding the underlined text, and Section 2-28-040 by deleting the text shown in strikethrough all as set forth in the Warrant.

ARTICLE 37: Zoning Bylaw Section 7-02-040, Definitions

To see if the Town will vote to amend Part 7 of the Northborough Town Code, the Northborough Zoning Bylaw, Section 7-02-040, by adding the text shown below as underlined, or take any action relative thereto.

TRANSIENT – Occupancy of a dwelling unit or sleeping unit for not more than thirty (30) days.

MOTION ARTICLE 37: Zoning Bylaw Section 7-02-040, Definitions

I move the Town vote to amend Part 7 of the Northborough Town Code, the Northborough Zoning Bylaw, Section 7-02-040, by adding the text shown as underlined, as set forth in the Warrant.

ARTICLE 38: Zoning Bylaw Section 7-02-040, Definitions

To see if the Town will vote to amend Part 7 of the Northborough Town Code, the Northborough Zoning Bylaw, Section 7-02-040, by deleting the text shown below in strikethrough and adding the text shown below as underlined, or take any action relative thereto.

TEMPORARY STRUCTURE - A structure without any foundation or footings to be removed within a ~~twelve-month~~ one hundred eighty (180) day time period. Said structure shall conform to the requirements of the Schedule of Density and Dimensional Requirements and shall require a building permit ~~or a~~ and an occupancy certificate ~~certificate of zoning compliance~~ from the Building Inspector. Exception: Temporary signs or other temporary outdoor advertising shall be in accordance with Section 7-09-040.

MOTION ARTICLE 38: Zoning Bylaw Section 7-02-040, Definitions

I move the Town vote to amend Part 7 of the Northborough Town Code, the Northborough Zoning Bylaw, Section 7-02-040, by deleting the text shown in strikethrough and adding the text shown as underlined, as set forth in the Warrant.

ARTICLE 39: Zoning Bylaw Section 7-02-040, Definitions

To see if the Town will vote to amend Part 7 of the Northborough Town Code, the Northborough Zoning Bylaw, Section 7-02-040, by deleting the text shown below in strikethrough and adding the text shown below as underlined, or take any action relative thereto.

STRUCTURE – A combination of materials assembled at a fixed location to give support or shelter, such as a building, retaining wall which retains more than four (4) feet of unbalanced fill, tent of one hundred twenty (120) square feet or more and for the use of ten (10) or more persons, reviewing stand, platform, fence ~~six (6)~~ more than seven (7) feet ~~or more~~ in height, sign, flagpole, recreational tramway, mast for radio antenna, or the like.

MOTION ARTICLE 39: Zoning Bylaw Section 7-02-040, Definitions

I move the Town vote to amend Part 7 of the Northborough Town Code, the Northborough Zoning Bylaw, Section 7-02-040, by deleting the text shown in strikethrough and adding the text shown as underlined, as set forth in the Warrant.

ARTICLE 40: Zoning Bylaw Section 7-03-050, Site Plans, paragraph A.(2)

To see if the Town will vote to amend Part 7 of the Northborough Town Code, the Northborough Zoning Bylaw, Section 7-03-050, Site Plans, paragraph A.(2), by adding the text shown below as underlined, or take any action relative thereto.

A.(2) A special permit with site plan approval shall be required for any use requiring a special permit in accordance with Section 7-05-030, Table of Uses, in which case the special permit granting authority shall also act as site plan approval authority. Land clearing and grading activities for a use requiring a special permit shall be incorporated within the special permit with site plan approval.

MOTION ARTICLE 40: Zoning Bylaw Section 7-03-050, Site Plans, paragraph A.(2)

I move the Town vote to amend Part 7 of the Northborough Town Code, the Northborough Zoning Bylaw, Section 7-03-050, Site Plans, paragraph A.(2), by adding the text shown as underlined, as set forth in the Warrant.

ARTICLE 41: Zoning Bylaw Section 7-03-050, Special permit with site plan approval, paragraph D.(1)

To see if the Town will vote to amend Part 7 of the Northborough Town Code, the Northborough Zoning Bylaw, Section 7-03-050, Special permit with site plan approval, paragraph D.(1), by deleting the text shown below in strikethrough and adding the text shown below as underlined, or take any action relative thereto.

D.(1) Procedures. The procedures and time lines for a special permit with site plan approval shall be the same as any other special permit and shall conform to the requirements of MGL C. 40A, 9, as amended, and the provisions of Section 7-03-040. Submission requirements shall be in accordance with the rules and regulations of the ~~special permit granting authority~~ Planning Board.

MOTION ARTICLE 41: Zoning Bylaw Section 7-03-050, Special permit with site plan approval, paragraph D.(1)

I move the Town vote to amend Part 7 of the Northborough Town Code, the Northborough Zoning Bylaw, Section 7-03-050, Special permit with site plan approval, paragraph D.(1), by deleting the text shown in strikethrough and adding the text shown as underlined, as set forth in the Warrant.

ARTICLE 42: Zoning Bylaw Section 7-05-020, Classification of uses, paragraph C.(4)(c)

To see if the Town will vote to amend Part 7 of the Northborough Town Code, the Northborough Zoning Bylaw, Section 7-03-050, Special permit with site plan approval, paragraph D.(1), by deleting the text shown below in strikethrough and adding the text shown below as underlined, or take any action relative thereto.

C.(4)(c) The maximum gross floor area of the accessory dwelling unit shall not exceed ~~twenty-five percent (25%) of the gross floor area of the existing dwelling or eight seven-hundred (8700) square feet, whichever is greater.~~

MOTION 42: Zoning Bylaw Section 7-05-020, Classification of uses, paragraph C.(4)(c)

I move the Town vote to amend Part 7 of the Northborough Town Code, the Northborough Zoning Bylaw, Section 7-03-050, Special permit with site plan approval, paragraph D.(1), by deleting the text shown in strikethrough and adding the text shown as underlined, as set forth in the Warrant.

ARTICLE 43: Zoning Bylaw Section 7-05-020, Classification of uses, paragraph J.(2)(b)[3]

To see if the Town will vote to amend Part 7 of the Northborough Town Code, the Northborough Zoning Bylaw, Section 7-05-020, Classification of uses, by deleting paragraph J.(2)(b)[3] and renumbering paragraph J.(2)(b)(4) as shown below, or take any action relative thereto.

~~[3] One dwelling unit per industrial establishment, on the same lot as and incidental to a permitted industrial use, occupied by the owner or an employee, such as a watchman's or caretaker's quarters.~~

[4] Solar photovoltaic installation, canopy-mounted: A solar photovoltaic system that is structurally mounted on a canopy over a parking area.

MOTION ARTICLE 43: Zoning Bylaw Section 7-05-020, Classification of uses, paragraph J.(2)(b)[3]

I move the Town vote to amend Part 7 of the Northborough Town Code, the Northborough Zoning Bylaw, Section 7-05-020, Classification of uses, by deleting paragraph J.(2)(b)[3] and renumbering paragraph J.(2)(b)(4), as set forth in the Warrant.

ARTICLE 44: Zoning Bylaw Section 7-06-030, Table 2. Table of Density and Dimensional Regulations

To see if the Town will vote to amend Part 7 of the Northborough Town Code, the Northborough Zoning Bylaw, Section 7-06-030, Table 2. Table of Density and Dimensional Regulations, by adding the text shown below as underlined, or take any action relative thereto.

Table 2. Table of Density and Dimensional Regulations.¹

District	Minimum Lot Area (sq. ft.)	Minimum Lot Frontage (feet)	Minimum Lot Width (feet)	Minimum Yard Setbacks			Maximum Front Setback ²	Maximum Lot Coverage	Minimum Open Space	Maximum Height	
				Front	Side	Rear				Stories	Feet
RA	80,000	200	200	30	15	25	-	<u>25%</u>	-	-	35
RB	40,000	150	150	30	15	25	-	<u>25%</u>	-	-	35
RC ³	20,000	100	100	30	15	25	-	<u>30%</u>	-	-	35
GR ³	15,000	100	100	30	15	25	-	30%	-	-	35
MSR ³	15,000	100	100	30	15	25	-	30%	-	-	35
DN ³	10,000	50	None	15	20	20	30	30%	20%	-	35
DB	4,000	50	None	6	None	None	20	-	15%	-	45
BE	20,000	150	None	15	20	25	75	-	20%	3.0	45
BW	20,000	150	None	15	20	25	75	-	20%	3.0	45
BS	40,000	150	None	40	25	25	-	-	25%	3.0	45
HB	40,000	150	None	50	25	25	-	-	25%	-	-

<u>4</u>	60,000	150	None	40	20	25	-	50%	25%	-	60
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- 1 Additional requirements apply in some districts and for some classes of use. See Section 7-06-030, Supplemental regulations.
- 2 Maximum front setback applies only to new construction.
- 3 See Section 7-06-030(J)(5) for lot regulations that apply to two-family dwellings.
- 4 See Section 7-06-030(C)(4) for lot regulations that apply to industrial uses that abut residential districts. (4-24-17 ATM; 4-27-09 ATM, Art. 31; 4-26-10 ATM, Art. 28; 4-24-12 ATM, Arts. 48, 49; 4-22-13 ATM; 4-23-18 ATM, Art. 39; 7-18-20 ATM, Arts. 43, 44, 45.)

MOTION ARTICLE 44: Zoning Bylaw Section 7-06-030, Table 2. Table of Density and Dimensional Regulations

I move the Town vote to amend Part 7 of the Northborough Town Code, the Northborough Zoning Bylaw, Section 7-06-030, Table 2. Table of Density and Dimensional Regulations, by adding the text shown as underlined, as set forth in the Warrant.

ARTICLE 45: Zoning Bylaw Section 7-07-010, Groundwater Protection Overlay District, paragraph C.(3)

To see if the Town will vote to amend Part 7 of the Northborough Town Code, the Northborough Zoning Bylaw, Section 7-07-010, Groundwater Protection Overlay District, paragraph C.(3), by adding the text shown below as underlined, or take any action relative thereto.

- (a) Where a lot is located partially in one groundwater protection area and partially in one or more other groundwater protection area(s), the minimum lot size requirement shall conform to the minimum lot size requirement of the groundwater protection area within which the building is located. If the building will be located partially in one groundwater protection area and partially within one or more other groundwater protection area(s), the minimum lot size requirement shall conform to the minimum lot size for the most restrictive groundwater protection area. No land area that lies within a more restrictive groundwater protection area shall be used to satisfy the land area requirement of a less restrictive groundwater protection area.

MOTION ARTICLE 45: Zoning Bylaw Section 7-07-010, Groundwater Protection Overlay District, paragraph C.(3)

I move the Town vote to amend Part 7 of the Northborough Town Code, the Northborough Zoning Bylaw, Section 7-07-010, Groundwater Protection Overlay District, paragraph C.(3), by adding the text shown as underlined, as set forth in the Warrant.

ARTICLE 46: Zoning Bylaw Section 7-09-020, Site design standards, paragraph C.(6)

To see if the Town will vote to amend Part 7 of the Northborough Town Code, the Northborough Zoning Bylaw, Section 7-09-020, Site design standards, by adding a new paragraph C.(6), as set forth in the text below as underlined, or take any action relative thereto.

(6) Utilities. Utilities, including telephone, cable and electric services, shall be placed below ground.

MOTION ARTICLE 46: Zoning Bylaw Section 7-09-020, Site design standards, paragraph C.(6)
I move the Town vote to amend Part 7 of the Northborough Town Code, the Northborough Zoning Bylaw, Section 7-09-020, Site design standards, by adding a new paragraph C.(6),, as set forth in the Warrant.

ARTICLE 47: Zoning Bylaw Section 7-090-030, Off-Street parking and loading, paragraph B.(1)(c)
To see if the Town will vote to amend Part 7 of the Northborough Town Code, the Northborough Zoning Bylaw, Section 7-07-010, Groundwater Protection Overlay District, paragraph C.(3), by adding the text shown below as underlined, or take any action relative thereto.

(c) No driveway shall be installed, or expanded to, within five (5) feet of a side lot line.

MOTION ARTICLE 47: Zoning Bylaw Section 7-090-030, Off-Street parking and loading, paragraph B.(1)(c)

I move the Town vote to amend Part 7 of the Northborough Town Code, the Northborough Zoning Bylaw, Section 7-07-010, Groundwater Protection Overlay District, paragraph C.(3), by adding the text shown as underlined, as set forth in the Warrant.

ARTICLE 48: Zoning Bylaw Section 7-09-040, Signs, paragraph B, Definitions

To see if the Town will vote to amend Part 7 of the Northborough Town Code, the Northborough Zoning Bylaw, Section 7-09-040 Signs, paragraph B, Definitions., by adding the text shown below as underlined, or take any action relative thereto.

B. Definitions. For the purpose of this section, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

(12) **EXTERNALLY ILLUMINATED SIGN** – A sign which utilizes an external and stationary light source which is shielded and directed solely at the sign.

(19) **INTERNALLY ILLUMINATED SIGN** - A sign that is illuminated by a light source internal to the sign. Internally illuminated signs include signs which utilize translucent panels.

MOTION ARTICLE 48: Zoning Bylaw Section 7-09-040, Signs, paragraph B, Definitions

I move the Town vote to amend Part 7 of the Northborough Town Code, the Northborough Zoning Bylaw, Section 7-09-040 Signs, paragraph B, Definitions., by adding the text shown as underlined, as set forth in the Warrant.

ARTICLE 49: Zoning Bylaw Section 7-07-010, Groundwater Protection Overlay District, paragraphs C.(5) and D

To see if the Town will vote to amend Part 7 of the Northborough Town Code, the Northborough Zoning Bylaw, Section 7-07-010, Groundwater Protection Overlay District, paragraphs C.(5) and D.(4), by

deleting the text shown below in strikethrough and adding the text shown below as underlined, or take any action relative thereto.

C. Establishment and delineation.

(5) The special permit granting authority shall be the Zoning Board of Appeals, except that for wireless communications facilities applications, two-family dwelling unit applications, or any applications in the Industrial District, the special permit granting authority shall be the Planning Board. The special permit granting authority shall hear and act upon all cases of appeal and petitions for special permits which are brought under this chapter. ~~The special permit granting authority shall, within five (5) business days of receipt of application or filing, forward to the Groundwater Advisory Committee (consisting of one (1) member each or one (1) designee each from the Board of Selectmen, Conservation Commission, Board of Health, Planning Board, and Water/Sewer Commission) five (5) copies of said application or filing. Within sixty-five (65) days of receipt of application or filing, the special permit granting authority shall hold a public hearing. Prior to the public hearing, the Groundwater Advisory Committee shall report its findings and recommendation to the special permit granting authority. The special permit granting authority shall render its decision within ninety (90) days of the public hearing.~~

D. Use regulations.

(4) Procedures for issuance of special permit.

(c) Upon receipt of the special permit application, the Town Clerk shall transmit one (1) copy each to the Board of Selectmen, Conservation Commission, Planning Board, Board of Health, and Water and Sewer Commissioners ~~(Groundwater Advisory Committee)~~ for their written recommendations. Failure to respond in writing to the clerk of the special permit granting authority within twenty-one (21) days following receipt of the application by the applicable board or commission ~~public hearing~~ shall indicate no objection~~approval~~ by said board or commission~~committee~~.

(e) After notice and public hearing and after coordinating, clarifying and weighing the comments received~~and recommendations of the Groundwater Advisory Committee~~, the special permit granting authority may grant such a special permit; provided that it finds that the proposed use:

[1] Meets the purpose and intent of this chapter and will not derogate from the purpose of the Groundwater Protection Overlay Districts.

[2] Will not, during construction or thereafter, impair ambient groundwater quality or reduce existing recharge capacity beyond that allowed per this chapter.

[3] Will not adversely affect the quality or the yield of an existing or potential water supply.

MOTION ARTICLE 49: Zoning Bylaw Section 7-07-010, Groundwater Protection Overlay District, paragraphs C.(5) and D

I move the Town vote to amend Part 7 of the Northborough Town Code, the Northborough Zoning Bylaw Section 7-07-010, Groundwater Protection Overlay District, paragraphs C.(5) and D.(4), by deleting the text shown in strikethrough and adding the text shown as underlined, as set forth in the Warrant.

ARTICLE 50: Acceptance of M.G.L. Chapter 39, Section 23D

To see if the Town will vote to accept, for all boards, committees and commissions that hold adjudicatory hearings, and applicable to adjudicatory hearings that commence after the date of acceptance, Chapter 39, Section 23D of the Massachusetts General Laws relative to allowing board, committee and commission members to vote on matters subject to an adjudicatory hearing even if the member has a single absence during a hearing process.

MOTION ARTICLE 50: Acceptance of M.G.L. Chapter 39, Section 23D

I move the Town vote to accept, for all boards, committees and commissions that hold adjudicatory hearings, and applicable to adjudicatory hearings that commence after the date of acceptance, Chapter 39, Section 23D of the Massachusetts General Laws relative to allowing board, committee and commission members to vote on matters subject to an adjudicatory hearing even if the member has a single absence during a hearing process.

ARTICLE 51: Reports

FY2024 General Fund Budget Summary (Warrant Article 4)

Department	FY2023 Budget	FY2024 Proposed Budget	\$ Change	% Change
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION				
<u>EXECUTIVE OFFICE</u>				
Selectmen	196,156	200,797	4,641	2.37%
Administrator	310,777	313,667	2,890	0.93%
Economic Development	1,342	700	(642)	-47.84%
Town Reports	5,150	5,150	-	0.00%
<u>TOWN HALL/OFFICE SUPPLIES</u>				
Town Hall/Office Supplies	158,200	157,240	(960)	-0.61%
<u>FINANCE</u>				
Treasurer	334,501	374,512	40,011	11.96%
Board of Assessors	279,489	294,042	14,553	5.21%
Town Accountant	201,610	210,482	8,872	4.40%
<u>MIS/GIS</u>				
MIS/GIS	632,938	696,122	63,184	9.98%
<u>TOWN CLERKS OFFICE</u>				
Town Clerk/Elections	204,334	214,772	10,438	5.11%
<u>ADVISORY BOARDS/SERVICES</u>				
Moderator	500	500	-	0.00%
Appropriations Committee	1,695	1,695	-	0.00%
Town Counsel	90,000	90,000	-	0.00%
Personnel Board	144,667	99,340	(45,327)	-31.33%
<u>PLANNING & CONSERVATION</u>				
Conservation Commission	109,881	113,292	3,411	3.10%
Planning Board	206,358	210,048	3,690	1.79%
Zoning Board	5,318	4,080	(1,238)	-23.28%
Earthwork Board	2,180	2,889	709	32.52%
PUBLIC SAFETY				
Police	3,033,443	3,232,978	199,535	6.58%
Fire	2,227,206	2,445,137	217,931	9.78%
Emergency Preparedness	7,000	7,000	-	0.00%
Building	207,071	210,190	3,119	1.51%
Gas Inspector	12,897	13,606	709	5.50%
Wire Inspector	23,024	42,221	19,197	83.38%
Sealer of Weights	8,000	15,873	7,873	98.41%
Board of Health	232,146	215,484	(16,662)	-7.18%
Animal Control	42,729	42,729	-	0.00%
PUBLIC WORKS				
Highway Admin.	144,774	166,133	21,359	14.75%
Hwy. Const. & Maint.	1,720,163	1,776,562	56,399	3.28%
Parks	155,700	178,465	22,765	14.62%
Cemetery	172,578	187,200	14,622	8.47%
Public Facilities	479,197	751,156	271,959	56.75%
Engineering	190,191	192,261	2,070	1.09%
Snow & Ice	437,000	459,642	22,642	5.18%
Street Lighting	147,000	165,000	18,000	12.24%
Trees	56,000	71,500	15,500	27.68%
COMMUNITY SERVICES				
Council on Aging	322,003	293,824	(28,179)	-8.75%
Library	921,937	914,419	(7,518)	-0.82%
Recreation	155,360	159,969	4,609	2.97%
Youth Services	178,010	184,179	6,169	3.47%
Veterans Services	91,225	97,801	6,576	7.21%
Cable TV	294,728	301,085	6,357	2.16%
Cultural Council	500	1,000	500	100.00%
Community Affairs Committee	500	1,000	500	100.00%
Historical Commission	500	500	-	0.00%

FY2024 General Fund Budget Summary Continued

Department	FY2023	FY2024	\$	%
	Budget	Proposed Budget	Change	Change
UNDISTRIBUTED EXPENSES				
<u>EMPLOYEE BENEFITS & INSURANCE</u>				
Health Insurance	6,184,052	6,184,052	-	0.00%
Transfer to OPEB Trust	300,000	550,000	250,000	
Life Insurance	8,930	8,930	-	0.00%
Other Benefits/FICA	516,097	538,678	22,581	4.38%
Workers Comp	134,702	134,702	-	0.00%
Retirement Assessments	2,725,650	2,788,842	63,192	2.32%
<u>BUILDING & LIABILITY INSURANCE</u>				
Bldg. & Liability Insur.	288,163	297,705	9,542	3.31%
<u>DEBT SERVICE</u>				
Debt Service	1,937,853	2,135,620	197,767	10.21%
<u>STATE ASSESSMENTS</u>				
State Assessments	285,618	321,775	36,157	12.66%
<u>NORFOLK AGRICULTURAL HIGH SCHOOL</u>				
Tuition/Transportation	69,934	46,200	(23,734)	-33.94%
<u>STABILIZATION FUND CONTRIBUTION</u>				
Stabilization Fund	200,000	200,000	-	
<u>RESERVE FUND</u>				
Reserve Fund	175,000	175,000	-	0.00%
<u>SPECIAL WARRANT ARTICLES</u>				
Special Articles	2,024,000	1,105,000	(919,000)	-45.41%
Solid Waste Subsidy	337,160	345,160	8,000	2.37%
OTHER NON-APPROPRIATED AMOUNTS				
Reserve for Abatements	419,224	328,519	(90,705)	-21.64%
Offsets	32,883	39,968	7,085	21.55%
ENTERPRISE FUNDS				
Water	2,636,103	2,772,795	136,692	5.19%
Sewer	2,397,488	2,508,481	110,993	4.63%
Solid Waste	928,113	1,040,684	112,571	12.13%
GROSS TOTAL TOWN	35,746,948	36,638,353	891,405	2.49%
CALCULATION OF NET TOTAL TOWN				
Less Water Fund	(2,636,103)	(2,772,795)		
Less Sewer Fund	(2,397,488)	(2,508,481)		
Less Solid Waste	(928,113)	(1,040,684)		
Less Other Funds	(854,621)	(891,826)		
Less Recap Adjustments	(35,782)			
Less Debt Exclusion	(1,683,878)	(1,918,035)		
Less Reserve Fund Article	(175,000)	(175,000)		
Less Transfer to OPEB Trust	(300,000)	(550,000)		
Less Transfer to Stabilization	(200,000)	(200,000)		
Less Special Articles	(2,034,000)	(1,105,000)		
NET TOTAL TOWN	24,501,963	25,476,532		3.98%
CALCULATION OF TOWN APPROPRIATION				
GROSS TOTAL TOWN	35,746,948	36,638,353		
Less County Assessments	(2,725,650)	(2,788,842)		
Less State Assessments	(285,618)	(321,775)		
Less Reserve for Abatements	(419,224)	(328,519)		
Less Offsets	(32,883)	(39,968)		
Less Debt Service raised on Recap	(11,748)	-		
Less Reserve Fund Article	(175,000)	(175,000)		
Less Stabilization Transfer Article	(200,000)	(200,000)		
Less Special Articles	(2,034,000)	(1,105,000)		
Less Solid Waste Subsidy	(337,160)	(345,160)		
Less Enterprise Funds	(5,961,704)	(6,321,960)		
Net Town Warrant Article 4	23,563,961	25,012,129		

FY2024 Enterprise Funds Budget Summary (Warrant Article 5)

REVENUE	FY2023	FY2024	\$ Change	% Change
Water Fees, Charges & Betterments	2,390,000	2,550,000	160,000	6.69%
Transfer from Water Fund Free Cash (Operating)	246,103	222,795	(23,308)	-9.47%
TOTAL WATER FUND REVENUES	2,636,103	2,772,795	136,692	5.19%
Sewer Fees, Charges & Betterments	2,397,488	2,508,481	110,993	4.63%
Transfer from Sewer Fund Free Cash (Operating)	0	0	0	
TOTAL SEWER FUND REVENUES	2,397,488	2,508,481	110,993	4.63%
Solid Waste Fees	470,000	530,000	60,000	12.77%
General Fund Subsidy	337,160	345,160	8,000	2.37%
Transfer from Solid Waste Free Cash	120,953	165,524	44,571	36.85%
SOLID WASTE FUND REVENUES	928,113	1,040,684	112,571	12.13%
WATER, SEWER & SOLID WASTE REVENUES	5,961,704	6,321,960	360,256	6.04%
EXPENDITURES	FY2023	FY2024	\$ Change	% Change
Wages, Benefits & Expenses	2,323,939	2,461,606	137,667	5.92%
Debt Service	312,164	311,189	(975)	-0.31%
WATER FUND EXPENDITURES	2,636,103	2,772,795	136,692	5.19%
Wages, Benefits & Expenses	1,763,427	1,903,405	139,978	7.94%
Debt Service	634,061	605,076	(28,985)	-4.57%
SEWER FUND EXPENDITURES	2,397,488	2,508,481	110,993	4.63%
SOLID WASTE FUND EXPENDITURES	928,113	1,040,684	112,571	12.13%
WATER, SEWER & SOLID WASTE EXPENDITURES	5,961,704	6,321,960	360,256	6.04%

FY2024 Public Education Summary (Warrant Articles 6, 7 & 8)

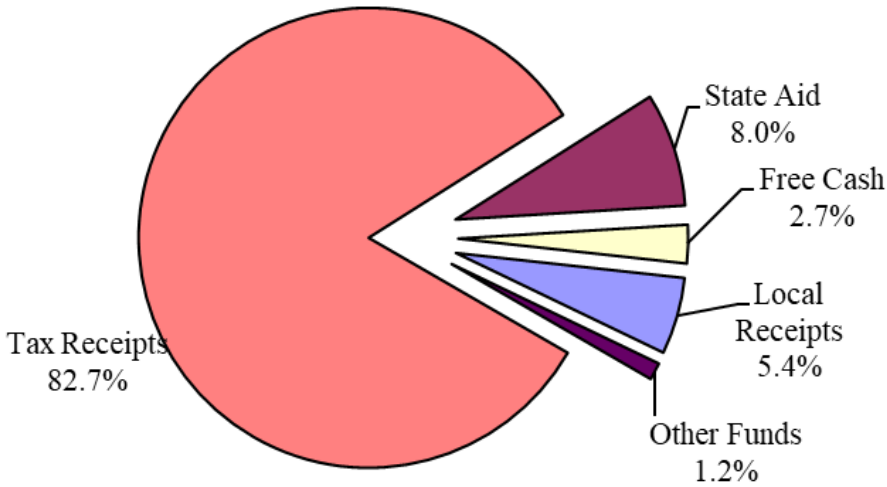
PUBLIC EDUCATION	FY2023	FY2024	\$ Change	% Change
Northborough K-8	\$26,692,953	\$28,001,227	\$1,308,274	4.90%
Northborough K-8 Total (Article 6)	\$26,692,953	\$28,001,227	\$1,308,274	4.90%
Algonquin Regional HS 9-12	\$12,833,497	\$13,421,085	\$587,588	4.58%
Algonquin HS Debt Exclusion	\$653,069	\$651,454	(\$1,615)	-0.25%
Algonquin Total (Article 7)	\$13,486,566	\$14,072,539	\$585,973	4.34%
Assabet Valley Regional HS	\$1,155,301	\$1,175,405	\$20,104	1.74%
Assabet Valley Debt Assessment	\$130,004	\$126,176	(\$3,828)	-2.94%
Assabet Total (Article 8)	\$1,285,305	\$1,301,581	\$16,276	1.27%
TOTAL PUBLIC EDUCATION	\$41,464,824	\$43,375,347	\$1,910,523	4.61%

* Please see separate handouts for detail regarding School Budgets.

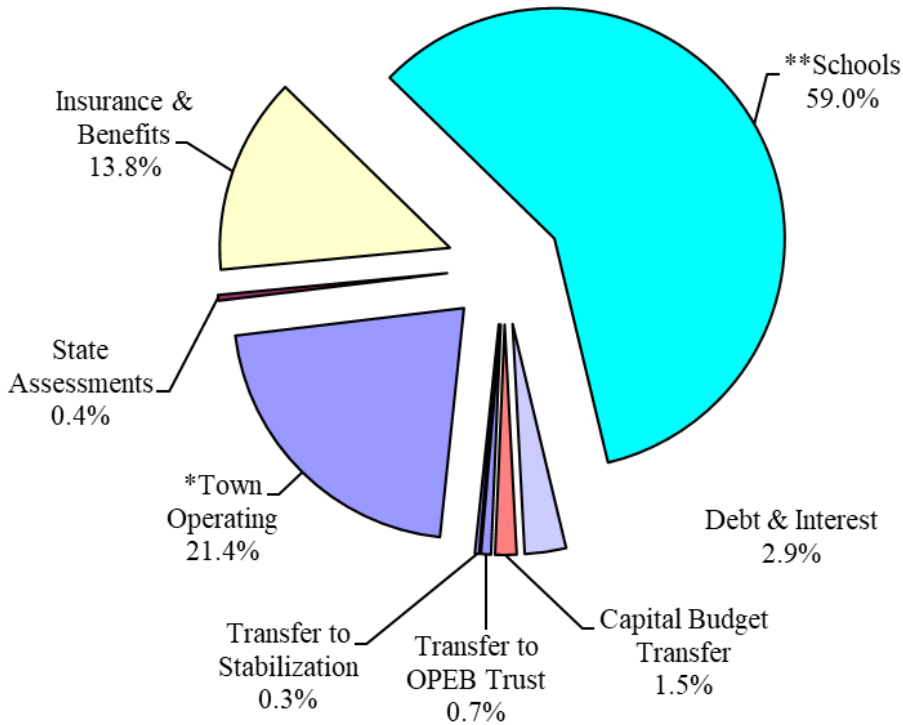
TOWN OF NORTHBOROUGH
REVENUE & EXPENDITURE SUMMARY FISCAL YEARS 2022--2024

LEVY LIMIT CALCULATION	FY2022	PROPOSED FY2023	REVISED FY2023	PROPOSED FY2024	% CHANGE
Prior Year Levy Limit	\$55,450,240	\$57,890,129	\$57,890,129	\$60,232,198	
Add 2.5%	\$1,386,256	\$1,447,253	\$1,447,253	\$1,505,805	
Add New Growth	\$1,053,633	\$659,600	\$894,816	\$591,600	
Add Overrides	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
True Levy Limit	\$57,890,129	\$59,996,982	\$60,232,198	\$62,329,603	
Add Debt Excl - Library	\$343,177	\$299,530	\$272,412	\$255,841	
Add Debt Excl - Senior Center	\$362,594	\$321,175	\$321,175	\$286,915	
Add Debt Excl - Algonquin	\$647,846	\$653,069	\$653,069	\$639,873	
Less Debt Excl - Settlement	(\$230,681)	(\$232,988)	(\$232,965)	\$0	
Add Debt Excl - Lincoln Street	\$1,026,182	\$998,130	\$998,130	\$973,476	
Add Debt Excl - Fire Station	\$52,750	\$42,200	\$53,948	\$327,312	
Add Net Debt Exclusions	\$2,201,868	\$2,081,116	\$2,065,769	\$2,483,417	
Adjusted Levy Limit	\$60,091,997	\$62,078,098	\$62,297,967	\$64,813,020	
REVENUES					
Adjusted Levy Limit	\$60,091,997	\$62,078,098	\$62,297,967	\$64,813,020	
Less Unused Levy Capacity	(\$4,362,781)	(\$4,364,770)	(\$4,790,839)	(\$3,868,927)	
Total Tax Receipts	\$55,729,216	\$57,713,328	\$57,507,128	\$60,944,093	5.98%
State Aid	\$5,557,508	\$5,614,693	\$5,759,836	\$5,875,821	2.01%
Free Cash (Operating)	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	0.00%
Free Cash (Reserve)	\$175,000	\$175,000	\$175,000	\$175,000	0.00%
Free Cash (Stabilization)	\$0	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	0.00%
Free Cash (Capital)	\$805,000	\$2,024,000	\$2,024,000	\$1,105,000	-45.41%
Free Cash	\$1,480,000	\$2,899,000	\$2,899,000	\$1,980,000	-31.70%
Local Receipts	\$4,171,000	\$4,171,000	\$4,198,118	\$4,000,000	-4.72%
Other Funds	\$733,933	\$854,621	\$854,621	\$891,826	4.35%
TOTAL GENERAL FUND REVENUES	\$67,671,657	\$71,252,642	\$71,218,703	\$73,691,740	3.47%
Enterprise Funds	\$6,254,279	\$5,961,704	\$5,961,704	\$6,321,960	6.04%
TOTAL REVENUES	\$73,925,936	\$77,214,346	\$77,180,407	\$80,013,700	3.67%
EXPENDITURES					
Town Budget	\$23,639,610	\$24,501,963	\$24,501,963	\$25,476,532	3.98%
Schools					
Northborough K-8	\$25,799,678	\$26,692,953	\$26,692,953	\$28,001,227	4.90%
Algonquin 9-12	\$12,893,497	\$12,914,966	\$12,833,497	\$13,421,085	4.58%
ARHS Debt Exclusion	\$636,265	\$653,069	\$653,069	\$651,454	-0.25%
Assabet	\$934,658	\$1,123,936	\$1,155,301	\$1,175,405	1.74%
Assabet Renovation Project	\$133,832	\$130,004	\$130,004	\$126,176	-2.94%
Warrant Articles					
Town Hall Reuse Article		\$10,000	\$10,000	\$0	-100.00%
Reserve Fund	\$175,000	\$175,000	\$175,000	\$175,000	0.00%
Transfer to Stabilization	\$0	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	0.00%
Free Cash Capital	\$805,000	\$2,024,000	\$2,024,000	\$1,105,000	-45.41%
Transfer to OPEB Trust	\$0	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$550,000	83.33%
Colburn Street Debt Service	\$57,475	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Library Debt Service	\$343,567	\$299,530	\$299,530	\$288,895	-3.55%
Senior Center Debt Service	\$371,445	\$321,175	\$321,175	\$316,665	-1.40%
Lincoln Street Debt Service	\$1,026,775	\$998,675	\$998,675	\$973,975	-2.47%
Fire Station Debt Service	\$52,750	\$52,750	\$64,498	\$338,500	424.82%
Other Funds	\$733,933	\$854,621	\$854,621	\$891,826	4.35%
Adjustments	\$68,172		\$4,417		
TOTAL GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES	\$67,671,657	\$71,252,642	\$71,218,703	\$73,691,740	3.47%
Water Enterprise Fund	\$2,961,675	\$2,636,103	\$2,636,103	\$2,772,795	5.19%
Sewer Enterprise Fund	\$2,373,460	\$2,397,488	\$2,397,488	\$2,508,481	4.63%
Solid Waste Enterprise Fund	\$919,144	\$928,113	\$928,113	\$1,040,684	12.13%
TOTAL ALL FUNDS	\$73,925,936	\$77,214,346	\$77,180,407	\$80,013,700	3.67%

Fiscal Year 2024 Revenue Sources



Fiscal Year 2024 Expenditures



*Town Expenditures include Reserves for Abatements, Appropriation Reserve Fund, and Offsets
 **School Expenditures include Northborough K-8 School operations, Algonquin Regional High School operations, Algonquin Regional High School Debt Service & Assabet Valley Assessment

Article 29
Consolidated Personnel Bylaw Amendments
2023 Annual Town Meeting

The proposed amendment to the Consolidated Personnel Bylaw 1-64 consists of the following:

1. Adoption of the General Compensation scale in 1-64-350 Schedule B. The proposed change is a 2% increase in compensation rates for non-union municipal employee positions effective July 1, 2023. The proposed increase is consistent with the average increase of the Town's collective bargaining units for FY2024 as required by the Town Personnel Bylaw.
2. Merit-Based Salary/Wage Adjustments in section 1-64-360 Schedule D. Proposed increases will reflect the average increase of the Town's collective bargaining units for FY2024 as required by the Town Personnel Bylaw (1-64-040 H (1)).
3. Non-Merit Based Salary/Wage Adjustment in section 1-64-360 Schedule D. Proposed changes to Van Driver salaries as market conditions warrant.

1-64-340 Schedule A.

**Classification of Positions by Occupational Groups
and Assignment to Compensation Grades**

Grade Position Title

1	Board Secretary Cable Access Television Assistant Custodian Food Service Coordinator Library Assistant
2	Department Assistant Hazardous Materials Assistant Light Equipment Operator
3	Assistant Tax Collector Assistant Town Clerk Administrative Assistant Circulation Desk Supervisor Program Coordinator Production Coordinator Assessor's Assistant Assistant Town Accountant
4	Data Collector Outreach Coordinator Heavy Equipment Operator Water & Sewer Maintenance Worker Counselor Librarian Recreation Program Supervisor Animal Control Officer
5	Veteran's Agent Assistant Treasurer/Collector Executive Assistant Conservation Agent Health Agent Highway Supervisor Mechanic Cable Access Director Local Inspector Inspector Assistant MIS/GIS Director

- 6** Town Clerk
Recreation Director
Family & Youth Services Director
Water/Sewer Operations Manager
Senior Center Director

- 7** Treasurer/Collector
Police Lieutenant
Planning Director
MIS/GIS Director
Library Director
Human Resources Director
Health Director
Town Engineer
Water/Sewer Superintendent
Facilities Manager
Highway Superintendent
Building Inspector/Zoning Enforcement Officer
Principal Assessor
Town Accountant

- 8** Assistant Town Administrator
Deputy Fire Chief
Assistant DPW Director

- 9** Finance Director
Director of Public Works
Fire Chief
Police Chief

1-64-350 Schedule B – Revised

General Compensation Effective July 1, 2023 (FY2024)

GRADE	Hourly MINIMUM	Hourly MAXIMUM	Annual MINIMUM	Annual MAXIMUM
1	\$22.14	\$28.78	\$46,053.93	\$59,870.11
2	\$24.79	\$32.23	\$51,571.71	\$67,038.88
3	\$27.77	\$36.10	\$57,762.93	\$75,098.32
4	\$31.10	\$40.43	\$64,692.74	\$84,091.87
5	\$36.70	\$47.71	\$76,336.57	\$99,233.19
6	\$41.11	\$53.44	\$85,503.90	\$111,159.42
7	\$46.04	\$59.84	\$95,757.42	\$124,475.96
8	\$48.79	\$63.44	\$101,492.44	\$131,948.85
9	\$54.65	\$71.05	\$113,679.35	\$147,785.32

1-64-360 Schedule D

Miscellaneous Compensation
Merit-Based¹ - Eligible for General Salary/Wage Adjustment

Substitute Librarian	Minimum: \$26.84	Maximum: \$34.87/hour
Substitute Library Assistant	Minimum: \$21.88	Maximum: \$28.46/hour
Call Inspector	Minimum: \$29.69	Maximum: \$38.58/hour
Call Firefighter Trainee	Minimum: \$20.19	Maximum: \$26.28/hour
Call Firefighter	Minimum: \$22.37	Maximum: \$29.09/hour
Call Firefighter/EMT or Paramedic	Minimum: \$24.77	Maximum: \$32.19/hour
Special Police Officer	Minimum: \$19.70	Maximum: \$33.17/hour

Non Merit-Based – Pay rates/ranges adjusted as market conditions warrant

Assistant Dog Officer	Per call: \$4/phone call, \$20/call-out; \$30/kennel call	
Part-time Dispatcher	Rates per Union Contract	
Library Page	Minimum: \$15.00	Maximum: \$17.25/hour
Seasonal Staff A	Minimum: \$15.00	Maximum: \$17.25/hour
Seasonal Staff B	Minimum: \$15.00	Maximum: \$17.25/hour
Seasonal Staff C	Minimum: \$16.75	Maximum: \$20.25/hour
Seasonal Staff D	Minimum: \$25.00	Maximum: \$60.00/hour
Senior Center Van Driver	Minimum: \$17.00	Maximum: \$25.00/hour

Stipends:

Inspector of Animals	\$5,000 - \$6,000 per year
Emergency Preparedness Director	\$5,000 - \$6,000 per year
Sealer of Weights/Inspector of Measures	\$3,000 - \$4,000 per year
Assistant to the Emergency Preparedness Director	\$500 per year
Emergency Shelter Coordinator	\$500 per year

¹ Assuming satisfactory performance and minimum level of pay achieved.

Report of the Financial Planning Committee

The Financial Planning Committee consists of six members. Three members are appointed by the Town Moderator, and one each by the Northborough School Committee, the Appropriations Committee and the Planning Board. The role of the Financial Planning Committee is to serve in a research, study and advisory capacity to the Board of Selectmen, the Appropriations Committee and the Annual Town Meeting on short and long-range financial planning matters, and to assist in the development of a Capital Improvement Program. During Fiscal Year 2023 the Committee was composed of the following members:

Member	Appointed By	Term Expires
David DeVries, Chair	Town Moderator	April 2023
Michael Hodge, Vice-Chair	Town Moderator	April 2025
John Rapa	Town Moderator	April 2023
William Peterson, Jr.	Northborough K-8 School Committee	April 2024
Thomas Spataro	Planning Board	April 2025

Committee Activities

Meeting Date	Meeting Topics
12/15/2022	Joint Meeting with Board of Selectmen, Financial Planning Committee, Appropriations Committee and K-8 School Committee; Financial Trend Monitoring System Presentation and Five-Year Financial Projections
01/26/2023	Election of Officers; Preliminary Free Cash Plan; DPW Project Updates; Discussion of ARPA Funds; Review of Meeting Schedule
02/02/2023	Review of FY2024 Preliminary Capital Budget; Police Department Capital Requests; Fire Department Capital Requests
02/09/2023	Review of FY2024 DPW, Water & Sewer Capital Requests; K-8 Schools and ARHS Capital Requests.
02/16/2023	Final Review of FY2024 Capital Budget; Discussion of Financial Planning Committee Recommendations and Draft Report; Review of Community Preservation Committee Project Requests; Discussion of Recommendations and Draft Report
2/23/2023	Review and Approval of Committee Report to Town Meeting
03/27/2023	Board of Selectmen – Budget Hearing (Charter 6-5) (FPC Optional)
4/24/2023	6 pm at ARHS Auditorium prior to Town Meeting

Committee General Comments

The major role of the Financial Planning Committee is to review all submitted projects included in the Capital Improvement Program, comment upon their viability and make its final recommendations, which includes consideration of the guidelines set forth under the Debt Policy adopted by the Board of Selectmen in September 2000. These guidelines were developed to assist the Town in determining how much debt can safely be incurred, and are consistent with those recommended by the Massachusetts Department of Revenue, namely:

- Determine debt that can be incurred without jeopardizing the Town’s credit standing and causing financial hardship;
- Incorporate affordability guidelines for expenditures;
- Include review of the Capital Improvement Program; and
- Indicate appropriate uses for and acceptable amounts of debt.

The Committee has reviewed the projects included in the six-year Capital Improvement Program at meetings held with the various departments proposing these projects. At these meetings, department heads presented information and data to justify the need, cost, and implementation timeframe for the projects. It is the strong opinion of the Committee that in order for the Capital Improvement Program to be an effective tool for managing the Town’s capital investment, department heads must have confidence that their submitted projects will be implemented within the timeframe planned in the Program. The Committee recognizes that the municipal and school administrations have worked hard to anticipate capital needs, submit projects into the Plan, and distribute those projects over the six-year planning period so as to comply with the constraints of the Town’s Debt Policy.

Free Cash Policy

The FY2024 budget year marks the thirteenth implementation of the Town's Free Cash Policy. Under this policy, one defined use of available Free Cash is to pay for capital projects. Examples of suitable projects include DPW and Public Safety vehicles and equipment; building infrastructure components (heating, cooling, electrical, plumbing, etc.); office and technology equipment; and capital project design fees, feasibility studies, and needs analyses. In the past, the Town funded projects of this scale with debt, a practice discouraged by bond rating agencies. Under the Free Cash Policy, such capital items are now primarily funded from Free Cash and other available one-time revenues. Debt capacity is reserved for larger projects such as building construction and renovation, major roadway construction and repair, water/sewer infrastructure, and land acquisition for municipal use or to preserve open space. In FY2023, there was a significant increase in the amount of Free Cash available to fund the Capital Plan. Due to state and federal financial support provided directly to the Town through the CARES Act and FEMA reimbursements, as well as other

PROPOSED FY2024 FREE CASH PLAN			
Free Cash Certification as of 7/1/2022		2,440,073	100%
FY2024	Appropriated Reserve	-175,000	7.2%
FY2024	Operating Budget	-500,000	20.5%
FY2024	Stabilization Fund	-200,000	8.2%
FY2024	Capital Projects	-1,105,000	45.3%
Available Free Cash after FY2024 Plan		460,073	18.9%

one-time economic effects of the pandemic, the Town realized a significant Free Cash certification which allowed it to fund some of the previously delayed projects in FY2023. In FY2024, the Town has approximately \$1 million less in Free Cash available to fund capital projects. As a result, fewer projects are proposed to be funded, making the allocation of ARPA funds for those projects that would otherwise require debt issuance even more critical in the upcoming year.

From the \$2,440,073 certified free cash balance, \$1,105,000 is allocated under the Capital Budget to finance the FY2024 pay-as-you-go capital investments with no additional tax impact.

FY2024 American Rescue Plan Act Funding Considerations

Preparation for the FY2024 budget was impacted by delays at the State level. Prior to the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus, typically the State would have presented preliminary information about the status of the State's revenue collections at the Revenue Consensus Hearing in early December. This information forecasts upcoming state aid figures and overall economic health of the State, which impacts the budget preparation for the upcoming year. Since the pandemic, this process has been consistently delayed one to two months, leaving the town with less time to prepare a budget for consideration at Town Meeting. Town Meeting is the Legislative Body of the Town of Northborough and the final decision of approval or disapproval of each warrant article is ultimately up to you, the voters. The change in administration in the Governor's Office further delays this process moving into FY2024, as there is additional time granted to an incoming Governor to submit their budget for the upcoming year. That deadline is March 1, and as of this writing, we still do not have an FY2024 budget from the State.

In addition to delays at the State level, Northborough has been placed in a unique position with the award of \$4.5 million from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. These funds are treated as a grant from the Federal Government, and the Board of Selectmen has exclusive control over the expenditure of the funds. Prior to the start of the FY2024 budgeting process, the Board of Selectmen allocated \$191,000 in ARPA funds, leaving \$4,325,184 still to be committed. In preparing the FY2024 Capital Improvement Budget, this committee strongly recommended to the Board of Selectmen that they allocate ARPA funds for three major capital projects requiring funding in the upcoming year: the Proctor School Flat Roof Area Replacement for \$1.7 million, the replacement of the Fire Department's Engine 1 for \$900,000 and the Highway Garage Tight Tank replacement for \$475,000. The Board of Selectmen voted to allocate the funding needed for the Proctor School Roof Replacement but chose not to allocate ARPA funding for the Fire Engine replacement or the Highway Garage Tight Tank. A narrative of the two projects follow:

- **Fire Engine 1 Replacement \$900,000:**

This request seeks to replace a 2005 Fire Engine. At the time of replacement, the apparatus will have exceeded its expected useful life, including approximately 10 years of front-line service, 5 years back up service and 5 years reserve. The Insurance Services Office (ISO) requires Northborough to maintain 3 pumping apparatus in order to sustain its current ISO rating, which residential and commercial fire insurance rates are based upon. Due to ongoing maintenance and mechanical issues, this apparatus must be replaced in FY2024. Recent escalation has increased the cost of the new apparatus to \$900,000 and due to supply chain disruptions, it may take up to two years for delivery following placement of the order. If ARPA funds are not released, the project will require authorization for the issuance of \$900,000 in debt at the April 2023 Annual Town Meeting.

- **Highway Garage Tight Tank Facility Improvements \$475,000:**

This request seeks to fund installation of a tight tank system at the highway garage located at 190 Main Street. The existing garage was built in 1984 and no longer complies with State environmental regulations. The building is served by an onsite septic system which cannot accept discharge of truck wash water. In accordance with MassDEP requirements, an underground holding tank is required for this wastewater. This requires interior plumbing changes as well as locating the tank in such a manner that it does not preclude future building expansion/reconfiguration. The updated construction cost estimate is now \$475,000. If ARPA funds are not used for this project, it will require authorization for the issuance of \$475,000 in debt at the April 2023 Annual Town Meeting.

Since the Board chose not to fund the Fire Engine or the DPW Tight Tank with ARPA, this will result in a Town Meeting request to fund each of these projects using debt. If approved, the debt for these projects is estimated to cost the average single-family home in Northborough \$27 per year, or \$270 in total over 10 years, and will begin to impact tax bills in FY2025. As a community, we are anticipating several major building projects over the next 5 years, including a Fire Station Building Project, Town Hall Building/Renovation Project, and the Peaslee Elementary School Building Project. All these projects are in addition to a major downtown revitalization initiative stemming from the work of the Master Plan Implementation Committee, and ongoing road and sidewalk repairs in conjunction with Northborough's recent Complete Streets designation. In a time of rising inflation, this Committee believes that the Town should endeavor to reduce the tax burden where possible, and fund major capital projects using one-time money where available.

The Committee continues to recommend the release of ARPA funding for the Fire Engine and the Tight Tank, which would result in no additional tax impact to residents. The Committee also recognizes that the ARPA funds were designed to be used quickly during the pandemic, which is why they may be released solely by vote of the Board of Selectmen and do not require Town Meeting approval. However, given that the state of emergency is over, it is concerning that the Board of Selectmen has chosen to ignore the unanimous votes of both the Financial Planning Committee and the Appropriations Committee with regard to how ARPA funds are used. The Committee is concerned that the Selectmen's actions are essentially forcing Town Meeting to authorize debt for public safety and environmental compliance projects for which there is no discretion, while at the same time holding \$2.62 million in available ARPA funds for some future discretionary projects that Town Meeting will not be required to vote on. If the Fire Engine and Tight Tank projects were funded with ARPA, it would still leave \$1.25 million in remaining ARPA funds for grant seed funding or other discretionary projects. The Committee believes the financially conservative approach would be to use ARPA funds for projects that are immediately needed and ask the voters to support future discretionary projects once they are known and appropriately defined.

The Committee extends its appreciation to Town Administrator John Coderre and his Financial Team -- Assistant Town Administrator Becca Meekins and Finance Director Jason Little -- for their input and assistance throughout the Committee's process. Special thanks to Diane Wackell and Lynda LePoer for their capable administrative support.

Capital Projects for FY2024

The Committee has reviewed and prioritized the projects in the Capital Improvement Program for Fiscal Year 2024 as follows:

Priority	Description
1	Projects that involve correcting a current Safety or Health issue, and/or to meet a Federal or State legal requirement.
2	Projects that are necessary to maintain the Town's current buildings, equipment and infrastructure: <i>Buildings</i> - Projects necessary to maintain existing Town buildings, not including projects to expand or modernize facilities. <i>Equipment</i> - Projects necessary to replace old existing equipment, which is no longer cost effective to repair with similar equipment.
3	Projects that are required to increase capacity of existing facilities in order to accommodate the increase in growth of the Town.
4	Projects that are designed to modernize and upgrade existing Town facilities.

The Committee considers all the proposed capital projects, which have been in the Capital Improvement Plan for many years. From those proposals, the Committee recommends the capital projects below be included in this year's FY2024 Capital Budget warrant articles. The Committee votes are shown in parentheses. Numerical votes are shown in Yes-No-Abstain order relative to a motion to recommend approval. Fewer than six total votes reflect the absence of one or more members at the time of the vote. Planned sources of funding are noted in the comments for each project.

Municipal Departments

Article 15	Sponsor	Cost	Priority	Recommend Approval?
Police Cruiser Replacement	Police	\$190,000	2	Unanimously YES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Requested funding of \$190,000 for the purchase of three new police vehicles. This article supports the continued annual replacement of police cruisers on an established schedule of three vehicles one year, then two the next. ▪ Funded from Free Cash with no additional tax impact. 				

Article 16	Sponsor	Cost	Priority	Recommend Approval?
Police Station Exterior Painting	Police	\$70,000	2	Unanimously YES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Funds needed to repair and paint the exterior of the Northborough Police Station. The last time the exterior was painted was approximately 10 years ago. The Town is required to pay prevailing wages under state procurement laws which significantly adds to project costs. ▪ Funded from Free Cash with no additional tax impact. 				

Article 17	Sponsor	Cost	Priority	Recommend Approval?
Engine Replacement	Fire	\$900,000	2	Unanimously YES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request to replace a 2005 Fire Engine. At the time of replacement, it will have exceeded its expected useful life, including approximately 10 years of front-line service, 5 years back-up service and 5 years reserve. Due to supply chain disruptions, it may take up to two years for delivery following placement of the order. Committee recommended use of available ARPA grant funds; if not funded with ARPA, will require debt issuance and will have an additional tax impact. 				

Article 18	Sponsor	Cost	Priority	Recommend Approval?
Road Improvements & Maintenance	Public Works - Highway	\$300,000	2	Unanimously YES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funds needed to supplement the Pavement Management Plan due to limited State Chapter 90 Transportation Funding. The Town's Pavement Management Plan requires a minimum spending level of \$1.1 million annually to maintain pavement conditions. Funded from Free Cash with no additional tax impact. 				

Article 19	Sponsor	Cost	Priority	Recommended Approval?
20-Ton Dump Truck with Plow	Public Works - Highway	\$355,000	2	Unanimously YES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request to replace a 2005 truck used for salting and sanding during snow events. These trucks have a useful life of between 15 and 20 years. Funded from Free Cash with no additional tax impact. 				

Article 20	Sponsor	Cost	Priority	Recommended Approval?
Highway Garage Tight Tank	Public Works – Highway	475,000	1	Unanimously YES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request to fund the installation of a tight tank at the highway garage located at 190 Main Street. The existing garage was built in 1984 and no longer complies with State environmental regulations. The building is served by an onsite septic system which cannot accept discharge of truck wash. In accordance with MassDEP requirements, an underground holding tank is required for this wastewater. Committee recommended use of available ARPA grant funds; if not funded with ARPA, will require debt issuance and will have an additional tax impact. 				

Article 21	Sponsor	Cost	Priority	Recommend Approval?
One-Ton Truck with Plow	Public Works – Highway	\$150,000	2	Unanimously YES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request to replace a 2012 F350 with an F600 model truck. The 2012 truck will be past its useful life at the time of replacement. Funded from Free Cash with no additional tax impact. 				

Article 22	Sponsor	Cost	Priority	Recommend Approval?
15-Ton Dump Truck	Water/Sewer Commission	\$225,000	3	Unanimously YES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request to purchase a new 30,000-pound GVW dump truck for use by the water and sewer divisions. The current fleet of vehicles are smaller daily task vehicles. This truck is large enough to move water and sewer department equipment and materials which will alleviate the need to use the highway dump truck for towing. Costs for this vehicle will be divided 60% from the Water Enterprise Fund and 40% from the Sewer Enterprise Fund Free Cash. No additional tax or rate impact. 				

Article 23	Sponsor	Cost	Priority	Recommend Approval?
SCADA Phase 2	Water/Sewer Commission	\$125,000	4	Unanimously YES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final phase of a 2-phase project to efficiently monitor and manage the Town's infrastructure. The overall objective of this project is to provide operators with the ability to remotely monitor and collect data from the town's critical water and sewer facilities. Northborough recently received an 80% Federal earmark (\$491,000) to fund this Phase. The request seeks to fund the required 20% grant match from the Sewer Enterprise Fund Free Cash. The project will add the remaining sewer pump stations to the SCADA system. No additional tax or rate impact. 				

Article 24	Sponsor	Cost	Priority	Recommend Approval?
Zeh School Rear Entrance Repairs	Northborough School Committee	\$40,000	2	Unanimously YES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funds needed to repair the cement rear entrance of the Zeh Elementary School which has deteriorated. Funded from Free Cash with no additional tax impact. 				

Community Preservation Act Projects

Certain projects to be funded with Community Preservation Act monies may be presented at Town Meeting. Although often capital in nature, these projects are not necessarily incorporated into the Capital Improvement Plan. Nevertheless, the Financial Planning Committee, in its financial advisory capacity, strives to review projects approved by the CPC and offer its recommendations at Town Meeting. Because CPA projects do not compete for funding with Capital Improvement Plan projects, no Priority is assigned. The Committee has decided not to review or make recommendations on projects not meeting the \$25,000 minimum definition of a Capital Project for purposes of the Capital Improvement Plan, or projects that are not municipal facilities.

Article 30	Sponsor	Cost	Priority	Recommend Approval?
White Cliffs Bond Payment	Community Preservation	\$188,000	N/A	Unanimously YES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funds the sixth of ten payments required for the bond on the White Cliffs purchase. 				

Article 33	Sponsor	Cost	Priority	Recommend Approval?
Construction of Northborough Dog Park	Northborough Recreation Department	\$347,500	N/A	Unanimously YES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funds for the construction phase of this project, which also covers the minimum 10% allocation required for open space and recreation. It is anticipated that the Town will apply for a Stanton Foundation Grant for approximately \$200,000 to be added to the CPC funds. 				

Article 34	Sponsor	Cost	Priority	Recommend Approval?
Construction of ADA Accessible Trail at Senior Center	Northborough Trails Committee	\$370,000	N/A	Unanimously YES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funds for the construction phase of this project, which will add an ADA accessible trail around the Senior Center property. 				

Algonquin Regional High School Athletic Complex Project

Algonquin Regional High School Athletic Complex is a project that the Northborough Regional School Committee is proposing. This request is being made because the current conditions of the fields, tracks, courts and lighting are beyond their useful life. There are health and safety issues which require ADA accessible upgrades for the existing stadium, grandstand and amenities. The District engaged Gale Associates and the estimated project cost is \$7,960,393. Based on the bid phase estimate, Northborough’s apportionment is 62.33% and estimated to cost \$4,961,333, exclusive of financing costs. Southborough’s apportionment is 37.67% and estimated to cost \$2,999,060. It is the intention of the Regional School Committee to bond this project and if approved by both towns, Northborough will pay an annual debt assessment until the project is paid off.

Article 25	Sponsor	Cost	Priority	Recommend Approval?
Algonquin Regional High School Athletic Complex project	Regional School Committee	\$4,961,333	2	3 YES ; 1 Abstention
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Authorization for the Algonquin Regional High School Athletic Complex project Funded from ARHS issued debt that will be apportioned and assessed to Northborough each year per the Regional Agreement. 				

Respectfully submitted,

Northborough Financial Planning Committee
February 22, 2023

Financial Planning Committee Recommendations for FY2024 Capital Project Warrant Articles
Northborough Annual Town Meeting April 24, 2023

Article	Project	Amount	Funding Source	**Priority	*Vote	Recommend Approval?
15	Police: 3 Cruiser Replacements	\$190,000	Free Cash	2	4-0-0	YES
16	Police: Police Station Exterior Painting	\$70,000	Free Cash	2	4-0-0	YES
17	Fire: Engine 1 Replacement	\$900,000	Debt (ARPA recommended)	2	4-0-0	YES
18	DPW: Road Improvements & Maintenance	\$300,000	Free Cash	2	4-0-0	YES
19	DPW: 20-Ton Dump Truck with Plow & Spreader	\$355,000	Free Cash	2	4-0-0	YES
20	DPW: Highway Garage Tight Tank	\$475,000	Debt (ARPA recommended)	1	4-0-0	YES
21	DPW: One-Ton Truck with Plow	\$150,000	Free Cash	2	4-0-0	YES
22	Water/Sewer: 15-Ton Dump Truck	\$225,000	Water/Sewer Enterprise Fund Free Cash	3	4-0-0	YES
23	Sewer: SCADA Phase II	\$125,000	Sewer Enterprise Fund Free Cash	4	4-0-0	YES
24	School: Zeh School Rear Entrance Repairs	\$40,000	Free Cash	2	4-0-0	YES
30	CPC: White Cliffs Bond	\$188,000	CPA Fund	N/A	4-0-0	YES
33	CPC: Construction of Northborough Dog Park	\$347,500	CPA Fund	N/A	4-0-0	YES
34	CPC: Construction of ADA Trail at Senior Center	\$370,000	CPA Fund	N/A	4-0-0	YES
25	Algonquin Regional High School Athletic Complex project	\$4,699,259.51	Debt Assessment	2	3-0-1	YES

* Numerical votes shown in Yes-No-Abstain order relative to a motion to recommend approval. Fewer than five total votes reflects absence of one or more members.

** No capital project priority is assigned to CPA-funded projects.

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Northborough
Appropriations Committee Report
Annual Town Meeting
April 24, 2023

Northborough Appropriations Committee Report
Annual Town Meeting – April 24, 2023

The Northborough Appropriations Committee consists of six (6) members appointed by the Town Moderator for staggered three-year terms. The role of the Appropriations Committee, by statute and charter, is that of advisory to Town Meeting. All articles in the Town Meeting Warrant involving the appropriation or expenditure of money must be considered by the Appropriations Committee. It must recommend approval or disapproval of same, in whole or in part. Immediately after the presentation of such article at Town Meeting, the Committee must report to the Meeting its recommendation of approval or disapproval of such appropriation or expenditure, together with the reasons thereof. The report that follows is the Committee’s voted recommendations for the Articles on the April 24, 2023 Town Meeting Warrant.

As required by the Charter and Municipal Code of the Town of Northborough, we have made our recommendations on each financial article to you based on the information available to us at the time of our deliberation and may be modified or changed on Town Meeting floor if additional information is forthcoming. Votes on these articles were taken at our meeting on Wednesday, March 29, 2023. Town Meeting is the Legislative Body of the Town of Northborough, and the final decision of approval or disapproval of each warrant article is ultimately up to you, the voters.

The FY2024 General Fund (GF) Budget was presented at the March 27th Joint Budget Hearing of the Board of Selectmen and Appropriations Committee. The Committee encourages residents to view that recorded meeting, which is available for streaming on Northborough Local Access. Overall the GF Budget is increasing by 3.47%, or \$2,473,037, to \$73,691,740. Enterprise Fund Budgets are increasing 6.04%, or \$360,256, to \$6,321,960. The Total FY2024 Budget across all funds is \$80,013,700, which is a 3.67% increase.

Included in that increase is \$1,105,000 in pay-as-you-go capital projects that will not result in any additional tax impact due to being funded with Free Cash. It has been the Town’s practice since 2012 to attempt to pay for smaller capital projects with available funds and/or grant money to minimize future tax impacts on residents. Paying for capital projects with available funds, instead of taking on debt, also enhances the Town’s future financial condition by making regular investments in our equipment, buildings, and infrastructure. One area of concern the Committee wishes to express is the recent decision by the Board of

EXPENDITURES	FY2023 Budget	FY2024 Proposed	Variance	% Change
General Government (Town)	\$24,501,963	\$25,476,532	\$974,569	3.98%
Schools				
Northborough K-8	\$26,692,953	\$28,001,227	\$1,308,274	4.90%
Algonquin Reg. HS 9-12	\$12,833,497	\$13,421,085	\$587,588	4.58%
Algonquin Debt Exclusion	\$653,069	\$651,454	-\$1,615	-0.25%
Assabet Valley	\$1,155,301	\$1,175,405	\$20,104	1.74%
Assabet Valley Debt	\$130,004	\$126,176	-\$3,828	-2.94%
Warrant Articles				
Town Hall Reuse Article	\$10,000	\$0	-\$10,000	-100.00%
Reserve Fund	\$175,000	\$175,000	\$0	0.00%
Transfer to Stabilization	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$0	
Free Cash Capital Projects	\$2,024,000	\$1,105,000	-\$919,000	-45.41%
Transfer to OPEB Trust	\$300,000	\$550,000	\$250,000	
Library Debt Service	\$299,530	\$288,895	-\$10,635	-3.55%
Senior Center Debt Service	\$321,175	\$316,665	-\$4,510	-1.40%
Lincoln Street Debt Service	\$998,675	\$973,975	-\$24,700	-2.47%
Fire Station Debt Service	\$64,498	\$338,500	\$274,002	100.00%
Other Funds	\$854,621	\$891,826	\$37,205	4.35%
Adjustments	\$4,417		-\$4,417	-100.00%
Subtotal General Fund	\$71,218,703	\$73,691,740	\$2,473,037	3.47%
Water Enterprise Funds	\$2,636,103	\$2,772,795	\$136,692	5.19%
Sewer Enterprise Fund	\$2,397,488	\$2,508,481	\$110,993	4.63%
Solid Waste Enterprise Fund	\$928,113	\$1,040,684	\$112,571	12.13%
Subtotal Enterprise Funds	\$5,961,704	\$6,321,960	\$360,256	6.04%
TOTAL ALL FUNDS	\$77,180,407	\$80,013,700	\$2,833,293	3.67%

Selectmen to ignore the unanimous recommendations from both the Appropriations Committee and the Financial Planning Committee to use available American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant funding for the new Fire Engine and the DPW Tight Tank projects. The Appropriations Committee fully supports and agrees with the Financial Planning Committee’s narrative and recommendations below, which is included in their report to Town Meeting.

FY2024 American Rescue Plan Act Funding Considerations

Northborough has been placed in a unique position with the award of \$4.5 million from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. These funds are treated as a grant from the Federal Government, and the Board of Selectmen has exclusive control over the expenditure of the funds. Prior to the start of the FY2024 budgeting process, the Board of Selectmen allocated \$191,000 in ARPA funds, leaving \$4,325,184 still to be committed. In preparing the FY2024 Capital Improvement Budget, this committee strongly recommended to the Board of Selectmen that they allocate ARPA funds for three major capital projects requiring funding in the upcoming year: the Proctor School Flat Roof Area Replacement for \$1.7 million, the replacement of the Fire Department’s Engine 1 for \$900,000 and the Highway Garage Tight Tank replacement for \$475,000. The Board of Selectmen voted to allocate the funding needed for the Proctor School Roof Replacement but chose not to allocate ARPA funding for the Fire Engine replacement or the Highway Garage Tight Tank. A narrative of the two projects follow:

- **Fire Engine 1 Replacement \$900,000:**

This request seeks to replace a 2005 Fire Engine. At the time of replacement, the apparatus will have exceeded its expected useful life, including approximately 10 years of front-line service, 5 years back up service and 5 years reserve. The Insurance Services Office (ISO) requires Northborough to maintain 3 pumping apparatus in order to sustain its current ISO rating, which residential and commercial fire insurance rates are based upon. Due to ongoing maintenance and mechanical issues, this apparatus must be replaced in FY2024. Recent escalation has increased the cost of the new apparatus to \$900,000 and due to supply chain disruptions, it may take up to two years for delivery following placement of the order. If ARPA funds are not released, the project will require authorization for the issuance of \$900,000 in debt at the April 2023 Annual Town Meeting.

- **Highway Garage Tight Tank Facility Improvements \$475,000:**

This request seeks to fund installation of a tight tank system at the highway garage located at 190 Main Street. The existing garage was built in 1984 and no longer complies with State environmental regulations. The building is served by an onsite septic system which cannot accept discharge of truck wash water. In accordance with MassDEP requirements, an underground holding tank is required for this wastewater. This requires interior plumbing changes as well as locating the tank in such a manner that it does not preclude future building expansion/reconfiguration. The updated construction cost estimate is now \$475,000. If ARPA funds are not used for this project, it will require authorization for the issuance of \$475,000 in debt at the April 2023 Annual Town Meeting.

Since the Board of Selectmen chose not to fund the Fire Engine or the DPW Tight Tank with ARPA, this will result in a Town Meeting request to fund each of these projects using debt. If approved, the debt for these projects is estimated to cost the average single-family home in Northborough \$27 per year, or \$270 in total over 10 years, and will begin to impact tax bills in FY2025. As a community, we are anticipating several major building projects over the next 5 years, including a Fire Station Building Project, Town Hall Building/Renovation Project, and the Peaslee Elementary School Building Project. All these projects are in addition to a major downtown revitalization initiative stemming from the work of the Master Plan Implementation Committee, and ongoing road and sidewalk repairs in conjunction with Northborough’s recent Complete

Streets designation. In a time of rising inflation, this Committee believes that the Town should endeavor to reduce the tax burden where possible, and fund major capital projects using one-time money where available.

The Committee continues to recommend the release of ARPA funding for the Fire Engine and the Tight Tank, which would result in no additional tax impact to residents. The Committee also recognizes that the ARPA funds were designed to be used quickly during the pandemic, which is why they may be released solely by vote of the Board of Selectmen and do not require Town Meeting approval. However, given that the state of emergency is over, it is concerning that the Board of Selectmen has chosen to ignore the unanimous votes of both the Financial Planning Committee and the Appropriations Committee with regard to how ARPA funds are used. The Committee is concerned that the Selectmen's actions are essentially forcing Town Meeting to authorize debt for public safety and environmental compliance projects for which there is no discretion, while at the same time holding \$2.62 million in available ARPA funds for some future discretionary projects that Town Meeting will not be required to vote on. If the Fire Engine and Tight Tank projects were funded with ARPA, it would still leave \$1.25 million in remaining ARPA funds for grant seed funding or other discretionary projects. The Committee believes the financially conservative approach would be to use ARPA funds for projects that are immediately needed and ask the voters to support future discretionary projects once they are known and appropriately defined.

Conclusion

We wish to thank all departments and committees with whom we interact during this budgetary process – Municipal and School – for without their cooperation and collegiality during the budgetary process, it would not have been possible to affect such a positive outcome. The Appropriations Committee would also like to thank Town Administrator John Coderre, Assistant Town Administrator Becca Meekins, Finance Director Jason Little, Executive Assistants Diane Wackell and Lynda LePoer for their expertise, input and assistance throughout this Committee's process.

As always, if you have any questions on our recommendations, we will be pleased to answer them either collectively or individually during debate on any specific article. Below is a summary of our recommendations for each article that requires an appropriation included on the 2023 Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

Respectfully submitted,
Tim Kaelin, Chair (2024)
George Brenckle (2024)
Robert D'Amico (2025)
Janice Hight (2023)
Richard Nieber, Chair (2025)
Anthony Poteete (2023)

Summary of the Northborough Appropriation Committee Recommendations for FY2024 Warrant Articles

Article	Project	Amount	Vote *	Recommend Approval?
4	Town Budget	\$25,012,129	(5-0)	YES
5	Water, Sewer & Solid Waste Enterprise Funds	\$6,321,960	(5-0)	YES
6	Northborough K-8 Public Schools	\$28,001,227	(5-0)	YES
7	Northborough-Southborough Algonquin Regional School District Assessment (ARHS)	\$14,072,539	(5-0)	YES
8	Assabet Valley Regional Technical School District Assessment	\$1,301,581	(5-0)	YES
9	Establishment of Health Department Revolving Fund	\$0	(5-0)	YES
10	Revolving Funds Authorization of Expenditure Limits	various	(5-0)	YES
11	Appropriations Committee Reserve Fund	\$ 175,000	(5-0)	YES
12	Stabilization Fund Contribution	\$ 200,000	(5-0)	YES
13	Appropriation of Opioid Settlement Funds	\$ 107,123	(5-0)	YES
15	CIP: Police – Cruiser Replacements	\$ 190,000	(5-0)	YES
16	CIP: Police – Station Exterior Repairs and Painting	\$ 70,000	(5-0)	YES
17	CIP: Fire – Engine 1 Replacement	\$ 900,000	(5-0)	YES
18	CIP: DPW – Road Improvements and Maintenance	\$ 300,000	(5-0)	YES
19	CIP: DPW – 20-Ton Dump Truck with Spreader and Plow Replacement	\$ 355,000	(5-0)	YES
20	CIP: DPW – Highway Garage Tight Tank DEP Compliance	\$ 475,000	(5-0)	YES
21	CIP: DPW – One-Ton Truck with Plow Replacement	\$ 150,000	(5-0)	YES
22	CIP: DPW/Water & Sewer – 15-Ton Dump Truck	\$ 225,000	(5-0)	YES
23	CIP: DPW/Sewer – SCADA Phase II	\$ 125,000	(5-0)	YES
24	CIP: School – Zeh Elementary School Rear Entrance Repair	\$ 40,000	(5-0)	YES
25	Algonquin Regional High School Athletic Complex Project	\$7,960,393	(3-2)**	YES

Article	Project	Amount	Vote *	Recommend Approval?
30	Community Preservation Fund – White Cliffs Debt Service	\$ 188,000	(5-0)	YES
31	Community Preservation Fund – Administrative Fund	\$ 38,500	(5-0)	YES
32	Community Preservation Fund – Affordable Housing Reserve	\$ 77,000	(5-0)	YES
33	Community Preservation Fund – Construction of Dog Park	\$ 347,500	(5-0)	YES
34	Community Preservation Fund – Construction of ADA Accessible Trails at Senior Center	\$ 370,000	(5-0)	YES
35	Community Preservation Fund – Library Historic Marker	\$ 5,060	(5-0)	YES

* Numerical votes shown in Yes-No-Abstain order relative to a motion to recommend approval. Fewer than six total votes reflects absence of one or more members.

** Although a majority of the Committee voted to recommend approval of this article there were 2 dissenting members who expressed concern over the necessity of some project components and the tax impact, given other competing capital needs of the Town.

Article	Purpose of Article	Committee Recommendation
☆ NOTE: ALL PROPOSED BUDGET REQUESTS ARE WITHIN THE CONFINES OF PROPOSITION 2½ ☆		
4	Town Budget <i>Raised by taxation</i> \$23,620,303 <i>Plus transfers</i> <u>1,391,826</u> Total Town Budget \$25,012,129	The Appropriations Committee voted to unanimously recommend approval of this Article.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One-time revenues are limited to \$500,000 in Free Cash, or 1%, to support the operating budget in accordance with the Town’s Free Cash Policy. • The FY2024 General Government budget increase is 3.98% which includes the addition of the new Fire Deputy Chief position. • Overall, departments presented reasonable budgets that maintain services, conform to Town Financial Policies, and minimize the tax impact. • The FY2024 tax impact for <u>all the General Fund budgets</u> is estimated to be \$536 on the average single-family home valued at \$608,789 (5% above the FY2023 average single family home value). The actual tax rate will be set by the Department of Revenue in the fall of 2023 using final state aid figures which could decrease the tax impact slightly. • The Budget is legally balanced as presented and within the confines of Proposition 2 ½. 		
5	Water, Sewer & Solid Waste Enterprise Funds <div style="text-align: right;">\$6,321,960</div>	The Appropriations Committee voted to unanimously recommend approval of this Article.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An Enterprise Fund is a separate accounting and financial reporting mechanism for municipal services for which a fee is charged in exchange for goods or services. It allows a community to demonstrate to the public the portion of total costs of a service that is recovered through user charges and the portion that is subsidized by the tax levy, if any. • In total the FY2024 Enterprise Fund budgets are increasing \$360,256 or 6%. The Water Enterprise Fund is budgeted at \$2,772,795 which is an increase of \$136,692 or 5.19% due to inflationary expenses. The FY2024 Sewer Enterprise Fund is budgeted at \$2,508,481, which is an overall increase of \$110,993 or 4.63%. The Solid Waste and Recycling budget is increasing \$112,571, or 12.13% due primarily to escalating disposal costs which are indexed off the rate of inflation. • The Water and Sewer Enterprise Funds are fully funded by fees; the Solid Waste Enterprise fund receives a \$345,160 General Fund tax subsidy. 		

Article	Purpose of Article	Committee Vote and Recommendation
☆ NOTE: ALL PROPOSED BUDGET REQUESTS ARE WITHIN THE CONFINES OF PROPOSITION 2½ ☆		
6	Northborough K-8 Public Schools <div style="text-align: right;">\$28,001,227</div>	The Appropriations Committee voted to unanimously recommend approval of this Article.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The FY2024 Northborough K-8 School Budget reflects an increase of \$1,308,274 or 4.9% to \$28,001,227. • According to the Superintendent, approximately half the budget increase is due to non-discretionary Special Education Costs. • The School Committee and Superintendent have presented a fiscally responsible budget that maintains core educational services. • The Appropriations Committee acknowledges the positive collaborative working relationship between the Committee, Town Administrator, the K-8 School Committee, and the Superintendent during this budget process. • Please refer to the Superintendent’s FY2024 Budget handout for more detail. 		
7	Northborough-Southborough Algonquin Regional School District Assessment (ARHS) Operating Assessment \$13,421,085 Debt Exclusion – Prop 2 ½ <u>\$ 651,454</u> <div style="text-align: right;">\$14,072,539</div>	The Appropriations Committee voted to unanimously recommend approval of this Article.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The overall ARHS operating budget is only going up 3.36%; however, assessments are based on enrollment, state aid and the Minimum Local Contribution (MLC) formula as dictated by the state and Northborough’s MLC increased significantly for FY2024. • The ARHS combined Operating Assessment and Debt Service increases \$585,973 or 4.34% to \$14,070,539. • The ARHS Operating Assessment for FY2024 is up 4.58% or \$587,588. • ARHS Debt Assessment decreases by \$1,615 or 0.25% and will remain relatively constant until final payment in FY2027. • The Regional School Committee and Superintendent have presented a fiscally responsible budget that maintains core educational services. • The Appropriations Committee acknowledges the positive collaborative working relationship between the Committee, Town Administrator, the Regional School Committee, and the Superintendent during this budget process. • Please reference Superintendent’s FY2024 ARHS Budget handout for more detail. 		
8	Assabet Valley Regional Technical School District Assessment Operating Assessment \$ 1,175,405 Debt Assessment <u>\$ 126,176</u> <div style="text-align: right;">\$1,301,581</div>	The Appropriations Committee voted to unanimously recommend approval of this Article.

Article	Purpose of Article	Committee Vote and Recommendation
☆ NOTE: ALL PROPOSED BUDGET REQUESTS ARE WITHIN THE CONFINES OF PROPOSITION 2½ ☆		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The combined Operating Budget Assessment and Debt Assessment represents an overall increase of \$16,276 or 1.27%. Northborough’s assessment is being driven down disproportionately due to decreasing enrollment, as only 64 students will attend the school in FY2024, which is 4 less than in FY2023. The Operating Assessment for FY2024 is up 1.74%, or \$20,104, to \$1,175,405. The Debt Assessment is for a 25-year bond scheduled to be paid off in 2042 with declining debt payments each year. FY2024 Debt Assessment for Assabet Valley was reduced in FY2024 by \$3,828, or 2.94%, to \$126,176. Please reference Assabet Valley Superintendent’s FY2024 Budget handout for more detail. 		
9	Establishment of Health Department Revolving Fund	The Appropriations Committee voted to unanimously recommend approval of this Article.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This article proposes to establish a new revolving fund to hold fees associated with providing certain Health Department services which are then used to offset the cost of providing the services (e.g. vaccination clinics). 		
10	Revolving Funds Authorization of Expenditure Limits	The Appropriations Committee voted to unanimously recommend approval of this Article.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual reauthorization of expenditure limits for revolving funds for use by certain Town Departments, Boards, Committees, Agencies or Officers pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 53E½. Revolving Funds are used where fees are charged for program services and those fees are held in a special fund and used to offset the cost of providing those services. 		
11	Appropriations Committee Reserve Fund <div style="text-align: right;">\$175,000</div>	The Appropriations Committee voted to unanimously recommend approval of this Article.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Authorized by Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40, Section 6, this fund provides the Town and K-8 School operations with an option for funding extraordinary or unforeseen expenditures during the year without the requirement of a Town Meeting. The FY2024 Reserve Fund is budgeted at the normal \$175,000 level and is most often used to cover unanticipated storm expenses. If unused, Reserve Fund appropriations close out to Free Cash from where they were appropriated, resulting in no additional tax impact. Transfers from the Reserve Fund require Appropriations Committee approval. 		
12	Stabilization Fund Contribution	The Appropriations Committee voted to unanimously recommend approval of this Article.

Article	Purpose of Article	Committee Vote and Recommendation
☆ NOTE: ALL PROPOSED BUDGET REQUESTS ARE WITHIN THE CONFINES OF PROPOSITION 2½ ☆		
	\$200,000	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Also referred to as a “rainy day” fund, the stabilization fund is designed to accumulate amounts for capital and other future spending purposes, although it may be appropriated for any lawful purpose (MGL, Ch. 40 §5B). • Communities may establish one or more stabilization funds for different purposes, and any interest shall be added to and become a part of the funds. A majority vote of town meeting or city council is required to establish and to appropriate money into the stabilization fund. A two thirds majority is required to amend the purpose of or appropriate money from the stabilization fund. • The proposed \$200,000 contribution under this Article will maintain the Town’s financial reserves of approximately 8% of the operating budget. The Town’s policy is to maintain reserves between 5-10%.
13	Appropriation of Opioid Settlement Funds <div style="text-align: right;">\$107,123</div>	<p>The Appropriations Committee voted to unanimously recommend approval of this Article.</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This article provides funds to supplement and strengthen resources for substance abuse prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery funded by direct payments received by the Town as a result of signing onto statewide settlements with opioid manufacturers, distributors, and/or pharmacies. • In order to comply with settlement reporting requirements, the opioid funds must be segregated from general revenues into a separate article for tracking purposes, which is the purpose of this Article.
Article 14 does not require a recommendation from the Appropriations Committee		
15	CIP: Police – Cruiser Replacements <div style="text-align: right;">\$190,000</div>	<p>The Appropriations Committee voted to unanimously recommend approval of this Article.</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request to replace three police vehicles. This article supports the continued annual replacement of police cruisers on an established schedule of three vehicles one year and two the next. • Funded from Free Cash with no additional tax impact.
16	CIP: Police – Station Exterior Repairs and Painting	<p>The Appropriations Committee voted to unanimously recommend approval of this Article.</p>

Article	Purpose of Article	Committee Vote and Recommendation
☆ NOTE: ALL PROPOSED BUDGET REQUESTS ARE WITHIN THE CONFINES OF PROPOSITION 2½ ☆		
	\$70,000	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This article provides funds needed to repair and paint the exterior of the Police Station. The last time the exterior was painted was approximately 10 years ago. The Town is required to pay prevailing wages under state procurement laws which significantly adds to project costs. • Funded from Free Cash with no additional tax impact.
17	CIP: Fire – Engine 1 Replacement <div style="text-align: right;">\$900,000</div>	The Appropriations Committee voted to unanimously recommend approval of this Article.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This article seeks funds for the replacement of a 2005 Fire Engine . At the time of replacement, this vehicle will have exceeded its expected useful life, including approximately 10 years of front-line service, 5 years back-up service and 5 years reserve. • The Committee recommends that the Board of Selectmen use available ARPA grant funds to eliminate any tax impact; if not funded with ARPA, will require debt issuance resulting in additional taxes.
18	CIP: DPW – Road Improvements and Maintenance <div style="text-align: right;">\$300,000</div>	The Appropriations Committee voted to unanimously recommend approval of this Article.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funds needed to supplement the Pavement Management Plan due to limited State Chapter 90 Transportation Funding. The Town’s Pavement Management Plan requires a minimum spending level of \$1.1 million annually to maintain pavement conditions. • Funded from Free Cash with no additional impact to tax rate.
19	CIP: DPW – 20-Ton Dump Truck with Plow <div style="text-align: right;">\$355,000</div>	The Appropriations Committee voted to unanimously recommend approval of this Article.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request to replace a 2005 dump truck used for salting and sanding during snow events that has surpassed its useful life. • Funded from Free Cash with no additional tax impact.
20	CIP: DPW – Highway Garage Tight Tank DEP Compliance <div style="text-align: right;">\$475,000</div>	The Appropriations Committee voted to unanimously recommend approval of this Article.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request to fund the installation of a tight tank at the highway garage located at 190 Main Street. The existing garage was built in 1984 and no longer complies with State environmental regulations. The building is served by an onsite septic system which cannot accept discharge of truck wash. In accordance with MassDEP requirements, an underground holding tank is required for this wastewater.

Article	Purpose of Article	Committee Vote and Recommendation
☆ NOTE: ALL PROPOSED BUDGET REQUESTS ARE WITHIN THE CONFINES OF PROPOSITION 2½ ☆		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Committee recommends that the Board of Selectmen use available ARPA grant funds to eliminate any tax impact; if not funded with ARPA, will require debt issuance resulting in additional taxes. 		
21	CIP: DPW – One-Ton Dump Truck with Plow Replacement <div style="text-align: right;">\$150,000</div>	The Appropriations Committee voted to unanimously recommend approval of this Article.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request to replace a 2012 F350 with an F600 model. The 2012 truck will be past its useful life at the time of replacement. Funded from Free Cash with no additional tax impact. 		
22	CIP: DPW/Water & Sewer – 15-Ton Dump Truck <div style="text-align: right;">\$225,000</div>	The Appropriations Committee voted to unanimously recommend approval of this Article.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request to purchase a new 30,000-pound GVW dump truck for use by the water and sewer divisions. The current fleet of vehicles are smaller daily task vehicles. This truck is large enough to move water and sewer department equipment and materials which will alleviate the need to use the highway dump truck for towing. Costs for this vehicle will be divided 60% from the Water Enterprise Fund and 40% from the Sewer Enterprise Fund free Cash. No additional tax or rate impact. 		
23	CIP: DPW/Sewer – SCADA (Supervisory Control And Data Acquisition) System Phase II <div style="text-align: right;">\$125,000</div>	The Appropriations Committee voted to unanimously recommend approval of this Article.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request to fund the final phase of this project to complete the SCADA project by providing connectivity of the remaining sewer pump stations to the SCADA system which will allow the Town to monitor and manage all the utility infrastructure. Northborough received an 80% Federal earmark (\$491,000) to fund this phase. The \$125,000 request seeks to fund the required 20% grant match using Sewer Enterprise Fund Free Cash. No additional tax or rate impact. 		
24	CIP: School – Zeh Elementary School Rear Entrance Repair <div style="text-align: right;">\$40,000</div>	The Appropriations Committee voted to unanimously recommend approval of this Article.

Article	Purpose of Article	Committee Vote and Recommendation
☆ NOTE: ALL PROPOSED BUDGET REQUESTS ARE WITHIN THE CONFINES OF PROPOSITION 2½ ☆		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funds needed to repair the concrete rear entrance of the Zeh Elementary School which has deteriorated. Funded from Free Cash with no additional tax impact. 		
25	Algonquin Regional High School Athletic Complex Project <p style="text-align: right;">\$7,960,393</p>	The Appropriations Committee voted 3 in favor and 2 against recommending approval of this Article.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request to approve indebtedness authorized by the Regional District School Committee of the Northborough-Southborough Regional School District to pay costs of renovating and making extraordinary repairs and other improvements to the District's athletic facilities. Northborough's share is estimated to be 62.33%, or \$4,961,333, of the total project cost, plus financing costs. Project will be financed with debt through the issuance of a 15-year bond by the Regional School District. Town Meeting can only approve or reject the project as presented by the Regional School Committee. Amendments at Town Meeting are not allowed. Approval requires a simple majority vote, instead of a 2/3, because the debt is being issued by The Regional School District. Although a majority of the Committee voted to recommend approval of this article there were 2 dissenting members who expressed concern over the necessity of some project components and the tax impact, given other competing capital needs of the Town. 		
Articles 26-29 do not require a recommendation from the Appropriations Committee		
Article	Purpose of Article	Committee Vote and Recommendation
Articles 30 - 35 are Community Preservation (CPA) articles totaling \$1,026,060 in CPA allocations. Each article represents an allowable spending purpose under the Community Preservation Act enacted in 2000 and adopted by ballot vote in Northborough in November 2004 at a surcharge of 1.5%. The first \$100,000 of a residential property's assessed value is exempt from the surcharge.		
30	Community Preservation Fund – White Cliffs Debt Service <p style="text-align: right;">\$188,000</p>	The Appropriations Committee voted to unanimously recommend approval of this Article.
31	Community Preservation Fund – Administrative Fund <p style="text-align: right;">\$38,500</p>	The Appropriations Committee voted to unanimously recommend approval of this Article.
32	Community Preservation Fund – Affordable Housing Reserve <p style="text-align: right;">\$77,000</p>	The Appropriations Committee voted to unanimously recommend approval of this Article.

Article	Purpose of Article	Committee Vote and Recommendation
☆ NOTE: ALL PROPOSED BUDGET REQUESTS ARE WITHIN THE CONFINES OF PROPOSITION 2½ ☆		
33	Community Preservation Fund – Construction of Dog Park \$347,500	The Appropriations Committee voted to unanimously recommend approval of this Article.
34	Community Preservation Fund – Construction of ADA Accessible Trails at Senior Center \$370,000	The Appropriations Committee voted to unanimously recommend approval of this Article.
35	Community Preservation Fund: Library Historic Marker \$5,060	The Appropriations Committee voted to unanimously recommend approval of this Article.
Articles 36 – 51 do not require recommendations from the Appropriations Committee		