

Annual Town Meeting (August 8, 2020)

<p>Article 1 (FY20 Operating Budget Transfers) *Defeated</p>	<p>No - There are no transfers to be made.</p>
<p>Article 2 (FY21 Operating Budget of \$125,200,201*)</p> <p>*The substituted motion includes a windfall of \$1,230,566 of state aid for our schools. The state agreed to give municipalities level funding from FY20 into FY21</p> <p>*Passed</p>	<p>Yes - The effects that the COVID-19 pandemic will have in our community will be felt for years to come. I am thankful for the Town Manager's leadership for coming up with a budget that minimizes the harmful effects that the pandemic could have on services in the Town. I am of course incredibly concerned with the effects that this pandemic will have on our schools in terms of its budget, but as well as the health and well being of the families, students, educators, and everyone involved with the operation of our schools. I also would like to commend the Superintendent and the School Committee for navigating through this to the best of their abilities. It is incredibly tough, but the balanced risk approach that the School Committee has adopted I think is the most prudent course of action that we can take.</p>
<p>Article 3 (To accept \$800,000 from the Municipal Light Dept. CATV, and appropriate said sum to the use of the Board of Assessors in fixing the tax rate for FY21)</p> <p>*Passed</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Article 4 (To accept \$237,569 from the Municipal Light Dept., and appropriate said sum to the use of the Board of Assessors in fixing the tax rate for FY21)</p> <p>*Passed</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Article 5 (To transfer \$500,000 from Free Cash and appropriate said sum to the use of the Board of Assessors in fixing the tax rate for FY21)</p> <p>*Passed</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Article 6 (To raise and appropriate \$9,719 to pay for the expenses of retired disabled police officers and firefighters)</p> <p>*Passed</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Article 7 (The Municipal and Residential Solid Waste Collection, Processing and Disposal Services operating budget for FY21 - \$2,328,503)</p>	<p>Yes</p>

*Passed	
Article 8 (The Sewer Services operating budget for FY21 - \$6,313,978) *Passed	Yes
Article 9 (Capital improvements budget for Sewer Services for FY21 - 1,636,000) *Passed	Yes
Article 10 (The Water Services operating budget for FY21 - \$2,561,174) *Passed	Yes
Article 11 (Capital improvements budget for Water Services for FY21 - \$2,016,862) *Passed	Yes
Article 12 (The Stormwater Services operating budget for FY21 - \$1,456, 741) *Passed	Yes
Article 13 (Capital improvements for Stormwater Services for FY21 - \$250,000) *Passed	Yes
Article 14 (FY21 Capital Budget for all non-utility Town Depts. - \$1,101,520) *Passed	Yes
Article 15 (To set the spending limits for the Council on Aging Transportation Fund and the Donahue Rowing Center) *Passed	Yes
Article 16 (The Cable Television Public Educational and Governmental Access Services operating budget for FY21) *Passed	Yes
Article 17 (To transfer \$150,000 from Free Cash to purchase counseling and education services from SYFS) *Passed	Yes
Article 18 (To authorize the Town to allow SELCO to borrow \$15 million for the purpose of expanding and upgrading the broadband plant)	Yes - This is a great opportunity for the Town. To bring fiber to the home will greatly increase people's access to the internet with increased speeds and connectivity. As more and more people utilize the internet to do

<p>*Passed</p>	<p>everything, it is great that SELCO and other Town leaders understand how much of a necessity it is for the Town to offer fiber to its customers. I enthusiastically support this project, which will take an estimated 5 years to be completed, but most customers will have fiber in their homes before that time.</p>
<p>Article 19 (To accept \$989,552 in Chapter 90 Funds for FY21) *Passed</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Article 20 (To transfer \$18,000 from the Sale of Cemetery Lots Account to the Cemetery Dept.) *Passed</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Article 21 (To transfer funds to pay bills of prior fiscal years) *Defeated</p>	<p>No - There are currently no prior year bills to be paid.</p>
<p>Article 22 (To authorize the School Dept. to enter into an agreement with the Commonwealth and receive funding through program that reimburses a portion of prior year busing costs for displaced foster care students) *Passed</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Article 23 (To authorize the Board of Selectmen to sell the Old Beal School property) *Passed</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Article 24 (To transfer \$245,000 from the Water Systems Improvements Account and appropriate it to purchase the property of 268 N. Quinsigamond Ave) *Passed</p>	<p>Yes - The purpose of this is to protect the “Lambert” drinking water wells in the area.</p>
<p>Article 25 (To transfer \$103,000 from the Water Systems Improvements Account and appropriate it to purchase the property of 274 N. Quinsigamond Ave) *Passed</p>	<p>Yes - The purpose of this is to protect the “Lambert” drinking water wells in the area.</p>
<p>Article 26 (To authorize SELCO to purchase 3 parcels of land - 234 Boston Tpk., 2-4 Worthington Ave., and 6-8 Worthington Ave.) *Passed</p>	<p>Yes - The purchase price for these three parcels is \$250,000, SELCO in the future may have use for these parcels, they do not currently have any need for them at the moment. SELCO believes it can be used as leverage in the future.</p>

<p>Article 27 (To authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire an easement around Lake St. and Hylair Dr.) *Defeated</p>	<p>No - There is currently no need for the easement.</p>
<p>Article 28 (To accept a portion of Nelson Point Rd. and Point Rd. as public ways) *Passed</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Article 29 (To amend the Personnel Bylaw and setup a Performance Based Appraisal System) *Passed</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Article 30 (Community Preservation Act) *Passed</p>	<p>Yes - I think the CPA is a great opportunity to find funding for projects that often are not prioritized. I am supporting this Citizens Petition because I do believe that the voters themselves should decide whether or not to adopt the CPA.</p>
<p>Article 31 (To amend the Zoning Bylaw and establish uses that would be used in the Town Center Zoning District) *Passed</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Article 32 (To amend the Zoning Bylaw to insert standards that would accommodate the Town Center Zoning District) *Passed</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Article 33 (To amend the Zoning Bylaw to articulate the Town's vision for the development of the Town Center Zoning District) *Passed</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Article 34 (To amend the Zoning Map of the Zoning By-laws to delineate the boundaries of the Town Center District) *Passed</p>	<p>Yes - I'm excited to support Articles 31-34 because I think that this will help facilitate a Town Center that is vibrant and welcoming. These changes will help address the current challenges that the current center of town faces, and although the full vision of these bylaw changes won't be seen for years to come, I think that this offers a great step forward in creating an aesthetically pleasing and culturally rich town center.</p>
<p>Article 35 (To amend the Zoning Bylaw to allow for Marijuana Cultivators and Craft Marijuana Cultivators to be established in the Limited Industrial zone by</p>	<p>Yes - This will expand where these current uses may be operated, which could make the Town more attractive for prospective</p>

<p>special permit) *Passed</p>	<p>developers.</p>
<p>Article 36 (To change the zoning of land that is currently around the Worcester Sand and Stone property into a Limited Industrial zone) *Passed</p>	<p>Abstain - As an abutter, I will be recusing myself from this vote.</p>
<p>Article 37 (To accept Chapter 148, Sec. 26H of the General Laws requiring sprinklers in Boarding Houses) *Defeated</p>	<p>No - We currently do not have a way to enforce this on Airbnbs and other short term rentals. Until the Town has a way to locally register these short term rentals and have a more accurate inventory of them, defeating this Article would be the prudent approach. Once those local measures are in place, I would enthusiastically support this for the safety of guests and neighbors.</p>
<p>Article 38 (To amend the General Bylaw to add a section that regulates donation containers) *Passed</p>	<p>Yes - Donation containers can often be littered with trash and debris, so adopting this bylaw to regulate them will help reduce the tendency for these spots to become eyesores. Reducing the health hazard that these unregulated bins create also would be a great benefit to the town.</p>
<p>Article 39 (To transfer \$30,000 from Free Cash to be paid to the Lake Quinsigamond Commission) *Passed</p>	<p>Yes - These funds help with the management of the lake.</p>
<p>Article 40 (To vote to receive the reports of the various Town Committees) *Passed</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Article 41 (To vote to choose the trustees of the Wright and Harlow Charitable Fund) *Passed</p>	<p>Yes</p>