



Select Board Office

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

Warrant Article Explanations

May 18, 2021

6:00P.M.

ARTICLE #1 Explanation: This transfer from existing funds covers negotiated agreements for staff for a total of 75 plus employees in the present fiscal year. These funds come from several Salary Reserve Accounts and available funds, set aside to cover these costs. Funds also cover backfill expenses for people out with on the job injuries and sickness. As well as existing services for COVID-19 response.

ARTICLE #2 Explanation: The Town experienced snow and icing events beyond what was budgeted, some of which required overtime and the use of outside hired vendors. The cost of road salt to treat roads contributed heavily to these expenses. This will allow the Town to close out its books in balance without a snow/ice deficit as of June 30th. Otherwise the deficit would be added to next fall's tax bill. It also covers the August 4th, 2020 tropical storm clean up for DPW hired forestry vendors.

ARTICLE #3 Explanation: This article allows us to make our annual deposit to the Other Post Employment Benefit (OPEB) Trust Fund established at Town Meeting years ago. The Town currently pays for post employment health care expenses on a pay as you go basis. This type of fund, which was authorized by State law, provides a tool for municipalities to recognize the liability and begin to cover future costs. Eventually this fund will hold several hundred thousand dollars to cover health costs. Annually contributing to it is recommended by our outside Independent Auditors and is looked upon favorably by our Bond Rating Agencies.

ARTICLE #4 Explanation: The Lake Management Committee has had to request this as emergency funding in the past when beavers completely clogged Canal Brook which is the only viable outlet for Lake Congamond. In the past, the water level has risen rapidly during severe storm events when this outlet becomes clogged, flooding low-lying waterfront properties and even some homes. Maintaining it as a capital item makes it available for emergencies without annual re-appropriation.