COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

TOWN OF FALMOUTH

APRIL TOWN MEETING

Memorial Auditorium
Lawrence School
Lakeview Avenue
Falmouth, Massachusetts

MODERATOR: David T. Vieira

TOWN CLERK: Michael Palmer

Monday, April 9, 2018
7:00 p.m.

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Tinkham Reporting
THE MODERATOR: The Falmouth Town Band Brass Choir. Thank you very much.

We have definitely a vibrant music and arts presence in our community and at Town Meeting tonight, and to break a little with tradition of just having the Town Band Brass Choir play the National Anthem, we have the third and fourth graders from Mullen Hall School here tonight. So, if you turn around, you can see the Mako Magicals up on the balcony.

[Applause.]

THE MODERATOR: Welcome to Town Meeting.

And before we begin tonight, they would like to grage us with a song of the young lady who stands guard in front of the Falmouth Public Library.

Ms. Jazo, take it away.

[America The Beautiful sung.]

[Applause.]

THE MODERATOR: They’re going to stay with us and lead us in the National Anthem tonight, as well.
All Town Meeting Members present make sure that you have your electronic voting device; that you checked in and you received your electronic voting device. We’ll be using that to establish the quorum tonight and for each of the votes of which I cannot determine a majority by a voice vote. Or by a motion from the floor to use the device on other motions.

At this time, I’ll recognize the Town Clerk to just do another introduction for Town Meeting Members that may not have been at our last Town Meeting, just to practice using our electronic voting device before we establish the quorum.

Mr. Clerk.

CLERK PALMER: Okay, as the Moderator said, all Town Meeting Members should have picked up their response devices in the lobby as you checked in the front door.

You’ll see – you saw on the side screens there was a scrolling list of names by precinct. When you pressed your device, either one or two, the color went from black to green; that means that your device had accepted the vote that you
had placed.

So, on any articles, you can hit one for yes and two for no. All right?

For the quorum, everyone’s just going to hit one to show that you are present. So, as you see right now, it’s scrolling through the precincts and some people have been pushing their buttons and it’s turning from black to green, meaning that your vote has been registered. This will scroll through in a 60 second period twice. It’s scrolls about at three second intervals, so you need to find where your name is so you can pick it up relatively quickly when we do use this when the Moderator cannot determine the outcome of a voice vote.

Okay? So we want to reset that, Rob, and then we’re going to, David, take it away with the quorum?

THE MODERATOR: Okay. All Town Meeting Members present please press one for the establishment of a quorum. And this is the only time I get to vote unless there’s a tie.

[Pause.]

THE MODERATOR: And all Town Meeting
Members not present, please do not press one.

[Laugher.]

[Pause.]

THE MODERATOR: Ten seconds left. If you’re a Town Meeting Member, make sure you’ve pressed one.

Polling is now closed, with 190 Town Meeting Members present, we have a quorum and I call the Annual Town Meeting into session.

John DeMello, our Town Crier, will open our Town Meeting.

MR. DEMELLO: Hear ye, hear ye, all Town Meeting Members, gather here tonight for your warrant. Hear ye, hear ye, all Town Meeting Members: stay awake.

[Laughter.]

THE MODERATOR: John, I might need that bell later tonight.

[Laughter.]

THE MODERATOR: All present please rise for the presentation of the colors by the Falmouth Scout Honor Guard and the Brian Baru Pipe Band.

[Pause.]
THE MODERATOR: Please follow me in the Pledge of Allegiance.
[Pledge of Allegiance taken.]

THE MODERATOR: At this time, we’ll have the National Anthem by the Mako Magicals.
[National Anthem sung.]
[Applause.]

THE MODERATOR: At this time, I’ll recognize Troy Clarkson for our invocation.

MR. CLARKSON: Lord, when it comes to meeting and communicating with each other, help us to be good listeners. Help us to be open minded, putting aside our own agendas. Help us to be honest without being insensitive. Help us to be respectful without being too formal or artificial. Help us to question and to challenge without being harsh. Help us to be aware that this is just one moment, just one meeting. And lastly, help us to remember that you, too, are always meeting and communicating with us. Amen.

THE MODERATOR: At this time, I recognize the Brian Baru Pipe Band to play Amazing Grace for our moment of silence for all
of our Town Meeting Members that have passed since our last meeting. And especially a former member and very active in our community, Dewitt C. Jones.

[Moment of Silence taken.]

THE MODERATOR: Colors post.

Ladies and gentlemen, the Mullen Hall Mako Magicals, the Brian Baru Pipe Band, the Falmouth Scout Honor Guard, the Falmouth Town Band Brass Choir and Town Crier John DeMello.

[Applause.]

THE MODERATOR: Okay, I want to remind all Town Meeting Members that we’re being broadcast live by FCTV Channel 15, so each time you speak, please identify yourself by name and precinct. That also helps our transcriber for the meeting to get that information as well, thank you.

Tonight, our microphone carriers will be Phillip Gessen and Cindy Tran.

At this time I’d like to dispense with the reading of the warrant.

Madame Chairman for the main motion.

CHAIRMAN MORAN: Mr. Moderator, I move
to dispense with the reading of the warrant
except for the Officer’s Return.

THE MODERATOR: You’ve all heard the
main motion to dispense with the reading of the
warrant. All those in favor, signify by saying Aye.

[Aye.]

THE MODERATOR: All those opposed, No.

[None opposed.]

THE MODERATOR: The Ayes have it
unanimous.

At this time, I’ll read the Officer’s
Return of the Warrant. By virtue of this
warrant, I have this day notified and summoned
the inhabitants of the Town of Falmouth qualified
to vote on Town affairs, as said warrant directs,
by posting an attested copy thereof in Town Hall
and in every precinct in the Town. Signed
Constable Ronald Braga.

Mr. Clerk, I ask that the warrant become
an official part of the record for this meeting.

At this time, the Chair would entertain
a motion for non-Town Meeting Members to sit up
front with their respective boards and
committees.

FROM THE FLOOR:  So moved.
THE MODERATOR:  So moved.

All those in favor, signify by saying Aye.

[Aye.]

THE MODERATOR:  All those opposed, No.

[None opposed.] 

THE MODERATOR:  The Ayes have it unanimous.

At this time, the Chair would entertain a motion for Town employees who are not residents of the Town the right to speak on any issue before the meeting. 

So moved.

All those in favor, signify by saying Aye.

[Aye.]

THE MODERATOR:  All those opposed, No.

[None opposed.] 

THE MODERATOR:  The Ayes have it unanimous.

At this time, I’ll recognize the Planning Board for notification of public
hearing.

MR. DREYER: Mr. Chairman – Mr. Moderator, my name is Paul Dreyer, Clerk of the Planning Board and Town Meeting member Precinct –

FROM THE FLOOR: Can’t hear you.

THE MODERATOR: You’ve just got to go a little closer to the mic. Yeah, it’s on; you’ve just go to speak a little closer to it.

MR. DREYER: My name is Paul Dreyer; Clerk of the Planning Board, Town Meeting Member --

THE MODERATOR: Hold it right up close.

MR. DREYER: In accordance with Chapter 40A, Section 5 of the Massachusetts General Law, and Article 43 of the Falmouth Zoning Bylaw, public hearings were held on February 6th, 2018, on the following articles: Articles 8, 9, 33, 34, 35 and 36 for the April, 2018 Spring Annual Town Meeting, and all those who wished to speak were heard. Thank you.

THE MODERATOR: Thank you.

Okay, we’re going to use a blanket vote on this warrant. So, we’re going to go through
each of the articles in the warrant. I’ll give
you a brief description, call your attention to
the motion, the recommendation. If you would
like to discuss the article or you want to make
an amendment or do something different than
what’s in the recommendation, just stand up and
yell “Hold”. We’ll make a note of it up here
and we’ll go on to the next one.

Once I go through all of the articles in
the warrant with a brief description, I’ll run
through a second time quickly just by number, and
then I’ll entertain a motion from the Finance
Committee to accept all articles that were not
held as recommended as the official action of the
Town Meeting.

So, Article 1 is to choose necessary
officers; it’s a hold.

Article 2 is to hear reports; it’s a
hold.

Article 3, to authorize the Selectmen to
settle claims and suits. Mr. Duffy tells me
he’s got copies of his legal report up here, in
front of the rostrum, if anyone would like to
grab one during the break or at the end of the
meeting.

Article 4, to authorize the Board of Selectmen to apply for and accept state and federal grants.

Article 5, to fix the salaries of elected officials.

Article 6, the paying of unpaid bills. It’s indefinite postponement because we have no unpaid bills at this time.

Article 7, vote to adopt 780 CMR 115AA of the Massachusetts State Building Code known as the Stretch Energy Code.

FROM THE FLOOR: Hold.

THE MODERATOR: Hold.

Article 8, vote to amend Article VI, General Residence Districts of Chapter 240 Zoning Code of Falmouth on accessory apartments.

FROM THE FLOOR: Hold.

THE MODERATOR: Hold.

Article 9, to vote to amend Chapter 240 Zoning of the Code of Falmouth by adding Agricultural Districts for Ground Mounted Solar Voltaic Arrays. The recommendation of the Planning Board is indefinite postponement.
Article 10, to vote to amend the Town’s Salary Administration Plan.

Article 11, to vote to amend the Town’s Salary Administration Plan for the Community Preservation Committee.

Article 12 is a hold. That’s the Operating Budget.

Article 13, to vote to raise and appropriate $440,000 and transfer into the General Stabilization Fund.

Article 14, to vote to raise and appropriate $1,032,079 and transfer into the Capital Improvement Stabilization Fund.

Article 15, to vote to raise and appropriate $100,000 and transfer into the Other Post Employment Benefits Trust Fund.

Article 16, to vote to raise and appropriate $100,000 and transfer into the Worker’s Compensation Trust Fund.

Article 17, this is to vote to raise and appropriate $200,000 for the Wage Settlements to employees of the Town, including Police, Fire and Library unions.

Article 18 is a hold for a

Tinkham Reporting
recommendation on the floor.

Article 19, to vote to transfer the sum of $178,070 from Certified Free Cash to pay for the Town’s obligation pursuant to the Mass. CEC agreement relating to the wind turbines.

FROM THE FLOOR: Hold.

THE MODERATOR: Hold.

Article 20, to vote to transfer the sum of $31,016 from Certified Free Cash for purchasing a truck for the Marine and Environmental Services Department.

Article 21, to vote to transfer the sum of $166,000 from Certified Free Cash for the purpose of a 25 percent match to satisfy a condition of the supplemental grant for the Coonamessett River Restoration Project.

Article 22, to vote to transfer the sum of $200,000 from Certified Free Cash to give you comfortable seats.

FROM THE FLOOR: Hold.

THE MODERATOR: Hold.

Article 23, to vote to reduce the number of appointed members of the Substance Abuse Commission from nine to five.
Article 24, to vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to submit to the General Court a petition authorizing the Town of Falmouth to continue the employment of the Police Chief Edward Dunne.

FROM THE FLOOR: Hold.

THE MODERATOR: Hold.

Article 25, to authorize the Board of Selectmen to abandon an easement for a water main extension.

Article 26. To accept the provisions of Massachusetts General Law Chapter 39, Section 23D, which permits the local board members who miss a single session of an adjudicatory hearing before their board to be able to vote on the matter provided they review the evidence submitted at the missed hearing and file a certification.

FROM THE FLOOR: Hold.

THE MODERATOR: Hold.

Article 27, to vote to adopt a bylaw to be added to Chapter 156 of the Code of Falmouth Peace and Good Order, Article 9, fingerprint-based background checks.

THE MODERATOR: Hold.

Article 28, to ask the Board of Selectmen to develop and recommend a comprehensive recycling plan for Falmouth.

Article 29, dealing with electronic voting. Mr. McDonald, are you going to hold it?

MR. DONALD: Hold.

THE MODERATOR: Hold, okay.

Article 30, to vote to transfer $710,000 within the Fiscal 2018 budget.

Article 31, to vote to transfer the sum of $111,000 from Certified Free Cash for the purpose of funding line item 1-630-5319, Professional/Technical contract service (Recreation Department) in the amount of $25,000 and 01-155-5875, Computer Equipment and Software (IT Department) in the amount of $86,000.

Article 32, to authorize a second water meter for each residence affected by the new sewer system, the Town provide the additional water meter and the homeowner pay for its installation. The recommendation of the Board of Selectmen is indefinite postponement.
FROM THE FLOOR: Hold.

THE MODERATOR: Hold.

Article 33, this is to amend Chapter 240 Zoning Dimensional Regulations as printed except delete the words “as measured from the base of the structure to the highest point”.

Article 34, to vote to amend the Zoning Bylaw by deleting Section 240-142 as amended in 1983 and substituting the following updated section 240-142 regulating cooking and housekeeping amenities in commercial accommodation guest units.

Article 35, vote to amend the –

FROM THE FLOOR: Hold.

THE MODERATOR: Hold.

Article 36, to amend the zoning bylaw Section 240-67C, (Lots for commercial accommodations) by inserting “and Business Redevelopment” in Section 240-67 C(2)(c), after “Business 2”. And so that Section 240-67C(2)(c) will begin “Business 2 and Business Redevelopment: allowed”.

FROM THE FLOOR: Hold.

THE MODERATOR: Hold.
Article 37, to vote to transfer the sum of $39,072 for the purpose of paying relocation costs related to the purchase of the Andrews Farm.

Article 38, to vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to transfer care and control of the Tony Andrews Farm or any part thereof from the Conservation Commission to the Agricultural Commission.

Article 39 is a hold for a new main motion.

Article 40, to vote to appropriate the sum of $477,815, of which $60,000 is from the Community Preservation Undesignated Fund Balance and $417,815 from Fiscal 2019 Community Preservation estimated receipts to rehabilitate Guv Fuller Field.

Article 41, to vote to appropriate the sum of $150,000 from Fiscal 2019 Community Preservation Estimated Revenues to the Falmouth Rod & Gun Club to rehabilitate and restore passive recreation uses and preserve open space at Upper Child’s River and Farley Bog.

Article 42 has a scrivener’s error in
the location of Highfield Hall. It should be 56
Highfield Drive. To vote to appropriate the sum
of $23,206 from the Historic Preservation Reserve
to Historic Highfield to rehabilitate the
ballroom and foyer hardwood floors.

       Article 43, to vote to appropriate the
sum of $507,017 from the Historic Preservation
Fund to Friends of Nobska Light to fund the
preservation of the Nobska Light Keeper’s House.

       Article 44, to vote to appropriate the
sum of $30,000 from the Historic Preservation
Reserve to the Falmouth Historical Commission to
conduct Phase 2 of the town wide inventory of
historical resources.

FROM THE FLOOR: Hold.

THE MODERATOR: Article 45, to
appropriate from Fiscal 2019 Community
Preservation Fund Estimated Reserves the sum of
$137,550 for the purpose of funding the
Community Preservation Administrative expenses.

FROM THE FLOOR: Hold.

THE MODERATOR: Article 46, to vote to
transfer the amount of $340,349 from Fiscal 2019
Community Preservation Estimated Reserve to the
Community Housing Reserve.

Article 47, to vote to transfer the amount of $340,349 from Fiscal 2019 Community Preservation Estimated Revenues to the Historic Preservation Reserve.

And Article 48, the Town vote to appropriate to transfer the sum of $175,000 from Fiscal ‘19 Community Preservation Estimated Revenues to the Land Bank Debt Reserve Account to fund conservation land acquisition debt service payment obligations beyond 2020.

Okay, Article 1 is a hold. Article 2 is a hold.

Article 3. Article 4.

Article 5.

Article 6.

Article 7 is a hold.

Article 8 is a hold.

Article 9. Article 10.

FROM THE FLOOR: Hold.

THE MODERATOR: A hold on 10? Yeah.

Article 11.

Article 12 is a hold.

Article 16. Article 17.

Article 18 is a hold.

Article 19 is a hold.


Article 22 is a hold.

Article 23.

Article 24.

FROM THE FLOOR: Hold.

THE MODERATOR: Is a hold.

Article 25.

Article 26 is a hold. Article 27 is a hold.

Article 28.

Article 29 is a hold.

Article 30. Article 31.

Article 32 is a hold.

Article 33. Article 34.

Article 35 is a hold. Article 36 is a hold.

Article 37. Article 38.

Article 39 is a hold.

Article 40. Article 41. Article 42.

Article 43.

FROM THE FLOOR: Hold.

Tinkham Reporting
THE MODERATOR: Article 44 is a hold.

Article 45 is a hold.

Article 46. Article 47. Article 48.

FROM THE FLOOR: Hold.

THE MODERATOR: Hold?

Madame Chair for the main motion.

CHAIRMAN VOGEL: Mr. Moderator, I move that all articles that have been passed and not held be and hereby are adopted as recommended as the official action of this meeting, and that the necessary monies for the same shall be raised and appropriated or as otherwise specified.

THE MODERATOR: Okay, you’ve all heard the main motion on the blanket to approve everything that was not held as recommended.

All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

[Aye.]

THE MODERATOR: All those opposed, no.

[None opposed.]

THE MODERATOR: The ayes have it unanimous.

Madame Chairman for notice of reconsideration.
CHAIRMAN VOGEL: Mr. Moderator, I hereby serve notice of reconsideration of all articles passed under the blanket vote.

THE MODERATOR: Okay, notice of reconsideration has been served.

A couple of announcements that I forgot to do at the beginning. Ms. Lichtenstein.

MS. LICHTENSTEIN: Leslie Lichtenstein, Precinct 8. See, I remembered that time.

I don’t think we needed the big article in the Cape Cod Times to tell us that we have a trash problem. We really don’t want to be known as the trashiest town on the Cape, do we?

Our Spring Clean-Up Week is April 21\textsuperscript{st} through the 29\textsuperscript{th}. There will be an article in the paper and there will be numbers, phone numbers for the area coordinators. You can contact your area coordinator to get bags and there’ll be dumpsters to put the trash in.

Please, let’s all go out. It’s going to be spring sometime. During that week there’s got to be at least one day in which it’s not raining and not snowing. So, please, let’s all get out and make Falmouth nice again. Thank you.
THE MODERATOR: Thanks, Leslie.

[Applause.]

THE MODERATOR: Based on the holds, pretty sure we’re going to be here tomorrow night. And so, if we are, Ms. Swain from the Falmouth Service Center is asking that folks bring in some items in the lobby for the Falmouth Service Center. Things that if you were to need to go to the Falmouth Service Center things that you would like to find on the shelves. The shelves are getting a little thin over there, so she’s asked us to bring some stuff in tomorrow night if you can to donate to the Falmouth Service Center.

Also tomorrow, the Library is going to be doing public tours starting at 1:15 and every hour on the 15. And I’m told there’s celebration with cake, but we’re not sure what time the cake is. So, if you get there at 1:15, stay for the afternoon, you may get some cake.

Mr. Suso has an announcement of some new additions to Town government.

MR. SUSO: Thank you, Mr. Moderator.

Julian Suso, Town Manager.
It’s my pleasure to acknowledge that we have four new department heads who are with us in attendance this evening. And I’ll take them in the order in which they were appointed and affirmed by the Board of Selectmen.

First, our new Director of Information Technology, Greg Banwarth. Greg is here on my left, your right, up front.

Welcome, Greg.

THE MODERATOR: Welcome.

[Applause.]

MR. SUSO: Next, new Town Planner Thomas Bott. Tom is on my right, to your left.

Welcome, Tom.

[Applause.]

MR. SUSO: We also have a new Health Agent, Scott McGann, who just started today.

Scott, welcome back.

[Applause.]

MR. SUSO: And we have Jeremiah Pearson, who’s our new Superintendent of Parks and our Tree Warden, on my left, your right.

Welcome, Jeremiah. Welcome back to you, as well.
MR. SUSO: Thank you, Mr. Moderator.

THE MODERATOR: That last one must be a tough job these last few weeks. You’re a brave man.

Okay, Article 1.

I have one more announcement. Ms. Braga.

MS. BRAGA: Thank you, Mr. Moderator.

Just to announce that, on June 23rd, in connection with the Wellness Fair, Falmouth’s Commission on Disabilities is going to be hosting a free event. It’s a wheelchair obstacle course, to really heighten people’s awareness about some of the challenges in terms of mobility for folks who are dealing with the needs of a wheelchair. And it’s going to be an exciting event where Owen Smith, who is doing this, he’s helping to set this project up for his Eagle Scout -- to make it to Eagle Scout, is going to be assisting with this project.

So it is something that the Commission is putting together. It’s bringing in our, you know, youth here in the town. It’s a free
event; you just show up. You can put together teams if you want. But it’s going to be very exciting to really highlight some of the work that the Commission is doing now that it’s really back in being an effective commission this year.

So that’s the 23rd and that takes place at the Gus Canty and it’s the Wellness Fair and they’ll have their table there and you’ll all be able to attend.

THE MODERATOR: All right, thank you.

Okay, Article one is to choose necessary Town officers. This is to appoint members to the Finance Committee. We have five slots that are up for reappointment. I have three individuals who currently serve on the Finance Committee; they’re asking for reappointment. And we have two openings: one resignation and one individual who chose not to seek reappointment. And at this point we have not – the Nominating Committee has not gathered two additional names.

So we have three names to put into nomination and there will be two vacancies on the Finance Committee. Under the Town Charter the procedure is that a joint meeting will be held by
the Finance Committee and the Board of Selectmen at a date to be determined by the Board to appoint the two additional two vacancies.

So, before we put the names into nomination, if anyone here or anyone listening in the community is interested in serving on the Finance Committee in Falmouth, you can submit an application to Town Hall. If you’ve already submitted applications in the past, they will pull those applications, as well. You may want to just call and make sure they still have your application if you’ve put it in in years past. And that joint meeting will be posted in the Enterprise when they get together to do that.

So, at this time I’ll submit a slate of three names for nomination for the Finance Committee: Wendy Vogel, Sue Smith, and Mary Harris. The Chair would entertain a motion to close nominations.

FROM THE FLOOR: So moved.

THE MODERATOR: So moved. All those in favor of the slate as presented signify by saying aye.

[AYE.]
The Moderator: All those opposed no.

[None opposed.]

The Moderator: The ayes have it unanimous.

At this time, I’d like to thank Paul Sellers and Steve Angelo for your service to Town of Falmouth as members of the Falmouth Finance Committee.

[Applause.]

The Moderator: Article 2, Madame Chairman for the main motion. This is to hear reports.

Chairwoman Moran: Mr. Moderator, I move Article 2 as recommended.

The Moderator: As recommended. This is to hear reports of committees. Our first Committee to report will be the Board of Selectmen.

Madame Chairman.

Chairwoman Moran: Thank you, Mr. Moderator.

I’d like to ask for another five minutes, please, than the five minutes allotted.

The Moderator: Okay, so we have a
rule of the five minute limit, but a request can
be made and we have a request for an additional
five.

That requires a two-thirds vote.

All those in favor, signify by saying
Aye.

[Aye.]

THE MODERATOR: All those opposed no.

[No.]

THE MODERATOR: The ayes have it by the
two thirds.

Madame Chairman.

CHAIRWOMAN MORAN: Thank you. That’s
really just in case there’s applause.

[Applause.]

CHAIRWOMAN MORAN: So, while you’re
sitting there pondering whether you’re
comfortable enough in those seats, I just wanted
to start with a question. And Leslie brought it
up a little earlier: Isn’t Falmouth nice?

A few Town Meetings ago there was a lot
of unrest and criticism about Town Meeting and
the Board of Selectmen grew concerned that our
most valuable asset, just like our coastline, was
eroding. I am, of course, referring to our ability to come together respectfully and courteously to solve any challenge that comes our way.

At its Strategic Planning meeting the Board of Selectmen reacted to this unrest by vowing to up our leadership, particularly in customer service, starting with leaning in to listen to residents at the first live survey conducted this winter.

I also asked Vice Chair Megan English Braga to make a public announcement at each Selectmen’s Meeting recognizing individuals putting their time, ideas, heart and soul into making Falmouth nice. This year, the Board held our first potluck dinner for all our volunteers, an idea I shamelessly stole from Pam Harding Barrett who’s on the Planning Board. It was implemented by one of our young up and comers, Jessica Fox, who’s Jim’s daughter. It was such great fun that I think it’s a good bribe for filling our committees in the future.

The foundation, however, of Isn’t Falmouth Nice is the very hardworking,
professional and customer service-oriented Town of Falmouth staff. We’ve come a long way over the last several years in prioritizing customer service and the Board has made one of the Town Manager’s goals to expand ways to recognize excellence.

I’m proud to say that this Board of Selectmen has had more joint meetings than any other, and I’m grateful to the many boards who have given up their Saturday mornings to brainstorm common areas of interest. Currently, Planning, Board of Health and Water Quality are ironing out the accessory apartment bylaw.

Falmouth is one of the first communities on the Cape to advance this important housing initiative. Article 5 is the result of some of these discussions.

There’s a lot more to be done to make housing available to folks who live and work in Falmouth, and it’s going to take some out of the box ideas from our new Town Planner, Tom Bott; Housing Coordinator Carla Feroni, and our various Housing Committee volunteers, including Holly Wilson, Selectmen Sam Patterson.
Mr. Suso mentioned a couple of the 2018 new hires. We’ll also be expecting to fill the Recreation Director position soon, as well as the Beach Superintendent position.

We’ve made headway on the turbines. Neither Wind I nor Wind II are in operation, pursuant to a court order. Article 19 represents the successful efforts by the Board of Selectmen, Town Manager, Town Counsel and Finance Director, to resolve Falmouth’s $2 million Wind I debt to Mass. Clean Energy for a one-time payment of $178,070.

In a similarly financially prudent manner, Selectmen are currently working on a plan to deal with the Wind I and Wind II machines. The plan will comply with the Building Commissioner’s order to remove Wind I by May 31st. With respect to the wind turbine litigations — by the way — I want to go back for a second. The Commissioner’s order is for the Selectmen to make a plan to remove Wind I by May 31st, and you’ll see that in up and coming Selectmen’s meetings.

With respect to the wind turbine litigations, after the Board of Selectmen voted
not to appeal, the insurance company resolved eight out of nine nuisance claims. The ninth plaintiff being out of town. There do remain two active zoning litigation cases, so under this Board of Selectmen, we’ve resolved all but three out of eleven turbine-related cases. Town Counsel has prepared the report with details; you’ll find it up front and there’s a couple on the stage if you’d like more information.

We do have more challenges ahead. I understand Senior Center Building Committee member Jim Vieira will be updating Town Meeting on progress. It feels good to say the word progress.

After successfully completing the two on-time and in-budget projects of the Little Pond Sewer Service Area and the state of the art water treatment facility, Falmouth will take on sewering Great Pond while several Town departments, including Health and Building, will be working on guidelines to fairly allocate the capacity of the sewage treatment plant for a variety of new projects from subdivisions to potentially a new Main Street hotel.
Former Chair Doug Jones has initiated the Board of Selectmen’s tasking of the Town Manager with reviewing the Fire Department’s staffing, stations and facilities.

The Board’s Coastal Action Committee, headed by Charlie McCaffrey, will soon roll out recommendations for Trunk River, our coastal roadways including Surf Drive, and other vulnerable areas.

I’m proud to serve as Falmouth’s representative to the Assembly of Delegates, and to report that Falmouth got the first crack at the county’s new dredge.

As with the entire Cape, the impressive winter storms will challenge Public Works to have the beaches ready for the summer season. Those same storms have fallen majestic trees which Public Works is diligently working to clear.

We’re also getting ready for our first summer season since the legalization of recreational marijuana. While our police still have no tool to document intoxication like they do with respect to the Breathalyzer for alcohol intoxication.
Under the leadership of Chief Dunne, the Police Department is working in partnership with both substance abuse counselors and mental health counselors to help battle the Opioid problem that is killing our residents, devastating families, and kicking our economy in the gut. In Article 24, the Board of Selectmen asks Town Meeting to give the Board the opportunity to renew the Chief’s contract to allow him to move forward his strategic plan to meet these and other challenges in coordination with Fire Department Chief Mike Small and our Fire Department and other first responders. To meet these needs, you’re asked to approve a budget which includes the addition of both a police officer and a firefighter.

The 2017 Board of Selectmen conducted the first live survey. Over 90 folks attended on a frigid Saturday morning and voiced suggestions like more Facebook notifications, police detail opportunities for retirees, hiring a Town Planner with community development vision – welcome again, Tom Bott – working with Open Cape so our businesses can run credit cards for summer tourist business, and putting the
information Selectmen receive in their packets in the hands of residents.

Assistant Town Manager Peter Johnson-Staub has made the results available on the Town website and I’m happy to report that Michael Palmer is becoming a Facebook afficionado. Chief Dunne has collected sample policies from several Massachusetts communities to use in drafting a Falmouth policy to allow our career trained police retirees to do detail work, and it’s awaiting approval of legal counsel.

The EDIC is researching how to assist in financing a Main Street Open Cape effort, and the Selectmen packet is on the Town website every Monday before a Selectmen’s meeting. Thank you, Mark.

Vice Chair Megan English Braga and Selectman Doug Brown will soon announce details of a follow-up live survey to be held this summer so we can add our summer folk to our suggestion box.

In closing, on behalf of the Board of Selectmen, welcome to the April, 2018 Town Meeting. We look forward to a lively, courteous
and respectful debate befitting of Falmouth.

Thank you.

[Applause.]

THE MODERATOR: Next up I have a report from the School Committee.

MS. TAYLOR: Thank you, Mr. Moderator, and good evening Town Meeting Members. I’m Nancy Taylor, Precinct one, Superintendent of Schools.

On behalf of the School Committee and in place of a verbal report, I would like to share a video created by our Volunteers In Public Schools that demonstrates the dedicated support this town continues to offer to our Falmouth students.

VIPS is one vehicle by which this support is documented, and I want to thank you on behalf of the Falmouth School Committee for this body’s continued support of our students.

THE MODERATOR: The Falmouth Volunteers In Public Schools.

[Video played.]

[Applause.]

MS. TAYLOR: So, thank you again to the
Falmouth community for making VIPS the successful program that it is and supporting all of our students in the Falmouth Public Schools. Thank you.

[Applause.]

THE MODERATOR: Nancy, before you go.

We are at a Town Meeting which will be Nancy’s last Town Meeting as our Superintendent. And we are gathered in a building that a number of years ago when the state created an Innovation School statute, Nancy was the principal here and this school was a Level 3 school. And through Nancy’s dedication and vision and commitment and through the work of her staff and the community, applied to be an Innovation School. And in two years went from Level 3 to Level 1, and it’s continued to stay at Level 1 and Nancy went on to be our superintendent, to lead our district.

So, Nancy, thank you for all that you did here and all you’ve done for the community of Falmouth as our superintendent.

[Applause.]

THE MODERATOR: The Senior Center Building Committee, next up.
MR. VIEIRA: Thank you, Mr. Moderator and good evening, Town Meeting. I’m Jim Vieira from Precinct six and I’m with the Senior Center Building Committee.

The Board of Selectmen appointed our Committee on October 1st of 2017. This is a group of highly qualified processions in the field of construction and contracting. In addition to the names on the screen, I want to add our Assistant Town Manager Peter Johnson-Staub and our Senior Center Director Jill Irving Bishop who are an integral part of our team.

We convened for our first time on November 1st and have been meeting regularly since. Reviewing proposals for an owner’s project manager was one of our first undertakings. This is a requirement by our state before choosing an architect. The Project Manager is part of the team, working on our behalf through the design and building process.

P3 Project Planning Professionals was our top-ranked firm. Mr. Suso acted on our recommendation, negotiating and hiring P3.

We employed a similar process in
selecting an architect. Our Committee again
reviewed proposals and interviewed applicants.
Our top ranked firm was bh+a. You may recognize
the firm name and that of the principal Joel
Bargmann. Bh+a performed our site feasibility
study and we are pleased to have them and their
continued participation in this project.

Our team has been working diligently on
preliminary schematic plans. As you know, the
building will be located between the Police
headquarters and the Recreation building on the
East Main Street municipal campus.

We are excited to invite you to join us
at a pair of public forums on April 24th. The
Senior Center on Dillingham Ave. will be the
location for the 2:00 p.m. session. At 6:00
p.m. on the same day, the Hermann Room at the
Falmouth Public Library will be the site.
Arrangements are being made with FCTV for those
who will be unable to attend.

Bh+a will present preliminary floor
plans and proposed exterior elevations for your
comment and consideration. Only after you have
had a chance to comment and the Committee has met
and discussed will the architect proceed to more
detailed drawings and specifications.

Our Board of Selectmen has the ultimate
approval authority. We will seek their
endorsement after the public forum and after your
comments have been considered. The Building
Committee remains cautiously optimistic that a
fall construction start is possible. There are
many variables that may alter the schedule, but
we are committed to moving this process forward
without undue delays.

I would like to personally thank you for
your continued support and patience. This is an
exciting time for our Seniors and for our
community and I hope to see you all on April 24th,
thank you.

[Applause.]

THE MODERATOR: Next up, Community
Preservation Committee.

CHAIRMAN ROBBINS: Thank you Mr.
Moderator. Good evening, Town Meeting.

Russell Robbins, Precinct 6 and Chairman of the
Community Preservation Committee.

This is the make-up of our Committee

Tinkham Reporting
right now, as of April, 2018.

The history of the Community Preservation Act. Falmouth Town Meeting adopted the Community Preservation Act in November, 2004, and Falmouth residents approved participation in the CPA in May, 2005. CPA took effect in fiscal year 2006. Our local revenues is listed there: over 32 million, the local revenues, 13 million state and for a total since 2006 of 46,452,618.

This is just a kind of a overview of the town. You’ll see the four categories which we recommend to you for funding. Approving community housing in red. Historic preservation – I guess that’s kind of a slate color. And yellow and Recreation.

Use of the CPA funds from fiscal year 2006 through FY ‘18 Land Bank Debt, you can see it’s $23.1 million. Community Housing, 6.67. Open Space 5.26. Historic Preservation 5.03. Recreation 2.4. And administrative costs 1.37 million.

CPA funds for Land Bank Debt. By 2020, CPA funds will have paid $25,731,027 in Land Bank Debt Service. All funding required to retire
the Land Bank Debt Service from 2021 through 2035 will have appropriated in the Land Bank Debt Reserve by the end of 2020. In total, 30,300,000 in CPA funds will be used to retire the Land Bank Debt from 2006 to 2035.

This is just one of the categories, Open Space, and, you know, you have appropriated 5.26 million for 25 projects, and that’s some sample projects. A lot of the current ones, Tony Andrews Farm, Coonamessett Greenway, et cetera, et cetera.

Recreation Projects, 2.4 million. 26 projects. Just, again, some more samples. Development of Sandwich Road Playing Fields, the backstops and fencing replacement at the Athletic Fields, bike rack installation at various locations. Playground rehabilitations. Falmouth Golf Course irrigation system, Swift’s Park tennis courts and Shining Sea Bikeway Phase One.

Historic Preservation. Five million, 53 projects, and again just a sample of some current projects that are going on. The Nobska Light tower, West Falmouth Library, Woods Hole
Library, West Falmouth Harbor Landing, Highfield Hall, et cetera.

Community Housing. 6.67 million for 18 projects. And again some samples.

Appropriation of 2.17 million to Falmouth Affordable Housing Fund to develop Notantico Woods, St. Marks Road, One Chancery Lane, Shore Street, and the Little Pond Place, which is — will be built. The acquisition of 12 acres is tied to that particular project.

Projects recommended for appropriation at April, 2018, which you’ll see later, or some of them were held, but anyway: preservation of the Nobska Light Keeper’s House, Fuller Field’s rehabilitation, Highfield Hall ballroom and the foyer oak floor rehabilitation, Falmouth Historical Society – Historical Commission, I’m sorry, Phase two inventory of historic resources, and the Upper Cape River and Farley Bog preservation and restoration.

And, in closing, just, we wanted to recognize all of the past and the present members for their time and effort. It does take a little bit of time to do the job and we all enjoy
it and these people have also dedicated and were
dedicated members and placed a lot of time in it,
also. And on the right is just a sample of the
projects.

And, that’s it, thank you, Mr. Moderator.

[Applause.]

THE MODERATOR: Thank you.

Solid Waste Advisory Committee.

CHAIRMAN DAVIS: Mark, and Allen, do you want to come up?

Hi, there. I’m Linda Davis and I’m
Chairman of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee.
I’m also a member of Precinct 8 and I do want to
thank Mr. Moderator, Town Meeting Members, Town
officials and the listening public for this
opportunity to speak.

I first - first of all, I want to thank
the committee members that I work with. This
year they have been phenomenal and I do want to
give them some recognition. John Snyder, Chris
Polloni, Ginny Gregg, Marc Finneran, Bill Peck,
Allan Robinson and our Board of Selectmen Liaison
Megan English Braga. They have been phenomenal.
They’re such hard workers. We meet more than once a month; several times, in fact.

And, as you know, we deal with waste-related issues. And what is waste? Waste is a byproduct of our human activity. Everything we do produces waste. Trash, recyclables, toxic materials, food waste, construction and demolition, household waste, toxic materials, industrial and commercial residues, and it goes on and on and on. And it is a leading world problem: what do we do with the stuff?

It’s a Falmouth problem, also. This year, the Solid Waste Advisory Committee has established subcommittees, now, to deal with various aspects of this waste problem in Falmouth. I don’t have to tell you about litter if you saw the Cape Cod Times. And we know we don’t even have to read about it to see it.

We now have a subcommittee on litter. We have a subcommittee on food composting and waste. We also have – and we’re working with other committees on eliminating plastic in our environment. And we also – and really have to commend the Selectmen who have stepped forward to
take a leadership role in bringing Falmouth into compliance with the recycling bylaws and regulations by the state. And I have to applaud them.

Now, with these subcommittees, we believe it’s reaching out to the public, you people, that we’re going to develop the strategies. We’re all part of it. So, at the break, I’m going to be in the back of the auditorium and I’m looking for people to sign up for these subcommittees on these issues that many of you I know are concerned with.

Oh, and before I turn you over to two members of the Committee, I want to ask how many of you have a reusable water container with you today? Hold them up. Oh, I got it. Yeah, it’s one way to heaven, by the way, if you have this.

[Laughter.]

CHAIRMAN DAVIS: Now, I’m not going to ask how many of you have in your hand a single use water bottle. Don’t.

MR. ROBINSON: Including those on the stage.
CHAIRMAN DAVIS: It’s not good, it’s not good. However, I will tell you this: you have to the end of Town Meeting to get rid of it and make a pledge that you will go out and get a reusable water bottle. There may be a reward in it for you. Thank you.

I’m going to turn you over to Allan Robinson.

MR. ROBINSON: Thank you, Linda. My name is Allan Robinson. Falmouth, we have a growing, 21st Century, 365 day a year quality of life and environmental problem. Long-lasting, non-degradable, roadside-and-beach uglifying, fresh water and marine ecosystem-impacting plastic litter. Linda just pointed out the cases in point. Here’s my single use bottle which I picked up along the roadside this afternoon. We have a lot of these in town.

I would like to do a quick poll. Please raise your hand if you are in agreement with the following statements. I want everyone to participate. We in Falmouth have a roadside little problem. We in Falmouth are in effect
contributors to the worldwide epidemic of plastics in the oceans. We in Falmouth care enough about our community, the Cape and Islands and the world beyond to take personal and collective action to address this problem.

Great, fantastic. That is part of what our Committee is up to.

THE MODERATOR: Okay, we hit our five minutes. Do you want to request a specific amount of additional time?

MR. ROBINSON: Yes, I would, if we may.

THE MODERATOR: Yeah, how much?

CHAIRMAN DAVIS: Three minutes?

THE MODERATOR: Additional three minutes. All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

[Aye.]

THE MODERATOR: All those opposed no.

[No.]

THE MODERATOR: It’s the opinion of the Chair that the ayes have it by a two-thirds. We’ve got another three minutes.

MR. ROBINSON: Thank you, Mr. Moderator.

Tinkham Reporting
To take action, we need means and methods. Here is one: the Falmouth Water Stewards, a Falmouth nonprofit, has an initiative: Refill Reuse Falmouth. To reduce use of these single use plastic bottles, by installing water bottle refill and drinking fountain stations in the town. Thanks to a grant from the Falmouth Road Race and with the support of the Falmouth Department of Public Works, the first two water stations will be in service by July 14\textsuperscript{th} – excuse me, by July 4\textsuperscript{th}. That is one step.

The recent plastic bag prohibition is another step. There are many more steps that we wish to take.

We do hope that you’ll join us.

In a recent Talking Trash column in the Falmouth Enterprise, we asked the question: Where does change begin? Let me close my part by suggesting the answer: here in Falmouth.

Thank you.

[Applause.]

MR. FINNERAN: I’d like – Marc Finneran, Precinct 6. Solid Waste Advisory

Tinkham Reporting
Committee.

I’d like to just thank Linda Davis. She’s really changed this committee and we’ve been doing a lot.

Another pilot project we have, and you’ll see it in the near future, it’s working it’s way through the Board of Health and the DPW, is food composting. There’ll be something at the dump to contain it.

We have had a lot of help recently from Kari Parcell from the county and she pointed out to us that about 25 percent of the volume of the trash is – by weight – is food. It’s a little lower, it’s under 20 on Cape Cod, which is good, that means we compost already or we eat all our vegetables.

[Laughter.]

MR. FINNERAN: But, with garbage, the price to get rid of this stuff is approaching $800,000. Twenty percent of that or any portion of that 20 percent isn’t a small amount. And we’d appreciate all your help and it just takes a little bit more effort and it can save us some money.
Thanks a lot.

[Applause.]

THE MODERATOR: Next up is the Coastal Resiliency Action Committee.

CHAIRMAN FREITAG: Good evening, Madame Chair, Mr. Moderator and Town Meeting, thank you for allowing me to speak tonight. I’m Melissa Freitag and I speak tonight as the vice-chair of our Coastal Resiliency Action Committee.

Last November, at Town Meeting, our Charlie McCaffrey introduced our new Committee to you and tonight I’m going to present to you a quick update on our actions since to date -- since then.

So, since last November we continued to invite experts and read studies and reports from all - from various levels of government agencies and scientific institutions to apprise us of the latest coastal hazard information and science. So we continue to study reports and discuss the data as a group.

One significant action that we have completed or accomplished is that with the help of our administrator Jen McKay from Conservation
and Bob Shea in GIS, we’ve sent a letter of
interest to FEMA about our eligibility to be a
CRS community.

We worked with the Cape Cod Cooperative
Extension on this application, as well.

So this community rate system is a – the
Community Rating System is a voluntary program in
which municipalities can earn discounts on flood
insurance for taxpayers. So, discounts range
from five to 45 percent, with most Cape Cod towns
qualifying for five, ten, or fifteen percent
discounts.

So, in order to earn this discount,
towns must do certain things and enforce
regulations that reduce flood risk and improve
public safety. Some of these things that we can
do include: enforcing building regulations,
protecting open space, protecting wetlands,
providing information about flood maps,
conducting public outreach and conducting storm
water management.

So, we hope to hear soon about town-wide
reduction in insurance rates for all of us here.

So you might recall, also, that at
the last Town Meeting in November you, the body
of Town Meeting, actually gave us – appropriated
$80,000 for our community to hire a consultant
team to provide us with a technical study of our
coastal resources and infrastructure and to
provide us with site-specific information
regarding risks that the Town is going to see or
sees right now.

So we have drafted an RFP of sorts and
await responses right now from technology firms,
and this project is one of several steps that we
can take to bring further monies to the Town for
resiliency action, coastal resiliency action.

Massachusetts created something called
the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program,
the MVP program, to provide funds for Towns to
plan for climate change resiliency and to fund
priority projects for the Town. Communities
that complete this MVP program become certified
as an MVP community and are eligible for MVP
Action Grant funding and other opportunities.
About 70 communities belong and we’ll have
access, Falmouth will have access to billions of
grant funds and expertise once we complete this
program. We have entered the process and are about halfway through the process right now.

Working with a consultant trained in the Massachusetts regulations, we invited about 70 community members, department heads, committee chairs, precinct captains and members of select industries in Falmouth, to come to the first of two workshops that we’ll be holding. At this all day workshop on March 24th, Saturday, March 24th, we worked in groups using data such as this map that you see up here, and brainstormed our concerns regarding infrastructure, the environment and Falmouth’s society, using several hazard types as our motivator.

And so, if you look at this map, this is called a SLOSH Inundation Map. This map, the orange on the map – it’s a NOAH map and the orange on the map actually tells us – shows us what would happen to town if merely a category 2 hurricane were to hit Falmouth today. This map does not incorporate any sea level rise data and it does not include any data regarding future incidences. The purple stuff at the very tips is regarding a category 4 hurricane if it were to
hit us today. That doesn’t include sea level rise.

So, ultimately, our workshop attendees who worked with maps like this - oh, downtown is right in there. Main Street, downtown.

We concluded and agreed upon several priority points at this meeting. Whoops. So, our workshop recognized several weaknesses and potential steps that Falmouth can take to ameliorate damages by coastal storms and the changing climate. But these conclusions are not the be all and end all of Town Meeting policy-making and strategy. They’re merely a first step, an early step in the MVP process.

As you can see, several of our conclusions dealt with creating plans, sediment plans, coastal plans, retreat plans if necessary. This is a map, a marked-up map from one of the groups. And we spoke about the water mains, in particular. And even the bike path as a potential emergency evacuation route if we needed to use it at some point.

But the next part for this MVP workshop and certification includes a listening session
that we will need to host for the town. So, please join us on Tuesday May 8th at 7:00 p.m. in the Hermann Room to voice your concerns to us about problems that the Town may face in the future.

I hope to see many of you there and while we work together to continue to gather data and advise the Board of Selectmen, which is our charge, and complete our eligibility for state grant monies to help us implement some of our resiliency priorities.

So, as you know, policy is made by those who show up. Thank you for being here tonight, and the Coastal Resiliency Action Committee looks forward to hearing your concerns on the 8th of May at 7:00 p.m. in the Hermann Room.

So, have a productive evening and I’ll leave you with that.

THE MODERATOR: Okay, thank you.

[Applause.]

THE MODERATOR: Any further committee reports? Yeah, go ahead. Rec Committee.

MR. GHELFI: Good evening, thank you, Mr. Moderator. My name is Scott Ghelfi,
Precinct 8, speaking to you tonight as a member of the Recreation Committee, here to give our Committee report. I’m with fellow Committee member Mike Heylin, who’s put together some slides that we want to show you. Hopefully, with any luck, we can time this out pretty good.

In my short time on the board, I’ve been able to see all the positive things our Recreation Department does for the Town, led by our Interim Director Joe Olenick. Some great programs like Falmouth Teen, an adaptive camp with 625 participants; curling; Mad Science Camp; big Father/Daughter dance attended by over 200, and many, many other great programs.

Despite the fact that they have been understaffed since the retirement of Helen Kennedy in 2016, Joe has stepped up into her shoes without an assistant director and been able to continue to manage all of the great programs that have been offered to all segments of our town.

Now the negative. Also in my short time on the committee, I’ve been able to learn a great deal on the deplorable conditions of our
athletic fields in town, as well as the lack of handcap access to the fields and the lack of restroom facilities. Our committee has been spending most of the time recently meeting with field user groups Pop Warner Football, Falmouth Soccer Club, Falmouth Lacrosse, Babe Ruth, softball, Little League, and getting a real feel for what they have to deal with. The groups are unanimous in expressing their opinion that we have the worst field conditions in relation to other towns they travel to and compete against.

Let me repeat that. The groups are unanimous in expressing their opinion that we have the worst field conditions in relation to other towns they travel to and compete against.

We have also researched other towns on the condition of their fields and the maintenance of their programs - maintenance programs and staff they have in place. We have learned that this Town is woefully underfunded and understaffed compared to other towns in this area.

One small positive - we've still got the fields up there. At last year’s Town Meeting,
200,000 was appropriated to repair some of the fields in town, a small fraction of what is needed. But a start. This money will be used to fix two of the 22 fields that we have. The first to get repaired and re-sodded this spring is the football field on Sandwich Road, then next fall one of the three fields at Trotting Park.

This is great, but our committee is concerned that we may be wasting this money because we do not have the proper maintenance plan or staff in place to keep them in good condition. And adding to that concern is the fact that the Town has decided not to fund the Assistant Park Superintendent for Fiscal Year 2019.

The committee would like everyone to know that we will be very active in keeping track of the progress on the fields and subsequent maintenance.

Also in the coming months, we will also be asking the Selectmen, the Town Manager and the residents of this town that we need more money appropriated to repair all of the fields in Town, and to have the maintenance staff, plan, and
equipment to take care of them.

In the meantime, the Committee will be working with local nonprofits to seek --

[Laughter.]

MR. GHELFI: Hopefully not.

THE MODERATOR: Wasn’t that the last committee’s report?

[Laughter.]

FROM THE FLOOR: [Inaudible.]

MR. GHELFI: In the meantime, the Committee will be working with local nonprofits to seek C.P.C. funds to repair some of the drainage problems -- as you saw -- playing surfaces, add restroom facilities, stands and create handicap-compliant paths to the fields.

Another topic of concern for the Rec Committee is that when the construction of the new Senior Center next to the Rec Building begins, we will lose the current SBLI playground that gets used by hundreds if not thousands of kids during the year. The Town has appropriated the money to move and rebuild the playground, so we are looking forward to the High School football program moving to the High School campus.
so we can relocate the playground in the football field area.

We have met with and have started working with the Counsel On Aging and the Commission On Disabilities to start talking about the plans for an inclusive playground that will be for people of all ages and ability levels, as well as coming up with ways to use the field for senior activities.

Good job, Mike.

Thank you very much for your time, and if anyone wants to know, we meet the second Wednesday of every month if you want to come visit.

Thank you.

[Applause.]

THE MODERATOR: Thank you.

Okay, any other Committee reports?

Last chance for Committee reports.

Hearing none, the question will come on the main motion to accept the reports. All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

[Aye.]

THE MODERATOR: All those opposed no.
[None opposed.]

THE MODERATOR: The ayes have it unanimous.

Article 7. Madame Chairman of the Board of Selectmen for the main motion.

CHAIRMAN MORAN: Mr. Moderator, we move that Article 7 be voted as printed in the warrant.

THE MODERATOR: As printed. This is vote to adopt 780 CMR 158 --

CHAIRMAN MORAN: Oh, one correction. Sorry about that.

THE MODERATOR: As printed with one correction.

CHAIRMAN MORAN: With an addition at the end that it will have an effective date of January 1, 2019.


Yes.

MS. O’REILLY: Hi, I’m Megan O’Reilly. I’m a member of the Energy Board and I’m Precinct 3, and I’m here tonight to talk about the Stretch Code.
Can everybody hear me? I kinda talk soft.

Okay. So, to start, what is the Stretch Code? The Stretch Code is an optional appendix to the Massachusetts Building Energy Code that allows Towns to choose a more energy efficient option.

So, why do we want to adopt it? The Stretch Code-built structures are around 11 percent more energy efficient than a standard code-built home. These buildings will consume less energy over their lives and reduce the Town’s overall greenhouse gas emissions.

Another reason: a Stretch Code-built structure will lower the monthly utility bills for the owner. And third: adoption of the Stretch Code will allow Falmouth to apply to be a Green Community, making the Town eligible for grant funding in the range from 130 to 150 thousand dollars annually for energy-related projects.

Okay. So what are the differences between the Base Energy Code and the Stretch Code? In January, 2017, the Base Code and the
Stretch Code were updated. The differences between the two are much smaller than in the past. To meet the Base Code, there are two options, the prescriptive path and the performance path.

The prescriptive path provides a list of minimums to be met during construction. Prescriptive codes don’t guarantee good installation, air-tightness or thermal insulation is effective. It only requires that minimums are met.

The other option, the performance path, is based on the performance of the building, which is verified by a third party or a HERS rater. The HERS rater works with the building and client to help meet the energy goals of the project through development of an energy model and a performance plan.

The Stretch Code is based on the overall performance of a building. Compliance with the Stretch Code is achieved by following the performance path.

So what is a HERS rater and what are the benefits of using a HERS rater? First, the
builders don’t have to go by a list of specific energy efficiencies measures. Rather, they have the flexibility to work with the HERS rater to determine which energy efficiency measures to install.

It also is a way to insure homes are well insulated and air sealed. As part of the HERS rating the HERS rater tests the home at several points during construction. This helps catch any problems while it’s still easy to correct. These additional steps helps to insure that a home performs as it was designed.

According to our Building Inspector, Rod Palmer, 20 percent of our projects in Falmouth already use a HERS rater.

So there’s some additional cost attributed to using a HERS rater. The HERS rater costs between 1200 and 1600 dollars. In both paths, the performance or the prescriptive, there are required three tests. The costs of these tests is around $750. The HERS rater includes these three tests in their price.

Your HERS rater can also enroll the project in the MASS SAVE program, which has
rebates ranging from $350 for testing up to $10,000. I spoke with a local HERS rater that I’ve done work with, and they completed 29 ratings in Falmouth in 2017. The average rebate was a thousand dollars. The same HERS rater had two homes in Falmouth receive $6,000 in rebates in 2017.

At the bottom of this slide is a link if you want to go to that. There are a number of case studies that the Department of Energy Resources has provided, and the Board of Selectmen put it up on our website. And so you can go to those. Scroll down to the bottom and you’ll see some case studies that show the projected costs and paybacks for a few different scenarios.

In general, the additional cost was paid off in a few years by savings to your energy bill.

Okay, so what projects would be affected by the Stretch Code? Only new residential construction, new commercial construction over 100,000 square feet and multifamily buildings up to four stories. Renovations, additions,
adaptive reuse are not included under the purview of the Stretch Code.

And to provide a sense of how many projects would be impacted: there were 2,000 building permits issued in 2017. Out of those 2,000 building permits, 85 were new residential construction and six were new commercial construction. So we do a lot of renovating.

And then we had a few questions about the next version of the Stretch Code, and I reached out to Seth Pickering, who’s our Green Communities contact, and he said the energy code, Base and Stretch, in Massachusetts is updated about every three years. Sometimes it takes longer than that, and it’s expected that the Stretch Code will remain very closely aligned to the Base Code moving forward, as it is now. And the next version isn’t expected to be very different from the existing. And Falmouth can always rescind the Stretch Code in the future if it becomes unworkable for us.

Just to talk a little bit about becoming a Green Community. Green Communities is a state designation that would make Falmouth eligible for
grant funding. Adopting the Stretch Code is the last remaining substantive requirement for certification. The remaining items are essentially paperwork and easily attainable by the October 2018 grant round.

And I’ll just finish with this map of Massachusetts. It shows the 216 communities in Massachusetts that have adopted the Stretch Code. On Cape, Mashpee, Wellfleet, Provincetown and Truro have adopted the Stretch Code and are Green Communities and there are several communities on Cape looking to adopt the Stretch Code as well and become Green Communities.

Thank you.

[Applause.]
Town Meeting, Tom Bott, I’m the Town Planner here in Falmouth, Mass., and I — at my peril I get up here as the new kid to say, “This is what we did somewhere else.” So please bear with me.

In my capacity in Kingston, I was also the acting Energy Manager and worked towards adopting Green Communities Act. In the Town of Kingston, the Green Communities Charter Committee, since 2010, we have netted $947,387 in grants. That, coupled with $297,554 in energy rebates, has produced a couple million dollars in projects which has produced an estimated $270,000 in annual energy savings. That’s an estimated $270,000 in annual energy savings but, as explained, on a regular basis annual energy savings are the gift that keeps giving.

Over the time we’ve done these projects in Kingston, we have had one large capital project where we had to come to Town Meeting for funding. The majority of that money was produced with $16,000 out of pocket, where we had to pay some additional engineering. It has been a terrific program in Kingston. They have
benefitted from it immeasurably. The Town of Falmouth will, as well.

On adoption, you get an initial grant based on your population, the size of the community. The remaining grants are competitive rounds. In the last round of grants, a $250,000 maximum, we put together a grant to re-commission the energy management system at an elementary school. The maximum grant amount was $250,000; we received $250,000 for a $280,000 project. With the rebates that will come as the project is developed, we expect to have approximately zip for out of pocket for this project.

It has been terrific for the Town of Kingston. I think it could be very good for the Town of Falmouth, as well.

Thank you.

THE MODERATOR: Okay. Further discussion?

Yes, Mr. Duffany. Then Ms. Putnam.

MR. DUFFANY: Thank you, Mr. Moderator.

Ladies and gentlemen of Town Meeting, Michael Duffany, Precinct 6.

I’ve actually had a lot of inquiries
about this and where I stand as a builder on this
issue. It’s really hard to stand and say that
you’re against a Green Community, and I’m not
against Falmouth being a Green Community. I
frankly think we are a Green Community and I
don’t think that we need to do other things to
prove it to anyone.

The – some of the issues that I have and
the building community have with this program and
have had with it since the beginning – and it
started out that there was such a difference,
about a 20 percent difference in what you needed
to do as a Stretch community versus a traditional
community. And, as you know, it comes on the
backs of the ratepayers. We all pay on our
rates, we pay a fee that goes into a fund that is
getting used by the towns. And I really have a
hangup with that, number one. It’s a hidden
tax, if you will, that’s you know that’s used
when people are, in our case here, we’re going to
mandate - if we adopt this, we’re going to
mandate people to use a Stretch Code and then
we’re going to give the money to the Town. And
I do have, I have an issue with that.
I think that if it was something that we really wanted, that there ought to be – the funds should be accessible for people, you know, like my mom or my aunt or somebody who could use the money to help offset their electric bill by some PV on the roof or some other kind of a grant. I don’t think that the Town should be rewarded for this, for the practices in the past that it’s had of not being as diligent, if you will, as homeowners.

And I can say that from experience because I built one of the first two by six homes in Falmouth. I built a smaller home, with my wife, and we put in a wood stove with a catalytic converter. Those were choices that we made in order to be able to afford our home. And since then, because we didn’t over-extend, we’ve been able to add on, and we’ve been energy efficient all the way along. I don’t think you need to have somebody else telling you what you need to do.

And, to the point earlier made by one of the previous speakers, that 20 percent of the homes in Falmouth are using HERS raters, and we
use HERS raters on a lot of the homes that we build, but they’re also – they’re higher end homes. And the folks are, they’re doing their due diligence to try to do the best they can for the environment and for the community and so forth, but they’re doing it by choice. They’re not doing it because somebody’s telling them that they need to.

And then the last piece that I’ll leave you with – and I could go on. I mean, I could talk for too long on this subject. But one of the issues I have is the unknown of the Stretch. I heard that it has been – that it’s been Stretch – this is absolutely new news to my ears that we’ve stretched the Stretch Code because the base code that we’re under now is more stringent than the Stretch Code. Over time, it has caught up.

We have worked diligently as a building community to try to build the most efficient homes that we can that are also homes that, you know, that are livable homes. We are finding that there are issues in the homes that are too tight. They come with a cost that nobody’s going to talk to you about, you know, when you
need to have make up air; in order to turn on
your hood fan over your stove and for anything to
come out, you gotta have something going in the
other end. You know, so we have make up air
which uses electric to heat the air and so forth.
So, anyways, there’s a lot of different
issues in this that I don’t – I just don’t think
that we need to have mandated to us by a fund
that we all are paying into and – and I just do
not support this. I am not against the Green
Community. I’m not against energy conservation,
but I do not support this. I think we’ve done
well. I think it should be sun-setted and I
think that frankly there ought to be another
criteria that we should use or be able to use to
be this Green Community.
Thank you.
THE MODERATOR: Okay, Ms. Putnam.
MS. PUTNAM: Thank you, Mr. Moderator.
Rebecca Putnam, Precinct 9.
To piggyback off of what was just
stated, currently my father and I are doing 20
brand new homes. We cannot get a use and
occupancy permit on any new home because of the
new building codes without doing the HERS rater’s test. Now, a HERS rater’s test involves them putting an actual door sealed over the front door. They put a fan on, they measure how much air is sucked out of the house, and you have to meet a certain percentage that does not evacuate or is not pulled up through and out of the home.

These homes are made so tight right now, we have to put a what’s called an ERV system in there. It runs 24/7, cannot have an off switch to it, and runs 24/7. It is a fan system that will suck the air out of the house and transfer new air back into your home.

Currently we have to put R-49 insulation in any flat ceiling in these homes to help meet these HERS raters’ measurements. R-49 is 48 inch thick insulation.

Now, if you don’t meet the HERS raters’ test on the blower door, you then have to blow insulation into your attic. You have to seal your attic. You cannot put pull-down stairs in the attics anymore because that helps allow air to come in through the house.

Now, if we go and adopt this Stretch
Code, currently right now we have to make the houses 66 percent more energy efficient than a home built in 2004. Sixty-six percent more energy efficient than 2004. I currently have clients that are spending about $136 on their actual gas heat in a three month period. Think about what you’re paying in your current home. Okay?

So these new homes are made so tight, if we adopt the Stretch Code, it goes to 55 percent. And at that point, in order to meet these ratings, we may have to actually put foam insulation in between the joists, the walls. We don’t know what foam insulation does over 20 years. We don’t know how it breaks down. We don’t know what the chemicals could be coming into your home and affecting your health and your children. Let alone sealing the house up that much, how much moisture is trapped in those walls that we’re not aware of that is causing molds and mildews? Because these houses do not breathe naturally anymore.

So, I would ask that you do not vote this in on the basis of we don’t know what the
future brings with these chemicals that we could
be putting into the houses for somebody and their
children.

    Thank you.

THE MODERATOR: Ms. Fenwick.

MS. FENWICK: Judy Fenwick, Precinct 1. I have a question and I’m not sure whom to
direct it; maybe to the Energy Committee. But
also maybe to direct it to Mr. Duffany for a
counterpoint.

    I’m curious what the added expense under
the – if we adopt this Energy Stretch Code –
would have on the building of affordable housing
in Falmouth.

THE MODERATOR: Additional expense?

Mr. Duffany, do you want to?

MR. DUFFANY: The cost of an ERV is
like $2500, plus the cost of running the ERV,
which is the unit that Rebecca was speaking of
that replaces the air in the house and actually – it
does not charge the house with air, it just
replaces it. So, there’s also makeup ER units,
which run in the same neighborhood of $2000 for
those.
Your HERS rater, right now in the base code you’re going to need to hire a HERS rater to – just to meet the base code as it is. So that fee runs anywhere from seven to fifteen hundred dollars for that.

The additional cost of the insulation, right now it’s almost – it’s almost a wash because the Stretch Code is actually below the current base code. So, the question I ask of the folks in Boston that are promulgating these regulations is what is the new Stretch going to be. If it’s going to be another 11 percent more, you know, then that’s going to be another added cost to the, you know, to your insulation so it’s another $1,000 for that.

So there are just some of the incidental costs. And that’s over and above the fact that you live within a mile of the water, which has nothing to do with Stretch, and then they’re piling on those other regs on top of it. So there’s a lot more pieces to this than just – just a Stretch. That’s one, just one piece. So I hope that answers that.

THE MODERATOR: Okay. Mr. Brown.
SELECTMAN BROWN:   So, when you’re
talking about affordable housing, I would think
you’d want to do the most energy efficient
building that you can and have the smallest
energy bills later.  So, I think that’s common
sense.

When we’re building these houses to the
base code, as stated by Mr. Duffany, we’re
already doing most of the work already.  Why not
get credit for it in our Town and be a part of
the Green Communities Act?

That’s my position.

THE MODERATOR:  Mr. Finneran.

MR. FINNERAN:   I’m not against green and
I’m not against saving money, at all.  But I
have a little bit of familiarity with people that
are building new houses currently, and they have
problems with mold and mildew.  And if you
looked at the map that they showed us on this,
you can see that the state has adopted this at a
much higher rate than we have on Cape Cod, and
that’s because we have a problem with moisture.
So it exacerbates it here.

Some of these people that have these new
homes, they’re so tight that they seem to - they believe that they cause or aggravate breathing problems, and also they’re opening the windows every day, just to exchange the air in the house. So anything we’re saving is literally going out the window.

I think that this is a little bit too far and it seems to me that the payback is about ten cents on the dollar. I personally am voting against it.

THE MODERATOR: Ms. Lichtenstein.

MS. LICHTENSTEIN: Leslie Lichtenstein, Precinct 8.

I have a concern. A lot of times we’re asked to vote something because we’ll get money for the Town. Right now the Green Communities are eligible for grants. We saw it happen with C.P.C. money. As more and more communities become eligible as Green Communities, there will be less and less money available. So I don’t think we should be suckered into voting for something because it’ll bring money into the Town.

I think if we’re going to vote
something, we should vote it because we think
that it is the right thing to do and not because
we’re going to get money for it. Because, I
don’t know, as long as I’ve been a Town Meeting
Member, we always are going to get money and
somehow we never quite get as much as they said
we would.

[Laughter.]  

THE MODERATOR: Mr. Putnam.

MR. PUTNAM: Thank you, Mr. Moderator,
Brent Putnam, Precinct 9.

I’m struggling to do the math in my head
because I’ve heard Mr. Duffany say that this
Stretch Code could add something on the order of
well over $5,000 to a new house. But I also
heard my wife say that the costs of a gas bill
over the course of a winter is maybe $130 in the
homes that are being built now. If we’re
talking, I think somebody said 11 percent or, you
know, just if we toss that out there and say that
you’re going to save $15 bucks over the course of
a winter for a $5,000 investment, um, that’s like
over a hundred years to get your money back? I
don’t see much benefit there.
You know, there’s the law of diminishing returns, Folks, where you get to a point that you can reach a certain amount of efficiency and then that last ten percent is almost unobtainable because it’s really expensive to get there. And that’s what this sounds like. I’m voting no on this.

Thank you.

THE MODERATOR: Okay, Mr. Hargraves.

MR. HARGRAVES: Thank you, Mr. Moderator. Peter Hargraves, Precinct 9.

Just trying to clarify what this means to me as a consumer. When I hear the word “code”, it says to me that, unless I meet the requirements, I won’t get a certificate of occupancy and I can’t live in my house. So, if I make a contract with a builder under the performance requirement and there isn’t enough skill to deliver the product that meets the performance requirements, then what are the ramifications of that for me living in my house?

And can you default after you’ve chosen a performance requirement to the - just the specific requirements and just bypass the fact
that the performance can’t be met in the final analysis?

I’m just trying to understand, as a consumer dealing with a builder, and builders having different level of skill, how this would impact my contract with the builder and the builder’s fiduciary responsibility to me.

THE MODERATOR: Okay. The answer over there.

SELECTMAN BROWN: So, if we adopt the Stretch Code, you will have to meet the performance requirement. But, if you know that going in, you’re going to test throughout the project. When you get the frame completed and the windows are in, you’ll have the tester in. That’s when you find the problems. If you’re building by the prescriptive method, you hope to do the best you can, but you might miss something and not really know it. If you wait to the end to do the testing, then you’re up against a gun. So that’s why, if you know what you’re doing going in, you’ll test as you need to and you’ll have the best performing house.

This is about building better houses and
having better quality of construction. It’s just - you know what you have to do, going in, and you’ll be prepared for it. And you’ll test at the point where you can easily fix it, not wait until the end when you’re in trouble.

THE MODERATOR: Yes.

MR. SUSO: Mr. Moderator, could I ask the Building Commissioner Rob Palmer to address that if he would, please?

MR. PALMER: Good evening, Mr. Moderator, Ladies and gentlemen.

Mr. Brown was correct in stating that throughout the process when you’re building your home, at different stages the HERS rater that you hire to evaluate your home under the performance method will visit your home, will do testing, and he’s sort of or she is sort of overseeing the construction of your house from its infancy to the certificate of occupancy. And a rating is given to the Building Department, a document is presented to the Building Department and it’s telling us whether or not your home has passed this performance rating. And, upon receiving this document, we would issue a certificate of
occupancy.

So, it’s tested at different stages throughout the process.

THE MODERATOR: Okay, Mr. Murphy and then Ms. Schneider.

MR. MURPHY: Yes, Mr. Moderator, Kevin Murphy, Precinct 5.

Folks, I think this comes down to a personal choices issue. We heard that 20 percent of the folks that do this already do this now. Why do we want to force somebody to do something above and beyond the building code to maybe get a grant? We’ve seen what grants do for this community. Sometimes they’re good, sometimes they’re not good. Sometimes we’re going to pay for years for some grants we might get.

I’m going to say to you Folks that the difference between Falmouth and a lot of those other communities that had green spots on them is that we’re a seasonal community. Over 50 percent of our tax base is from folks who build summer homes here. Those folks don’t heat their houses in the wintertime. They shut their water
off and they go back home. And they pay for our schools. And they pay for our Police Department and Fire Department. And what we want to do is make it harder for them and we want to make it harder for folks who want to get going on their first home as an affordable home.

You know, I have a personal choice. If I want to buy a Cadillac, I could buy one. But if I like my old clunker truck, I can keep it. You know, everyone has a personal choice, and in this case I think we’re going above and beyond.

And, one last thing. Remember the Stretch Code? It continues to stretch. So, in three more years, we heard tonight, “Oh, well, we don’t think it’s going to be that much of a stretch.” We don’t know. We don’t know what’s going to happen in three more years. We know what’s happening now and I think we need to vote against it, thank you.

THE MODERATOR: Ms. Schneider.

MS. SCHNEIDER: Thank you. Every so often, you can turn to one of your kids for some advice, and in this case I turned to my son and told him what you were all saying in this debate,
because he’s just celebrating his 15th year doing exactly what we’re talking about. He is – he works in Vermont doing HERS testing and going around advising architects and builders on how to make better homes. And he wants me to tell you all this in response to what you’ve said.

Build tight, ventilate right. He wishes that people like Mike Duffany would read Massachusetts-based Joe Steelbrick’s work on building healthy, durable homes. And that it’s important to know that the unhealthy homes are not the ones that are built this way, that get mildew, but they are the ones that are leaky, the ones with poor performing bath fans in the bathroom. And that, if you grab a CO2 meter and you measure the levels in your master bedroom overnight, you’ll be very surprised to find out that you’re actually waking up in the morning with your cognitive functions negatively impacted by what you have for CO2 in your house.

So he would encourage you all to take this step that many are taking, and to say you can do better; you should ask for better.

Yes, we can drive clunky old cars, but
we are doing damage to the environment the whole time that we are, and we’re talking about how to make Falmouth nice, and this is one way we can.

[Applause.]

THE MODERATOR: Okay, Mr. Dufresne, Mr. Dufresne.

MR. DUFRESNE: I’d like to move the question.

THE MODERATOR: Okay, we have a motion to move the previous question to close debate. All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

[Aye.]

THE MODERATOR: All those opposed no.

[No.]

THE MODERATOR: It’s the opinion of the Chair that the ayes have it by a two-thirds and the question will come on the main motion as printed, with an affective date of January 1st, 2019. All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

[Aye.]

THE MODERATOR: All those opposed no.

[No.]

THE MODERATOR: It’s the opinion of the
Chair is that the nos have it. Is there a challenge to the Chair?

FROM THE FLOOR: No, no.

THE MODERATOR: Okay. Can we tee up a slide for a roll call vote? Get your clickers out. When we activate the device, a yes vote will be one; a no vote will be two.

FROM THE FLOOR: Is this a roll call vote?

THE MODERATOR: No. Wait, wait. No, I said when he tees up the device, we’re going to be taking a vote. So the device is on, here. If you vote yes, press one, or A. No, press two or B.

[Pause.]

THE MODERATOR: Twenty second left.

Yes, one or A; no, two or B.

[Pause.]

THE MODERATOR: Okay, we can display. By a counted vote of 82 in favor and 115 opposed, the article does not pass and we stand in recess for 15 minutes.

[Whereupon, a recess was taken.]

THE MODERATOR: Okay, let’s prepare a
slide for a quorum count. Town Meeting Members please come forward.

[Pause.]

THE MODERATOR: Okay, we have to re-establish a quorum, here. You’re going to press one on your device when we activate the system for the quorum count. The quorum roll call is open.

All Town Meeting Members present please press 1 A to re-establish the quorum. One A.

[Pause.]

THE MODERATOR: I’ll do an early reminder in case I forget later. When you leave Town Meeting tonight, make sure you drop your response card in the bins that are at both sides of the doors on the way out so that we have those tomorrow.

We’ve got to re-program them so you don’t stay home and watch it on T.V. and vote from there.

One A.

[Pause.]

THE MODERATOR: By a counted vote of 180, we have a quorum and I call the Annual Town
Meeting back into session.

Article 8. Article 8 – yes, Mr. Walker. With a microphone.

MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Moderator. Grant Walker – Charles Grant Walker, actually, Precinct number 3.

I wish to raise the point that calling the question on that Article number 7 at the time that it was called in my opinion resulted in a biased vote because there was a series of a number of individuals who spoke against Article 7 and then one person who spoke in favor of it. And to call the question at that time when I and a number of other people in the meeting had positive things to say about Article 7 I think resulted in a biased vote.

And I move to reconsider the vote on Article 7 and I believe I have information that was not presented that would be considered new information.

THE MODERATOR: Okay. We had a motion to move the previous question after six folks spoke opposed, three had voted in favor and two had asked questions. There were three
additional folks on my list; you were the second
of the three to speak, and Town Meeting
overwhelmingly voted to move the previous
question knowing that there were additional
speakers that wanted to speak because they were
standing up.

So, substantially new information not
available at the time of the original vote. Not
getting to speak is not a substantially new piece
of information not available to the meeting at
the time of the vote.

So the Chair is going to rule that the
motion to reconsider is not in order.

MR. WALKER: Well, this is – I have
information that was not presented that I think
would be new relative to what was presented. As
a matter of fact, I think a question was raised
about the information that I have and there was
no opportunity to present it.

THE MODERATOR: I’m going to go with
the standing ruling that we’re not going to
reconsider.

MR. WALKER: Thank you.

THE MODERATOR: We took the vote. If
folks wanted to continue to debate, they should
have voted no on moving the previous question.
It requires a super-majority; it’s a high
threshold and Town Meeting Members were ready to
make their decision.

Article 8. This is a zoning article.
Planning Board for the main motion.

CHAIRMAN FOX: Good evening. I’m Jim
Fox, present chairman of the Planning Board.
And we would like to move this as printed.

THE MODERATOR: As printed. This is
the accessory apartment addition to the Zoning
Bylaw.

CHAIRMAN FOX: And what this says is
the exact same bylaw we passed last year in both
the Residential and the Agricultural Districts,
and in this case we’re just putting the General
Residential District, which I have a small map to
show you. Do you guys have that?

The clicker’s right here. The zoning
map, well – okay, there it is.

Okay, these are the areas in town where
the General Residential Zones are, okay. You
can see in this map it’s near the village centers
and on the main roads. There’s some up in – there’s very few of them. There’s – oh, I can’t see the streets, here.

Anyways, they’re in the small little village areas. There’s just little teeny sections of them around. It’s a very small percentage of the town and the main reason is is because it was left out, there’s some people that have what they think is perfect application for it and it’s not allowed in their permit, and we just left it off when we put it into the other districts.

So, that’s simply all we’re requesting, is we just add the same language we did last year and insert it in the General Residential District as well as all the Agricultural and the existing Residential Districts.

That’s it.

THE MODERATOR: Okay, Ms. Valiela, you held this one?

MS. VALIELA: Virginia Valiela, Precinct 5, and I’m also vice chair of the Water Quality Management Committee. And I’m going to respectfully ask that it would be more logical to
vote this article at the Fall Town Meeting. And
I have three reasons.

Some of the parcels that were shown on
these maps – and not all of the maps for the Town
were shown – some of those parcels are in
watersheds that have excess nitrogen. The
nitrogen loadings have been measured and the Town
has a Coastal Pond District Overlay zoning map,
but not all of the ponds are on the map. So we
have a bylaw that invokes Coastal Pond Overlay
Districts but it’s a mishmash. Some are
included and some are not included.

This will be corrected at the Fall Town
Meeting. It only came to light after the
warrant had closed after this Annual Town
Meeting. At the Fall Town Meeting, all 15
estuaries that are impaired will be properly on
that map. Some of these General Residence
Districts are in mapped areas and some are not.

Secondly, in General Residence
Districts, you can already have two dwellings per
lot, per parcel. So there’s an opportunity.
It’s not as if you can’t have denser housing in
those areas. If you pass this tonight, then you
would have three, and that needs to be looked at from the nitrogen loading point of view.

And thirdly, as the accessory apartment bylaw has been implemented, we have found there have been some issues in implementing it, and so the Town Manager set up a committee, a working group, that crosses all of the various departments that are affected: Board of Health, Planning Board, Zoning and Water Quality Committee to look at those issues. And we will be coming to Fall Town Meeting with any corrections that are needed for the accessory bylaw.

So I believe we need a coordinated approach, not a piecemeal approach, and so I would ask that you vote this down tonight and that we will look at it over the summer and it can be voted at the Fall Town Meeting if it’s a good idea.

Thank you very much.

THE MODERATOR: Okay, Ms. Putnam.

MS. PUTNAM: Rebecca Putnam, Precinct 9.

Through you, Mr. Moderator, to the
Chairman of the Planning Board. If I’m correct, this is a housekeeping issue; we already voted to allow accessory apartments. But I’d like to ask the Chairman: does this allow the Planning Board to increase the number of bedrooms on these properties or is it just allowing a way for somebody to put an apartment in and maybe delete a bedroom in a house in order to be able to do an accessory apartment, and does it necessarily mean that you’re allowed to build a separate structure on these properties?

THE MODERATOR: Mr. Fox.

CHAIRMAN FOX: To answer your question, it is a housekeeping issue. It is basically taking the exact same bylaw we passed last year and putting it in the General Residential District, as well.

The main reason being, there’s what could really – the only difference is there might be a perfect structure on the site right now. You could have a barn or an outbuilding. You could really – it’s perfect. They can make it in – it’s just the right size, they can make it into an accessory apartment because you’re in the
General Residential District and we left it out. It’s been pointed out to us that that precludes anyone that has that structure, they can’t use it. It’s a small amount of area in town. It’s spread out through the town, and it doesn’t impact a lot of people but it was just thought to be unfair for those who have a perfect structure, want to do it, and they can’t do it.

Under the General Residential zoning, if you want to put in another unit, it has to be done as a townhouse. It has to be – the buildings have to be touching. There has to be livable space. And so that’s really the difference. And this would allow for another structure, a barn on the site or a garage, to be converted. Or an upper floor of a garage that’s already there in a downtown area.

Right now, if it – it could be perfect, but because it’s not allowed in this zoning district it’s prohibited. So, it’s just to cure that one aspect of it.

MS. PUTNAM: I’m sorry –

THE MODERATOR: Ms. Putnam.

MS. PUTNAM: – my last portion of the
question was does it allow the Planning Board to increase the --

CHAIRMAN FOX: Oh, sorry.

MS. PUTNAM: – number of bedrooms.

CHAIRMAN FOX: There’s no change at all in the number of bedrooms. The exact – the bylaw we passed is staying the same. There’s no change in that at all. And most of the problems that are from our experience with the bylaw is really a learning curve that’s taking for the Town and for the Board of Health and for the Building Commissioner. So, it’s working through it. And right now the Board of Health is, it looks like the determination if you’re not changing the amount of bedrooms, you don’t need a different septic system. That seems to be the way it’s going. And I guess that’s the question you were asking.

But that’s a Board of Health issue.

The Planning Board doesn’t make that determination. We’re very clear that the Building Inspector does the Building Code, the Board of Health does the Board of Health code, and all we’re saying is this is where you’re
allowed to put it. And that’s simply all we’re doing, is you can now put it in a – if we pass this bylaw, it can be in a General Residential District, as well as Agricultural and regular Residential we already have.

Does that answer your question?

MS. PUTNAM: Thank you, yes, because it’s to the point of what Ms. Valiela is saying, is basically that we are adding bedrooms in estuaries, and you’re not. You’re keeping the same number of bedrooms in that same lot that somebody is requesting to convert to produce an opportunity, as this Town keeps saying that they want to do, of affordable housing. It’s just a perfect chance to do the housekeeping and make it a possibility for people to be able to rent.

Thank you.

THE MODERATOR: Okay, I had someone in the back right. Yeah.

MR. KLAUER: For the record, my name is Kevin Klauer, Precinct 6, and I’m an attorney with Ament Klauer Law Firm here in Falmouth. I do have some thoughts on this because we do have clients who are interested in the petition.
Specifically, General Residence currently allows you to have a duplex as a by right matter. You can have multifamily housing, which is three or more, in a situation where at least one of them is affordable. Multifamily housing can be in one or two structures. Duplexes must be in one. All this does is allows you to have an accessory apartment in a separate structure, essentially as General Residence does with multifamily housing. The only difference here is we’re talking about two units as opposed to potentially three units.

It seems that the omission of General Residence truly was an oversight. I think there was a lot of surprise when we realized General Residence District was not included in last year’s article, and I think that surprise was shared by the members of the Planning Board that we spoke with.

So, all this does is take the existing bylaw – as Mr. Fox has said, take the existing bylaw and extend it to the district that probably makes the most sense overall for accessory apartments to be allowed.
Thank you.

THE MODERATOR: Okay, Ms. Moran.

CHAIRMAN MORAN: Thank you, Mr. Moderator.

The Board of Selectmen has worked very hard to allow our volunteer committees and folks interested in issues to coordinate efforts. I want to applaud the Planning Board for putting this idea out there, given the really vital need we have to be more creative about our housing, but it caused some issues. It caused some confusion. And I think we owe it to the public going forward to continue the efforts at coordinating so that we provide a more coordinated approach which will allow the public to have more confidence in making plans and to save money in moving forward with the projects.

I think Ms. Valiela and other folks who have looked at this issue in detail and have actually formed a committee to work out some of the kinks is really the perfect balance. So we’re moving forward, but the proposal to not vote this in but wait and discuss it in November would allow the folks that have the most
knowledge to contribute their ideas, coordinate the efforts and move it forward as Town Meeting sees fit in November, but not now.

THE MODERATOR: Okay, Mr. Donahue.

MR. DONAHUE: Bob Donahue, Precinct 3.

Through you, Mr. Moderator, could somebody please define what is a General building area, and why are they scattered so wildly around the town? It looks like, you know, you threw an ink pen at it and where the dots are, that’ll be General housing and all the rest will be regular housing. This is the kind of thing that, as a non-political person in the town I don’t understand these things. They’re scattered. They don’t seem to have any rhyme or reason for being there, but they’re there and they seem to throw obstacles into the way of progress in the town.

THE MODERATOR: Okay, Mr. Fox. Give us a 30,000 foot view of --

CHAIRMAN FOX: The General Residence, the definition, you can build one, two or three family structures. In regular Residential, you can only build one. In General Residence, you
can build one, two or three, and the third one if it’s affordable. And you can do it by right. I’ve actually built several of them around town in the past. That is what General Residential is.

It is used in planning as kind of like a buffer zone. It’s usually used in between a Business zone and a Residential zone. So it’s kind of a buffer where you get a little bit more density in an area just between the two different zones. And it’s generally used in our villages, in our village centers, and that’s where we want to have apartments and houses and more people.

So, it’s part of a general plan in zoning to have the – you know, the zoning flow from residential to business and you put General Residential in the middle. It also has a little bit of business use that’s allowed in by a special permit. In a General Residential zone you can actually have an office, but you have to do it by special permit. You have to go to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

So it’s really like a flex zone. It’s meant to be a buffer between two different zones.
and it’s scattered around in the village centers as a reason because that’s - you should see in some of those areas you would see Residential zones and Business zones in those same areas and it’s usually just in between. Like, it’s all along Palmer Avenue. It’s very - it’s right behind Main Street, it’s from where the B1 changes. Like on Shore Street, the first couple - hundred yards is Business Residential. It’s kind of a buffer zone in between the two larger zones, and it’s in our village centers.

Does that answer the question?

THE MODERATOR: Okay, Ms. Lowell.

MS. LOWELL: Vicki Lowell, Precinct 1.

I think he asked why it was so scattered, and I think part of the reason is that they come from when the Town adopted zoning in 1926. I don’t think many new General Residence areas have been created. And they were probably - most of the zoning then, they just looked at the uses that were on the land at the time and they made categories to fit those uses. So I think that’s very ancient history of why we have such scattered General Residence zones. But I
think Chairman Fox did describe the role that they play in the zoning effort.

Thank you.

THE MODERATOR: Okay. Ms. Valiela, did you?

MS. VALIELA: Mr. Fox and I conferred after his answer. Yes, if you pass this, it can add units. Obviously the proposal will vary from lot to lot. But the density will increase. The nitrogen will increase. And some of these parcels are in the impaired watersheds that are not properly mapped.

We need to – we really need to just logically do it in the fall.


MS. WILSON: Holly Wilson, Precinct 1. Chair of the Affordable Housing Committee.

I was wondering if someone from the Board of Health could speak to the septic issues involved with the General Residence zone. And further, I’m hearing what Ms. Valiela and Ms. Moran are saying, but I think there’s a fairness issue here, as well. This was just overlooked.

When the Planning Board worked for a
couple of years - and I said this at last Town Meeting - worked for a couple of years on this new zoning, all of the departments, all of the committees were asked to give their feedback and their advice, and all these things we assumed were considered.

The other Residential and Agricultural zones, also I would assume parts of them are in these coastal overlay areas, and these people are allowed to do the accessory apartments, whether by special permit or by right. And I do believe that the Board of Health has the oversight on the septic issues and there's state requirements, etcetera, that have to be met.

So, I don’t know, is there someone here that could speak to that?

THE MODERATOR: Scott. Welcome to your first day on the job.

MR. MCGANN: I was just looking; it's been about 14 hours, 15 minutes and 23 seconds.

But, in terms of Title V, if there's, on those parcels, nine bedrooms and they're divided by three units or nine units, Title V doesn't care. So it's based on the number of bedrooms,
and how it’s broken up is not relevant in the code. It’s 110 gallons per day per bedroom, regardless of how it’s actually broken up.

I don’t know a lot about the bylaw since it’s been 14 hours, 13 minutes and 27 seconds, but from what I know about it and the alternative technology, you know, with Title V itself really only cares about the total number of bedrooms on a parcel.

Does that answer your question?

MS. WILSON: [No mic:] Not really.

MR. MCGANN: I didn’t think it would.

[Laughter.]

THE MODERATOR: But he tried.

MR. MCGANN: Since I wasn’t involved with any of the parts previous to it. So I’d have to say I’d have to plead ignorance on that part. But, specifically, I’ll grab the mic.

MS. WILSON: So, with the General — I don’t have all this down, either — General Residence, there can be up to three dwelling units but two have to be attached, like a duplex or townhouses, correct, and the third one has to be affordable? Is that what you said, Jim?
CHAIRMAN FOX: Yes.

MS. WILSON: So, all on one lot?

CHAIRMAN FOX: General Residential is one, two family houses or three, and they have to be - the term is used semi-detached. And my understanding of that is - well, at least when I built three of these things, that living space had to be touching in some place of the structure. We did one on - we did a duplex last year, or we did some on Pelican Lane. And it's a duplex house but it was built by right without any special permit or anything because it was in General Residential. And it just has to be semi-detached. So it can't be a separate structure. And I believe that's really the only difference is - because, by putting this, you could do it in a separate structure, but when you do that it still has to go Board of Health, and it still has to go to the Building Department and it still has to go to Zoning. Zoning has to give them a special permit. So it is given a lot of special care.

Right now - I built - ten years ago I built a three unit, six bedroom house on 12,000
square feet on Locust Street. It was done by right. Just applied to the Board of Health, showed them the system, 610 gallons a day.

Some of this is being attached to the Accessory Apartment bylaw unnecessarily, in my opinion.

THE MODERATOR: Are we all set, Ms. Wilson, or?

MS. WILSON: The concern is wastewater and nitrogen, and so what I’m trying to figure out – is anyone else wondering this, too? – what happens with that lot as far as nitrogen loading? Any problem more than anywhere else in town that can do accessories now? That’s my question. And I don’t think there’s any.

THE MODERATOR: Okay.

MR. MCGANN: Well, Title V just goes by the total number of bedrooms. Whether it’s broken up, it doesn’t – it’s not really important to Title V, just the total number of bedrooms. Not a lot.

THE MODERATOR: Okay, let’s go to the center.

MS. BENNETT: Joanna Bennett, District
My family was actually, I believe, the first to go through the bylaw gauntlet, if you will. And the very first thing we had to do was go to the Board of Health and verify how many bedrooms were on our existing lot and what our plan was going to be, going forward. If we were going to add any bedrooms, we had to install a denitrifying system.

To that end, if as Chairman Fox said this is indeed just going to be, you know, a housekeeping issue as far as adding onto the existing bylaw, I would imagine that that would have to remain true: if you add a bedroom, you have to install the denitrifying system as per the Board of Health.

THE MODERATOR: Ms. Bennett, are you a Town Meeting Member in Precinct 8?

MS. BENNETT: [No mic:] No, I’m not.

THE MODERATOR: Is there a reason why you’re sitting in the center of the Town Meeting?

MS. BENNETT: [No mic:] I didn’t know, am I not supposed to be here?

THE MODERATOR: Yes. [Laughs.]
Only Town Meeting Members or members of boards and committees that are sitting with their respective boards and committees can sit in front of row M or N, wherever the little cutoff is there. Yeah, the one behind you where she’s pointing.

MS. BENNETT: [No mic:] Sorry. I just sat with my friend.

THE MODERATOR: Okay, sorry. All right. So if you could retreat to where the General Public goes.

We’re looking, we’re like, “Oh, we have a new Town Meeting Member.” I’m like, nah, no we don’t. [Laughs.]

But thank you for contributing to the discussion tonight.

[Applause.]


MS. SHEPHARD: Susan Shephard, Precinct 1.

The more I hear, the more I think that Mrs. Valiela is right. I don’t think that putting this off to the fall is going to be big harm to anyone. I really like the idea that
these various boards are getting together and
discussing how this will work. I think we
should wait until the fall to pass this meeting.
I think we should vote no tonight.

THE MODERATOR: Okay. The gentleman
in the center.

I work for several charities in town,
and I get to go into people’s homes and help them
with their financial difficulties. Every time
I’m on duty, I go into a house that has anywhere
between nine and 15 people stacked up. That’s
the only way the workers in our retail
establishments can afford an apartment. Nine
people in a nine room house. Two bathrooms.
Not a working car in the driveway – there were
three cars; there were 12 flat tires.

The people are here. They’re living in
substandard conditions. They need apartments.
Anything we can do to get apartments will
alleviate this housing problem. Bedrooms don’t
make nitrogen; the people do. The people are
already here. They are already making the
nitrogen. I would like to have a whole lot of
apartments to clear out these overcrowded places
and get people decent living conditions.

THE MODERATOR: Okay, we're almost
ready. Ms. Putnam. And I got you on the list.

MS. PUTNAM: Rebecca Putnam, Precinct
9.

I really - one thing I really wish is
that this map was in our warrant books, because I
really can't read the roads that are up there. I
believe one of them, though, highlighted over on
the right is Debra Ann Lane, possibly? And then
the other section up to the left must be over by
Homestead Lane, am I correct? Anybody that can
read that map, tell me.

Okay. So, Debra Ann Lane. I know
none of you are probably familiar with it. But
I'm extremely familiar with it because it was my
grandparents' property. It already has duplexes
and is fully built out and cannot add any more
bedrooms there. Those are apartments.

But over there, over by Homestead Lane,
I believe have structures where people could put
a garage and be able to put an apartment and
eliminate a bedroom if they have to if the Board
of Health says you’re limited to three bedrooms; you’re going to have to take one wall down in that three bedroom house so you can get one bedroom above that garage that may be there separate from the house to add an apartment. Because maybe they don’t need three bedrooms in their house and their kids are gone, but somebody else could use an apartment so they could walk to work in Teaticket.

That’s what we’re talking about. We’re not adding any bedrooms to the actual systems. So, waiting for the Wastewater Management or anybody else to make a determination of what kind of a system you have to have in there, there’s already an established number of bedrooms allowed on that lot, period, and cannot be added.

I ask that you vote yes on this because that section of Teaticket, those folks could use some housing and be able to walk to work. That’s what we’re talking about, giving somebody the opportunity to live and not have added expenses of trying to work and stay in this town.

Thank you.

THE MODERATOR: Mr. Waterbury.
MR. WATERBURY: John Waterbury, Precinct 1 and a member of the Board of Health.

There’s some real problems with Title V with this which we think we have found solutions to. But I encourage Town Meeting to take Virginia’s lead and let that working group go through this summer and work out some of the kinks. There are a number of problems that make this not a straight-forward thing to implement.

We all want to get reasonable affordable housing, but we need to have all of these groups get together, iron out the problems and come back to Town Meeting in the fall with a solution that will really work.

THE MODERATOR: Okay, Mr. Dufresne.

MR. DUFRESNE: No, not for that reason.

Mrs. Valiela made a strong point not against this bylaw, merely a wait period for this body for six months for their committee, who’s sole responsibility are the environmental concerns that we all live with.

Now, I think they’ve done a hell of a job so far. A six month wait for the addition
of these several parcels that were not included in the original zoning article that we’re looking at. So let’s come back in the fall. Personal opinion, I can wait six months. And I’ll be here next fall.

[Laughter.]

MR. DUFRESNE: But I think we would be doing, number one, an injustice to our bylaw system of the Town of Falmouth by not weighing very carefully if there is an environmental concern on several of the parcels not included in the zoning.

Thank you. And I would hope that we would take the time to do it right.

THE MODERATOR: Okay, the question is going to come on the main motion, Article 8 as printed.

This requires a two-thirds vote as a zoning bylaw. All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

[Aye.]

THE MODERATOR: All those opposed no.

[No.]

THE MODERATOR: It’s the opinion of the
Chair that the nos have it; therefore there is
not a sufficient two-thirds majority and the
article does not pass.

Article 10. This is to vote to amend
the Town’s Salary Administration Plan. Madame
Chairman of the Finance Committee for the main
motion.

CHAIRMAN VOGEL: Mr. Moderator, I move
Article 10 as recommended.

THE MODERATOR: As recommended.

Who held this one? Ms. Fenwick.

MS. FENWICK: Judy Fenwick, Precinct 1.

At our precinct meeting last week, there
was a question on one of these positions that
several of them were new, and that there would be
clarifying information at Town Meeting. So I’m
simply asking for that information.


MS. PETIT: Yes, these are not new
positions. We are reclassifying existing
positions.

THE MODERATOR: Okay, further
discussion?

Hearing none, the question will come on
the main motion as recommended. All those in
favor, signify by saying aye.

[Aye.]

THE MODERATOR: All those opposed no.

[None opposed.]

THE MODERATOR: The ayes have it

unanimous.

Article 12. This is the Operating
Budget. Madame Chairman for the main motion.

CHAIRMAN VOGEL: Mr. Moderator, I move

Article 12 as recommended.

THE MODERATOR: Okay, as recommended.

That is the center section, all of the yellow
pages. It starts off with the spreadsheets of
all the expenses and then the last sheet, page 34
of your warrant booklet, lists the revenue
sources to support the expenses in the previous
sheets.

We’ll have a main budget presentation,
general questions, and then we’ll go through the
budget section by section. No need to do a
hold. We’ll just go into each section and folks
can ask questions or make amendments as they see
fit.
Mr. Suso.

MR. SUSO: Thank you, Mr. Moderator.

Julian Suso, Town Manager. We have a brief presentation.

The FY 2019 Operating Budget is pursuing what we call best practices. The Town secured a Community Compact Grant from the state which allowed us to reorganize the budget process to centralize information. And those of you who have seen the budget — since it is available online — will note that it has a revenue chapter, a chapter on debt. It also deals with the financial policies. It includes a community profile and a fund balance schedule, as well. Intended to be much more user friendly and I thank Finance Director Jennifer Petit and members of the Finance Committee for their assistance and support with this important process.

Moving forward, as part of the budget message that is in the rear of your warrant article booklet, I prepared that budget message back in December for transmission to the Board of Selectmen. In summary, the budget includes three additional proposed firefighter positions.

Tinkham Reporting
One additional position in the Police Detective Bureau. An Administrative Clerk for the Building Department. A part-time Building Inspector position. An additional Utility Maintenance Worker in the Water Department; this is the second, as I noted in my budget message. There was one for the current Fiscal Year 18 and an additional one, long anticipated in the Water Department, for FY '19. Again, that’s a Utility Maintenance Worker.

And, finally, a part-time Conservation Regulatory position, as well.

Continuing from the budget message. Health Insurance has increased 7 percent. $200,000 has been moved from Health Insurance to Snow and Ice, resulting in an adjusted net increase of 5.6 percent or $802,823. The Retirement Assessment is 5.65 percent increase; $439,000. The School Department budget represents an increase of 2.65 percent, totaling a $1,234,600 increase.

And the Upper Cape Vocational Tech, there’s a 10.3 percent increase, representing an enrollment increase for that institution totaling
Now we’ll move onto revenues, and Finance Director Jennifer Petit will carry on from here.

Jennifer.

MS. PETIT: Thank you and good evening. We will start with the revenue detail. Property taxes are almost 75 percent of the total revenue used to balance the budget. We have a revenue policy and we also have in our overall fiscal policies we discuss debt exclusions, our local estimated receipts and our other available funds. And I just want to remind Town Meeting that the Board of Selectmen does vote a budget policy every October and we use those guidelines in order to put the budget together.

And, as I say, every year reoccurring revenues fund reoccurring expenses. Our reoccurring revenues are the property taxes, state aid, our estimated local receipts and other available funds. And there is a detail in the back of your warrant booklet of the revenues, how we calculate the revenues and suggested appropriations for your vote tonight.
And one time revenues fund one time expenses, and those are your Free Cash and your Reserves. You’ll see a lot of those appropriations in the Fall Town Meeting.

As you know, we can only raise our property taxes by 2 ½ percent without a ballot vote, so we use that 2 ½ percent to grow the budget, if you will. Our estimated new growth was $700,000. We’re continuing to maximize our debt drop-off, so as we pay down our principal and pay less interest, we incorporate new capital projects into the budget for borrowing and we’re able to continue to do that.

And we are offsetting the debt from the Debt Stabilization Fund for about $1.2 million.

And this just kind of gives you a snapshot of our revenue. And it is just a good picture of, you know, the majority of our revenue for our budget does come from property tax.

And our FY ’19 Operating Budget, as you can tell, these are the different categories that fund our budget and it gives you the percentages. Again, it’s a good snapshot of, you know, where your money goes.
And I also want to mention that this year, for FY '19, we did put a – we put the budget together very differently than we have in the past. And it is on our website and it’s under the Finance Department and also the Board of Selectmen and you can go in there and go in the tabs and look at the different aspects of the budget and there’s a lot more narrative and it gives you more historical reference on the revenues and the expenses. And it’s pretty informative, if you would want to take a look at that.

So our Estimated Local Receipts, what make up our Estimated Local Receipts? Well, we have our taxes: our motor vehicle excise, hotel/motel and meals. A hundred percent of the meals tax is allocated to capital and the General Stabilization Fund, and that is written into our fiscal policies and was a vote of the Board of Selectmen about five years ago.

Our departmental revenue, we have Water and Sewer, Beach, Licenses and Permits, Ambulance and our Special Assessments. Our Special Assessments are our betterments.
In Estimated Local Receipts. We balance the budget on 20.1 million in Estimated Local Receipts. We did increase the estimates in our Water and Sewer revenue. We did raise the water rates last fiscal year to offset budget increases for the Water and the Sewer Departments. As you know, we’re finishing up the Little Pond Sewer Service Area project and we’ve built the Water Filtration Plant which is online right now and there’s been increases in those areas and that’s why we increased the Local Estimated Receipts.

Increased other departmental revenue for three additional firefighters and some additional motor vehicle excise and licenses and permits to offset service increases.

And our other available funds, we vote those every year. There’s really nothing different in the back of the warrant booklet. We have the parking meter revenue; that has been increased because of the new parking meters. Embarkation Fees from the Steamship Authority. Our wetlands and waterways. Our energy receipts. Golf revenues. Our Community
Preservation. Bond premiums and debt stabilization.

And as also as part of our Operating Budget, and it’s not in Article 12 but they’re in subsequent articles, but it is part of the whole process because of the reoccurring revenue. We have dedicated reoccurring revenue to fund our reserves. And we do fund our reserves, over a million dollars which is allocated to our Capital Stabilization Fund. We continue to fund our Stabilization Fund at 440,000 and to fund the OPEB Trust at about 100,000, and continue to fund the Worker’s Compensation Trust Fund, as well.

And I just want to mention, as we probably approach the FY ‘20 budget, we’ll be looking at our reoccurring revenues that are supporting our reserves and looking at reallocating that a little bit.

And our other non-voted appropriations are our state assessments and our allowance for abatements. And what that means is when we estimate the revenue for FY ‘19, we have to keep in mind these expenses that Town Meeting doesn’t vote to appropriate but we have to raise that
money on the tax rate when we set the tax rate in November.

So, in conclusion, our new positions will result in an increase in the service to the community. The budget allows for flexibility, and continued implementation and further exploration of departmental reorganization and cost saving measures.

Thank you.

THE MODERATOR: Okay, we’ll lead off with any general questions before we get into the actual line items.

Mr. Young.

MR. YOUNG: Bob Young, Precinct 5.

I’ve brought this up before and I’ll bring it up again this year. There are six items in this Operating Budget, Article 12 Operating Budget, that have the word “capital” next to them, and I question why those are in there. And if we vote on these in an Operating Budget, do we have to vote again for these capital items? I don’t think they belong in there.

THE MODERATOR: Okay, Ms. Petit.
MS. PETIT: Yes, there are certain reoccurring capital items that we know we want to fund every year. A small percentage of the Capital Budget, for instance cruisers. We know that we’re going to need to buy police cruisers every year. And we have some smaller equipment in the IT budget and it is capital and we do vote that as a separate line item. But we wanted to work that into the Operating Budget, which we did a few years ago, just to make sure that we had, you know, some reoccurring revenue for those capital expenses. And also there’s some small equipment in the Fire Department as well.

THE MODERATOR: Okay, anything else, Mr. Donahue.

MR. DONAHUE: Bob Donahue, Precinct 3. And through you, Mr. Moderator, to Mr. Suso. You mentioned that you’re going to, in the Police Department go – have another detective. Is this going to come just from the general ranks of a patrolman? And if so, are we going to hire and look out for a new officer to – person to take that new – the old officer’s post?

I’m not sure how to phrase that, but I
think you got the idea.

THE MODERATOR: Mr. Suso.

MR. SUSO: I do get the idea, thank you.

Essentially, Chief Dunne has indicated that – the importance of adding another officer to the Detective Bureau and, to accomplish that, we will be hiring a new police officer full time, essentially, and the Chief will make the determination about which officer is most appropriate to assign to that Detective Bureau. So it will be a net increase of an additional police officer, correct.

THE MODERATOR: Okay. Any other general questions?

All right, we’ll jump in, here.

Town Meeting. Town Moderator.


Planning Department. Zoning Board of Appeals.
Building Department. Health Inspection.

Police Department. Fire Department.

Consolidated Communications Department. Marine & Environmental Services.

Department of Public Works. Facilities Maintenance. Administration and Engineering.

Highway Division. Snow and Ice Control.


DPW Wastewater Utilities.

FROM THE FLOOR: Mr. Moderator.

THE MODERATOR: This hand up first.

You yelled, but he put his hand up first.

Mr. Zweig and then - yeah.

MR. ZWEIG: Thank you, Mr. Moderator.

I just have a question on the Other expenses line, line 159. As I recall from the Fall 2017 Town Meeting, $120,000 was voted to compensate for electricity that was no longer generated by the wind turbines because they were not operating. And I’m just wondering what this $134,800 is for, specifically. Is it again in part for or mostly for the electricity gap from Fiscal Year 2018, or this is about a 50 percent
increase? So, I’m just curious about what it is.

Thank you.


MS. PETIT: I can answer the question generally and then Amy Lowell can come up and speak about her specific line items. Those are a number of line items that we need to operate the Wastewater Treatment Department. And that 120,000 was incorporated into the budget that year and it hasn’t increased from 120,000. We incorporated it into the Operating Budget and it’s still incorporated in the budget.

If you want detail of what those other line items are, Amy can come up and give you a better overview.

THE MODERATOR: Mr. Zweig, do we want to go in - do you want to dig a little deeper?

MR. ZWEIG: Yeah.

THE MODERATOR: Okay.

MR. ZWEIG: Yeah, thank you. Um, what I’m – what I’m basically thinking about about what you just said is that when I went back to look at the budget, it was approved last spring
for this fiscal year. The amount was the same as the budget here of 729,642. So, that was approved and then, on top of that, there was 120,000 approved. So that, that, if you go back to the budget that was approved by this body last spring, it was the same amount: 729,642. So the 120,000 seems to be on top of that, because it’s the same figure.

MS. PETIT: I can answer that. We increased the budget. It wasn’t in April. We increased it that November. So it was a year ago November. And then it was incorporated into the budget and that’s why it’s the same. But it is in the electricity budget, that 120,000.

MR. ZWEIG: I’m talking about the spring vote, a year ago, not the fall. The spring. The fall vote was 120 – sorry, the spring.

MS. PETIT: We’re not adding 120 every year. We added it once; we don’t keep increasing it, if that’s what your question is.

THE MODERATOR: Ms. Lowell.

MS. LOWELL: Ms. Petit is right, that it was a vote in November because it wasn’t
included in the Operating Budget previously.

This was a vote to increase the Operating Budget, and once that change is made, that will be the baseline for the following years’ operating budget. The only other change was a $15,000 increase in the request for chemicals.

Sorry, Amy Lowell, Wastewater Superintendent.

THE MODERATOR: Okay. Okay, Mr. Zweig.

MR. ZWEIG: So, in the 130 for those and 120,000 is for electricity, roughly?

MS. LOWELL: Yes.

MR. ZWEIG: Is that right? Okay.

THE MODERATOR: Yes.

MR. ZWEIG: Thank you. Because the turbines aren’t working, thank you.

THE MODERATOR: Okay, Mr. Walker.

MR. WALKER: [No mic: inaudible.]

THE MODERATOR: Okay, that was the same issue, okay.

Any further discussion on DPW Wastewater Utilities?

DPW Water Utilities. Renewable energy.
What’s that? We have a question?

FROM THE FLOOR: Yeah, what is it and how come it dropped so much?


MS. PETIT: That line item is the Vestus contract who holds the maintenance agreement for the wind turbines and the wind turbines are not running, so the maintenance has decreased.

THE MODERATOR: DPW Parks. Mr. Latimer. And then Mr. Netto.

MR. LATIMER: Richard Latimer, Precinct 1.

When I was a kid, I used to work for the Park Department summers and I know we used to take care of all the athletic fields. I think we did a good job. We had – the foreman was Joe Couto; he was very good at directing us and most fields were in good shape. I would like to know, I – I’m assuming the Park Department still is responsible for doing that work, and I would like to know how much more in terms of salaries it would require to bring the Park Department or
whatever agency is doing the fields now, up to adequate staff to maintain the fields as the Recreation Department has shown that so many of these fields are now in a state of disgrace all over town, and I would like to know how much more would be required. And I would like to know this in terms of maintaining all of our fields. How much more money would be required to get adequate staff to maintain our grass fields?

Thank you.

THE MODERATOR: Okay, who wants to -

Mr. Jack?

MR. SUSO: Mr. Moderator – yeah I’m sure Ray Jack, our Public Works Director, can comment but we’re not prepared to give an instant answer to that question. It’s something that would require further analysis and report. But I would welcome Ray’s comments, as well, if he may do so.

THE MODERATOR: Yes. Mr. Jack.

MR. JACK: We’ll be doing an extensive amount of research and analysis over the course of the next several months and I would presume that, at a minimum, we would have something to
report back in November; at the outside, it would
be next spring. But there is no question that
two things happened here. Well, actually three.
In that the usage of the fields has gone up over
the years. The maintenance, as a consequence,
has gone up over the years. And I think
probably one of the biggest players of recent
years that has had an impact on this is the
economic recession that we went through.

From a Public Works Department
perspective, I think that the Department
performed very well over that period of time. We
did, I think, much better than most communities
did in being able to maintain services without
dramatically cutting what we have. But the
simple reality of an eight year recession like
that is that we didn’t have the opportunity to
grow in the various divisions, such as the Parks
division as we normally would have. And I think
now at this Town Meeting you’re starting to see
where we’re able to rebound from that and recover
from it and move forward with advancing those
services by trying to restore some of the
services that were lost.
So, even in the Town Manager’s budget message that you heard a few minutes ago, one of those positions was in the Water Department, for a utilities maintenance worker, and that is one of the maintenance positions that was frozen over that economic time period. So we actually had seven positions that were cut or held back as a consequence of that. So we’re starting to move forward now.

But I think by November, latest next Town Meeting, we’ll have a much better organizational plan for you.

THE MODERATOR: Mr. Netto.

MR. NETTO: Joe Netto, Precinct 9. I would like to just make a comment similar to Mr. Latimer’s and I would hope that the Board of Selectmen would obviously be behind the idea and the statement as Mr. Jack just said that we need more people.

I was holding this as a DPW Parks because I’m sure if all of you look in your neighborhood, your neighborhood is no different than mine two weeks after the storm that devastated this town. There’s still trees and
branches down, on Town property, not private.

We heard a report tonight from the Recreation chairman and we saw the condition of the fields.

And first – and I’m not pointing any finger because we have to give this department the money to do their job and then we have to give them the people; and we’re not doing that.

We don’t need a big study. I mean, we always love studies. We need more people in the general term of the Department of Public Works, whether it be the Tree Department – I mean, it’s so obvious in the Tree Department. Those gentlemen are going to be out there until the Fourth of July weekend, and we expect them to be doing the same – the job that they’re supposed to be doing, because it’s April, May, June.

I think we have to come to the realization that we need more support staff in this town. We need more blue collar workers. To show pictures that we saw earlier we would tend to think that, wow, somebody’s not doing their job. No, I don’t think so. The chairman showed you that a position was cut. I don’t want to get into that and ask why. But
hopefully our elected Board of Selectmen will
take the initiative. And I would ask the rest
of you Town Meeting Members that if you feel this
way that when you see them that maybe we should
say it, and ask them.

If my memory serves me correct – and Mr. Herbst and I were talking about this at the
precinct meeting – a little history here – about
ten or maybe 15 years ago Ralph Herbst got up,
and we created five more positions in the DPW.
So, this body has been aware of the service that
that department does and the manpower that it
needs. I would hope the administration of the
Town begins to realize that, also.

Thank you.

THE MODERATOR: Anything else on DPW Parks? Oh, somebody in the back? Mr. McDonald?

MR. DONALD: Malcolm Donald, Precinct 6.

Yeah, why do we have to wait a year to
have our athletic fields remain deplorable? I
mean, this is disgusting. I mean, it’s like why
do we have the worst fields? Tonight, we’re
going to be – or this meeting, we’re going to be
talking about purchasing a state of the art turf
- artificial turf field, when we’re not even
maintaining our existing fields. So, what’s
going on? What do we have to do to fix it?
And let’s not have to wait a year.

[Applause.]

THE MODERATOR: Okay, anything else,
DPW Parks?

Education. Mr. Shearer, did you want
to – no, okay.

School Department. Upper Cape
Vocational School. Clinics and Nurses.
Council on Aging.

Mr. Dufresne.

MR. DUFRESNE: Line item 194, Meals on
Wheels, that’s a service that’s always been
provided for the elderly people that are shut in
and, for some reason or other, that one and
Volunteers to the Elderly of a thousand dollars,
neither one of them are funded in that particular
budget. Is there a reason why?

THE MODERATOR: He wants to know why
the line item is zeroed out for Meals on Wheels.
Yes, Mr. Johnson-Staub.

MR. JOHNSON-STAUB: Peter Johnson-Staub, Assistant Town Manager.

So, just to repeat the question if anyone didn’t hear it. Mr. Dufresne was asking about the line items for Meals on Wheels and Volunteers for the Elderly, which are funded at two combined 16,000 for the current year Fiscal ‘18, and in this report showing it zeroed out for Fiscal ‘19.

What we did is a re-allocation.

There’s an annual formula grant that the Council on Aging has been receiving for, I don’t know, 20 years, and those items are being funded from that annual formula grant. And that was part of a switch where we are actually increasing funding in total for the Council on Aging slightly by fully funding an Outreach Coordinator position that appears under the Salary and Wage section.

So, if you see the increase from roughly 220,000 to 258,000 in Salary and Wages, that reflects that increased commitment to that year-round 30 hour a week position.

So, it was a matter of we had a position
that was partially funded in the budget,
partially funded by a grant. We felt it made
sense to make a, you know, a long-term
commitment. But that Meals on Wheels program
will continue. It’s funded by the grant. And,
if anything were to happen to that grant, I
assure you we would be coming back for budgeted
funds because it is a critically important
service.

MR. DUFRESNE: My question to you, Mr.
Staub: is this program still going to be
administered through the Council on Aging?

MR. JOHNSON-STAUB: Yes. Yes, it is.

MR. DUFRESNE: I truly believe that if
it raised the question in my mind, it should
raise a question in a lot of other peoples’ minds
and there should have been a proper, a proper
explanation of why it was deleted from the
budget.

THE MODERATOR: Okay, again, it was
reorganized back to the formula grant. So we’re
not getting rid of the Meals on Wheels. They
just reorganized with a formula grant, put the
money up in the Salaries and Wages. Okay.
Anything else on the Council on Aging?

Mr. Finneran?

MR. FINNERAN: [No mic: inaudible.]

THE MODERATOR: Let’s do a microphone, please, for the record.

MR. FINNERAN: Is the same true for – I’m Marc Finneran, Precinct 6.

Is the same true for the Visiting Nurses up above that’s been zeroed out? Is that going to continue?

MR. JOHNSON-STAU: Mr. Moderator.

THE MODERATOR: Yeah.

MR. JOHNSON-STAU: That item has been moved within the budget. If you look under Human Services, the final line item, which is actually number 91, shows the funding for the VNA.

THE MODERATOR: Okay. Anything else Council on Aging?


Beach Department. Bikeways Committee.


And the last page, A through L, revenue line items.

Any further questions on the budget? Hearing none, the question will come on the main motion as recommended.

All those in favor, signify by saying Aye.

[Aye.]

THE MODERATOR: All those opposed no.

[None opposed.]

THE MODERATOR: The ayes have it unanimous.

Ms. O’Connell? Let’s do a microphone, please.


I rise to make a motion that we table the next two articles held and move instead to Article 22 in light of the time. And Article 22 being about the replacement of the seats. This
is I think a perfect moment --

[Laughter.]

MS. O’CONNELL: – to approach that

issue and give the appropriate amount of time to
the other two articles tomorrow night.

THE MODERATOR: Okay. All right, we
don’t need a motion to table because there’s not

a motion on the floor. So the motion would be
to advance to the Article 22.

The question will come on advancing to
Article 22.

All those in favor, signify by saying
Aye.

[Aye.]

THE MODERATOR: All those opposed no.

[No.]

THE MODERATOR: It’s the opinion of the
Chair that the ayes have it by a majority and
Article 22, Madame Chairman of the Finance
Committee for the main motion.

CHAIRMAN VOGEL: Mr. Moderator, I move

Article 22 as recommended.

THE MODERATOR: I’ve just got to keep

track so I don’t forget to do those tomorrow
Article 22 as recommended. This is to transfer the sum of $200,000 from Certified Free Cash for the purpose of replacing the seats in the auditorium here at Lawrence School.

Ms. Murphy held this one. I thought it was Ms. Murphy, no?

Mr. Putnam, did you hold this?

MR. PUTNAM: [No mic:] I will [inaudible.]

THE MODERATOR: Ms. Siegal, I’ve got you up further in the book, but okay. Carol Murphy held this.

FROM THE FLOOR: Carol Murphy held it.

THE MODERATOR: Yeah, that’s what I thought.

FROM THE FLOOR: She’s gone.

THE MODERATOR: Oh, she’s gone, okay. So, Mr. Putnam, you’re up first. And then, Ms. Siegal, I’ll come over to you.

MR. PUTNAM: Thank you, Mr. Moderator, Brent Putnam, Precinct 9.

My butt hurts. So I’m thankful I can stand.
But if you’ll excuse that for just a moment, I’m going to ask that you all vote this down, because, these seats – I heard a groan, I know, but come on: these seats. Look at these seats, folks. They’ve been here for, what this says, the 1950's. These things are 75 years old?

You know, there’s an old saying that goes, “If it ain’t broke, don’t fix it.”

FROM THE FLOOR: [General talking.]

MR. PUTNAM: And sometimes you do have to replace things.

THE MODERATOR: Folks. That is unacceptable. Mr. Putnam has the floor.

MR. PUTNAM: Thank you, Mr. Moderator.

I’m not sure what we’re going to replace these seats with, but quite frankly I don’t think that there’s anything that we can replace these seats with that is going to last another 75 years. I have not sat in a single seat in this auditorium -- and I’ve sat in this auditorium a lot. Not just for this, but from when all three of my kids went through these schools – this school. And none of these seats failed on me.
I’ve seen seats in other auditoriums fail. We’ve had to replace seats in other auditoriums. I’ve seen a lot of furniture in this school system get replaced; these seats are 75 years old, Folks, and they still hold us. They still function, they still work. Replacing them just because our butts hurt? I mean, come on.

The reality is is we’d be throwing good money after bad, in that case. Please, vote this down.

FROM THE FLOOR:  Hear, hear.

THE MODERATOR:  Okay, Ms. Siegal.

MS. SIEGAL:  Deborah Siegal, Precinct 6.

And, yes, you are going to see history here tonight because Mr. Putnam and I agree on something.

[Laughter.]

MS. SIEGAL:  We’re being asked to spend almost a quarter of a million dollars for a few hours that we spend here twice a year. Now, I have had to accept the fact recently that I have become an old person. And I would just as
happily be sitting in something really comfortable and that is why I bring a cushion.

I completely agree with what Mr. Putnam said about the quality of these seats. I think money can be much better spent for the students, to do something else for them in the schools.

There’s also a possibility that if we put something - cushions in here, we don’t know what is going to happen to air quality with cushions. These nice, solid seats don’t have that problem. So I would ask you to vote this down. Let’s give the money to the schools and let’s all go out and buy cushions. Maybe the schools can start selling those cushions that they used to sell. And we can figure out how to get through this without spending a quarter of a million dollars.

Please vote it down. Thank you.

THE MODERATOR: Okay. This is on request of the School Committee. Does the School Committee want to weigh in on this? It’s your article, so.

MS. TAYLOR: Nancy Taylor, Precinct 1, Superintendent of Schools.
We put the article in after it was being requested by several people and several stakeholders. So, the School Committee put the article forward and we’re hoping that you will replace the seats here in our auditorium.

Thank you.

THE MODERATOR: Okay, Mr. Bidwell.

MR. BIDWELL: Ms. Taylor started to answer the question. That was my question, was why the School Committee was bringing this forward. And could we ask for a bit more clarification as far as the stakeholders?

Tod Bidwell, Precinct 4, if I didn’t say it. Thank you.

And as far as the stakeholders, what are – is it regarding the use of the auditorium, that we’re seeing an increase of community use, school use? Just what are some of the concerns?

THE MODERATOR: Ms. Taylor.

MS. TAYLOR: Thank you, I’d be happy to address that. If you look around, you’ll see seats that are broken and not available for use anymore. We’ve had complaints about cracks in the seats and people being cut on the seats.
We’ve heard from parents, we’ve heard it from community members. It was, you know, it behooved me to put it forward and let Town Meeting decide what they wanted to do with the seats here in the Lawrence School.

THE MODERATOR: Okay, Ms. Lichtenstein.

MS. LICHTENSTEIN: Leslie Lichtenstein, Precinct 8.

I have a question for anyone on the board who can answer this. I was told that Town Meeting voted to replace these seats a number of years ago, and the money was never expended for that? Could someone address that?

THE MODERATOR: Well we haven’t done it in the last 19 ½ years. I know that. I believe it was originally in the scope of work of the renovation project but was then downsized with the budget within the renovation.

Ms. Taylor.

MS. TAYLOR: Thank you, Mr. Moderator, Nancy Taylor, Precinct 1. Superintendent of Schools.

I did reach back to a former superintendent to be able to answer this
question, and the answer that I received was that
these became a low priority as change orders came
forward and that the district had to fund the
change orders and the renovations and that the
seats dropped to the bottom of the list and they
never did make it.

THE MODERATOR: Okay, Mr. Latimer.

Mrs. Whitehead, you’re on the list.

MR. LATIMER: Thank you. Richard
Latimer, Precinct 1. Again, like Deborah, I am
in the unusual position of having to agree with
Mr. Putnam.

I go back a long way with these seats,
and I like them for Town Meeting. I cannot
stand Town Meeting up at the new High School with
those padded seats. I just go to sleep.

[Laughter.]

MR. LATIMER: These seats, just as they
used to keep me awake –

THE MODERATOR: Maybe I ought to get a
wooden chair up here.

[Laughter.]

MR. LATIMER: Just as they used to keep
me awake during study hall and assemblies in
1961, they keep me awake at this meeting.

I would like to offer a constructive suggestion, however, is they could use a little bit of rehabbing. Some of them are broken. I think these are a great example of Mid-19th Century — excuse me, Mid-20th Century —

[Laughter.]

MR. LATIMER: — functional — functional, very functional, natural materials. I don’t think we should junk them. I think we should maybe spend not a couple of hundred thousand, but maybe spend, maybe spend twenty or even thirty thousand to refinish them, repair some of them that are broken and bring them back to what they should be. That would be my suggestion. Maybe come back next Town Meeting and do that.

Thank you.

THE MODERATOR: Okay, Ms. Wilson.

This list is really long, so let’s — Ms. Wilson.

MS. WILSON: I actually would like to keep these chairs, as well. And the reason — there’s two reasons why. One’s been mentioned
before. One is the synthetic materials that chairs are made of now, we don’t know what that does to air quality, et cetera.

But, secondly, it’s unsanitary. You can’t clean those cushioned chairs. I know from movie theaters, when I get home I have to wash my clothes because they’re dirty, and nobody cleans them. They can’t really be cleaned. And I think the expense of cleaning something like that would be prohibitive.

I am actually quite comfortable in these, and I had sat in them my freshman year of high school here, and then I moved into the new high school where there were padded seats, and I would have preferred these all the way along the way.

And there were air quality problems at that new high school, too, that didn’t exist here.

So, those things need to be thought about.

THE MODERATOR: Okay, Ms. Whitehead.

MS. WHITEHEAD: Lynn Whitehead, Precinct 1.
I think we could get an antique dealer in here and we might get our money back because of these. But I’ve been in this school a long time and worked in this school and, you know, we’ve had splinters. There’s been students that have received splinters. I’ve gotten a splinter.

We’ve had them break. We’ve got a broken one down there without any back. The custodians have repaired these.

There are many things that happen in this auditorium; it’s not just Town Meeting. This auditorium is used all the time. All the time.

And the students do not take pride in these seats. And, believe it or not, it makes a difference to students when they sit in these seats. They do not feel that they are worthy enough to have good seats.

FROM THE FLOOR: [Inaudible.]

MS. WHITEHEAD: Yeah, you think that’s a “Nah”, but it’s true. They go to the high school, and actually –

Now, I graduated – I hate to tell you
this - in 1960 from Dedham High School. Brand new high school with the seniors that year. Those same seats are still in existence. They have no formaldehyde. They are perfectly good for the environment. You can get good seats.

The BSO has gone through all kinds of studies to find the seats that they should have. Those seats are remarkable; they’ve been there for years and years and years.

And just for the investment to help kids, to help all of the people in this town to come into this school. It’s been renovated. When Dr. Antonucci did all this work and to help with everything that has been done in this school system, and then here we have old, battered, broken - the backs break. I just think that we deserve, the kids deserve, the community deserves to look at that and say, “Wow, this is nice.”

And they don’t - you know, chairs are not all the same. There are many, many seats for an auditorium. It just takes a good committee to find out which ones are the best. And they don’t have to spend all outdoors for them. They can be good and they can be
reliable.

So, I would hope that we could vote for this. And it’s an investment in the future that can last and last and last and last. These are going to break. They will break. They have broken. And I don’t want to get any more – how many of you have gotten a splinter in your butt?

[Laughter.]

MS. WHITEHEAD: It’s happened before, here, and it’s not been one time or two.

Thank you very much.

THE MODERATOR: Mr. Netto.

MR. NETTO: Joe Netto, Precinct 9.

I’d like to remind Town Meeting Members that we’re responsible for all the money that’s going into the tax rate except for a Proposition 2 ½ override. And that’s our fiscal responsibility as Town Meeting Members. And we have to make decisions. And, oh, boy, wouldn’t it be nice to have a brand new seat here? We think. And what would we be getting? Well, we don’t know.

You know, sometimes the devil you know is better than the devil you don’t know.
But I’d like to talk more about fiscal responsibility in the sense that I just stood up here ten minutes ago, saying that, you know, we should hire more Department of Public Works employees, that we need more support staff. Well, it’s time to make a decision. We can’t have it both ways.

I would much rather take this sum of money and spend it on what we need in the Town for the six nights that we spend sitting in these seats. And these seats are being done for us. They’re being done because we went to the high school because they were softer. We got there and we found out: yeah, the seat was – but it was very narrow.

Look down on what you’re sitting on. I’ve been sitting in this seat since 1958. It’s still functional. Yeah, would we like a Lazy Boy recliner? Sure, we would. But I really think we have to look at what our responsibility is here. Do we need to appropriate $200,000 to have brand new, shiny seats, or do we want to back up what we say and spend this money and get a better bang for the taxpayers’ dollar?
Thank you.

I would hope you will vote this down.

Thank you.

THE MODERATOR: Mr. Shearer.

Yeah, you’re next on the list. Ms. Shephard, I’ll add you to the list.

MR. SHEARER: Dan Shearer, Precinct 6.

I wanted to know why we were spending all this money. So I met the gentleman who takes care of this room, and I asked him why. And he had one reason: they are breaking, you can’t get parts, and we can’t make parts for these chairs.

If you go up in the balcony, you’ll find there’s quite a few chairs missing. They’ve been brought down here to replace the ones that are broken. That’s the – and I don’t know who put this on the warrant to come up here and made this; I would think they would be here. But that, as far as I’m concerned, is the reason.

I don’t want to spend the money. I think that the kids don’t sit here that long and it keeps them awake. But –

[Laughter.]
THE MODERATOR: We could buy wooden chairs.

MR. SHEARER: But the new chairs, if we do get them, are two inches wider. They will be either a vinyl or a cloth and they will not last – being in the furniture business – 20 years. No more 70-something.

Thank you.

THE MODERATOR: Okay, Ms. Fenwick.

Ms. Connolly, you’re on the list.

MS. FENWICK: Judy Fenwick, Precinct 1 and a former member of the School Committee.

I have a little history. I think maybe four or five years ago, when Hamilton Tree bought the Nickelodeon Theater out on 151, they offered the School Department the chairs from the Nickelodeon. We turned down the offer for two reasons. One, there weren’t enough of those chairs because they didn’t come up to the 700 plus that are needed for this room? Can somebody tell me how many chairs are here right now?

FROM THE FLOOR: [Inaudible.]

MS. FENWICK: No, no, that’s the number
of new ones. Is it not correct? Is it 640 seats that are here right now?

FROM THE FLOOR: 750.

THE MODERATOR: 750.

MS. FENWICK: Thank you. And so the Nickelodeon seats were not that number and we’d have had to store them for a period of time. So the School Committee turned that down.

I’m conflicted on this. I was tempted to make an amendment on this article, which I think I’ll do. Which is for the first sentence to read: “To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money for the purpose of repairing the seats in Memorial Auditorium” and have it remain -- but I do not have a sum of money to put in.

Do I need to do that as part of the amendment?

THE MODERATOR: Well, if you’re just going to change “replace” with --

MS. FENWICK: “Repair”.

THE MODERATOR: – “repair”, and transfer the sum of $200,000 from Certified Free Cash.
MS. FENWICK: No.

THE MODERATOR: Then, you can’t fix something without money.

MS. FENWICK: Okay –

THE MODERATOR: I know I wouldn’t do it for free, so.

MS. FENWICK: Okay, does somebody want to help me out on a potential dollar amount? 20,000? This is like an auction, okay. All right, so I –

THE MODERATOR: I think the best bet would be if you want to go on that route, vote no on this and then the Finance Committee can go through the process of bringing a future article for repair after they figure out what it costs to repair them.

MS. FENWICK: Okay, all right.

THE MODERATOR: That way the School Committee could bring it and Finance Committee will review it.

MS. FENWICK: Okay, so I would like to make sure we vote to turn this down at this point and for Fall Town Meeting to come back with further information.
THE MODERATOR: Okay, Mr. Clark. No,
you’re all set. Okay.

Mrs. Schwalbe.

MRS. SCHWALBE: [No mic:] My questions have been answered.

THE MODERATOR: Questions have been answered.

Mr. Zweig.

MR. ZWEIG: Ron Zweig. I’m sorry, I didn’t – Precinct 1. Sorry I didn’t identify myself when I spoke previously.

I’m just wondering about this. There is a couple of numbers in there. Since we’re in a school, I look at the arithmetic. And if you look at 640 seats, times –

FROM THE FLOOR: Hold the microphone up.

MR. ZWEIG: If you look at 640 seats times $240 a seat, that comes out to $153,600. Which is 30 percent, roughly, below what’s being asked. So, does it mean there are going to be more seats or what does it mean?

FROM THE FLOOR: Installation.

THE MODERATOR: Yeah, Mister –
microphone to my right, please. I’m sure we have to pay the guys to get rid of the old ones, but go ahead.

MR. MURPHY: Pat Murphy, Director of Finance and Operations.

That’s the answer. We have to – there’s an install cost and there’s a get rid of the old chair cost. Our estimates for the seats come in somewhere between 170 a seat to 260 a seat. We haven’t put this out to bid because we – no money was allocated yet. So we feel the $200,000 number is right in the ballpark.

There would be fewer seats because the seats are bigger.

THE MODERATOR: Okay, Ms. Connolly.

We’re almost there.

MS. CONNOLLY: Hi, Annie Connolly, Precinct 6.

We’ve heard from Nancy Taylor and others that the seats can’t be repaired or fixed; that they’re in failure; that kids have gotten hurt.

I happen to be sitting diagonally across from two extraordinarily tall men. I don’t know how they sit here, because my fanny hurts and I’m
5'3". Of course, it’s a little bigger than theirs, but they - um. You know, people back in the ‘50’s weren’t big. They weren’t this big. Have you seen the kids here at Lawrence, these days? They are very tall. I don’t think these chairs were made for modern day people. Sorry, I don’t.

And I think we should support the public schools who have asked, who have come to us and asked for money. They have told us numerous times that it’s not just for Town Meeting. This building needs some work. It’s in pretty bad shape. And I think we should – and we just had a big conversation about deferred maintenance and the fields and - and look where we are.

So why are we going to kick the can down the road some more? I think we should support it and I think we should go home.

Thanks.

FROM THE FLOOR: Yeah.

THE MODERATOR: Okay. One more.

Ms. Shephard.

MS. SHEPHARD: [No mic:] Ask the question.
THE MODERATOR: Yeah, ask the question.

The question is going to come on the main motion, Article 22 as recommended. All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

[Aye.]

THE MODERATOR: All those opposed no.

[No.]

THE MODERATOR: Let’s cue up that slide.

[Laughter.]

THE MODERATOR: The Chair will entertain a motion to go past 11:00 for the purpose of the roll call.

All those in favor, signify by saying Aye.

[Aye.]

THE MODERATOR: All those opposed no.

[No.]

THE MODERATOR: The opinion of the chair is that the ayes have it by the two-thirds.

[Laughter.]

THE MODERATOR: Okay, if you want the new seats appropriation, 1A -

MR. DONALD: Mr. Moderator.
THE MODERATOR: Mr. McDonald. Mr. Donald.

MR. DONALD: [No mic:] Yes. A roll call, please.

FROM THE FLOOR: No, no.

THE MODERATOR: It’s too late. I already called for a voice vote and I couldn’t determine the outcome of the voice vote, so we can’t change the method of voting; we go to the clickers.

We’ll get to your article tomorrow night to do that every time we do this.

So, 1A is yes. 2B -

MR. DONALD: [No mic:] Point of information, when do you ask for a roll call vote?

THE MODERATOR: During the course of debate, you can fix the method of voting. You cannot fix the method of voting after you vote.

MR. DONALD: [No mic:] We haven’t voted yet.

THE MODERATOR: Yes, you did, and I could not determine a voice vote, so therefore I’ve asked a slide to be prepared to use the
electronic voting device.

Are we ready on the slide? Okay. A

yes is 1A, no is 2B. Article 22, to transfer
the sum of $200,000 from Certified Free Cash for
replacing the seats in the auditorium.

[Pause.]

THE MODERATOR: Ten seconds remaining
in the poll.

[Pause.]

THE MODERATOR: Okay, folks, when you
leave tonight, don’t forget to put your clickers
in the box in the back of the room.

By a counted vote of 122 in favor --

[Cheers.]

THE MODERATOR: -- and 64 opposed, the
article passes and the meeting will stand
adjourned by a call of the Chair until seven
o’clock tomorrow night.

Don’t forget to turn in your clickers on
the way out.

[11:04, whereupon meeting adjourned.]

Tinkham Reporting
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

COUNTY OF BARNSTABLE, SS

I, Carol P. Tinkham, a Professional Court Reporter and Notary Public in and for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate record of Night One of the Falmouth Annual Town Meeting, taken by me on Monday, April 9, 2018. To the best of my ability the within transcript is a complete, true and accurate record.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and Notary Seal this 10th Day of May, 2018.

_____________________________
Carol P. Tinkham, Notary Public

My Commission Expires:
April 5, 2024

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