



43 Response) grant application has opened. The program funds either new career firefighters or  
44 funds programs or initiatives to retain volunteer or call firefighters. Chief Geiger would like to  
45 apply for a grant to fund 2 career call firefighters for 36 months, after which the Town would  
46 have to commit to funding these positions. The Chief was asked to consider how the Town  
47 could apply and benefit from the call grant program. The Grant application is due April 12th.  
48 This matter will be tabled until next week.

49 **7:20 PM Meeting with Community Preservation Committee**

50 The CPC has voted to recommend the projects included in the draft Town Meeting Warrant.  
51 Ross Povenmire was in attendance and summarized the projects. He discussed all CPC  
52 appropriations and reserves.

53 **Article #13** Appropriate or reserve from the Community Preservation Fund annual revenues in  
54 the amounts recommended by the Community Preservation Committee for committee  
55 administrative expenses, debt service, community preservation projects and other expenses in  
56 Fiscal Year 2025, with each item to be considered a separate appropriation.

57 On a **MOTION** made by **Perkins**, second by **Stickney**, the Select Board  
58 **VOTED** unanimously to support Article #13 as presented.

59 **Article #14** Appropriate \$12,445 from the Community Preservation Historic Fund balance to  
60 fund the rehabilitation of the Boxford Historic Documents Center climate control system and  
61 associated chimney.

62 On a **MOTION** made by **Costello**, second by **Perkins**, the Select Board  
63 **VOTED** unanimously to recommend adoption of Article #14.

64 **Article #15** Johnson Field Playground

65 On a **MOTION** made by **Costello**, second by **Stickney**, the Select Board  
66 **VOTED** unanimously to recommend adoption of Article #15.

67 **Article #16** Boxford Common Irrigation Well

68 On a **MOTION** made by **Stickney**, second by **Perkins**, the Select Board **VOTED**  
69 unanimously to recommend adoption of Article #16.

70 **Article #17** Rehabilitation and Preservation of Stiles Pond

71 On a **MOTION** made by **Stickney**, second by **Perkins**, the Select Board **VOTED**  
72 unanimously to recommend adoption of Article #17.  
73

74 **7:50 PM Discussion on Town Meeting and Town Election**

75 **Discussion May 14, 2024, Town Meeting Warrant Articles-** Many of the articles are in their  
76 final version and were voted on by the Board, others were tables. The following are still in the  
77 process of being finalized:

78 **Article # 4** Budget: The Finance Committee meets on Tuesday 4/2 to vote on the final budget.  
79 Asst. Town Administrator Sweeney has worked to adjust and update the revenue projections,  
80 particularly earned interest. The increase in earned interest would allow the Town to fund the  
81 Masco assessment within the levy limit without an additional increase in taxes.

82 **Article # 5** Elem. School Override: Funding the Masco assessment within the levy limit is a  
83 3.88% increase. Both the Town and Asst. Town Administrator recommend that the Finance  
84 Committee fund the same percentage increase for the Elementary Schools. The Elementary  
85 Schools voted their budget last night and cut an additional \$73,000. The final proposed total  
86 increase over FY24 is now at 8.04% (they started at 11.36%). Allowing for a larger portion of

87 increase within the levy limit (by adjusting earned interest projections and not more taxes) would  
88 bring the Elementary School override down to \$599,170. They originally started at a \$1.2M  
89 override.

90 **Article #2** Contract Boxford Police Reserve Assoc.

91 No vote was taken.

92 **Article #4** Budget

93 No vote was taken.

94 **Article #5** Elementary School Override

95 No vote was taken.

96 **Article #6** Trash

97 No vote was taken as more clarification is necessary.

98 **Article #7** Equipment and Capital Purchases

99 No vote was taken.

100 **Article #8** Funds for ERAC Consultant

101 No vote was taken.

102 **Article #10** DPW Building

103 This is still in the process of being finalized. No vote was taken.

104 **(Article #11)** Spofford School HVAC

105 Due to a number of factors surrounding the design, size and cost of the building, this  
106 article will not be presented at Town Meeting.

107 **NEW Article #11** Masco \$5 million debt for OPM and design

108 No vote was taken.

109 **Article #21** Specialized Energy Code

110 No vote taken.

111 **Article #22** Amend Town Zoning Bylaws for Accessory Apartments

112 No vote taken.

113 It was suggested that this article move up on the list and assume #18 or 19 on the list.

114 **Article #23** Citizen's Initiative Petition 5-Year Moratorium on Turf Fields

115 No vote was taken.

116 **Article #24** Other Business

117 No vote was taken.

118 The following were voted upon.

119 **Article #1** To receive and place on file the reports of the Town Officers and Committees without  
120 ratification of any action taken or authorization of any action proposed.

121 On a **MOTION** made by **Stickney**, second by **Costello**, the Select Board **VOTED**  
122 unanimously to sponsor and support Article #1.

123 **Article #3** Class & Compensation Plan for FY25

124 On a **MOTION** made by **Stickney**, second by **Perkins**, the Select Board **VOTED**  
125 unanimously to recommend adoption of Article #3.

126 **Article #9** Transfer of Free Cash for Masco

127 On a **MOTION** made by **Costello**, second by **Stickney**, the Select Board **VOTED**  
128 unanimously to recommend adoption of Article #9.

129 **Article #12** Rescind Stabilization Fund

130 On a **MOTION** made by **Costello**, second by **Perkins**, the Select Board **VOTED**  
131 unanimously to sponsor and support Article #12.

132 **Article #18** Recreation Committee Bylaw Change

133 On a **MOTION** made by **Stickney**, second by **Costello**, the Select Board **VOTED**  
134 unanimously to sponsor and support Article #18.

135 **Article #19** Amend Bylaws to strike Computer Management Committee

136 On a **MOTION** made by **Stickney**, second by **Costello**, the Select Board **VOTED**  
137 unanimously to sponsor and support Article #19.

138 **Article #20** Amend Town Administrator Bylaw

139 On a **MOTION** made by **Stickney**, second by **Perkins**, the Select Board **VOTED**  
140 unanimously to sponsor and support Article #20.  
141

142 **8:20 PM Report of the Town Administrator**

143 Update on new DPW Facility Schematic Design - The PBC held a meeting last night with the  
144 design consultant HKA. HKA provided revised plans and cost estimates for a new facility back  
145 by the solar field scaled down to 24,000 SF. The PBC and HKA also discussed an option to  
146 build a new facility between Town Hall and Chadwick Field that would include the existing  
147 facility. That location will have significantly lower site work costs, nearly \$2M less, than the rear  
148 site by the solar field. The PBC is scheduled to meet again and has asked Chris Olbrot to work  
149 with HKA on a design that scales the project down to 20,000 SF. The assumed cost per SF is  
150 around \$600 per foot. This does not include soft costs.

151 While the PBC is still working through schematic design, it's the intention to request funding for  
152 the remaining design at Town Meeting. Based on the square foot ranges being discussed, and  
153 based on discussions with HKA, \$1.5M should cover the designer fee and Owner's Project  
154 Manager (OPM) fee. The Town Administrator has included a \$1.55M amount as a placeholder  
155 for Monday night and for the FinCom to discuss on Tuesday.

156 **Update on Spofford HVAC Electrification Feasibility Study-** If the Spofford HVAC project is  
157 not ready to advance at this Town Meeting, it may be advantageous to put design cost for DPW  
158 up for vote at this Town Meeting to keep momentum and to avoid having this project compete  
159 with a school project. The school's architect consultant CMTA provided the working group cost  
160 estimates for 3 electrification scenarios for replacing the HVAC system at Spofford School:

161 Ground Source Heat Pumps - \$15.2M

162 Air-Cooled VRF - \$13.2M

163 Combination 80% Ground Source Heat Pump / 20% Air Source Heat Pumps - \$15.1M

164 For the three options, CMTA estimated the incentives that would offset costs:

165 Option 1 \$2,500,000 (Inflation Reduction Act tax credit)

166 Option 2 \$220,000

167 Option 3 \$800,000

168 Everyone in the Zoom meeting was surprised at the cost of the options. CMTA is going to clarify  
169 that they captured all the available incentives, including state and Green Communities funding.  
170 It appears that the Inflation Reduction Act funds are only available if the Town pursues Option 1.

171 CMTA also provided an "Option 0" with new gas boilers and air conditioning at \$9.7M. Upon  
172 further discussion, it appears that an in-kind option could be around \$1M.

173 CMTA presented the options to the School Committee last night however, the Committee did not  
174 take any action. The working group is meeting on Monday to discuss next steps on how to  
175 proceed.

176 **8:45 PM Executive Session**

177 On a **MOTION** made by **Select Board Chair Jessel**, second by **Stickney**, the  
178 Select Board **VOTED** unanimously by roll call vote to enter into Executive  
179 Session and declared that an Executive Session is necessary since an open  
180 public discussion may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating, bargaining  
181 or litigating position of the Select Board, and upon completion of the Executive  
182 Session to return to open session and immediately adjourn without conducting  
183 any further business.

184 **Adjourn**

185 On a **MOTION** made by **Stickney**, second by **Perkins**, the Select Board **VOTED**  
186 unanimously by roll call vote to adjourn.  
187

188 **Next Meeting – April 8, 2024**

189 Respectfully submitted,

190 *Donna M Grieco*

191 Minutes Recorder  
192

193 **Documents either distributed to the Select Board before the meeting in a**  
194 **packet or at the meeting:**

195

196 Agenda

197 New Call to Order

198 Announcement - Bare Hill Road Partial Closing/Bridge Repair

199 Announcement - Now Hiring - Boxford Park Program

200 Announcement- Boxford Community Electricity

201 Resume and supporting documents for Reserve Officer McParland

202 Memo from Chief Geiger

203 Proposed CPA Warrant Articles

204 Draft Warrant May 14, 2024, Town Meeting

205 Proposed FY25 Revenue & Expense Projection  
206