

Notice to Town Meeting Voters:

From: Select Board and Town Administrator's Office

RE: Supplemental Information to the Warrant for Annual Town Meeting, May 16, 2022, relative to the proposed Article 8: Certified Free Cash Appropriation for Fiscal Year 2022

At the publicly-attended Joint Budget Review meeting in February 2022, the town's Capital Planning Committee (CapCom) presented its prioritization for projects that included the following considerations: improves/aids public safety; is to comply with law or regulation; saves costs/improves efficiency; operational necessity/needed replacement; in line with community vision; and, supports new growth.

The Select Board accepted the Town Administrator's recommendations for the use of Certified Free Cash that follows CapCom's prioritizations and addresses the operational needs of the town, as described:

- Supplemental appropriation to snow and ice operations is necessary annually because of unpredictable weather conditions.
- Transfers into the town's stabilization funds is advised in preparation for unbudgeted, one-time needs.
- Transfers into the town's Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) fund continues efforts to meet the long-term liability of non-retirement benefits obligations for public employees.
- At least one new police cruiser is typically purchased annually to meet operational demand for vehicle fleet turnover. This proposed appropriation for a new cruiser is intended to acquire a "hybrid" fuel-efficient model to meet sustainability initiatives.
- Replacement of the fire hose is indicative of the town's dedication to maintain reliable and modern public safety equipment.
- A new website is intended to improve communication to the public with up-to-date information from departments, officials and committees.
- With the occupancy of the new fire station on Sudbury Street expected in early Fall 2022, no town department is planned to utilize the existing fire station located at 1 Summer Street. The costs for renovations and abatement of the facility are beyond the means of the town's operating budget. How the existing property may be re-used is not yet determined, but it is expected that any option would require investment for conversion to a marketable property for commercial or housing use, or else any public use.
- Funds for personnel contract settlements, including unions, are intended for expenses derived from negotiations in fiscal year 2022.
- Although the funding for construction of new bleachers at Alumni Field is not yet determined, investing in designs and planning is required.
- Modern business practices requires up-to-date technology infrastructure, and the use of Free Cash for one-time replacement of assets allows the use of general funds for other operations.
- Funding for roadway and sidewalk repairs is meant to supplement formulaic state allocations which are not sufficient to meet maintenance demands of the public right-of-ways.
- Lighting at the Assabet River Rail Trail parking area on Winter Street is recommended to enhance public safety.
- Upgrades to the dispatch communications system is required to maintain reliable and modern public safety operations.
- The buildings of the Maynard Public Schools' requires regular capital investments, as identified by the school district's facilities staff, and recommended by the CapCom.