

TOWN OF DEDHAM

In Re:

DEDHAM TOWN MEETING

**DATE:** Monday, May 20, 2019

**PLACE:** Dedham High School Auditorium  
140 Whiting Avenue  
Dedham, MA

**COMMENCING:** 7:10 p.m.

P R O C E E D I N G S

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3           **THE MODERATOR:** Ladies and gentlemen  
4 of the town meeting, a quorum of 212 having been  
5 established by the town clerk, the 2019 spring  
6 annual town meeting will please come to order.

7           This is the 94th year that the Town  
8 of Dedham has used the representative town  
9 meeting form of government. I might add that  
10 the average attendance over the last four annual  
11 town meetings was 87 percent. So  
12 congratulations to you for your accountability  
13 and your endurance.

14           Please rise for the Pledge of  
15 Allegiance.

16                           (All rise.)

17           **THE MODERATOR:** Thank you. Would all  
18 newly elected and reelected town meeting  
19 representatives please remain standing to be  
20 sworn in by the town clerk.

21           **MR. MUNCHBACH:** Just raise your right  
22 hand and repeat after me: I, and state your  
23 name, do solemnly swear that I will faithfully  
24 and impartially and to the best of my ability

1 perform the duties as a town meeting  
2 representative for the Town of Dedham, so help  
3 me God. Congratulations.

4 **THE MODERATOR:** The Chair is once  
5 again pleased to nominate my colleague,  
6 Cherylann W. Sheehan, of District 6 as deputy  
7 moderator. Is there a motion? Is there a  
8 second? All those in favor, say aye.

9 (Aye)

10 **THE MODERATOR:** Opposed, nay. The  
11 ayes have it. We'll ask the town clerk to swear  
12 in the deputy moderator.

13 (Ms. Sheehan sworn in)

14 **THE MODERATOR:** The tellers for this  
15 evening's meeting: On my left, Dan Hart and  
16 Fred Civian; in the center aisles, Charles  
17 Krueger and James Driscoll; and on my right, Jim  
18 Sullivan and Jonathan Pape.

19 The Chair would like to welcome  
20 Maryanne Levin Martin, chair of the public  
21 service recognition committee. Please come to  
22 the podium.

23 **MS. MARTIN:** Greetings. Welcome to  
24 the Dedham 2019 public service recognition award

1 committee. My name is Maryanne Martin. I am  
2 the current chair of this wonderful committee.

3 Along with representation of all  
4 seven precincts, this committee consists of Fred  
5 Wofford -- where is Fred -- come down, Fred --  
6 Jerry Roberts, also missing from up here --  
7 Denise Connell, Bakita Bass, Lindsey Looney, and  
8 Andrew Sullivan. This committee submits  
9 nominations from all of Dedham to recognize the  
10 unsung heroes amongst us whose everyday kindness  
11 makes Dedham a truly special community that we  
12 all call home.

13 Before I begin, I wanted to take a  
14 moment just to thank Nancy Howell, who's a  
15 former Dedham resident and a famed artist who  
16 paints individual portraits of the Fairbanks  
17 House, for her talent, which makes these awards  
18 so beautiful. I also want to thank Michael  
19 Humphrey, who's a Dedham resident and owner of  
20 Cherokee Trophy, who donates the placards, which  
21 memorialize these recognitions. Thank you to  
22 Michael and Nancy.

23 This year, we had a remarkable and  
24 overwhelming response for our call for nominees.

1 We received about three dozen nominees, all  
2 worthy of the recognition we're presenting  
3 tonight. In all my years on this committee,  
4 this might have been our toughest review to  
5 date. So those of you who took the time to  
6 bring these names to our attention, on behalf of  
7 this committee, I say thank you, thank you, and  
8 thank you, again. And if your nominee was not  
9 on this year's recipient list, please nominate  
10 them again. We honestly wish to recognize all  
11 of them, because everyone was a worthy  
12 recipient, and it's a wonderful problem to have.

13 So how do we choose who we nominate?  
14 We read all of your nominations, we request  
15 additional information from the nominators, we  
16 share our own firsthand knowledge of these  
17 candidates, and then I do something to eliminate  
18 debate on who is more worthy of whom. I ask  
19 each member to list, in no particular order,  
20 what nominations spoke to them, and first, we'd  
21 look at our top three.

22 We look to see who we have in common,  
23 and then we whittle it down until we all are on  
24 the same page. This year, we were deadlocked.

1 We had two adults whose nominations spoke to us  
2 on two different levels. Bakita recommended  
3 that maybe we look at a quiet personal actions  
4 of one, as well as the public more wide  
5 impacting actions of the other, and so we  
6 decided we would have two adult recipients this  
7 year. We love this idea. So tonight, our adult  
8 recipients are Janet Holmes and William Olsen.

9 Thank you. We were also looking for  
10 someone in our younger community whose day-to-  
11 day actions brings about the best among those  
12 around him. Tonight we recognize not big John,  
13 but John Junior Kramer. I'm going to ask my  
14 co-committee member Lindsey to come and speak on  
15 one of our recipients, Janet Holmes.

16 **MS. LOONEY:** Thanks, Maryanne. Good  
17 evening, everyone. So my name is Lindsey  
18 Looney, and I have the pleasure of introducing  
19 my fellow Riverdalian, Janet Holmes. For anyone  
20 that doesn't know Janet, you have certainly seen  
21 the fruits of her labor throughout Dedham, from  
22 her work at Dedham Civic Pride, where she has  
23 helped transform our center, walkways, and  
24 intersections with beautiful plantings, to her

1 work with the River Banks Garden Club, the  
2 Endicott Community Greenhouse, the Dedham Land  
3 Trust, and even the Riverdale Gardening Program.  
4 Janet's green thumb has certainly sprinkled lots  
5 of love throughout the town of Dedham.

6 Janet has also played a huge role in  
7 the Dedham Junior Women's Club, where she's been  
8 an active member since 1988. She has been  
9 instrumental in the craft fair, the holiday tree  
10 jubilee, the summer art program, and Breakfast  
11 with Santa, just to name a few. Janet is also  
12 part of the Friends of the Dedham Library, St.  
13 Susanna's Parish, and the Dedham Square Artist  
14 Guild, where she volunteers countless hours of  
15 her time throughout the year, not to mention  
16 she's an amazing wife to Bob, mother to  
17 Michelle, Lauren, and Bobby, and the most  
18 amazing grandmother to Jason and Nia.

19 You may have also seen Janet  
20 volunteering in our local elections, at the ice  
21 rink, Girl Scouts, or at your local school. For  
22 those of you who have the pleasure of knowing  
23 Janet, you know that she has a huge heart, she's  
24 full of spirit and life, she has a strong faith,

1 and is consistently giving back to our  
2 community. I am so proud to know Janet and to  
3 see her recognized with this honor. Thank you.

4 I would like to take a moment to talk  
5 about our second recipient, who is a truly  
6 wonderful man and most deserving of this  
7 recognition, but we don't believe could make it  
8 here tonight, and my words are going to pale in  
9 comparison to what an amazing man Bill Olsen of  
10 Oakdale is.

11 Bill is a longtime Dedham resident of  
12 the Oakdale neighborhood. Besides being a  
13 loving husband, dad, granddad, and neighbor, Mr.  
14 Olsen is a volunteer to those who need it most,  
15 those battling physical and communicative  
16 limitations requiring the services of the  
17 Spaulding Rehab. Beyond fighting the daily  
18 traffic and personal obstacles to get there, Mr.  
19 Olsen arrives by 7:00 a.m. in Charlestown every  
20 day.

21 And Mr. Olsen knows a little  
22 something about overcoming obstacles. We have  
23 learned that Mr. Olsen has had some medical  
24 issues which have interfered with his verbal



1 communication skills. Knowing this limitation,  
2 I decided to deliver the news of Mr. Olsen's  
3 nomination and subsequent recognition to him in  
4 person. Let me tell you, I encountered no  
5 communication barriers when speaking with Mr.  
6 Olsen. His expansive, non-verbal skills trump  
7 my poorly crafted speech today.

8 We learned of Mr. Olsen's impact on  
9 the patients at the Spaulding from another  
10 Dedham resident, Bernie Chikotas (?). I'm  
11 killing her last name. We could feel her tears  
12 of appreciation in one of the most heartfelt  
13 nominations we have ever received during my  
14 tenure on this committee. Bernie, you were spot  
15 on. This is one of the most loving, humble,  
16 kindest men I have ever had the pleasure to  
17 meet.

18 All of Dedham thanks you for your  
19 nomination, and Mr. Olsen, we thank you for your  
20 demonstration of giving, no matter what. Many  
21 of us would give up and say why me when  
22 confronted with a challenge. You taught me  
23 that we need to exercise our purpose in this  
24 life, no matter what. On behalf of Dedham, we



1           come forward. We're going to present them with  
2           their awards and ask them to say something.

3           (Pause.)

4                        So what I just gave both of them is  
5           their hand-painting, one of a kind portrait of  
6           the Fairbanks House, with a little thing to  
7           embarrass them for the rest of their days to  
8           hang in their living rooms. So if you'd like to  
9           say anything, you're most welcome. We invite  
10          you to.

11                       **MS. HOLMES:** When my children were  
12          little, I used to read a book to them called  
13          "Alexander and the No Good, Horrible, Very Bad  
14          Day," and that's the kind of day I had today,  
15          from misplaced keys to possible identity theft,  
16          and the whole gamut. But receiving this award  
17          tonight has totally wiped out that, and I feel  
18          so honored to receive this.

19                        And as everybody knows who volunteers  
20          -- and I know there are a ton of you out there  
21          who do -- you don't usually do everything on  
22          your own. And I have so many people that I'm  
23          thankful to: the women at the Dedham Junior  
24          Women's Club, the Fairbanks Garden Club, the

1 Friends of the Dedham Library, Dedham Artist  
2 Guild, Kerry Hawkins, in particular. I wouldn't  
3 be able to do any of this without friends. And  
4 it certainly does take a village, and I thank  
5 you all for this honor. Thank you.

6 **MR. KRAMER:** Hi, everyone. Maybe you  
7 guys do know me or don't know me. I'm John  
8 Kramer. I'm a student from Dedham High. I want  
9 to thank the nominees we have here. I want to  
10 thank the lady who is here with us. I just want  
11 to thank to my school and everyone from Dedham  
12 High. You guys are the best.

13 If you guys are from Dedham, you  
14 better watch this by now. You know me. Amy  
15 O'Brien, I know you, because we're all rest of  
16 our lives been here at Dedham High. It's really  
17 great. Mr. Scotty O'Brien, the best custodian  
18 ever. I'll never forget one of the ladies we  
19 have here as custodians. I want to thank my  
20 teachers, Stacy Conrad, Diane Sedgwan (?) for  
21 everything what you guys done. Thank you so  
22 much. I miss you guys, Dedham High. Dedham  
23 High, God bless you. Scotty, I'm going to miss  
24 you. I'm going to miss everyone here.

1 Thank you for the men in service, the  
2 police, fire, ambulance, and men and women  
3 serving our country over at Dedham High. I want  
4 to thank you all who serve our country. Thanks  
5 to Dedham again for everything that you do here,  
6 and especially our seniors. We wish this school  
7 is better than nothing out of all other schools.  
8 Our team, Parker Field, we are undefeated from  
9 5-0. Well done, Dedham High. Oh, I love you  
10 all, Dedham. We wish you good luck. Go  
11 Marauders. Good luck seniors, 2019.

12 **THE MODERATOR:** Our thanks to the  
13 committee for once again coming up with  
14 exemplary examples of the spirit in Dedham.

15 The Chair would like to express  
16 gratitude to those members of the finance and  
17 warrant committee whose terms are expiring this  
18 year, Cecilia Emery Butler, Kevin Preston, and  
19 Susan Fay, and we'd also like to extend a warm  
20 welcome to Dedham's new director of human  
21 resources, Lauren Bailey, and the director of  
22 planning, Jeremy Rosenberger. Welcome to  
23 Dedham's town meeting.

24 While we're talking about

1 transitions, I think most of you know that our  
2 town manager is retiring, Jim Kern. Jim will be  
3 the first to tell you that different residents  
4 in their own ways, elected officials, town  
5 staff, have been saying their goodbyes to Jim,  
6 but this is the last opportunity for town  
7 meeting to express its best wishes and gratitude  
8 for the years that Jim has served the town of  
9 Dedham.

10 During Jim's time with us, Dedham has  
11 undertaken much that has improved the town's  
12 financial strength, and more importantly, its  
13 livability as the home choice for so many of us.  
14 The town has added recreational facilities, and  
15 in working with the school administration, has  
16 been a partner building schools. The Dedham  
17 Square project continues to flourish, and we are  
18 on our way towards replacing town hall, police  
19 headquarters, a main fire station, and finally,  
20 a senior center.

21 Now, Jim will tell you that many  
22 others were involved in the planning and  
23 implementation of these projects, but for those  
24 who have been part of these projects, it is

1 clear that his strong support and skills have  
2 been critical in moving these projects forward  
3 and becoming implemented.

4 Behind the scenes, out of sight of  
5 most of us, Jim's leadership has contributed to  
6 a very, very strong financial position for the  
7 Town of Dedham. Our bond rating is Triple A, an  
8 achievement that makes it less expensive for us  
9 when we need to borrow, which can only be done  
10 with a two-thirds vote at town meeting.

11 The pension and retiree health  
12 obligations are among the best managed in the  
13 Commonwealth, and our budget is well under the  
14 Proposition 2 1/2 tax levy, something that no  
15 other community in Norfolk County can say.

16 I've worked very closely with Jim  
17 over these years. He's a true professional.  
18 More important, he's a good person. The true  
19 indicator is not whether one can say that they  
20 agree with every decision that he's forced to  
21 make. No one could pass that test. But if you  
22 look at his overall body of work over these  
23 years and consider the basic fairness and  
24 honesty that are his way, I think we can

1 conclude that we are better off having him work  
2 with us and knowing him as a person. So thank  
3 you, Jim Kern. I'd like to ask Jim just to say  
4 a word or two, please.

5 **MR. KERN:** Thank you, and thank you  
6 for those very kind words, Dan. Dan is among a  
7 small number that I'm going to list tonight, but  
8 the number of people that I would properly  
9 thank, as I think most people know, extends far  
10 beyond this room.

11 This can be a very singular job at  
12 times, but I think everyone here also knows that  
13 this job doesn't get done without the  
14 association, friendship, guidance, and  
15 collaboration and cooperation with so many  
16 people. It's one of the things that makes these  
17 jobs so attractive.

18 Some of you will remember that I  
19 started -- my first day was at town meeting four  
20 and a half years ago. It feels like the blink  
21 of an eye sometimes. That's part of the reason  
22 why I'm making the change that I'm making. I'm  
23 trying to slow that blink down just a little  
24 bit. I don't know that anybody really retire,



1           retires. This isn't that either. It's a semi-  
2           retirement. I'll be still involved in this kind  
3           of work, I think, in some way, and I may cross  
4           paths with some of you in the future.

5                        But I did want to thank, as I said, a  
6           list -- a small handful of people that have been  
7           particularly critical to my job and my success.  
8           It starts with the board of selectmen. It goes  
9           without saying that the collaboration between  
10          the two groups in this form of government is  
11          crucial.

12                        Unsung heroes behind me on the stage  
13          of finance committee, also that working  
14          relationship has to be good, and it's been  
15          really good in my time. School committee, and I  
16          want to particularly call out the school  
17          superintendent. I've worked with eight of them  
18          in the positions I've had in three different  
19          communities. Mike Welch isn't one of the best,  
20          he's the best, and he represents an area of  
21          Dedham, I think, that is on the rise.

22                        And lastly, the department heads,  
23          from the two public safety chiefs department  
24          head -- or the director of public works. Those

1 are the ones that often get the most attention,  
2 but all of the others, appreciate the effort and  
3 the professionalism.

4 When I look at Dedham, I see  
5 unlimited potential. To the extent that I'm  
6 qualified, maybe differently, to some people, I  
7 can tell you that Dedham has resources, and not  
8 just financial; human capital, location, history  
9 that other towns just don't have. And I'm  
10 qualified to say it in a different way now than  
11 I was four and a half years ago, but I knew it  
12 then. So it's my hope that working with each  
13 other you reach that unlimited potential or  
14 continue to strive forward, and I'm sure you  
15 will.

16 Lastly, the assistant town manager,  
17 Nancy Baker, who's not here, gets the biggest  
18 thanks. She's not here tonight because of a  
19 family circumstance. I don't think you can  
20 overstate her importance to this town and to  
21 this position, and I hope her -- I hope Nancy,  
22 the board of selectmen, and all the other  
23 leaders, including everyone in this room, the  
24 very best going forward, and thanks a lot.

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**THE MODERATOR:** Thank you, Jim.

Let's quickly go over the rules before we begin. When you are speaking, please use the microphone and state your name and district. This is for the benefit of the official stenographer.

This is a representative town meeting, which means only elected representative town meeting members may vote. Any others found participating in the voting will be asked to leave the hall. At the request of seven town meeting members, a standing vote can be held, and at the request of 15 town meeting representatives, a roll call vote can be held. The moderator may call for either at his or her discretion.

All the articles will be deliberated in the order in which they appear in your warrant book, unless you vote otherwise. Again, as a reminder, all articles and all of the line items in the budget will be read by number at the very beginning of the meeting. If you wish to question, discuss, amend, seek more information on any article or any budget line item, when I call out that number, please call

1 out the word "pass."

2 Those that are passed will be set  
3 aside for further discussion. We will then take  
4 one vote to accept the original motion that's  
5 printed in your book for all articles and budget  
6 line items that have not been set aside for  
7 discussion.

8 Please remember that the  
9 recommendation of the finance and warrant  
10 committee is the original motion. That is  
11 always what you're voting on. The exception is  
12 zoning articles, in which case the original  
13 motion is the motion proposed by our planning  
14 board.

15 All substantive amendments or  
16 substitute motions must be presented in writing  
17 and in triplicate. We also have a rule that, as  
18 an issue of fairness, any town meeting  
19 representative who wishes to increase or  
20 decrease a money item should present that  
21 substitute motion, that amendment, before we  
22 begin voting on any of them. That way, you will  
23 know everything that is going to be before you  
24 during the course of the evening.

1                   That rule is enforced to about the  
2                   95th percentile, because we do recognize that  
3                   there are times when there is an unintended  
4                   twist in the way things go, and it may be  
5                   necessary to adjust a budget line item. But if  
6                   you're sitting there now with an idea about  
7                   something you want to increase or decrease, you  
8                   should come forward and present in writing three  
9                   copies to the town clerk.

10                   I think as the veterans know, that  
11                   when there are two numbers on a given money  
12                   article, we vote the higher one first. Matters  
13                   for reconsideration require a majority vote. So  
14                   if a majority of people want to reconsider, and  
15                   it's within one hour of the original vote, we  
16                   can reconsider. If it's greater than an hour,  
17                   it requires two-thirds of the town meeting  
18                   members to agree to that. Matters of law will  
19                   be referred by the moderator to our town  
20                   counsel. Questions of town meeting procedure  
21                   are the sole responsibility of the moderator.

22                   A word on one of the more troublesome  
23                   motions, called move the question. Move the  
24                   question means stop debate. It is not debatable

1 to debate stopping the debate. If somebody is  
2 recognized -- not sitting in the chair yelling  
3 it out. If somebody is recognized and moves the  
4 question, we then vote on moving the question,  
5 because that will end debate.

6 Because it ends debate, there is a  
7 high barrier to reach. Two-thirds of the  
8 audience has to agree to stop debate and then  
9 move on. So if the question is moved, even if  
10 you have previously said to me I want to speak  
11 on article such and such, once the question has  
12 been moved, and if that vote carries, then there  
13 is no choice but to move on.

14 Are there any questions before we  
15 begin? Please feel free, as I mentioned to the  
16 newly-elected town meeting members, a good way  
17 to stop the train if you've got something that's  
18 really confusing, you are simply to stand up,  
19 catch my eye and say Mr. Moderator, point of  
20 information. That covers a whole variety of  
21 almost anything. And so we'll stop, and you can  
22 say what's on your mind.

23 All members of town meeting are asked  
24 to please remove their hats and silence their

1 phones.

2 Let's take a look at what we're  
3 working with tonight. This is the warrant book.  
4 There is a supplement to the warrant book for  
5 some last minute changes. I will point these  
6 out to you, but you do have this in writing, and  
7 you also have in writing the report of the  
8 planning board. So those three sums of paper  
9 constitute everything that we're going to be  
10 discussing and voting on this evening.

11 Within this warrant book, on the page  
12 right before Page 1, the unnumbered page, all  
13 the sources of the revenue in the town are  
14 listed, and they're shown for about a four- or  
15 five-year period. So every penny that comes  
16 into the town is listed, where it comes from,  
17 and you can judge how it has increased or  
18 decreased over a four- or five-year period.  
19 Additionally, all spending for the past four or  
20 five years is summarized on this page.

21 The way that the warrant book handles  
22 articles is the name of the article is numbered  
23 and listed in bold print. So Number 2 is  
24 personnel bylaw changes and bargaining

1 agreements. Right under that is the motion  
2 being made by, in this case, the finance and  
3 warrant committee, and then there is a little  
4 box at the bottom, which translates everything  
5 into a little bit of English and makes it a  
6 little bit clearer. In all cases, what we're  
7 voting on is the recommendation of either the  
8 finance and warrant committee or the planning  
9 board. So before we begin commencing, are there  
10 any questions at this point?

11 Article 2.

12 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Pass.

13 **THE MODERATOR:** Pass on Article 2.

14 Please see the supplement. One additional union  
15 did come to agreement with the town after this  
16 book was printed, DPW Unit B.

17 Article 3, the town budget. I'm  
18 going to read each line item. Number 1, 2, 3,  
19 4. In Line Item 4, the amount that is listed in  
20 the far column in the right, fiscal year 2020  
21 FinCom; that's always, by the way, the column  
22 you're voting on. The column right to its left  
23 is what the town manager requested. That last  
24 column is what you're voting on. There is a new



1 original motion, which adds \$40,000 to that  
2 amount for the purposes of dealing with the bus  
3 issue. So the \$978,775 is now \$1,018,775, a  
4 40,000-dollar increase, Line Item 4.

5 5.

6 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Pass.

7 **THE MODERATOR:** Pass on 5. 6.

8 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Pass.

9 **THE MODERATOR:** 6 is passed. 7, 8,  
10 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14. Line Item 20, 21, 22,  
11 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33 and  
12 34. Environmental services, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39.

13 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** 39 through 46.

14 **THE MODERATOR:** 39 through 46.

15 They're all passed. So we can keep going, then.  
16 So we're on Page 4 now, and we are looking at  
17 Line Item Number 47, 48, police department, 49,  
18 50, 51, 52. In the fire department, 53.

19 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Pass.

20 **THE MODERATOR:** 53 is passed. 54.

21 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Pass.

22 **THE MODERATOR:** Is passed. 55.

23 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Pass.

24 **THE MODERATOR:** Passed. 56, 57, 58,

1 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64.

2 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Pass.

3 **THE MODERATOR:** 64, building  
4 inspection is passed. 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, and  
5 70. Going over to Page 3 [sic], the entire  
6 Dedham Public School budget is all included in  
7 Line 71.

8 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Pass.

9 **THE MODERATOR:** Line 71 is passed.  
10 Line 72, 73. Engineering, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78,  
11 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85. In the supplement  
12 are Line Items 86. This is under facilities --  
13 town error on the printer's part -- facilities,  
14 town 56, personal services. Line Item 57 is  
15 overtime. Line Item 80, supplement.

16 Let's see, not counting the cover  
17 page, the second page of the supplement says  
18 town operating budget, bottom of the page, the  
19 town facilities department. Line Item 86,  
20 personal services, 87 --

21 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Pass on 86.

22 **THE MODERATOR:** I'm sorry, was that  
23 pass on 86 or 87?

24 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** 86.

1                   **THE MODERATOR:** Thank you. 87 is  
2 overtime. 88 is purchase of services. 89,  
3 supplies and materials. 90 is utilities. 91 is  
4 other charges and expenses in the facilities  
5 department.

6                   Going back to Page 6 in your book  
7 under Board of Health, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102,  
8 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111,  
9 112, and 113. On Page 7, the library  
10 department, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118. Parks and  
11 recreation, 119.

12                   **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Pass.

13                   **THE MODERATOR:** Pass. 120.

14                   **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Pass.

15                   **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Through 124.

16                   **THE MODERATOR:** All passed. Line  
17 Items 119 through 124 are all passed. We move  
18 to the Endicott Estate, 125, 126, 127, and 128.  
19 129, civic pride, 130. Move down to debt  
20 service, 131. Turn the page to employee  
21 benefits, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136.

22                   **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Pass.

23                   **THE MODERATOR:** 136 is passed. 137.

24                   **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Pass.

1                   **THE MODERATOR:**   137 is passed. 136  
2                   and 137 are passed. 138, 139, 140. The missing  
3                   department showed up back on Line Item 15. I'll  
4                   read this all to you. It's central purchasing.  
5                   Line Item 15 is personal services, and the  
6                   amount is \$10,000. Line 16 is central  
7                   purchasing overtime, \$60,000. Line 18 is  
8                   supplies and materials, \$75,000. And Line 19 is  
9                   other charges and expenses, \$65,000. So the  
10                  central purchasing department is \$210,000, 1.6  
11                  percent of the town budget.

12                  So if you look at the total expense  
13                  line, right about in the middle of the page on  
14                  Page 8, you'll see on the far right is the  
15                  finance committee's recommendation. The printed  
16                  amount is \$107 million. Remember, that's gone  
17                  up by \$40,000. To the left is what the town  
18                  manager recommended, \$108,782. And you can see  
19                  the current year's budget and what was spent the  
20                  last two years.

21                  Moving to Article 4, this is the  
22                  capital improvements budget. The recommendation  
23                  of the finance committee is listed. The Chair  
24                  is going to pass on this article because some

1 elements in Article 4 require a two-thirds vote  
2 because they involve borrowing. Article 5 is on  
3 Page 11. Article 6, some left over bills from  
4 the prior year. The Chair will past on this  
5 because it requires either a unanimous vote or a  
6 four-fifths vote.

7 Line Item 7 transfers from the  
8 current fiscal year. Line Item 8, the general  
9 stabilization fund. Line Item 9. Line Item 10  
10 will be passed by the Chair. It requires a two-  
11 thirds vote. Line Item 11. Line Item 12,  
12 involving funds -- I'm sorry, Article 12.  
13 Article 13, turning to Page 16.

14 Article 14, and the Park and  
15 Recreation master plan is in your appendix as  
16 Appendix A-3. Article 15. Article 16 will be  
17 passed because it does require a two-thirds vote  
18 to borrow money. Article 17. The  
19 recommendation of the finance committee is on  
20 the top of Page 18.

21 Article 18. It passed -- no, called  
22 off. The proponent of the article has asked  
23 that it be indefinitely postponed. Article 19,  
24 mixed use residential moratorium and zoning

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study.

**UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Pass.

**THE MODERATOR:** Pass. Article 20 requires a two-thirds vote passed by the Chair, as is Article 21. 21 does not require a two-thirds vote because the original motion is that it be indefinitely postponed. 21 and 22 are passed. And by the way, the original motions are in the report of the planning board, which you have received.

Article 23. The Chair will -- the report of the planning board is it be indefinitely postponed, so that does not require a two-thirds vote. Article 23.

**UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Pass.

**THE MODERATOR:** Is passed. Article 24.

**UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Pass.

**THE MODERATOR:** Article 24 is passed. Article 25. Article 26. Article 27. Article 28. At the request of the proponent of this article, the finance and warrant committee is recommending that it be indefinitely postponed, not so voted. So the original motion on Article

1 28 is that we don't do it. Mr. Hart. Can you  
2 go to a microphone, please, Mr. Hart?

3 **MR. HART:** Dan Hart, Precinct 6. Did  
4 you say Article 28 is indefinitely postponed?

5 **THE MODERATOR:** The original motion  
6 from the finance and warrant committee is that  
7 it be indefinitely postponed. That's at the  
8 request of the town department head that  
9 proposed it in the first place.

10 **MR. HART:** Thank you.

11 **THE MODERATOR:** Yes, sir. Yes,  
12 ma'am.

13 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Just a point  
14 of clarification. I don't know if Line Item 4  
15 about the bus --

16 **THE MODERATOR:** Yes.

17 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** I think  
18 somebody passed on that, but I didn't know if  
19 you heard that.

20 **THE MODERATOR:** When we come to it,  
21 then would be the time to pose your -- Mr.  
22 Keaney?

23 **MR. KEANEY:** Thank you, Mr.  
24 Moderator. Brian Keaney from Precinct 4. Was

1 Article 9 passed? I didn't hear it.

2 **THE MODERATOR:** Article 9 is not  
3 passed.

4 **MR. KEANEY:** I believe that requires  
5 a two-thirds vote, does it not, to put money  
6 into a stabilization fund?

7 **THE MODERATOR:** No.

8 **MR. KEANEY:** Two-thirds in, two-  
9 thirds out? That was my understanding.

10 **THE MODERATOR:** Majority in, two-  
11 thirds out. If you want to put it in, we'd be  
12 glad to take it. If you want to take it out,  
13 it's going to be a little more work. Yes, sir.

14 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** (Inaudible.)

15 **THE MODERATOR:** Yes, 27 is passed.  
16 Any other questions?

17 So now, the Chair will entertain a  
18 motion to accept the original motion on any  
19 budget line item or any article that has not  
20 been set aside, in other words, has not been  
21 passed. Is there such a motion?

22 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** So moved.

23 **THE MODERATOR:** Second?

24 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Second.



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**THE MODERATOR:** All those in favor,  
please say aye.

(Aye)

**THE MODERATOR:** Opposed, no. The  
ayes have it. Thank you. Article 2 is passed.  
Is there discussion or questions on Article 2?  
The Chair recognizes Mr. Keaney from District 5.

**MR. KEANEY:** 4.

**THE MODERATOR:** 4. Are you sure?

**MR. KEANEY:** Pretty sure.

**THE MODERATOR:** You're just down the  
street from me. I'm in 5.

**MR. KEANEY:** You can ask Chief  
Driscoll, but I think so. Article 85-29 of the  
bylaws requires that all contracts be sent to  
town meeting members at least two weeks before  
town meeting, or we can't vote on them. I got  
the DPW's Unit B two days ago, not two weeks  
ago. And if we're going to get technical about  
it, the law requires in at least two different  
places that the entire contract be sent to town  
meeting members, not just the memorandums of  
agreement, which are printed in the book, and it  
requires a two-thirds vote to waive those

1 requirements.

2 Now, I don't want to see anyone  
3 expecting a raise on July 1 not get their raise,  
4 but I also don't think that it's fair for town  
5 meeting to be expected to vote on this with two  
6 days' notice.

7 **THE MODERATOR:** It's one of the  
8 downsides of the town meeting form of government  
9 that we only meet twice a year, and collective  
10 bargaining takes its own course. Both sides  
11 have rights and prerogatives in collective  
12 bargaining. The alternative would be for us to  
13 not pass the collective bargaining agreement for  
14 the two people that are in Unit B, or we could  
15 call a special town meeting for the purpose of  
16 addressing this one. And I think those are  
17 about it, unless we want to wait until November  
18 and deprive these people of what they bargained  
19 in good faith.

20 I guess what I'm saying is this is  
21 not due to a callous disregard. This issue  
22 comes up, frankly, almost every town meeting.  
23 You can't compel either party in a collective  
24 bargaining to meet an artificial deadline such

1 as two weeks before town meeting. However, it  
2 is up to you if someone wants to move that we  
3 vote on Article 2. Despite the lack of notice  
4 on Unit B in the Department of Public Works, the  
5 Chair will entertain such a motion.

6 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** So moved.

7 **THE MODERATOR:** Has it been seconded?

8 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Second.

9 **THE MODERATOR:** All those in favor of  
10 waiving the provision, say aye.

11 (Aye)

12 **THE MODERATOR:** No. It is a two-  
13 thirds vote. Thank you, Mr. Keaney. We do try  
14 on that, Mr. Keaney, but it does come up, but  
15 thank you.

16 **MR. KEANEY:** I wasn't opposing it.

17 **THE MODERATOR:** That's right, you  
18 didn't vote no on that, did you.

19 I want to say a word about your role  
20 in passing the budget before we begin because  
21 there has certainly been -- probably the major  
22 topic of discussion, both in informal  
23 conversations around the town and in formal  
24 meetings. One of the most important duties that

1           Massachusetts law delegates exclusively to town  
2           meeting is the authority to approve the annual  
3           budget.

4                     I know in my talks with many of you  
5           that many of you find the process to be  
6           confusing, and human nature being what it is,  
7           when people find a process to be confusing, that  
8           can -- especially when it deals with their  
9           pocketbook, that can lead to a degree of  
10          skepticism and concern and worry.

11                    The most common comments that I, and  
12          I believe my colleague elected officials here  
13          are, on one hand, taxes seem to go up and up,  
14          and we don't know why this is happening, and  
15          we're not happy about it. That's a point of  
16          view. We also hear the town needs to make more  
17          investments that will impact the quality of life  
18          in Dedham, recreation, environmental, sports  
19          fields, streets and sidewalks, public health,  
20          schools.

21                    I think the statement that concerns  
22          me the most is town meeting doesn't really have  
23          much control, because the process is difficult,  
24          and after all, the real power is with -- and you

1 can pick your own here -- the board of  
2 selectmen, the finance and warrant committee,  
3 the town manager, the school committee, and I've  
4 even heard the poor assessors thrown on that  
5 list, too. They probably have the least to do  
6 with that list.

7           There are some straightforward points  
8 that I think will help us all to better  
9 understand what your authority is in improving  
10 the budget, which obviously directly influences  
11 the tax levy. The simplified bottom line is  
12 town meeting approves the budget, and the budget  
13 is ultimately what determines the tax rate. A  
14 follows B, or B follows A.

15           The budget presented to town meeting,  
16 which you see in that thin blue book, is really  
17 the result of a very lengthy process. First,  
18 the town manager, after working with the  
19 department heads and with the school  
20 superintendent, prepares a proposed town manager  
21 budget. That is the budget that you see in your  
22 book in the second column in. It's headed up  
23 Fiscal Year 2020, Town Manager. That's the town  
24 manager budget. That budget has been reviewed

1 and approved in some process by both the school  
2 committee for the school side and the board of  
3 selectmen for the town, in general.

4 Now, as I've stated, you have the  
5 final word, but how did 273 town meeting members  
6 review and understand such a document? This is  
7 where the second step comes in. Town meeting  
8 has its own set of advisors appointed by the  
9 moderator. It's the finance and warrant  
10 committee. They report directly to town  
11 meeting, and they are independent of any  
12 political process. They negotiate with the  
13 school department, they negotiate with the board  
14 of selectmen, but they do not report to them.  
15 They only report to the town meeting.

16 These folks spend months analyzing  
17 the budget proposals. I hear people say we need  
18 to know where every nickel in town is. They  
19 know. They work with the department heads.  
20 They hold open public hearings at which all of  
21 the town's department heads, the school  
22 department, including the superintendent, the  
23 assistant superintendent, some of the school  
24 department heads and members of the school

1 committee all appear before the finance and  
2 warrant committee to explain the budgets that  
3 they are proposing.

4 They review a much more detailed  
5 version of the budget than the one that is  
6 printed in the warrant book. This is what the  
7 finance and warrant committee work on for about  
8 three months. This is the book that they work  
9 with, an awful lot of detail.

10 Finally, they make recommendations,  
11 but these recommendations are just that. They  
12 are recommendations, and they come before you,  
13 and those are the recommendations that are in  
14 the final column in the warrant book. You have  
15 the prerogative of accepting the recommendation  
16 or changing that recommendation up or down, but  
17 how do you make that decision. You can't all be  
18 budget experts. You need some information on  
19 how to make that decision.

20 The first point is the town's budget  
21 cannot by state law exceed the Proposition 2 1/2  
22 limit. That's a number beyond which town  
23 meeting, even if it votes, cannot implement that  
24 budget, unless there is a Proposition 2 1/2

1           override on the ballot. When the town's tax  
2           levy is at that state-imposed limit, which it  
3           was for very many years in Dedham, there is a  
4           very real restriction on your ability to amend  
5           the budget.

6                         This year, as well as last year, we  
7           are below that mandatory limit. That means you  
8           have more flexibility. However, you still have  
9           to be very conscious of the impact that your  
10          decisions have on taxes. For the past two  
11          years, former selectman Mike Butler and I have  
12          made some presentations that have included  
13          information on how spending translates into  
14          taxes. Many of you have heard those at the  
15          Endicott reorganization meetings. Hopefully  
16          that was helpful. That having been said, we're  
17          here tonight.

18                        The town manager and the finance and  
19          warrant committee use a calculation that shows  
20          the relationship between spending and the tax  
21          bill, and we can pass that information on to  
22          you. The proposed budget, as recommended by the  
23          finance and warrant committee with no changes --  
24          it's the budget in that column -- will add



1 approximately \$285 to the average tax bill in  
2 the town of Dedham. The average tax bill is a  
3 home that is assessed at \$525,000.

4 The average tax bill in Dedham right  
5 now is \$7,074. If this budget is approved as it  
6 stands with no changes, the average tax bill  
7 will be \$7,359, \$285 higher. We can evaluate  
8 any additional proposal to amend the budget by  
9 applying this rule of thumb. For every \$1  
10 million in budget dollars spent, the average tax  
11 bill will go up by about \$80 per year. If the  
12 proposal is for \$200,000, the average tax bill  
13 will go up by one fifth of \$80, because \$200,000  
14 is one-fifth of \$1 million.

15 So using this formula, a 100,000-  
16 dollar increase in expenses would add about \$8  
17 to the average tax bill, \$200,000 would add  
18 about \$16 to the average tax bill, and \$300,000  
19 would add about \$24 to the average tax bill.  
20 Now, those of you that have been town meeting  
21 members for many years will remember that this  
22 is not new information.

23 Before Proposition 2 1/2, when town  
24 meeting had unbridled authority to raise or

1 lower the budget, there was a blackboard on the  
2 stage, and every time somebody made a proposal,  
3 the town clerk would go over with an eraser and  
4 write the dollar amount that it would impact the  
5 tax bill. That was crystal clear. Then you  
6 could decide is that idea a good idea. Is it  
7 good enough for me to want to spend another \$5,  
8 \$10, \$20, \$15 on the tax rate.

9 So when we're looking at any  
10 proposals this evening that have to do with  
11 spending, we'll very quickly make that  
12 translation. We'll very quickly do that math  
13 for you and let you know exactly what you're  
14 voting on. Are there any questions? Mr.  
15 Heaslip, District 3.

16 **MR. HEASLIP:** Thank you. Steve  
17 Heaslip, District 3. So I have a question about  
18 the -- are we voting only once on the total  
19 budget, or are we going to be able to vote on  
20 the line items that have been passed?

21 **THE MODERATOR:** That's a good  
22 question, Mr. Heaslip. When I went through the  
23 budget and read each budget line item, any  
24 budget line item that people wanted to question

1 or amend were the ones that people said pass on,  
2 and those were pulled out. That omnibus vote  
3 that we took a few minutes ago accepted the  
4 original motion, accepted what's in that column,  
5 if it was a budget item, as is written.

6 So we have ten, fifteen budget items  
7 that have not yet been decided. The others, we  
8 accepted the original motion. Now, if that  
9 wasn't clear to you at the time, and you want to  
10 pass one of those, the Chair will accept that.  
11 The idea is not to be a slave to the rules. You  
12 have to follow the rules, but you can always  
13 exhibit a little bit of flexibility so that you  
14 feel like you have the ability to exercise your  
15 authority to approve the budget.

16 I should point out that when we took  
17 that omnibus vote, Article 2 was included in  
18 that omnibus vote. Because remember, we voted  
19 to waive that requirement. So Article 2 then  
20 stood with all the other articles that were in  
21 the pass column to be accepted. So Article 2,  
22 as is printed in your supplement, has been  
23 passed. That's the collective bargaining one.  
24 Any other questions? The Chair recognizes the

1 chair of the finance and warrant committee, Mr.  
2 Kevin Preston.

3 **MR. PRESTON:** Thank you, Mr.

4 Moderator. Just before we begin, I just want to  
5 say a few words about the process and a couple  
6 of observations about the context in which  
7 you'll be discussing these items. The first is  
8 when we received -- when the finance and warrant  
9 committee received the town manager's budget in  
10 January, on paper, and on its face, we were  
11 looking at a projected increase to the average  
12 residential tax bill of 7.3 percent.

13 Now, that was never a real figure,  
14 because there are some things that we  
15 anticipated would happen that happened pretty  
16 much every year, and that, in fact, did, the  
17 overlay being the big item that brought that  
18 down without any reductions or cuts or any other  
19 work on our part to about six percent.

20 So when we went to work, we went to  
21 work on a projected tax increase of six percent.  
22 And I think to a person, the committee felt that  
23 given that that was considerably more than twice  
24 the increase in the consumer price index, that

1 that was not a workable figure, and that we then  
2 took our pencils out and began working to get  
3 that figure down as much as we could, and we did  
4 -- basically, after -- in addition to a lot of  
5 negotiation with the town manager and department  
6 heads that made a lot of other changes to the  
7 budget, we came up with five major adjustments  
8 to the budget that was recommended to us by the  
9 town manager.

10 And I just want to highlight what  
11 those are to you now. We'll talk about them in  
12 detail as they come up for debate, and we'll get  
13 into the reasons and why we did what we did.  
14 But the first was that we took a look at the  
15 operation of the town bus, and the committee  
16 felt that it was not a good expenditure of town  
17 money.

18 We spent some time working with town  
19 officials to come up with an alternative to  
20 that. We'll be discussing that in more detail.  
21 But we spend \$140,000 a year on the bus that  
22 drives around the routes during the day on  
23 weekdays, and we achieved, we believe, what will  
24 next year be a savings of somewhere around

1           \$100,000. We don't know exactly, but again,  
2 we'll talk about that in more detail.

3                   The second is the school department  
4 came to us with a budget request that was,  
5 again, considerably more than -- or more than  
6 twice the increase in the rate of inflation.  
7 The committee recommended a budget that fully  
8 funds all existing school department operations  
9 and makes allowance for step increases,  
10 collective bargaining increases, and other  
11 adjustments, as proposed by the school  
12 department.

13                   The only difference between the  
14 school department's request and the finance  
15 committee's recommendation is that the finance  
16 committee did not recommend that all of the  
17 proposed expansion be funded; rather roughly  
18 that half of the proposed expansion be funded,  
19 and again, we'll discuss that in more detail.

20                   The third major item is that on  
21 pensions, we received a letter from the Dedham  
22 Retirement Board informing the town that in  
23 their view, our obligation for unfunded -- our  
24 unfunded pension liability and our ongoing

1 pension liability was roughly \$3.7 million. As  
2 many of you recall, we've pumped a lot of extra  
3 money over the last few years into funding our  
4 pensions. There are 85 cities and towns in  
5 Massachusetts that have their own pension  
6 systems. We are the best funded of all of them.

7 We are number one of all of the  
8 pension systems in Massachusetts. We thought  
9 that entitled us to a little room to move some  
10 figures around. The retirement board did not  
11 see it our way. We used different assumptions  
12 than they did to arrive at our figure, which  
13 reduced expenditures, at least that you're being  
14 asked to be made now, by \$700,000.

15 We're not confident that we'll be  
16 able to sustain that. This is a legal issue  
17 that they may well have the authority to order  
18 us to do it. We're going to continue dialogue.  
19 We're going to continue to try to work it out  
20 because we think we have a very reasonable case  
21 to make. But the thing that I said at mini, I  
22 will say again to everyone here tonight, that  
23 this is a situation where if we get into a legal  
24 dispute, you will be paying, Dedham tax payers

1 will be paying the lawyers on both sides of the  
2 case, and that is never a situation you want to  
3 put yourself in.

4 So what we're recommending is that  
5 we'd like to continue the dialogue. We'd like  
6 you to approve \$2.9 million now, and we'll  
7 continue the dialogue, see what develops, see if  
8 other steps can be taken, and if not, we'll come  
9 back in November for the balance. In the  
10 meantime, we won't have broken any laws or  
11 suffered any irreparable penalty. But it's a  
12 big chunk. It's \$700,000. It's obvious it  
13 makes a big dent.

14 The fourth thing. We've had debates  
15 at the last three town meetings in a row about  
16 kicking money into the Robin Reyes Fund to build  
17 up the -- we spent a lot of what was the corpus  
18 of the fund on the public safety building, the  
19 ECEC, and other things. The fund was projected  
20 to get very low very quickly. If we didn't,  
21 there were different points of view about this.

22 This committee was a big advocate for  
23 funding it according to the schedule that was  
24 adopted when we voted to do the public safety



1 building, and it's with great reluctance that  
2 we're here tonight proposing to you that you  
3 only do half of what that projected contribution  
4 would be, simply on the theory that we want to  
5 get the increase on the tax rate down. We think  
6 we can spread this out a little bit, but it's  
7 with distinctly mixed feelings that we make that  
8 recommendation.

9 And then the fifth and final thing  
10 that we've done to try to manage this rate  
11 increase is we're proposing -- in Article 4,  
12 there are a couple of kinds of capital money  
13 that we spend. One is what we call operating  
14 capital. It's capital items, like vehicles,  
15 that you could spread out in bonds. You could  
16 borrow the money for them because they have a  
17 long life expectancy. But we've tried to pay  
18 them with cash on a year-to-year basis because  
19 it's just a fiscally more responsible thing to  
20 do.

21 We're proposing to defer about  
22 \$300,000 of those purchases, not for a year, but  
23 just until November. If we do them now, they'll  
24 end up on the levy. They'll be part of what

1 goes into determining how much the tax rate goes  
2 up and how much your tax bill goes up. If we  
3 wait until November, we might get a break. We  
4 don't know what our free cash situation will  
5 look like at that point. We know it doesn't  
6 look very good right now.

7 So all we're proposing is not that we  
8 not buy those vehicles -- you can identify them  
9 by the box, the empty box where it says FinCom  
10 recommendation, and there's nothing in it.  
11 Those are the items we're proposing. Let's take  
12 another look at them in November. I believe  
13 that we'll be recommending them, but that's not  
14 our -- we haven't voted on that yet.

15 It isn't that people don't support  
16 those purchases. It's that we're taking a  
17 conservative wait and see attitude, and then  
18 take a look at whether we do it, how we do it,  
19 and how we finance it when we come together  
20 again in November.

21 The only other point I'd make is that  
22 what's going on here besides just us deciding  
23 how much money to spend is there's a somewhat  
24 unusual thing going on with real estate values

1 that is affecting what we do in this room, and  
2 that is that Dedham is fortunate to have a very  
3 strong commercial and industrial base of  
4 taxpayers. They pay a goodly rate on the  
5 commercial industrial property that they own.  
6 But what's happened over the last five years is  
7 pretty consistently, commercial and industrial  
8 property values have been stagnant. They've  
9 pretty much stayed the same.

10 A lot of the big box stores, some of  
11 the empty properties you see here and there,  
12 that they haven't increased, where residential  
13 property has zoomed. It's been going up five  
14 percent a year or -- and the net effect of that  
15 and why it affects what we do here tonight is  
16 that over the total of that process over the  
17 past five years, five years ago, commercial and  
18 industrial property paid more than 35 percent of  
19 all the property taxes paid in Dedham.

20 This year, they pay 31 percent, and  
21 what that translates into is \$3.5 million that  
22 five years ago would have been paid by  
23 commercial and industrial property owners has  
24 been shifted over to residential, and it

1 magnifies the effect. Every dollar that we  
2 spend has the impact on residential rates of  
3 something like a dollar and a half.

4 So we ask you to be cognizant of  
5 that. If we seem to have been more conservative  
6 than you might have thought we might be, part of  
7 the reason is because of that magnifying effect  
8 of everything that we do.

9 One final thing before I stop is that  
10 the only thing I would ask you is that the one  
11 reason I would ask you not to vote for or  
12 against something is that it's only \$1 or \$2 or  
13 \$10 or \$15 on the rate. Virtually everything we  
14 look at in the budget, our entire budget, is  
15 made up of things that only cost 50 cents or \$1  
16 or \$10. Everything sounds small when you look  
17 at it in isolation. What we look at is the  
18 \$7,359 that the average taxpayer is going to end  
19 up paying, even if you approve the more  
20 conservative budget that we recommended here  
21 tonight. Thank you.

22 **THE MODERATOR:** Thank you, Mr.  
23 Preston. We're going to begin voting on -- I  
24 said there were eight or nine. There are

1 actually 26 line items in the town budget that  
2 people want to either talk about or debate,  
3 etcetera. So the first is Line Item Number 4.  
4 It's on Page 2. It's in the town manager's  
5 department, and it is where the bus money is  
6 located. Ms. Woods.

7 **MS. WOODS:** Georganna Woods, Precinct  
8 6. I understand the reasoning behind the  
9 cutting of the bus. I agree it's been really  
10 frustrating to see it riding around empty for  
11 five years. But I hope that there is  
12 consideration given for an active transportation  
13 committee to help maybe salvage the idea of a  
14 town shuttle, and also other ideas for getting  
15 people out of their cars, because the number one  
16 complaint that I've heard at town hall meetings,  
17 you know, the town hall to you events, are  
18 traffic, and then the other big complaint are  
19 speeding cars. So there's no way we're going to  
20 be able to solve that if we don't try something.  
21 So that's all.

22 **THE MODERATOR:** Thank you, Ms. Woods.  
23 I'm going to ask if somebody can open the doors  
24 to the outside. These are open, those are

1 closed. Maybe we get a little additional draft  
2 here. We're in no danger of throwing the air  
3 conditioning off by opening the doors, believe  
4 me. Thank you, sir. Ms. Tobin.

5 **MS. TOBIN:** Hi. Patty Tobin,  
6 Precinct 2. I wanted to raise a couple of  
7 concerns about the bus funding as well. I  
8 didn't quite understand -- I think it's a point  
9 of clarification -- has there been \$40,000 added  
10 back into the budget for the bus? And I guess  
11 one of my concerns, just based on utilization  
12 currently, were that some sectors of the  
13 population might be left out or stranded, for  
14 example, public housing residents who may not be  
15 elderly or disabled and veterans. I'm not sure  
16 if the COA service is going to, you know, take  
17 in all veterans or just disabled or elderly.

18 **THE MODERATOR:** Thank you, Ms. Tobin.  
19 Sharna Small Borsellino.

20 **MS. BORSELLINO:** Thank you. Sharna  
21 Small Borsellino, Precinct 6. I would just like  
22 to ask that whatever you do with the bus that  
23 I'm -- and this message is more to the board of  
24 selectmen. What I heard at last week's mini

1 town meeting was that the town manager's office  
2 does not have the staff to oversee the bus  
3 because they have other responsibilities, which  
4 means that transportation is not getting the  
5 attention that it deserves from town hall.

6 So I would ask that the board of  
7 selectmen find a home for transportation,  
8 because transportation is not something that is  
9 used only by people of -- those people who are  
10 low income. Transportation can also be used and  
11 is also used in our neighboring communities by  
12 people who care about air quality, by people who  
13 care about traffic congestion, by people who  
14 want to get out of their cars.

15 And I know that our bus company has  
16 submitted proposals to the town manager's office  
17 that would reroute the bus, that would use the  
18 bus for multiple use purposes, and those  
19 proposals were not acted upon because the town  
20 manager's office didn't have the staff allocated  
21 to do so or didn't have -- staff had other  
22 responsibilities.

23 So again, we've missed an opportunity  
24 to improve this bus service to make the bus

1 something that can be utilized by commuters and  
2 by high school students to after school jobs.  
3 And I just ask that in the future we be more  
4 mindful that public transportation isn't  
5 something that's just reserved for those people  
6 or the low income or seniors or the disabled.

7 **THE MODERATOR:** Thank you, Ms.  
8 Borsellino. Mr. Kern.

9 **MR. KERN:** I'd like to make a couple  
10 of clarifications on the comments that were just  
11 made. If you go back more than six years, there  
12 was a proposal relative to the bus at a town  
13 meeting. There was a decision made to continue  
14 the bus service as it was, but there was  
15 considerable effort put in, first by the town  
16 planner, Rich McCarthy, and followed after that  
17 when Rich left by John Sisson, the community  
18 development director, relative to the bus  
19 service as it existed and as it exists today.

20 We thought our first -- the first  
21 approach that we should take before we re-  
22 engineer the bus was to make sure it was  
23 providing the service that it was designed to  
24 provide, and it did it in a courteous and



1 professional way. So there's actually been  
2 significant effort put in over the last five  
3 years in making the bus a better bus. It's not  
4 accurate to say that there hasn't been effort  
5 put in, and it's also not accurate to say that  
6 the proposals that have been discussed with the  
7 new vendor were not pursued just because of  
8 staffing.

9 Before the decision is made to pursue  
10 those proposals -- and those proposals are  
11 primarily ways to market the bus such that there  
12 is more ridership. And as I said last week, I  
13 think the community needs to decide  
14 philosophically whether they want to spend  
15 limited resources. And I will remind you when I  
16 proposed my budget, the full funding of the bus  
17 was in it, but it's still fair to ask is that an  
18 expenditure that you want to continue, and if  
19 you want to continue it, what's really the  
20 objective, as opposed to --

21 And Sharna brings up a number of  
22 these. Are we trying to service those that get  
23 on the train and commute into the city? Are we  
24 trying to service people who are employed and

1 work on the Route 1 corridor, school students in  
2 the middle school to early high school age?

3 We've had those conversations. Other  
4 communities have had those conversations. There  
5 are very few communities on the Route 1 corridor  
6 or in the Boston general area that run a town  
7 bus. That's not to say Dedham shouldn't. It's  
8 just to say what do you really want to do, and  
9 how do you want to do it. Our first objective  
10 was to do what we were doing and do it well.  
11 After that, I think it's fair to ask do you want  
12 to expand it. Do you want to target some of the  
13 groups that Sharna and others have talked about.

14 The other part of that, and we've  
15 included Sheila Pransky, the director of the  
16 Council on Aging, is to incorporate the two  
17 transportation efforts, that of the Council on  
18 Aging and that of the larger transportation bus  
19 system. It isn't to say that we're just going  
20 to service Council on Aging clients or  
21 constituents. It goes back to that other  
22 question, do you want to develop a bus system  
23 that provides transportation for the rest of the  
24 group.

1 I think you really need to decide  
2 what you want to do. I think there is capacity  
3 to pursue it. It's not unlimited capacity,  
4 staff and citizens, but to me, it's really a  
5 matter of what's the objective to begin with.  
6 Thank you.

7 **THE MODERATOR:** Thank you, Mr. Kern.  
8 Further discussion? Just so you know what  
9 you're voting on, the bus, as it runs right now,  
10 costs \$140,000 a year. This \$40,000 is in  
11 addition to the \$30,000 that was already  
12 included. So there's \$70,000 in this line item  
13 for the bus plan, as has been described by Mr.  
14 Kern and Mr. Preston. So we're voting on  
15 \$1,018,775. That's the \$978,000, plus \$40,000.  
16 All those in favor, please say aye.

17 (Aye)

18 **THE MODERATOR:** Opposed, no.

19 (No)

20 **THE MODERATOR:** The ayes have it.  
21 Thank you. Line Item Number 5, legal purchases  
22 service. Mr. Delloiacono.

23 **MR. DELLOIACONO:** Mr. Moderator,  
24 thank you. Town meeting members, thank you.

1 Quick shout-out to my daughter Sarah,  
2 congratulations from Stonehill. Love you.

3 The newspapers printed a few  
4 articles. I don't want to know anything about  
5 that. I just want to know what the town has  
6 spent to date and how much of this service is  
7 for future litigation on that one item.

8 **THE MODERATOR:** On Line Item 5, or 5  
9 and 6?

10 **MR. DELLOIACONO:** 5 and 6. I wanted  
11 to cover all bases, Mr. Moderator.

12 **MR. KERN:** The item Mr. Delloiacono  
13 is referring to is covered by insurance, and  
14 that's who's paying for that litigation.  
15 There's a small deductible, and I'm not sure  
16 what it is, and that would have come out of  
17 litigation and judgments.

18 **THE MODERATOR:** Any further  
19 discussion on either 5 or 6? There being none,  
20 the vote comes in favor of the original motion  
21 on 5, which is \$250,000, and on 6, which is  
22 \$25,000. All those in favor, please say aye.

23 (Aye)

24 **THE MODERATOR:** Opposed, no. The

1 ayes have it. We move to Line Item Number 39.  
2 This is the planning board, Page 3. It looks  
3 like the entire planning board and economic  
4 development budgets have been passed. It might  
5 move things along if anybody who wants to speak  
6 on that feels free to address any of them rather  
7 than come up each time. Is that okay?

8 **MR. DELLOIACONO:** Yeah. I passed all  
9 of them.

10 **THE MODERATOR:** I know, Carmen.

11 **MR. DELLOIACONO:** Mr. Moderator,  
12 thank you. I passed all of them for a reason,  
13 because of historically how items have gone  
14 through the town at town meetings. So if I read  
15 this correctly, and I try to understand what  
16 happened here, it looks like the re-class  
17 expenses to planning economic development are  
18 going into that, but I see it funded at \$98,551,  
19 still under economic development. So is there a  
20 new job position that is now, as I see further  
21 on in Article 27, a planning developer? Is  
22 there a new position, and is the economic  
23 development officer gone?

24 **THE MODERATOR:** Mr. Kern.

1                   **MR. KERN:** The difference between the  
2                   \$171,000 at the bottom of the economic  
3                   development and the \$98,000 is primarily  
4                   professional services. As you can see in Line  
5                   44, it's a purchase of services. It's not  
6                   salary. So it doesn't relate to a position. It  
7                   relates to paying consultants to provide  
8                   planning services in the period of time that has  
9                   extended almost a year. While we were out to  
10                  hire a planner, we hired a planner. The person  
11                  stayed here a short period of time, and then we  
12                  went back out.

13                  In the planning department, you can  
14                  see -- back up to Line 39. You can see -- if  
15                  you go back to the 2017 actual, and I would  
16                  remind people that that column is the actual  
17                  expense, 2018 is actual, and then 2019 is the  
18                  current budget that we're in today, and then  
19                  2020 is the town manager's proposed budget.

20                  If you take the \$151,445 that's in  
21                  the 2017 actual, project it forward, say, three  
22                  percent, you get 156 in '18 and 162 in '19. So  
23                  that's about what that would have been had what  
24                  I just described with respect to the

1 professional town planning position not  
2 happened.

3 So that's kind of a proper projection  
4 of that department, which is a town planner and  
5 an administrative assistant. The town manager's  
6 budget this year proposed that planner, and also  
7 a full-time staff planner, subordinate to that  
8 position. The finance committee made an  
9 adjustment to that that I will let the chairman  
10 address, if he's so inclined, but they made an  
11 adjustment such to fund half of that staff  
12 planner. Do you want to comment on it?

13 **MR. DELLOIACONO:** I'll try to  
14 streamline, Mr. Moderator. So there is no added  
15 job, Mr. Kern.

16 **MR. PRESTON:** There's one-half of an  
17 FTE increase.

18 **MR. DELLOIACONO:** So we still have an  
19 economic development. Because what I mean by  
20 what's happened historically in the past is at  
21 the next town meeting, will the economic  
22 development be zero funded and all go to  
23 planning. Do you follow me? Because if it  
24 stays in the books, some future can fund it.

1                   **MR. KERN:** If it stays on the -- a  
2                   future town -- this doesn't bind any future town  
3                   meeting in any way. So the way we list it  
4                   really doesn't have a great deal of bearing  
5                   unless we're referring to how someone might  
6                   imagine it would work. There was a proposed  
7                   full-time position the finance committee funded  
8                   -- I should have said it better, a half a year  
9                   of a full-time position. And the economic  
10                  development, personal services is remaining as  
11                  it's listed.

12                 **THE MODERATOR:** Thank you. Carmen,  
13                 do you want to speak on any of the others, or  
14                 should we just --

15                 **MR. DELLOIACONO:** No. I wanted to  
16                 cover all the bases.

17                 **THE MODERATOR:** All right, you've  
18                 covered them. Any other questions on anything  
19                 in either the planning or the economic  
20                 development department? If not, we will vote  
21                 the original motions, which are in the column to  
22                 the right, starting at \$190,292 and going  
23                 straight down the bottom of the page. All those  
24                 in favor, please say aye.



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(Aye)

**THE MODERATOR:** Opposed, no.

(No)

**THE MODERATOR:** The ayes have it.

Thank you. We're going now to the -- oh, yes, ma'am. Could you go to the microphone, and state your name and district, please?

**MS. DIBIASIO:** Diane Dibiasio, Precinct 1. I just have a quick question. In my book, when I was passing, I passed on Number 2, and we didn't vote on that.

**THE MODERATOR:** We did.

**MS. DIBIASIO:** We didn't discuss it, and I didn't know if that was being delayed for later.

**THE MODERATOR:** No.

**MS. DIBIASIO:** I just was concerned that we --

**THE MODERATOR:** Article 2 was the collective bargaining, and we voted to waive the requirement that the contract be sent out. Therefore, it was included in that big vote that we took. But if you have a question on it, I'll be glad to entertain that.

1                   **MS. DIBIASIO:** I do not. I just had  
2 it marked down as a pass, and I wanted to make  
3 sure we had voted on it.

4                   **THE MODERATOR:** Yeah.

5                   **MS. DIBIASIO:** Thank you.

6                   **THE MODERATOR:** Thank you for  
7 pointing that out. In the fire department, Line  
8 Items 53, 54, and 55, we encourage speakers to  
9 address them collectively if their concern goes  
10 that way. Mr. Driscoll.

11                   **MR. DRISCOLL:** Mark Driscoll,  
12 District 4. I didn't mention 54, but I did  
13 mention 53 and 55. 55, I probably don't even  
14 need to talk about. It's 54. I bring it up  
15 because --

16                   **THE MODERATOR:** Mark, can you pull  
17 that microphone a little closer to you?

18                   **MR. DRISCOLL:** The reason I passed  
19 this is it was brought to my attention at mini  
20 town meeting where it was passed by the panel,  
21 and it brought my attention to the atypical  
22 increase in the fire budget.

23                   So I went and looked on the town  
24 website, and I see that there was about a

1           600,000-dollar increase in personnel, and that  
2           was primarily, it appears, from five officers --  
3           or five firefighters becoming officers. And I  
4           have three questions. My first one is looking  
5           at past years, this hasn't happened. What  
6           changed this year that all of a sudden, fire  
7           firefighters became officers?

8                   **THE MODERATOR:** Chief Cullinane.

9                   **MR. DRISCOLL:** While he's coming, I  
10           also say that the chief mentioned last week that  
11           he found some money that he inadvertently put in  
12           purchase of services. So I appreciate that he  
13           brought that up at last week's meeting, too.

14                   **THE MODERATOR:** Thank you, Mr.  
15           Driscoll. Chief.

16                   **CHIEF SPILLANE:** Good evening. Bill  
17           Spillane, fire chief. To answer your question  
18           on the captains' positions, those were not five  
19           new positions. Those were an upgrade.  
20           Previously on the department, we had four deputy  
21           chiefs, and we had 17 lieutenants. We created  
22           five captains' positions. What that did is it  
23           created more structure within our command staff,  
24           so we took -- now, we have eight lieutenants and

1 five captains, as opposed to the previous amount  
2 of lieutenants.

3 So it was an upgrade for them, which  
4 what it does is it provides more structure, if  
5 you will, to our officer's staff, and it also  
6 provides for an opportunity for professional  
7 development, and they're also eligible to work  
8 out of grade as a deputy chief in the absence of  
9 the deputy chief when they go on vacation or on  
10 leave. That increase -- just to answer that  
11 question as well, that is a 12 percent  
12 differential between the ranks.

13 **MR. DRISCOLL:** Thank you. If I may,  
14 through the Chair again, is that the number of  
15 -- when I look at the number of superior  
16 officers, it's 13, which is about one -- between  
17 the chief and superior officers, one for every  
18 two and a half firefighters. Is that typical  
19 for most towns?

20 **CHIEF SPILLANE:** The way that it's  
21 typical is that for each truck that we have,  
22 each piece of apparatus, the standard for  
23 staffing on that is one supervisor with three  
24 firefighters. So in both cases, a lieutenant

1 and a captain -- they're both considered company  
2 officers, if you will. They're on the trucks  
3 with the firefighters. So it's an officer,  
4 whether it's a lieutenant or a captain, along  
5 with three firefighters. And yes, that's the  
6 national standard.

7 **MR. DRISCOLL:** Thank you. If I could  
8 just go back to the -- so the difference between  
9 the lieutenant and the captain is different  
10 responsibilities? Is that what it is?

11 **CHIEF SPILLANE:** Correct. It's more  
12 administrative responsibilities, and as I said,  
13 he's the gap in between the deputy chiefs and  
14 the lieutenants. We recognized that there was a  
15 gap there, and what we also recognized was that  
16 in the absence of the deputy chief, it became  
17 more fiscally responsible as well to have a  
18 captain to act in the role of his deputy chief  
19 when he is out.

20 **MR. DRISCOLL:** One last question, if  
21 I could. You brought up last week the training  
22 cost increases, and I didn't know the number,  
23 but I found it on the website. There was a 400  
24 percent increase in the cost of training, and

1            hopefully you could explain that, too, and then  
2            I'm done. Thank you.

3                    **CHIEF SPILLANE:** The increase that  
4            you see is under personal services, and what  
5            that does is it kind of encompasses a few  
6            things. One of it, again, comes back to  
7            professional development. What we observed is  
8            we actually -- we were lacking professional  
9            development within our officer corp. We're  
10          trying to plan for future officers. We have  
11          senior officers who held these positions for  
12          many years. They've gone on to retirement or  
13          being close to retirement. What we recognized  
14          is that the additional training has not been  
15          provided.

16                   Our job has always been very  
17          complicated. And on top of that, it remains  
18          complicated. Now it's become more complex, if  
19          you will. The job has changed so much, and we  
20          need to stay ahead of the curve. We've made an  
21          incentive to send the fire officers and  
22          firefighters go to the Massachusetts Fire  
23          Academy to achieve these certain levels of  
24          certifications that will allow them to become

1 the future officers of this department.

2 As it stands right now, we're not  
3 prepared for that. We're trying to move  
4 forward, trying to educate our firefighters,  
5 both through professional education, and also  
6 the practical experience that they gain. Hence,  
7 the captains' positions again.

8 We've also initiated over the last  
9 two, two and a half years a health and wellness  
10 program. We're investing in our firefighters.  
11 We're investing in their health and wellness.  
12 Over the last two and a half years, we've seen  
13 our injury rate drop dramatically, specifically  
14 our long-term injuries.

15 Our job -- that's the nature of the  
16 beast. You're always going to have injuries.  
17 We're even seeing -- even with the short-term  
18 injuries, they're recovering that much quicker  
19 and they're coming back. This is a structured  
20 program that we brought into the department, as  
21 I said, over the last two and a half years.

22 We've now made an incentive for the  
23 firefighters to continue with this program  
24 throughout the course of the year. It's not

1 just about joining a gym. I'm sure everybody  
2 has done that. You join a gym, you stay on  
3 board for about the first two or three months,  
4 and then we've had enough.

5 We wanted to make sure that the  
6 firefighters stay on board with this. And it's  
7 not just physical fitness. It's also nutrition  
8 and wellness, as well as -- another big aspect  
9 that we tend to forget is mental wellness and  
10 resiliency. All these three issues are  
11 addressed throughout the course of the year.

12 One of the other components of  
13 personal services that's included in this is the  
14 increase in the cost for uniform replacements.  
15 For many years, the firefighters have been  
16 receiving \$500 a year to replace their normal  
17 daily work uniforms, basically the shirt and  
18 pants that they wear, sweatshirts, what have  
19 you, when they go out on the trucks. It's just  
20 not enough.

21 Not even looking at the number, we're  
22 basically looking at when the money becomes  
23 available in July, I'm looking at them, and by  
24 the end of the fall, they don't look so good.



1 They basically needed to double that to get the  
2 double amount of the uniforms, you know, to be  
3 presentable throughout the course of the year.  
4 The uniforms get basically beat up, if you will,  
5 over the types of calls that they go on, and  
6 they're disposed of.

7 You can only clean these things so  
8 many times and have to dispose of them. So  
9 there was an increase in the uniforms for both  
10 the firefighters and the officers. That was an  
11 additional increase within personal services.  
12 So all of those included, that accounted for the  
13 majority of the increases under personal  
14 services.

15 **THE MODERATOR:** Thank you, Chief.  
16 Ms. Kilroy.

17 **MS. KILROY:** Marjorie Kilroy,  
18 Precinct 6. Just a question for you. Three  
19 years ago, I think we voted in four new  
20 firefighters because of the overtime, and wasn't  
21 that supposed to bring it down a little?

22 **CHIEF SPILLANE:** Yes.

23 **MS. KILROY:** It looked like it was  
24 inching up a little. I just was wondering.

1                   **CHIEF SPILLANE:** Well, actually, with  
2                   the overtime what it is is the way it's  
3                   reflected this year, I believe it shows an  
4                   increase of about \$40,000 over last year. What  
5                   that also reflects is the contractual wage  
6                   adjustment that just was signed into agreement  
7                   last July. And what it also looks at is that  
8                   with that increase with the mutual aid calls  
9                   that we go out to service, the other cities and  
10                  towns who call for our aid, we also welcome them  
11                  when we have a significant event in our town as  
12                  well.

13                         So mutual aid means you give and you  
14                         receive. This year, in particular, I'm sure  
15                         everybody saw it on the news, there were several  
16                         major incidents. There was many in Boston that  
17                         we responded to to cover their stations. The  
18                         big gas incident they had up in Lawrence, and  
19                         also in Quincy, several times we were over there  
20                         as well. Those incidents -- fire departments  
21                         are busy, and we rely on our neighboring cities  
22                         and towns.

23                         So every time we send the trucks out,  
24                         we'll send -- we're available to send two trucks

1 out of town anytime they request them, a ladder  
2 truck, and also an engine company. Each one of  
3 them is staffed, as I mentioned before, with  
4 four individuals, an officer and three  
5 firefighters. We don't leave our town stranded,  
6 if you will. We bring back in off duty  
7 firefighters so that we still staff the reserve  
8 apparatus in our town so we can still protect  
9 everything that's going on throughout the course  
10 of our day.

11 **MS. KILROY:** Thank you, very much.

12 **THE MODERATOR:** Thank you, Ms.

13 Kilroy, and thank you, Chief Cullinane. Any  
14 other questions on the fire department. I said  
15 Chief Cullinane twice. Well, what was that,  
16 only 15 years ago? Sorry, Chief Spillane.

17 We're voting now on the original  
18 motions that are in the book. All those in  
19 favor, please say aye.

20 (Aye)

21 **THE MODERATOR:** Opposed, no. The  
22 ayes have it. Thank you. We are moving now to  
23 Line Item 64, overtime in the building  
24 inspection department. Mr. Delloiacono.

1                   **MR. DELLOIACONO:** Mr. Moderator, town  
2 meeting members, Carmen Delloiacono. I meant to  
3 mention -- I forgot to mention earlier I am an  
4 employee of the Town of Dedham. This Line Item  
5 64 is the department that my job is in, and it's  
6 about the overtime.

7                   In the past town meeting, when Mr.  
8 Keegan was here, he consolidated things,  
9 supplies, purchases for town hall, into one  
10 central fund, all overtime into central  
11 overtime. I'd just like to know why this is the  
12 only department in town hall that they're  
13 identifying and now carrying a budget for.  
14 Thank you.

15                   **THE MODERATOR:** Mr. Kern. Not  
16 Keegan, not Griffin. Mr. Kern.

17                   **MR. KERN:** I answer to Bill. There  
18 were two, and there were two Cullinanes, if I  
19 have that right.

20                   This was to give the department head  
21 better flexibility in assigning overtime.

22                   **THE MODERATOR:** Thank you. Any other  
23 questions on Line Item Number 64? If not, we  
24 vote on the original motion. All those in

1 favor, please say aye.

2 (Aye)

3 **THE MODERATOR:** Opposed, no. The  
4 ayes have it. Thank you. Line Item 71, Dedham  
5 public school education. Discussion? Mr.  
6 Gallagher.

7 **MR. GALLAGHER:** William Gallagher,  
8 District 6. I would like to thank Mr. Preston  
9 and the members of the finance and warrant  
10 committee for their dedication and service to  
11 the Town of Dedham.

12 With that noted, I would like to  
13 propose that Line 71 of Article 3 be amended to  
14 restore the amount requested by Dedham's elected  
15 school committee, which was approved by the town  
16 manager when looking at Dedham's finances. I  
17 ask that the town meeting vote to increase Line  
18 71 by the amount of \$196,000.

19 **THE MODERATOR:** Thank you, Mr.  
20 Gallagher. Is there a second?

21 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Second.

22 **THE MODERATOR:** Discussion? There  
23 being no discussion, we vote on the higher  
24 amount first. You've got to give me a break

1 here. The lights that come here make it a  
2 little difficult. Mr. Galvin.

3 **MR. LAWLOR:** Good evening. My name  
4 is Andy Lawlor, and it's my privilege to  
5 represent Precinct 6. In my view, public  
6 education should be, and often is, the great  
7 equalizer in our society, and so I haven't been  
8 shy in taking this microphone over the years and  
9 urging that we increase our taxes by tens of  
10 millions of dollars for public education.  
11 Conversely, when I think we're making a  
12 strategic mistake in painting ourselves into a  
13 corner, I've opposed expenditures of tax dollars  
14 for education.

15 Now, this issue here is not of the  
16 magnitude of \$28 million for a middle school and  
17 \$24 million for an Avery School. \$200,000 is a  
18 relatively small number, but it's an important  
19 question. And while it's helpful to know that  
20 this 40,600,000-dollar line item is a 4.2  
21 percent increase from last year, it isn't  
22 sufficient enough context to make such an  
23 important decision. So I spent some time  
24 researching historical numbers for our support

1 of the public schools here in Dedham and how we  
2 stand relative to our peers and our neighbors.

3 So two decades ago, 2001, we were  
4 spending our contribution, exclusive of health  
5 insurance and benefits, about \$22 million to  
6 educate 3100 kids, or just a little over 3100  
7 kids. So now, 20 years later, in 2020, we're  
8 debating whether to spend \$40,600,000 to educate  
9 2700 kids, because we've lost 400 kids in our  
10 school system over the last 20 years.

11 So by my math, my Oakdale School  
12 math, is we're spending about 84 percent more  
13 next year, or proposed next year, based on the  
14 FinCom's recommendation, than we did 20 years  
15 ago. And I checked the CPI index, and between  
16 March of 2001 and March of this year, inflation  
17 for the Newton, Cambridge, Boston area has gone  
18 up 30 percent.

19 So we are today proposing -- or  
20 FinCom is proposing to effectively spend about  
21 54 percent more over inflation than we were two  
22 decades ago, and that number is actually quite a  
23 bit better when you consider that we're  
24 educating 400 less kids in the town than we were

1 20 years ago. And 400 kids equals an elementary  
2 school and a third of another.

3 So as far as historical context goes,  
4 we've been doing pretty well. The question is  
5 did we start from a base that was so small that  
6 -- you know, 65 percent above inflation, is that  
7 really good or excellent. So I took a look at  
8 what other towns are spending, and I encourage  
9 you, if you're interested in all this stuff, to  
10 take a look at the Department of Education's  
11 district profiles online. There's a tremendous  
12 amount of data, financial data, performance  
13 data, and some of it -- all of it's interesting,  
14 some of it's helpful, and some of it's quite  
15 sobering.

16 In any event, 2017 is the last year  
17 where you can compare yourself to all our peers.  
18 In 2017, for in-district tuition -- I'm sorry,  
19 in-district expenditures, we were spending about  
20 \$18,500 per student. You take a look at the  
21 most affluent communities in our neck of the  
22 woods -- Concord, Lincoln-Sudbury, and Wellesley  
23 -- and we are spending more than all of them per  
24 student. We're just a little bit above



1 Wellesley, and we're about \$500 more than  
2 Concord and Lincoln-Sudbury.

3 So okay, you know, they're going to  
4 -- they have a different demographic than we do.  
5 They don't have as many kids with disabilities,  
6 they don't have as many English as a second  
7 language type of kids, people from economically  
8 disadvantaged houses, more high needs. So then  
9 I took a look at our peers, people who are  
10 within our economic -- our economic peers. I  
11 took a look at Canton, Norwood, Braintree, and  
12 Milton. Again, for 2017, these towns were all  
13 spending between \$13,500 and \$15,500 in the case  
14 I think of Norwood.

15 So our economic peers are spending  
16 \$3,500 to \$5,000 less per student for in-  
17 district tuition. So I said okay, I'm feeling  
18 pretty good or proud of my community that we're  
19 spending so much money on education, because I  
20 think it's a terrific thing, and it should be  
21 the great equalizer in our country.

22 So I then wanted to see, well, are we  
23 getting good value for that exceptional amount  
24 of funding that we're making. And

1           unfortunately, of all those communities I  
2           mentioned, they all have better standardized  
3           performance test scores than we do. And I said  
4           all right, let's compare apples to apples. I  
5           know Fred Civian will come up here in a minute.  
6           I took a look at -- Milton and Canton doesn't  
7           have the same demographic group that we do, but  
8           Norwood and Braintree are very comparable,  
9           within one or two tweaks up or down of us, for  
10          kids with highest needs, English as a second  
11          language, first-time English learners, kids with  
12          disabilities, kids from economically  
13          disadvantaged students -- I mean, I'm sorry,  
14          kids from economically disadvantaged families.

15                        So all right, if Norwood and  
16          Braintree are spending \$3,000 or \$4,000 less per  
17          child for in-district tuition than we are, and  
18          their overall programs are doing better than  
19          ours are in MCAS scores, I've come to the  
20          conclusion that since we are funding our public  
21          schools at the levels of the most affluent  
22          suburbs in Eastern Massachusetts, that we are --  
23          this body is meeting its obligation to fund our  
24          schools to enable them to provide an excellent

1 education.

2 I think we provide a good education  
3 here in Dedham, but the question I suggest is  
4 can we be spending our money more effectively.  
5 I would submit probably.

6 The last point I want to make is as a  
7 town meeting representative, I view myself as  
8 representing not only the school children in the  
9 area and their parents, but also the elderly in  
10 our town and in Precinct 6. And I've come to  
11 know a woman in our town who lives in a two-  
12 family house, she's elderly, she's living on the  
13 rent from her first-floor apartment, social  
14 security and food stamps, and she's going to  
15 have to move, and then we're going to do a  
16 second -- or they're going to have to sell the  
17 house and put her in assisted living.

18 So \$500 a year in tax increases is  
19 real money, and it's particularly real money for  
20 those of us who don't have two earners in their  
21 house. So I respectfully request that you  
22 consider both of those obligations. Understand  
23 that we should be providing good, if not  
24 excellent, financial support for our schools,

1 but we should also be taking a look out for the  
2 elderly in our town so they don't have to be  
3 compelled to leave. Thank you.

4 **THE MODERATOR:** Thank you, Mr.  
5 Lawlor. Carlene Campbell-Hegarty.

6 **MS. CAMPBELL-HEGARTY:** Carlene  
7 Hegarty, Precinct 5. I just have a quick  
8 question. Could someone from the FinCom please  
9 tell us why -- since they see the whole budget,  
10 and we only get the numbers, if they could give  
11 us the reason why they felt they were going to  
12 deduct \$196,000 from the proposed budget from  
13 the school committee and the town manager?

14 **THE MODERATOR:** Thank you.

15 **MR. PRESTON:** The situation with the  
16 school department is very different legally than  
17 with the rest of town government. In the rest  
18 of town government, we look department by  
19 department, position by position, and can  
20 recommend targeted cuts or increases.

21 The state law with respect to the  
22 school department is that the only thing that  
23 the finance committee can recommend, and the  
24 only thing that town meeting can do, is to

1           approve a total figure for the department. It's  
2           then within the discretion of the superintendent  
3           and school committee as to what they actually do  
4           with the money and what programs they fund.

5                       So when we meet with them and we  
6           consider the school budget, we always talk about  
7           it in a program sense, but it's not our decision  
8           to make in the final analysis. For example,  
9           when the school department gave us their budget,  
10          they basically gave it to us in two pieces. One  
11          is how much would it cost just to keep doing  
12          what we're doing now and to give everybody their  
13          step increases and collective bargaining  
14          increases and to pay for the increase, you know,  
15          lights and pencils and whatever else it takes to  
16          run a school department.

17                      So they gave us that figure. That  
18          figure was 3.65 percent in the budget they  
19          presented to us, and that was the full cost to  
20          roll over everything, you know, maintain the  
21          same number of staff, teachers, etcetera. They  
22          then gave us what we talk about as the expansion  
23          budget, places -- and, in fact, what they  
24          proposed was to keep everything, every person on

1 board, and then they proposed some expansion,  
2 and there was about \$400,000 worth of proposed  
3 expansion that they were asking to be funded  
4 from the levy. There were some other expansion  
5 items that they were going to fund with tuition  
6 increases from the preschool program.

7 But we looked primarily, obviously,  
8 at stuff that was going to the levy, and it  
9 broke out into that there were two particular  
10 programs that the finance committee believed and  
11 the school department folks represented to us  
12 that, in fact, they'd probably save us money if  
13 we added.

14 There were programs -- funding of  
15 programs that would enable the school department  
16 to be in a better position to take some kids who  
17 are out of district placements right now who are  
18 -- very expensive out of district placements,  
19 you know, \$100,000, or more in some cases, and  
20 they could bring them back into the system if we  
21 funded these programs, and not only save a lot  
22 of money, but more importantly, even provide a  
23 better education to the kids that were affected  
24 by it.

1                   So the other programs were  
2                   improvements that we believed were well  
3                   worthwhile, but just given all the other  
4                   budgetary needs and the -- that we are already  
5                   around 4 percent increase in taxes, we thought  
6                   maybe we space these out over a couple of years,  
7                   or we just didn't think we could do it all in  
8                   one year, and that's how we looked at it.  
9                   But again, at the end of the day, whatever  
10                  figure you approve tonight, the school  
11                  department and the superintendent and the school  
12                  committee have the ultimate say. And they would  
13                  have every right to go back and say, you know,  
14                  if this is the amount we're going to get, we're  
15                  going to do this instead and do very different  
16                  things that we know about.

17                  We never heard any suggestion that  
18                  anybody -- any teachers might be let go or staff  
19                  people or anything like that. It was -- we  
20                  looked at it in terms of what does it cost to  
21                  maintain, and what do we want to add on top of  
22                  that.

23                  **MS. CAMPBELL-HEGARTY:** So if I may  
24                  ask a quick follow up question. So what you're

1           telling me is that per the information that you  
2           were given, some children who are getting  
3           services outside of the community are going to  
4           be brought back in, and Dedham is going to  
5           provide the services here, and this \$196,000  
6           will be the savings? Is that how you came to  
7           this determination?

8                       **MR. PRESTON:** It was the other way  
9           around. The \$200,000 that we funded was what  
10          you just referred to, to fund the programs that  
11          would enable them to bring kids back into the  
12          district. But again, we don't ultimately make  
13          the decision as to which one they get.

14                      **MS. CAMPBELL-HEGARTY:** I know. I  
15          guess I'm trying to find out what prompted you  
16          to go against what the town manager is and the  
17          school committee and everyone came up with to  
18          cut the budget by \$196,000, because I didn't get  
19          to see the complete budget, nor was I a part of  
20          that discussion. So I'm just curious for my own  
21          -- before I vote on this, I'm curious how you  
22          folks came up with that number.

23                      **MR. PRESTON:** Let me just say this.  
24          The most important thing I could say here



1           tonight is we did not cut the budget. We  
2           increased the budget by 4 -- we recommend -- you  
3           decided. We recommended increasing it by 4.2  
4           percent, which if you approve the 4.2 percent  
5           that we recommended, it would be the second  
6           largest increase that the school department has  
7           received in more than ten years.

8                       **MS. CAMPBELL-HEGARTY:** I understand  
9           that. You're still not answering the question.  
10          There is a difference between what the town  
11          manager is for the FY 2020 budget at 4.2  
12          percent, and you folks are offering a 4.2  
13          percent increase. I want to know why you chose  
14          that five percent -- or .5 percent, I should  
15          have said, decrease from what the town manager  
16          suggested?

17                      **MR. PRESTON:** Because as we did with  
18          the other items that I described that we tried  
19          to reduce expenditures on, we did not believe  
20          that a 6 percent tax rate was supportable, so we  
21          took a number of steps to get it down to 4, this  
22          being one of them.

23                      **MS. CAMPBELL-HEGARTY:** I'll just  
24          agree to disagree on that.

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**THE MODERATOR:** Mr. Heaslip.

**MR. HEASLIP:** Steve Heaslip, District 3. Thank you, Mr. Moderator. I don't know if I'd be out of order at this point, but I'd like to submit another motion.

**THE MODERATOR:** Certainly.

**MR. HEASLIP:** That we go back to the 2017 budget of \$35,231,444. Thank you.

**THE MODERATOR:** Just write that down, Steve, and bring it up to me, please. Other speakers? Chairman of the school committee, Mr. Coughlin, and the school superintendent, Mr. Welch.

**MR. COUGHLIN:** Good evening, everyone. Kevin Coughlin, school committee. A lot of thought and careful planning went into this year's budget proposal. It reflects our priorities as a school committee and a district. It also is responsive to many issues raised in these past years by parents and staff, in particular, the need to respond to a very large class moving through the middle school.

We respect the work and consideration given to our budget by the warrant and finance

1 committee. We advocated vigorously for our  
2 budget right up to the time of their vote. Our  
3 position remains the same. The budget we passed  
4 and submitted to the FinCom is what we believe  
5 is necessary and appropriate for the educational  
6 needs of the district next year. We will abide  
7 by whatever decision town meeting makes. Thank  
8 you.

9 **THE MODERATOR:** Superintendent Welch.

10 **MR. WELCH:** Thank you, Mr. Moderator.  
11 Mike Welch, proud superintendent, Dedham Public  
12 Schools. I first want to thank the town  
13 manager. Those are some humbling words, and  
14 right back at you. Thank you for all of your  
15 support.

16 I just wanted to bring a couple of  
17 issues to the town meeting's attention. I  
18 appreciate Mr. Lawlor's research and a good bit  
19 of what he did looking at all of the different  
20 comparables. At the request of the finance  
21 committee, a year ago, in 2017, the school  
22 department produced a benchmark report. We did  
23 extensive work making sure we were looking at  
24 comparable communities. Some of the communities

1 that were mentioned by a previous speaker don't  
2 align well. That benchmarking report is  
3 available on our website, and I encourage  
4 anybody to get a look at it.

5 Some things that come about as a  
6 result of making comparisons that look like  
7 apples and apples, one of the items that is  
8 included in that 40-million-dollar budget is the  
9 facilities portion of the budget. That's also  
10 included with the school department's annual  
11 allocation. So that's a change from prior to  
12 2001 when that was mentioned.

13 In addition, the district is doing, I  
14 think, very, very aggressive work trying to  
15 maintain students within the district. To the  
16 statement that was made supporting that effort  
17 by the chair of the finance committee, I wanted  
18 to clarify it on a couple of points.

19 Number one, the additional monies  
20 needed to maintain students within the district  
21 for next year, for FY '20, are not about  
22 bringing students back from outside placements.  
23 These are students who are currently in the  
24 district who would otherwise be going out and

1 are 18 to 22 years old. The Dedham Public  
2 Schools requires -- the responsibility is  
3 required to provide education to students with  
4 significant special needs up until their 22nd  
5 birthday. So we have a number of students who  
6 are aging out of the typical K-12 system and  
7 will require significant investments in  
8 education moving forward.

9 So we've designed a program  
10 internally within the district to keep these  
11 students within our neighborhoods and in Dedham  
12 to make sure they're getting a better education  
13 at considerably less cost. The figure cited by  
14 the finance committee around the cost to educate  
15 a student in an outside placement is accurate.  
16 It's approximately \$100,000 per student.

17 I don't think I need to mention to  
18 anyone the explosion in the number and  
19 percentage of students with autism. We have a  
20 significant program that's designed for students  
21 with autism spectrum disorder that has grown  
22 from three students three years ago. Next year,  
23 we project it at 11. These are students that  
24 require significant additional resources in

1 order to meet their educational needs.

2 I also want to bring forward a couple  
3 of pieces. Again, we have a significantly large  
4 bubble of students in the middle school that are  
5 going to be in seventh grade next year. We've  
6 already moved some staff around, as we do every  
7 year, moving staff from our elementary level to  
8 our middle school level, so we will be making  
9 cuts here and there to adjust to make sure we  
10 monitor that.

11 However, the needs of these students  
12 are significant and will cause us to be going  
13 away from our vision moving forward with the  
14 restructuring that was done two years ago, and  
15 if we were unable to fund these additional  
16 positions, we anticipate the reduction of a  
17 number of positions at the high school and the  
18 elementary level, about three positions, and  
19 again, that's what we will do.

20 This is the will of town meeting, and  
21 we'll respect the votes that you will take. And  
22 I want to thank the finance committee for the  
23 work that they have done working with us trying  
24 to understand the difficulty that will be faced

1 by the taxpayers of Dedham. We appreciate the  
2 support that we've received all the way along.  
3 We believe, as the town manager mentioned, we  
4 are doing great work in the Dedham Public  
5 Schools, particularly against comparable  
6 communities.

7 And when comparing those items around  
8 per pupil spending from the DESE website,  
9 Department of Elementary and Secondary  
10 Education, it's important to also know that  
11 included in those numbers is debt service on  
12 school buildings, of which Dedham has some  
13 significant amounts. So it's very difficult to  
14 make those apples and apples comparisons,  
15 despite what it appears from looking at those  
16 numbers right away.

17 Again, I appreciate your support.  
18 Moving forward, we believe that we're moving the  
19 district in a very positive direction,  
20 particularly when you look at the investments  
21 we're making in early childhood education. If  
22 you haven't been out to the brand new, on time,  
23 on budget early childhood center, I encourage  
24 you to go take a look. We've moved toward full

1 day kindergarten for free, a significant change  
2 over the past few years. I believe we have what  
3 is the best early childhood center and education  
4 program for preschool and kindergarten students,  
5 not only in Massachusetts, but in New England.

6 I continue to value your support and  
7 appreciate your confidence in the directions  
8 we're moving as a district, and I'd urge you to  
9 seriously consider the amendment posed on the  
10 floor. Thank you.

11 **THE MODERATOR:** Thank you. Other  
12 speakers on Line Item 71, the school department  
13 budget? Seeing none, we now come to a vote.  
14 Dedham's rules of town meeting say that when  
15 there are competing dollar amounts, we vote on  
16 the higher one first. If the higher one is  
17 accepted, that's the law of the land. If that  
18 does not receive a majority vote, we then go to  
19 the second highest one, because we have three.

20 So the three proposals that are  
21 before you, starting from highest to lowest, are  
22 the suggestion made by Mr. Gallagher that the  
23 school department budget be \$40,833,100. The  
24 original motion -- in other words, the



1 recommendation to you from the finance and  
2 warrant committee -- is that that be \$196,000  
3 less than that number, which is \$40,637,000.  
4 The lowest number, as recommended by Mr.  
5 Heaslip, is \$35,231,000. That is \$5.5 million  
6 less than the original motion. Are there any  
7 questions before we proceed to this important  
8 vote?

9 All those in favor of Mr. Gallagher's  
10 amendment that the finance committee  
11 recommendation be increased by \$196,000 to the  
12 level of \$40,833,100, please say aye.

13 (Aye)

14 **THE MODERATOR:** Opposed, no.

15 (No)

16 **THE MODERATOR:** I doubt that vote.  
17 Please, all in favor stand, and remain standing  
18 until you're counted by the tellers. Mr.  
19 Krueger is asking to respond to a point of  
20 information.

21 The question was asked of Mr. Krueger  
22 as chair of District 3, where are we getting the  
23 \$196,000. What are we cutting. As I mentioned  
24 earlier in the evening, we do not have to cut

1 from another line item because we are below --  
2 we are \$9 million below the Proposition 2 1/2  
3 ceiling. So we're back to the regular order,  
4 when town meeting could increase or decrease.  
5 Is that clear? Thank you, and thank you, Mr.  
6 Krueger.

7 Thank you. You may sit down. All  
8 those who are voting no on Mr. Gallagher's  
9 higher number, please stand, and please remain  
10 standing until we get everybody counted.

11 124 town meeting representatives  
12 having voted in favor of Mr. Gallagher's  
13 amendment, and 105 having voted against it, it  
14 carries.

15 We'll move to Line 86, which is in  
16 your supplement. You have facilities, town  
17 facilities. Personnel services has been passed.  
18 Is there any discussion on this line? If not,  
19 we'll vote on the original motion. All those in  
20 favor, please say aye.

21 (Aye)

22 **THE MODERATOR:** Opposed, no. The  
23 ayes have it. Move to Line 119, Park and  
24 Recreation. I believe we -- who passed on Park

1 and Recreation? Mr. Loporto. Do you object to  
2 us discussing the whole department at once, or  
3 does that work against your point?

4 **MR. LOPORTO:** We'll do it all  
5 together.

6 **THE MODERATOR:** Thank you.

7 **MR. LOPORTO:** Bob Loporto, P5. I'm  
8 not sure which line item my question is relevant  
9 to. It's just more of a general question. In  
10 the past several months, there's been a lot of  
11 construction at the Striar property. I recently  
12 learned that Park and Recs has been leasing the  
13 land for a profit, without the input from  
14 zoning, planning, or ConCom, along with no  
15 notification to neighbors.

16 I've been told, just last week, the  
17 town seized the money from Park and Recs. The  
18 town seized the money that Park and Recs was  
19 receiving from the contractors. There's a  
20 meeting tomorrow night at town hall at 7:00 p.m.  
21 on the subject. I hope you all will come.

22 So my question is where are the  
23 various Striar contracts in the budget, and now  
24 that the funds have been removed from P&R, is

1 the budget even correct?

2 **THE MODERATOR:** Thank you, Mr.  
3 Loporto. Mr. Kern.

4 **MR. KERN:** The Park and Rec  
5 Commission, although they don't operate  
6 separately from the town manager, they are a  
7 separately elected commission and make  
8 decisions, in some cases, separate from the more  
9 central administrative kind of decisions, but  
10 let me clarify a couple of things.

11 When they first -- and I'll allow --  
12 I don't have to allow. The moderator will allow  
13 any of them to respond to the assertions that  
14 zoning, planning, and ConCom haven't been out  
15 there or weren't notified. I'm quite sure  
16 that's not true. But to the point -- your real  
17 question, which is the funding, the agreement  
18 they made with the group using the property was  
19 originally deposited in a revolving fund.

20 So in each of the things I'm going to  
21 describe, we're talking about a revenue source,  
22 not an expenditure. And the budget that is in  
23 the book in your hand is the expenditure side.  
24 So the expenditure side is accurate.

1                   What we're talking about is the money  
2                   that's coming in. It's not for profit,  
3                   technically. Municipalities don't profit at  
4                   anything. It comes in, and they placed it in a  
5                   revolving fund. There should have been a  
6                   different conversation with the finance director  
7                   previous to that happening. So as a result of  
8                   some conversations in the last couple of weeks,  
9                   the finance director, in conjunction with some  
10                  other people, town counsel, etcetera, have made  
11                  the decision that the revenue will now go into  
12                  the general fund.

13                  So the process that you're referring  
14                  to as seizing is really changing where the  
15                  revenue will go in based on the finance director  
16                  and the town counsel's determination. It  
17                  doesn't really change the budget as it's  
18                  presented here, and it also doesn't change the  
19                  agreements that the Park and Rec Commission has  
20                  the right to make. There have been a number of  
21                  changes in municipal law, in Massachusetts  
22                  municipal law recently that allows for these  
23                  kind of arrangements to be done different ways.

24                  So I'll finish by saying two things.

1 It's not all that unusual for there to be a  
2 little bit of confusion about how to handle  
3 revenues, and oftentimes, even people who are  
4 experienced are not aware of the most recent  
5 changes. So what's changed is where the revenue  
6 is going. It will all go into the general fund,  
7 as opposed to a revolving fund, and then there  
8 will be a determination by town meeting as to  
9 what's done with that money, and that will  
10 happen in a future meeting.

11 **THE MODERATOR:** Thank you, sir.  
12 Anything else, Mr. Loporto? Oh, sorry, Ms.  
13 Hanlon.

14 **MS. HANLON:** Maureen Hanlon, Precinct  
15 4. Jim, as a follow up to what you just  
16 explained, in the revolving fund, how much of  
17 that revenue was already spent, if any?

18 **MR. KERN:** The answer is zero to  
19 date.

20 **MS. HANLON:** Zero. So everything  
21 that has come in as part of that Striar money  
22 has not been touched at all?

23 **MR. KERN:** That's correct.

24 **MS. HANLON:** Thank you.

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**THE MODERATOR:** Yes, sir.

**MR. DELLOIACONO:** Sir? Rich Delloiacono, Precinct 7.

**THE MODERATOR:** I always call the Delloiaconos "sir." It's just safer that way. There's so many of you around town.

**MR. DELLOIACONO:** I added four also. There's a bunch more going through the school system now.

Quick question. How much money per month are we getting for this property that's going into this fund, no longer the revolving fund, and why is it no longer in the revolving fund, because state law has changed?

**THE MODERATOR:** Thank you. I'll get you an answer.

**MR. KERN:** I have an answer from kind of the financial side, but I'm going to let Bob Stanley, the parks director, answer kind of a more practical answer.

**THE MODERATOR:** The Chair recognizes Mr. Stanley.

**MR. STANLEY:** The revenue coming in -- we've had three different agreements over

1           there. One is just coming to a conclusion, and  
2           we took in approximately \$5,000 a month for the  
3           past 12 months, and then we've got another  
4           contract -- this is all part of the MWRA project  
5           that's going through Dedham, and it was  
6           recommended us through the town and through the  
7           DPW that we assist in this process.

8                        So one contractor is just finishing  
9           up, and he's went through the kind of east part  
10          of Dedham, and the second contractor now you've  
11          probably seen out in Rustcraft area --

12                       **MR. DELLOIACONO:** Well, I don't --

13                       **THE MODERATOR:** Mr. Delloiacono is  
14          asking --

15                       **MR. DELLOIACONO:** I guess you can  
16          answer the question --

17                       **THE MODERATOR:** He's asking how much  
18          money has come in, so let's get right to the  
19          gist.

20                       **MR. DELLOIACONO:** I got you. I  
21          understand the whole project, where the money is  
22          coming from, the MWRA, and I think it's an  
23          excellent opportunity for the Town of Dedham to  
24          at least get some type of revenue out of that



1 property that's been sitting there for so long.  
2 So my main concern is, and I want to know why,  
3 that money should be staying with the Park and  
4 Recs revolving fund. That's how I feel. I'm  
5 not sure about anybody else in this room.

6 **MR. STANLEY:** Thank you, Rich.

7 **MR. DELLOIACONO:** I want to know if  
8 the laws have changed, and is that why that  
9 money was taken from Park and Recs.

10 **MR. STANLEY:** Thank you, Rich. I  
11 also agree. I could use the money, but I also  
12 want to do it the correct way. And it has been  
13 pointed out to me through town counsel -- we met  
14 with town counsel on Friday, and they said the  
15 proper way to do it is to have the money go to  
16 the general fund, and then I can come back to  
17 you at some point and ask for it to come back,  
18 but I'll have to tell you exactly what it's for.

19 And to answer the other question. So  
20 we had \$60,000 come in from the first  
21 contractor, we've got approximately \$10,000 in  
22 on the new contractor, and then there was a  
23 third contractor not related that we're  
24 terminating that contract, and I believe we had

1           \$7,000 come in on that.

2                       **THE MODERATOR:** Thank you, Mr.  
3 Stanley. Mr. Kern.

4                       **MR. KERN:** A couple of quick  
5 clarifications there. It is true what Bob said.  
6 There was -- Park and Rec did confer with DPW  
7 director Joe Flanagan and myself about making  
8 that property available to support that project,  
9 and in general -- this is a good thing to keep  
10 in mind, in general -- revenue that comes into  
11 the town goes into the general fund, unless it's  
12 specifically allowed otherwise by an exception.

13                      A departmental revolving fund is  
14 really something different than what you would  
15 use this kind of revenue for. And as Bob said,  
16 it is perfectly reasonable to keep track of that  
17 money. You don't technically set it aside in a  
18 different fund, it's just not allowed, but you  
19 can keep track of it, and requests can come in  
20 next year to use that money for purposes that  
21 support Park and Rec.

22                      That's happened a number of times in  
23 the time I've been here, and I've done it other  
24 places. So it's not as if it goes into the

1 abyss and we forget about it. It's just  
2 required to be done that way by municipal -- by  
3 finance law.

4 **THE MODERATOR:** Mr. Loporto.

5 **MR. LOPORTO:** Sure. Thank you. Bob  
6 Loporto, P5. Mr. Moderator, you had mentioned  
7 that every \$100,000 means \$8 to the taxpayer.

8 **THE MODERATOR:** No, every million is  
9 \$80.

10 **MR. LOPORTO:** Well, every \$100,000 is  
11 \$8 --

12 **THE MODERATOR:** \$8, yes.

13 **MR. LOPORTO:** -- per house?

14 **THE MODERATOR:** Yeah.

15 **MR. LOPORTO:** So Bob, correct me if  
16 I'm not wrong. This project basically brings in  
17 \$100,000 per year, saving every household \$8.  
18 And on top of that, this is causing the  
19 neighborhood grief from all the construction.

20 **MR. STANLEY:** Yes, the \$100,000, and  
21 depending upon how long this current contract  
22 goes, it might be more, but yeah, that is  
23 correct. We understand. We've got the message  
24 over the past month, and that's why we're trying

1 to address this, and that's why we have a  
2 meeting, and we hope everyone shows up at this  
3 meeting tomorrow where we're going to address  
4 many of the concerns and what we're going to do  
5 going forward.

6 **MR. LOPORTO:** Thank you.

7 **THE MODERATOR:** Thank you. Mr.  
8 Burkett.

9 **MR. BURKETT:** Gustavo Burkett,  
10 Precinct 6. I would like to make an amendment  
11 to use the revenue that was generated to reduce  
12 the FinCom recommendation by that amount and  
13 that we vote on that amount as the budget for  
14 the Parks and Rec.

15 **THE MODERATOR:** I'm going to call on  
16 town counsel, because I believe there are some  
17 statutory limitations on that. Lauren Goldberg,  
18 town counsel.

19 **MS. GOLDBERG:** Mr. Moderator, through  
20 you. The expenditures are the only thing we're  
21 focused on here at town meeting. The revenue  
22 sources are estimated by the town as part of the  
23 budget preparation process. A reduction in the  
24 amount of the appropriation would reduce the

1 amount available to the Park and Recreation  
2 Department.

3 I want to confirm what the town  
4 manager said, which was that this type of money  
5 comes in. It's a general fund receipt, but then  
6 it can be appropriated by town meeting. Town  
7 meeting is the only entity that can choose to  
8 spend it for whatever purposes are appropriate,  
9 including Parks and Recreation programs.

10 **THE MODERATOR:** There is an article  
11 every year at the annual town meeting where you  
12 approve the transfer of money into the various  
13 revolving funds, whether it's the pool or  
14 whatever. So that is within your authority.

15 **MS. GOLDBERG:** Mr. Moderator, through  
16 you. When the revolving fund statute was  
17 amended in 2016 as part of the municipal  
18 modernization act, the requirement for that  
19 annual vote changed a bit, and so what we have  
20 now is if the town wants to make a change to the  
21 amount of any revolving fund, then it has to be  
22 voted by town meeting. Otherwise, it stays --

23 **THE MODERATOR:** I stand corrected.

24 **MS. GOLDBERG:** -- stays the same.

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**THE MODERATOR:** Thank you.

**MS. GOLDBERG:** And I just want to remind people, too, what revolving funds are. Revolving funds are intended to allow departmental programs, particular programs to be funded by receipts from that particular program, so little league or, you know, the pool. So you take in receipts for people using the pool, and then you use it to provide the pool programs. And that isn't what we're talking about with the current issue, the Striar property.

**THE MODERATOR:** So Ms. Goldberg, is it fair to say that each revolving fund has a limit, which has been established by town meeting, and since 2017, instead of confirming those every year, we only vote if the limit already approved is changing? Is that fair to say?

**MS. GOLDBERG:** That is fair and accurate.

**THE MODERATOR:** Thank you. Ms. Campbell-Hegarty.

**MS. CAMPBELL-HEGARTY:** Mr. Moderator, could I move the question, please?



1 ayes have it. Thank you. 136, pensions  
2 contributory. Selectman Teehan.

3 **MR. TEEHAN:** So I have a brief  
4 presentation --

5 **THE MODERATOR:** Dennis, just give  
6 your name and title.

7 **MR. TEEHAN:** Dennis Teehan, board of  
8 selectmen. So I know that the last thing  
9 everyone wants to see right now is a  
10 presentation, so I'll try to be brief, because  
11 we're moving slow, and it's hot. But I wanted  
12 to give this because it's important and because  
13 this is big potatoes. You've heard the term  
14 "small potatoes." Well, this is big potatoes.  
15 And I would also think in my opinion as a  
16 selectman that the process that we've undertaken  
17 to get to this point hasn't been the best. And  
18 I think when that happens, it's important the  
19 town meeting understands and knows what's going  
20 on. And I want town meeting to know what's  
21 going on, because this is important.

22 We have committed \$35 million to this  
23 fund over the last four years, a little -- five  
24 years, a little less than \$35 million. We have



1 given 25 million taxpayer dollars in the last  
2 three years. It's a lot of money.

3 How we manage our retirement fund is  
4 key to the financial future of the town, and  
5 it's key to what our taxes are going to be, what  
6 we've paid the last few years, what we will pay  
7 the next few years. So I know it's hot, and I  
8 know you're exhausted, but I hope you'll indulge  
9 me ten minutes so you can all understand this,  
10 and I'll try to be as quick as I can.

11 As Kevin Preston said, we can only  
12 modify our budget in a few places, and this is  
13 one of them. Last year, this year, it's amazing  
14 that our taxes only went up four percent. I  
15 give credit to the finance committee. They made  
16 some tough decisions and the good fortune of  
17 having \$1.5 million in the assessor overlay  
18 account. Why do I say that, because last year  
19 your taxes were \$3.5 million less than they  
20 should have been.

21 The town believed that it achieved  
22 full funding of its pension fund last year, in  
23 fiscal '19, and the budget that you approved  
24 only funded about \$1.6 million to our pension

1 fund, not the \$5.1 million that you had given in  
2 previous years. The remaining \$3.5 million was  
3 approved without a pass last fall, and it came  
4 from free cash, which is really residual money  
5 we had built up over a few years. So if we had  
6 done things in retrospect, that \$3.5 million  
7 would have been in a levy, and what you paid  
8 last year would have been much more than what  
9 you did pay.

10 So I'm hoping just to give you a  
11 little background about the retirement system.  
12 It basically includes how we pay pensions to all  
13 our town employees. It doesn't include  
14 teachers. It's governed by a five-member  
15 retirement board. These board members are not  
16 elected by the general public. Two are elected  
17 by the town employees. One is the town  
18 accountant, one is appointed by the other four  
19 board members, and one is appointed by the board  
20 of selectmen.

21 Retirement assets come from an annual  
22 appropriation from the town. Both the employees  
23 contribute, and the town contributes. And the  
24 town didn't contribute enough for a long time,

1 and because of that, we were left with a big  
2 liability. So about 30 years ago, the state  
3 passed a law that said that towns had to catch  
4 up, and that's what Dedham has been doing.

5 In fact, Dedham has been doing it  
6 better and more aggressively than almost any  
7 other community in the state. At that time,  
8 town meeting set a schedule to fund, and the  
9 unfunded liability was agreed to, and we've been  
10 making those required payments now for over  
11 three decades.

12 So every year, you guys have approved  
13 a budget that had an annual appropriation with  
14 both a normal cost, which is about last year's  
15 \$1.6 million and then a payment towards our  
16 liability, the money we should have paid in the  
17 past but didn't, and that's about \$3.5 million.  
18 We've been putting about 5 million taxpayer  
19 dollars every year into this fund.

20 Now, when we had extra free cash a  
21 few years ago, we accelerated the payment  
22 schedule because we had analyzed with the  
23 finance department what was going to be the best  
24 deal for the taxpayers with that extra money,

1 and we felt like it was to put money into the  
2 pension fund, and the reasons for that were  
3 many. First of all, it was an expensive  
4 liability. To maintain the liability this fund  
5 costs, the direct costs of that are more than  
6 the interest on most of our bonds. So we felt  
7 like we were getting a good deal for our  
8 taxpayers.

9 Number two, it was essential to the  
10 financial health of the town, and number three,  
11 it helped us maintain our bond rating. We just  
12 had our Triple A bond rating renewed. That  
13 saves our taxpayers money. So it was important  
14 to do.

15 The assets of the fund are managed by  
16 the State Pension Reserve Investment Management  
17 Board, and every two years, an actuarial study  
18 is done to tell us where do we stand. The  
19 numbers come out on January 1, and as the  
20 actuarial said to us in October, on January 2,  
21 they were at least a little bit off, because the  
22 market is always changing. But in the January  
23 2, 2018 report, there were some important things  
24 that I want people to know.

1           First of all, the projected interest  
2           rate in the fund is so important to assessing  
3           what our remaining liability is. What we say --  
4           we have a cash -- we have a sum of money in the  
5           fund, and how we project the interest of that  
6           fund over the future years is going to tell us  
7           how much liability we have. If we say the  
8           interest rate is going to be higher, the  
9           liability will be smaller. If we say the  
10          interest rate is going to be smaller, the  
11          liability will be higher.

12                 So the retirement board last year  
13                 voted to reduce the projected interest rate from  
14                 7.75 to 7.5 percent. They also voted to change  
15                 the funding goal, the fund, from 100 percent to  
16                 105 percent. What did that mean? Those two  
17                 things meant the liability increased. So we had  
18                 felt, as I said, that the town had met its full  
19                 funding of the pension fund in fiscal '19, but  
20                 when those two things happened, we no longer had  
21                 met full funding of the fund, because the  
22                 liability increased.

23                         Now, the projected interest rate  
24                         right now in the fund is currently 7.5 percent.

1 Historically, the fund, over the last 20 years,  
2 has performed at 9.3 percent. So for years, we  
3 were operating projecting at 7.75, the vote last  
4 year took us down to 7.5, and the historical  
5 performance of the fund is far in excess of  
6 that.

7 Now, with a projected interest rate  
8 of 7.5 percent, the market value of the fund of  
9 our last report was 99 percent. So we were  
10 essentially touching full funding at that time.  
11 The assets in the fund was \$143 million, and  
12 this was before last year's appropriation where  
13 we gave almost \$5 million.

14 At 7.75 percent, which was the  
15 interest rate we had operated under for all  
16 those years, it was actually over 100 percent.  
17 So if the interest rate -- projected interest  
18 rate in the fund had never been changed, we  
19 would be over 100 percent. And it's important  
20 to note that this is based on market value,  
21 which is a little different than actuarial  
22 value.

23 This chart came out sideways, so I'll  
24 ask you all to turn your necks. But you can see

1 the amount of money we've put in on the right  
2 side, 1996 up to 2018, the value of our fund,  
3 and this is from the January 1, 2018 report, has  
4 skyrocketed, and that's not an accident. That's  
5 on the backs of our taxpayers. Our taxpayers  
6 have put money, and we've made that commitment  
7 as a town to put money into this fund, and  
8 rightly so, for a lot of reasons.

9 So we were presented with actuarial  
10 scenarios about what to do at this point in  
11 January of 2018. So we have this fund. We  
12 vaulted to the top of the state. We are  
13 literally at the top of the state in terms of  
14 funding right now. Of the 365 communities,  
15 we're right at the top. And we really are only  
16 legally obligated to meet full funding in 2040,  
17 so there's no urgency. We're way ahead of most  
18 of our other communities in Norfolk County.  
19 Most of other comparable communities in the  
20 state, we're far in excess of them.

21 So this is just rehashing that last  
22 year you guys approved initially, the \$1.6  
23 million in the spring, and then another \$3.6 in  
24 the fall. And we had the actuary in to discuss

1 in October about how we were going to land the  
2 plane, so to speak, what we were going to do.  
3 In that meeting, the actuary said that the  
4 interest rate could be anywhere between 7.5 to  
5 8 percent, said that the state was pushing  
6 boards to lower interest rates to 7 percent, and  
7 acknowledged that we have a lot of flexibility  
8 in how we manage the fund from this point.

9 So we have new actuary numbers coming  
10 in July, because Mr. Sherman is no longer the  
11 actuary for the retirement board. They brought  
12 in a new actuary, and we're waiting for new  
13 numbers. So in March of 2019, the board of  
14 selectmen, after looking at the situation, there  
15 was a lot of conversation about how to manage  
16 the fund.

17 At that point, we asked for three  
18 requests of the retirement board. We asked to  
19 bring the funding level back down to 100 percent  
20 from 105, and we've been told that's going to  
21 happen. We asked the town manager to ask for a  
22 stepwise reduction in the projected interest  
23 rate in the fund; that is to say if you lower it  
24 from 7.75 to 7.5, why do we have to do it in one



1 year. Let's bring it down slow, and let's  
2 lessen the blow to our taxpayers. And we asked  
3 a lengthened funding schedule, because, again,  
4 we're not obligated to reach full funding until  
5 2040, so why are we sprinting across the goal  
6 line when we have, you know, ample time to do  
7 it, and at the same time putting so much stress  
8 on our taxpayers.

9 So the current appropriation, the  
10 retirement board asks for \$3.6 million, and the  
11 finance committee approved \$2.9 million, as  
12 Kevin told you, and the retirement board  
13 rejected this rejection last week and are  
14 seeking the full \$3.7 million.

15 So to summarize, overall, we remain  
16 in great financial health. Our retirement fund  
17 is literally at or near the top of the state in  
18 terms of funding. And really, our remaining  
19 liability is based on actuarial assumptions at  
20 this point. And if you look at one set of  
21 assumptions, we're over 100 percent. If you  
22 look at another set of assumptions, we might be  
23 far less than 100 percent, but it's all based on  
24 assumptions.

1           By any measure, we are close to  
2           achieving full funding. Now, a lot of people  
3           are going to ask did we err by putting that  
4           money in a few years ago, and the answer is no.  
5           The only reason we're having this conversation  
6           is because we did that. If we hadn't done that,  
7           we'd be asking for \$5.1 million in this year's  
8           budget instead of \$3.7. So that was a good  
9           move.

10           Moving forward, the retirement board  
11           of the town should have flexibility in how we  
12           proceed. The way the fund is managed will have  
13           a tremendous impact on the financial health of  
14           the town and your taxes, and that's why I ask  
15           you to take time to learn about this. And we  
16           need to have a collaborative process that  
17           balances the needs of our retirees in the  
18           context of the town's larger financial picture.

19           Because right now, as I said, we are  
20           approaching full funding, if not over it, and we  
21           should be in maintenance mode. And when we put  
22           stress on our taxpayers to fund a fund that's  
23           already at the top of the state, then I think we  
24           really have to question how we're managing our

1 assets and how we're managing the fund.

2 So I don't know what's going to  
3 change in fiscal '19. There's a substitute  
4 motion to lower the number from 2.9 to 2.5 that  
5 you'll vote on, and that will put another  
6 \$400,000. It would lower your taxes about a  
7 half a percent, which might balance some of the  
8 previous votes you had, you know, but whether  
9 you go with the 2.9 or the 2.5, in fiscal '21,  
10 it's going to be really important that we get  
11 this right and that we get the number right,  
12 because this is really going to affect the taxes  
13 we ask for in the coming years.

14 So thank you for indulging me. If  
15 you have any questions, I'm happy to come back  
16 up, and thank you very much, Mr. Moderator.

17 **THE MODERATOR:** Thank you, Selectman  
18 Teehan. Mr. Delloiacono.

19 **MR. DELLOIACONO:** Thank you, Mr.  
20 Moderator. Dennis, your book, notes, pen.  
21 Thanks for the time and effort, Dennis, putting  
22 into that. I hope everyone actually picked up  
23 on what he was saying.

24 I was hoping someone would be here,

1 Mr. Moderator, from the retirement board to at  
2 least explain why, and I feel -- I did offer a  
3 substitute motion on this, which I just  
4 withdrew, because FinCom did reduce it to  
5 \$700,000. I was hoping to reduce it another  
6 \$433,000.

7 And just to let you know, I am a  
8 member of this system. So we are very good, the  
9 Town of Dedham. Funding this system, obviously,  
10 was just shown by Selectman Teehan, but the  
11 retirement -- I feel the retirement board has  
12 got a stranglehold on this, and the last thing I  
13 want is to go to where we're paying, as it was  
14 said earlier, legal fees on both sides. That  
15 doesn't make sense. I was hoping that someone  
16 from the retirement board was here tonight, and  
17 at least accept what is proposed by the FinCom  
18 with the 700,000-dollar reduction and move  
19 forward. Thank you.

20 **THE MODERATOR:** Thank you, Mr.  
21 Delloiacono. Are there any further questions on  
22 this? I know it's a complicated subject, but  
23 your options here are quite limited. Is there a  
24 motion to accept the original motion of the

1 finance and warrant committee?

2 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** So moved.

3 **THE MODERATOR:** It's been moved.

4 Second.

5 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Second.

6 **THE MODERATOR:** All those in favor,  
7 please say aye.

8 (Aye)

9 **THE MODERATOR:** Opposed, no. The  
10 ayes have it. Please be aware that this may  
11 come up again at the November town meeting, the  
12 annual town meeting in November, so just keep  
13 that in mind.

14 We're moving now to Article 4. But  
15 before we do that, there's still a degree of  
16 consternation among some of the members about  
17 Article 2, which was the collective bargaining  
18 about did we vote it, did we not vote it. So  
19 certainly, in the interest of assuring  
20 everybody, this is the collective bargaining  
21 agreement. The Chair will accept a motion to  
22 vote the original motion on Article 2 of the  
23 collective bargaining agreement. Is there such  
24 a motion?

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**UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** So moved.

**THE MODERATOR:** Is there a second?

**UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Second.

**MS. GOLDBERG:** Mr. Moderator, the original motion requests the amendment in the supplement.

**THE MODERATOR:** Yes. I'm sorry. The original motion is the one that's in the supplement. That is the original motion. The original motion is the one in your supplement. It basically adds that other union that has two people in it. Any discussion? All in favor, please say aye.

(Aye)

**THE MODERATOR:** Opposed, no. The ayes have it. Thank you to Ms. Dibiasio and Mr. Keaney for keeping us honest on this. We're moving to Article 4 now, which is the capital improvements budget.

There are two parts to this. You will notice on Page 8 that the first sentence under Recommendation is that the sum of a little over \$1 million from free cash to pay for projects 1 through 24, it's actually 1 through

1 24, with the exception of the ones that have no  
2 number in there. So that's 3, 6, 7, and 24.  
3 And as Mr. Preston described, those are being,  
4 from a conservative point of view, held aside  
5 until we see what our free cash is. Free cash  
6 is not certified by the state until the fall.  
7 And so in November, we could reconsider some of  
8 those projects that do not have a number.

9 So that would be the first. That's  
10 only a majority vote. Does anybody have any  
11 questions on 1 through 24? If not, the vote  
12 could come on the original motion. All in  
13 favor, please say aye.

14 (Aye)

15 **THE MODERATOR:** Opposed, no. The  
16 ayes have it. The second part of the vote has  
17 to do with those items for which we need to  
18 borrow. They are on Page 10, and they are  
19 listed on the bottom of Page 10 as B1 through  
20 B7. And the finance and warrant committee is  
21 agreeing with the capital expenditures  
22 committee, chaired by Mr. Pepoli (?), to fund  
23 all of those and to borrow that sum of money in  
24 order to do that. Are there any questions? Mr.

1 Keaney.

2 **MR. KEANEY:** Brian Keaney from  
3 Precinct 4. B1 and B5 deal with Walnut Street  
4 and Rustcraft Road. Those streets are getting  
5 torn up because of the MWRA project we were  
6 talking about earlier. I thought the deal was  
7 that they come and they tear up our roads, and  
8 they pay to re-pave them. So why are we  
9 borrowing \$4.5 million?

10 **THE MODERATOR:** Mr. Kern.

11 **MR. KERN:** I'm going to let our DPW  
12 director, Joe Flanagan, answer this in more  
13 substance. However, the two numbers were B1 and  
14 B3?

15 **THE MODERATOR:** B5, I think you said.

16 **MR. KERN:** B5, all right. I'm with  
17 you.

18 **THE MODERATOR:** Walnut Street and  
19 Rustcraft Road.

20 **MR. KERN:** Right. So there's kind of  
21 an arrangement on the sidewalks that I'd like  
22 Joe to come down and explain. So Rustcraft Road  
23 sewer improvements, I should let our town  
24 engineer, Jason Mammone, take a turn at this,



1 but I'll do it while Joe is coming down.

2 We're on not just the MWRA project --  
3 that's going to go out that way -- but we're  
4 also on what they call the TIP, the  
5 transportation improvement program, that the  
6 state funds for Rustcraft Road.

7 **THE MODERATOR:** Mr. Kern, can I ask  
8 you a question? B5 is for sewer work. That  
9 would not be affected by street re-paving?  
10 Somebody digging up the street would not be  
11 required to do any sewer work; is that correct?

12 **MR. KERN:** It's true as it relates to  
13 this, yes.

14 **THE MODERATOR:** So Mr. Keaney, the  
15 digging up of those streets doesn't come into  
16 play on B5.

17 **MR. KERN:** This is in addition to  
18 that. This is what I was going to get to. So  
19 the road is going to be renovated in 2021,  
20 fiscal 2021, by the state, and this relates to  
21 additional capacity that's needed for that part  
22 of town, which is, as you know, highly developed  
23 and highly developable.

24 **THE MODERATOR:** Thanks. Mr.

1 Flanagan, director of the Department of Public  
2 Works.

3 **MR. FLANAGAN:** Good evening. Joe  
4 Flanagan, the director for the Public Works  
5 Department. So B1 is the Walnut Street sidewalk  
6 granite curbing. This would be to replace to  
7 the -- right now, the MWRA is working on Walnut  
8 Street, but they have not damaged all of the  
9 sidewalks. They will replace what they have  
10 damaged. This also puts a granite curbing and  
11 concrete sidewalk on both sides.

12 Right now, there is not sidewalks on  
13 one side. There is a -- some of the -- there's  
14 not all granite curbing on Walnut Street. This  
15 will go from Whiting Avenue, the intersection of  
16 Whiting and Walnut, to Mount Vernon Street. So  
17 this will put granite curbing and concrete sides  
18 on both sides. Right now, there is not granite  
19 curbing on that street.

20 **THE MODERATOR:** Thank you. Any  
21 further questions? The vote comes on the  
22 original motion, two-thirds vote. All those in  
23 favor, please say aye.

24 (Aye)



1 legs?

2 **MR. BORSELLINO:** Yeah, quick  
3 question. Joe Borsellino from Precinct 6. I  
4 know this is a financial assistance program, and  
5 yet we're borrowing, and I just want to know  
6 what the vehicle is. Do we borrow and qualify  
7 for the program and commit the funds, and then  
8 we get reimbursed, or is it a matching fund?

9 **THE MODERATOR:** Is there a simple  
10 answer to that, Mr. Kern?

11 **MR. KERN:** Yes.

12 **THE MODERATOR:** Is there a 9:53  
13 answer to that, Mr. Kern?

14 **MR. KERN:** I was just trying to point  
15 out the relationship between Rustcraft and the  
16 sewer improvement. The answer to that, because  
17 it's going to come up next year, it's -- the  
18 answer is yes. It's partly a low interest loan  
19 through the clean water abatement trust and a  
20 grant, but you borrow it, and they reimburse it.

21 **THE MODERATOR:** Thank you. Are there  
22 any other questions? All in favor, please say  
23 aye.

24 (Aye)

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**THE MODERATOR:** Opposed, no.

(No)

**THE MODERATOR:** It is a two-thirds vote. Thank you. Article 19. Article 19 has been passed. Mr. Bethoney. We'll get the report of the planning board.

**MR. BETHONEY:** Good evening, Mr. Moderator, town meeting members. John Bethoney, planning board chair. I hope everyone received the planning report to town meeting, dated May 10 of 2019 regarding Articles 19, 20, 21, 22, and 23. Our report explains the purpose and rationale of each article and indicates the planning board recommendation of each of those articles.

Article 19, in summary, would authorize a seven-month moratorium on the issuance of any special permit on any mixed use development through the planning board. The moratorium will expire on November 30, 2019. During the proposed moratorium period, the planning board would undertake a planning review process to study, analyze, and address whether or not any revisions to the zoning bylaw

1 relative to mixed use development are needed or  
2 desired to provide mixed use developments  
3 consistent with the town's future and general  
4 planning goals for economic and housing needs.

5 Also, Article 19 proposes that town  
6 meeting appropriate or transfer from available  
7 funds the sum of \$50,000 for consultant services  
8 for said study and, if necessary, propose  
9 revisions to town meeting bylaw to provide mixed  
10 use developments consistent with town's general  
11 and specific planning goals, with the  
12 understanding that any proposed regulatory  
13 reforms be presented to town meeting in the fall  
14 of 2019.

15 In April of 2019, the planning board  
16 held a public hearing, we took testimony, and we  
17 voted unanimously to recommend that Article 19  
18 be so voted. Thank you.

19 **THE MODERATOR:** Thank you, Mr.  
20 Bethoney. Are there any questions? Mr.  
21 Bethoney, just for the benefit, mixed use  
22 development is?

23 **MR. BETHONEY:** Mixed use development  
24 is a development in which there is

1 nonresidential uses on the street level and  
2 residential uses above.

3 **THE MODERATOR:** Thank you. Are there  
4 any questions? The original motion of the  
5 finance committee -- Ms. Preston-Barry.

6 **MS. BARRY-PRESTON:** Diane Barry-  
7 Preston, Precinct 2. You're having a good night  
8 tonight.

9 **THE MODERATOR:** I'm just going to  
10 start saying hey you.

11 **MS. BARRY-PRESTON:** Okay, that's  
12 fine. This says \$75,000, and I believe Mr.  
13 Bethoney said \$50,000. So can somebody clarify?

14 **THE MODERATOR:** The original motion,  
15 which is printed right below it, is for only  
16 \$50,000.

17 **MS. BARRY-PRESTON:** Thank you.

18 **THE MODERATOR:** The \$75,000 is what  
19 the original article called for. Any other  
20 questions? All those in favor, please say aye.

21 (Aye)

22 **THE MODERATOR:** Opposed, no.

23 (No)

24 **THE MODERATOR:** The ayes have it.

1 Thank you. Article 20, report of the planning  
2 board. Mr. Bethoney.

3 **MS. GOLDBERG:** (Inaudible.)

4 **THE MODERATOR:** Two-thirds vote.  
5 It's not a zoning change.

6 **MS. GOLDBERG:** (Inaudible.)

7 **THE MODERATOR:** A moratorium requires  
8 a two-thirds vote. I didn't know that. That  
9 was a two-thirds vote. Do you need any more  
10 than that, Lauren? Do you need four-fifths or  
11 anything, or are we all set? We're okay. Mr.  
12 Bethoney, Article 20. Thank you.

13 **MR. BETHONEY:** Report from the  
14 planning board on Article 20. In April of 2019,  
15 the planning board held a public hearing. We  
16 took testimony, deliberated, and voted  
17 unanimously to recommend to town meeting that  
18 this article be indefinitely postponed.

19 **THE MODERATOR:** Any questions of Mr.  
20 Bethoney on Article 20? Mr. Keaney.

21 **MR. KEANEY:** Did I hear the chairman  
22 say that the planning board recommended that it  
23 be indefinitely postponed?

24 **MR. BETHONEY:** We're on Article 20.



1 So sorry. We recommended that it be so voted.

2 **THE MODERATOR:** Nice try, John. I'm  
3 just happy that I'm not the only one making  
4 mistakes tonight.

5 **MR. BETHONEY:** I wouldn't do that to  
6 you.

7 **THE MODERATOR:** Thank you, Joe. Any  
8 other questions? The vote comes on the original  
9 motion, as recommended by the planning board.  
10 All those in favor, please say aye.

11 (Aye)

12 **THE MODERATOR:** Opposed, no. It is a  
13 two-thirds vote. Article 21, also a zoning  
14 amendment. The report of the planning board.

15 **MR. BETHONEY:** Regarding Article 21,  
16 the planning board held a public hearing, took  
17 testimony, deliberated, and voted unanimously to  
18 recommend the town meeting vote to indefinitely  
19 postpone.

20 **THE MODERATOR:** Are there any  
21 questions on this article? So we're voting on  
22 the original motion. The original motion is  
23 that we do not change the zoning ordinance, so  
24 that only requires a majority vote. If we were

1 voting to change the zoning ordinance, it would  
2 require two-thirds. All those in favor of the  
3 original motion that this not be done, please  
4 say aye.

5 (Aye)

6 **THE MODERATOR:** Opposed, no. The  
7 ayes have it. It is indefinitely postponed.  
8 Article 22. Mr. Bethoney.

9 **MR. BETHONEY:** Report from the  
10 planning board on Article 22. Similar to the  
11 other articles, the planning board did hold a  
12 public hearing on this article in April of 2019.  
13 We took public testimony, we deliberated, and  
14 voted unanimously to recommend that town meeting  
15 vote to indefinitely postpone.

16 **THE MODERATOR:** Any questions? All  
17 those in favor of the original motion as  
18 proposed by the planning board, please say aye.

19 (Aye)

20 **THE MODERATOR:** Opposed, no. The  
21 ayes have it. Article 23, also a zoning change.  
22 Mr. Bethoney.

23 **MR. BETHONEY:** Article 23 for the  
24 record was requested by the proponent that it be

1 indefinitely postponed. We did -- although we  
2 did hold a public hearing in April, and we did  
3 take testimony, we deliberated, and we voted  
4 unanimously to recommend that town meeting vote  
5 to indefinitely postpone Article 23. Thank you.

6 **THE MODERATOR:** Questions? The vote  
7 comes on the original motion of the planning  
8 board. All those in favor, please say aye.

9 (Aye)

10 **THE MODERATOR:** Opposed, no. The  
11 ayes have it. Thank you, Mr. Bethoney.

12 **MR. BETHONEY:** Thank you, town  
13 meeting members.

14 **THE MODERATOR:** We move to Article  
15 24, a proposal to create a snow removal study  
16 committee. Ms. Butler.

17 **MS. BUTLER:** Hi. I'm Susan Butler,  
18 Precinct 6. I have a question about this  
19 warrant article. Where has it come from, what's  
20 the basis of having a committee about snow  
21 removal, knowing that the past few years there's  
22 been warrant articles for snow removals for  
23 residents who don't shovel in snow. So I'd like  
24 to know where this idea came from, because I

1 really don't have a problem in checking around  
2 with other neighborhoods with snow removal at  
3 businesses.

4 **THE MODERATOR:** Thank you. The Chair  
5 recognizes Fred Civian, the proponent of the  
6 article.

7 **MR. CIVIAN:** My name is Fred Civian,  
8 Precinct 1. I proposed this article. About  
9 three or four years ago, I proposed a specific  
10 article that would have required commercial,  
11 industrial, and institutional uses to remove  
12 snow. It had a lot of specifics in it. That  
13 was voted down by town meeting.

14 After I'd submitted that article, I  
15 got in conversations with people that said we  
16 wish we would have had more context for why this  
17 was a good idea or not a good idea. People  
18 wished that the specifics that were in that  
19 motion had been somewhat different. So instead  
20 of eight hours, ten hours, fifteen hours,  
21 whatever after a snowstorm, commercial,  
22 industrial, and institutional uses would have  
23 to shovel their sidewalks.

24 We've had some good snowstorms over

1 the last few years and got questions from people  
2 saying it's probably time to look at this again.  
3 So this is really a question for town meeting.  
4 Is town meeting interested in getting some  
5 analysis and report about how we might -- not  
6 will, but how we might require commercial,  
7 industrial, and institutional uses to shovel  
8 their sidewalks after a storm.

9 If you want to find out more  
10 information about that, how many towns do that  
11 sort of thing, how does enforcement happen, what  
12 does enforcement really mean, are there fines,  
13 not fines, all that sort of stuff, then please  
14 vote yes for it. If you don't want to have that  
15 information, don't want to have that analysis,  
16 then please vote no.

17 **THE MODERATOR:** Are there any  
18 questions of Mr. Civian?

19 **MS. BUTLER:** I just have one.

20 **MR. CIVIAN:** Yes, ma'am.

21 **THE MODERATOR:** Ms. Butler.

22 **MS. BUTLER:** Sure. Thanks, Fred.

23 Has the town or the police or our board of  
24 selectmen received any complaints from residents

1 of our businesses or institutions who have not  
2 plowed and shoveled?

3 **MR. CIVIAN:** I don't know if they  
4 have or not. I have multiple pictures of  
5 sidewalks blocked by snow, anywhere up to five  
6 or six days after a snowstorm, and that's going  
7 to be -- if town meeting votes yes, it will be  
8 part of the report. If your question is does  
9 that problem exist, I think each of you as town  
10 meeting members could cast your minds back over  
11 the storms we've had and calculate for yourself  
12 whether the sidewalks are cleared routinely or  
13 not. They're not routinely cleared off. Yes,  
14 ma'am.

15 **MS. BUTLER:** Sure. I'd just like to  
16 say -- because I have had conversations about  
17 this with the DPW about the piles of snow that  
18 are on corners and block sidewalks. And that  
19 may not necessarily be the problem of the  
20 resident or the school. The superintendent can  
21 tell you I've had conversations about him as  
22 well -- with him. It's not necessarily about  
23 the business or the residents. It's how the  
24 town has to plow the street and the limited

1 space that we have to dump the snow. So I'm  
2 just putting it out there that, to me, it's just  
3 another burden that we're putting towards our  
4 businesses.

5 After a snowstorm, I go to East  
6 Dedham, I go to the square, I do my errands, I  
7 go to Village Manor, the Brick House. I just  
8 don't see this as being a problem in town, and  
9 whether or not it's just going to be another  
10 appointed commission. Though I respect the  
11 idea, I just personally don't think we need it,  
12 because I don't see any problems with any  
13 businesses. And I think if we're going to go  
14 with the businesses, then maybe we should go  
15 with the residents as well instead of just  
16 targeting the businesses who already contribute  
17 a positive way to our community. Thank you.

18 **THE MODERATOR:** Thank you.

19 **MR. CIVIAN:** Thank you. I  
20 deliberately did not include single-family  
21 residences in there, since there's no interest  
22 in doing that.

23 **MS. BUTLER:** Okay.

24 **THE MODERATOR:** Mr. Driscoll -- I

1 mean Mr. Sullivan. What's going on here. Well,  
2 there are three Driscolls out there -- there's  
3 two besides me. One of them is going to get up  
4 to speak, I know it. One already has.

5 **MR. SULLIVAN:** Jim Sullivan, Precinct  
6 2. Is there any monies attached to this  
7 committee? Are you going to be doing --

8 **MR. CIVIAN:** No money attached to it.  
9 The research will be done by volunteers.

10 **MR. SULLIVAN:** Thank you.

11 **THE MODERATOR:** Ms. Martin.

12 **MS. MARTIN:** Elizabeth Martin,  
13 Precinct 1. I live fairly near Dedham Square,  
14 and I tend to walk downtown when there's been  
15 snow, because I feel it's safer. It's hard to  
16 park. Often businesses will clear the sidewalk  
17 until they reach the property line, and then  
18 they'll leave a large pile of snow, which you  
19 then have to go out into the street to get  
20 around, which is dangerous. All we're asking is  
21 that they clear the sidewalk the whole way to  
22 the next property so that it's a fully clear  
23 sidewalk and people can walk on it. At least  
24 that's what I've seen in Dedham Square.



1 I think it is a concern. They try to  
2 do a good job. Maybe it's their plowing company  
3 that they're hiring, not the business itself.  
4 But they need to make sure that the job is done  
5 so that there isn't a blockage at the property  
6 line so people can use the sidewalks as they're  
7 intended. That's it.

8 **THE MODERATOR:** Thank you. Ms.  
9 Woods.

10 **MS. WOODS:** Hi. Georganna Woods,  
11 Precinct 6. If you do walk in town a lot, like  
12 I do -- I don't have a car half of the week, so  
13 I have to walk a lot -- it is a problem. So I  
14 hope this committee happens. Thanks.

15 **THE MODERATOR:** Any other discussion?  
16 Thank you, Mr. Civian. All those in favor of  
17 Mr. Civian's idea of forming the committee,  
18 please say aye.

19 (Aye)

20 **THE MODERATOR:** Opposed, no.

21 (No)

22 **THE MODERATOR:** The ayes have it.  
23 Article 27. Somebody passed on Article 27.  
24 Questions on Article 27? Mr. Delloiacono.

1                   **MR. DELLOIACONO:** Mr. Moderator, town  
2 meeting, fortunately, the last one. This  
3 article is proposed to put together, obviously,  
4 this improvement. It shows that it does not  
5 raise or lower taxes, but it's taking money from  
6 new growth. So it's a percentage that doesn't  
7 specify a percentage, but it will be based on  
8 the new growth if you look at the chart on A7.  
9 But to me, this whole article is open-ended.

10                   It mentions development within the  
11 district would be allowed to pay for  
12 infrastructure improvements within the district  
13 for a set period of time. What period of time?  
14 Who decides? Is this going to a committee?  
15 When does it actually start? One of the biggest  
16 things I noticed is we don't own Route 1.  
17 Providence Highway is a state highway, so why  
18 would we put our taxpayers' money into a state  
19 highway?

20                   So I understand the beautification,  
21 but I also -- if this was earlier in the night,  
22 I'd say let's take a stroll down Providence  
23 Highway, but since it is this time, let's do a  
24 quick jog. We'll go by the Dedham Mall. The

1 Dedham Mall at one point was a haven for go-  
2 carts and dirt bikes and everything else. Now,  
3 there's trees, there's development there.  
4 There's been improvements, for one reason.

5 You go a little further up, the old  
6 Lechmere's, if anyone remembers that, that was  
7 asphalt jungle across. Now, we have development  
8 there. We have trees. It's beautified, for one  
9 reason, the Dedham Mall, same scenario. Further  
10 down, Legacy Place, all for the same reason,  
11 because this town happens to have a very  
12 powerful planning board that makes sure that  
13 they do their job the right way and have the  
14 development do the beautification.

15 It's the most powerful planning board  
16 in Norfolk County. You just have to go back in  
17 time and look. Route 1 was disgusting. Route 1  
18 now is developed. It certainly has plenty of  
19 businesses, but there's no need to actually take  
20 any future monies and then put it into a state  
21 road, when it's actually done now in-house with  
22 the planning board and the way they do their due  
23 diligence and make the applicants do everything  
24 that's needed. Please do not support Article

1 27. Thank you.

2 **THE MODERATOR:** Mr. Driscoll. See, I  
3 told you. I think Jim just got up to save me  
4 the embarrassment.

5 **MR. DRISCOLL:** Jim Driscoll, District  
6 4. When you had the public hearings on this,  
7 how many Dedham businesses came and supported  
8 it?

9 **THE MODERATOR:** I recognize John  
10 Sisson, the economic development director for  
11 the town.

12 **MR. SISSON:** Thank you, Moderator.  
13 Through the Chair, we have really reached out to  
14 the voters of Dedham. It's up to the voters of  
15 Dedham. We have made sure that property owners  
16 that would be included in the district -- as the  
17 best of our ability, we have reached out to some  
18 of them. We would like to -- you know, there's  
19 not a reason to reach out to all of them unless  
20 the district is created.

21 **MR. SULLIVAN:** Okay, but you didn't  
22 answer my question. How many came and supported  
23 it?

24 **MR. SISSON:** Private property owners

1 in support, I don't know. We didn't take roll  
2 call, so I do not have a number for you.

3 **MR. SULLIVAN:** Okay, thank you.

4 **THE MODERATOR:** Mr. Panagopoulos and  
5 Mr. Civian.

6 **MR. PANAGOPOULOS:** George  
7 Panagopoulos, Precinct 7, town meeting member,  
8 as well as an associate member to the Zoning  
9 Board of Appeals. I want to start by saying  
10 that at our last Zoning Board of Appeals  
11 meeting, the Zoning Board of Appeals unanimously  
12 supports this article. We issued a memorandum  
13 in support of this article. This article does  
14 not impose any tax burden to the taxpayer.

15 Right now, town meeting would be in  
16 charge of this money, and we can come up with  
17 what the percentage of the funds that would go  
18 into the diff fund are. Questions that we got  
19 are, you know, how do we make up for this.  
20 That's easy. This is through the new growth,  
21 new businesses, new ventures, and new  
22 development or redevelopment that would happen  
23 on Route 1. And I keep wanting to tell the town  
24 meeting members not to forget that we are in

1 control of all aspects of this money.

2 Over the next 30 years, this would  
3 produce double digits in millions. This is for  
4 the future of Dedham. Some of us won't be here  
5 in the next 30 years, but our grandchildren and  
6 our children will be here, and we want to create  
7 a better town for them. With this money, we can  
8 bring something to the table when negotiating  
9 with the Commonwealth. Right now, this isn't a  
10 proposal but an idea. I want you all to think  
11 how nice it would be to see a continuation of  
12 the VFW with trees and canopies extending to  
13 Legacy Place.

14 Right now, initiatives such as this  
15 can bring more green space, safety, development  
16 and new redevelopment to our town, without  
17 encroaching on residential neighborhoods. And I  
18 repeat without encroaching on residential  
19 neighborhoods. I hope that we can all stand up  
20 and support our economic developer, John Sisson,  
21 in working to vote yes on this article. Thank  
22 you.

23 **THE MODERATOR:** Thank you, Mr.  
24 Panagopoulos. Are there any other speakers on

1 this article? If not, we'll vote. The vote  
2 comes on the original motion that it be so  
3 voted. All those in favor, please say aye.

4 (Aye)

5 **THE MODERATOR:** Opposed, no.

6 (No)

7 **THE MODERATOR:** The ayes have it.

8 Any question on that?

9 If not, please turn in your lanyards,  
10 and remember that there is that voluntary email  
11 form. It's been moved by Mr. Warren and  
12 seconded by Ms. Keaveney that the 2019 spring  
13 annual town meeting be dissolved. All those in  
14 favor, please say aye.

15 (Aye)

16 **THE MODERATOR:** Opposed, no. The  
17 ayes have it. Thank you. Goodnight, and God  
18 Bless.

19 (Whereupon, the proceedings concluded  
20 at 10:15 p.m.)  
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C E R T I F I C A T E

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

NORFOLK, ss.

I, ARLENE R. BOYER, a Certified Court Reporter and Notary Public in and for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby certify:

That the proceedings herein was recorded by me and transcribed by me; and that such transcript is a true record of the proceedings, to the best of my knowledge, skill and ability.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and notarial seal this 5th day of June 2019.

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Arlene R. Boyer, CVR  
Notary Public

My Commission Expires  
November 21, 2025