

TOWN OF DEDHAM

In Re:

DEDHAM TOWN MEETING

DATE: Monday, November 25, 2019

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

COMMENCING: 7:25 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 reported by the town clerk, the 2019 fall annual
6 town meeting will please come to order. This is
7 the 94th year the Town of Dedham has used a
8 representative town form of government. By the
9 way, the average attendance over the past four
10 years has been 87 percent, an indication of your
11 sense of responsibility, as well as your powers
12 of endurance.

13 The Chair is pleased to welcome back
14 a regular visitor to the Dedham town meeting,
15 our representative in Congress, Congressman
16 Stephen Lynch. Congressman.

17 **CONGRESSMAN LYNCH:** Thank you very
18 much, and I do appreciate that there are a lot
19 of important matters on the warrant, and Mr.
20 Moderator has instructed me to be brief so that
21 we can get to that business.

22 I know that if you're watching the
23 daily news, you see what's coming out of
24 Washington. It's all about impeachment lately.

1 And we sort of have an unwritten rule at town
2 meeting here in Dedham that we don't get into
3 politics, but I do want to say as a matter of
4 law and as a matter of my responsibilities on
5 the oversight committee that that has taken up
6 the majority of my time recently in the United
7 States Congress.

8 To just put it succinctly, as your
9 representative, I took an oath. In my oath of
10 office, it says that I will protect and defend
11 the Constitution, and that is exactly what I
12 intend to do. Thank you. That would be based
13 on evidence.

14 I've been in all of these depositions
15 recently, and so we are going through the
16 impeachment inquiry process. We are weighing
17 the evidence, fact-based determinations on that
18 evidence, and we are gathering -- after this
19 vacation week, Thanksgiving, we'll be sitting in
20 committee to determine whether articles of
21 impeachment shall issue, and I will just leave
22 it at that.

23 But I do want you to know that a lot
24 of other very good things are happening in

1 Washington, at least on the House side, over the
2 past weeks and months, and I just want to --
3 maybe you know this, but if not, let me remind
4 you. We passed HR9, the Climate Action Now Act,
5 which would direct the President to re-engage
6 with the Paris Climate Board. We passed HR5,
7 the Equality Act, which amends the civil rights
8 act to protect LGBTQ members of our society.

9 We passed HR1168, which is Save the
10 Internet Act, which restores net neutrality,
11 which was taken away by the executive branch
12 recently. We passed HR1586, Violence Against
13 Women Re-Authorization Act. We also passed
14 HR1112, which is the Enhanced Background Checks
15 Acts, which just gives law enforcement a little
16 bit more time to conduct background checks to
17 make sure that weapons are not issued to people
18 who should not have them.

19 In one of the recent shootings in
20 California, it was a matter of the -- under the
21 current law, the law enforcement authorities
22 have a three-day window within which to conduct
23 those background checks. Out in California,
24 what happened is they did not complete -- now,

1 what happens is under the law, if there's no
2 denial in three days, then the weapon has to be
3 issued, the sale has to be -- the transaction
4 goes through, so the person gets the weapon.

5 In this case in California, the law
6 enforcement authorities were not able to conduct
7 the background check within the three days. The
8 gun issued, and then the individual engaged in a
9 mass shooting, and then after the fact, five or
10 six days later, we determined that that permit
11 should not have issued -- that weapon should not
12 have issued.

13 So this act will give law enforcement
14 ten days, which they tell us will allow them to
15 conduct, basically, 100 percent of the
16 background checks that they're required to
17 conduct. So giving them ten days will allow
18 them to do their jobs, and I think it's
19 certainly a common sense measure that we should
20 take.

21 HR1 is the Safe Act, which deals with
22 securing our elections. As you know, there were
23 14 individual intelligence agencies that
24 confirmed that Russians and other malevolent

1 actors hacked our last election. Believe it or
2 not, we have nine states in the United States
3 that do not have a backup paper system so that
4 if we have again in 2020 the same activity going
5 on, it could disrupt or bring into question the
6 legitimacy of the results of that election.

7 So we passed this act. It
8 appropriates \$400 million, especially to those
9 states that don't have a paper backup system to
10 bring their own systems into compliance with the
11 current law. We are very, very fortunate in
12 this state. We have one of the safest electoral
13 systems, and I give great credit to our
14 Secretary of State, Bill Galvin, who has become
15 somewhat of an expert on this nationally.

16 I had a hearing on this in my
17 national security subcommittee, and we actually
18 brought him down to testify. That's how well he
19 is thought of and how resilient our own system
20 is in this current state. Again, the Safe Act
21 would give \$400 million to those states to
22 increase its resiliency, because what we saw in
23 the 2018 midterms is that those actors are still
24 out there doing what they've been doing to try

1 to disrupt the electoral process in the United
2 States.

3 I'm also very pleased to say that one
4 of my own amendments to the Shield Act, which
5 prevents the use of deep fakes in those federal
6 elections. The deep fakes are digital clips
7 created solely to manipulate or deceive their
8 audience. And my amendment actually establishes
9 a criminal and civil penalty for their use in
10 federal elections.

11 Our national security posture also
12 includes the status of our sons and daughters in
13 uniform and ensuring that they receive proper
14 care and treatment when they return from serving
15 our country overseas. This month, the House
16 passed the bipartisan HR886, the Veterans
17 Treatment Coordination Act, which actually is
18 very active in your own Dedham courthouse, which
19 would help ensure veterans who are accused of
20 nonviolent drug-related offenses are put into
21 treatment instead of incarcerated in the first
22 instance.

23 These are individuals who have not
24 been accused or charged with a violent crime.

1 Their only offenses have been the use of illegal
2 substances, and that is their problem. So we're
3 not going to incarcerate our way out of this
4 problem. So this program helps us to coordinate
5 all those efforts nationally where, again,
6 Massachusetts has been the leader.

7 I do want to say that normally, we
8 have -- normally, I'd like to recognize our sons
9 and daughters who are at the military academies
10 where I get to make appointments, but I also
11 want to say that in my travels, most recently to
12 Tanzania and Darfur, I run into young people who
13 are actually serving in the Peace Corp, and the
14 work they're doing is absolutely heroic.

15 I was with a group of -- I met a
16 group of young women who were in Tanzania
17 actually teaching HIV prevention to the Maasai
18 tribes probably 700 miles from the nearest
19 indoor plumbing, and, you know, doing heroic
20 work many, many miles from any real security on
21 their own part. The same in Darfur right at the
22 Chad-Sudan border, young people from our
23 community actually doing that great work.

24 So I made a rule that whenever we

1 received information that someone in my district
2 was serving in the Peace Corp, I would recognize
3 them and acknowledge their service to their home
4 towns.

5 So tonight, I'd like to acknowledge
6 and thank Benjamin Chara. He left last year to
7 -- he left Dedham last year to serve in Malawi,
8 a place with very serious challenges, security
9 challenges and otherwise, and he will complete
10 his tour of duty in August of 2020. And he
11 follows in the footsteps of Donna Kennedy, who
12 served in Swaziland, and Esatu Crosby, who
13 served in Mozambique. All three are Dedham
14 residents, and they have served us very, very
15 well in the Peace Corp, and you should be
16 extremely proud that (inaudible due to
17 clapping).

18 I want to thank you for the courtesy
19 that's been extended to me. I want to thank you
20 for the honor that you've given me to represent
21 you in the United States Congress. You know,
22 Dedham is a shining example of what's best about
23 America. You take care of your kids, you know,
24 you take care of your seniors, you take care of

1 your veterans, and no one does that better than
2 the Town of Dedham. So I want to thank you for
3 that. Thank you for being involved in town
4 meeting. This is really the story of America.

5 When I have people visiting
6 Washington, and they want to understand the
7 secret of America, I tell them it's involvement
8 at the town meeting level. That's really where
9 democracy begins in America and where our
10 priorities come from and where the essence of
11 America is really found. So thank you all for
12 your attendance here tonight. May God bless the
13 Town of Dedham, and may God bless these United
14 States of America. Thank you.

15 **THE MODERATOR:** Thank you,
16 Congressman Lynch, for joining us once again.
17 If you'd stand up for the Pledge of Allegiance.

18 (All rise.)

19 **THE MODERATOR:** Thank you. The Chair
20 is once again pleased to nominate my colleague,
21 Cherylann W. Sheehan, to the position of deputy
22 moderator. Is there a second? All those in
23 favor, please say aye.

24 (Aye)

1 **THE MODERATOR:** Opposed, nay. The
2 ayes have it. Mr. Clerk, would you please swear
3 in Cherylann Sheehan.

4 (Ms. Sheehan sworn in)

5 **MR. MODERATOR:** The tellers for this
6 evening's meeting on my left, Daniel Park and
7 Fred Civian, in the center section, Charles
8 Krueger and James Driscoll, and on my right,
9 James Sullivan and Jonathan Pape.

10 The Chair would like to extend a warm
11 welcome to Dedham's new town manager, Leon
12 Goodwin, who joins us with an extensive set of
13 experiences with the Town of Dedham.

14 **MR. GOODWIN:** Thank you. I'm so
15 happy to be here at my first town meeting here
16 with you folks. As Congressman Lynch said, this
17 is a fantastic exercise of democracy, and it's
18 something that I am so honored to be part of.
19 So I wanted to be here in Dedham. I, too, had
20 service in Washington. Prior to joining the
21 town, I was a foreign service officer. I served
22 in two locations in Mexico over a two-year
23 period.

24 But my family and I couldn't be more

1 thrilled to be here in Dedham to be serving you
2 all. Again, thank you for your time. Thank you
3 for your commitment. This would not work
4 without all of your interests, without all of
5 your questions, and without all of your support.
6 I'm here to serve the town, to serve you all,
7 help make your jobs easier. My door is always
8 open. If you have questions, again, I'd love to
9 help you and answer them.

10 This evening is going to be a
11 learning experience for me a little bit, my
12 first town meeting here in Dedham. I've been to
13 many in the past, though. So be easy on me.
14 And again, thank you for having me here. It's
15 my pleasure.

16 **THE MODERATOR:** Thank you, Mr.
17 Goodwin. I recognize and welcome our new
18 director for library systems, Mr. Ryan Brennan.
19 Congratulations, Ryan.

20 I'd like to take a few minutes to
21 review the rules of this evening's meeting.
22 This is a representative town meeting. Elected
23 town meeting representatives are the only folks
24 who can vote. Others found participating in the

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vote will be asked to leave the hall.

When speaking, please use the microphone, and state your name and district for the benefit of the official stenographer, and each speaker is limited to ten minutes, unless otherwise voted by town meeting or the moderator.

In voting, at the request of seven town meeting members, a standing vote can be called for. At the request of 15 members, a roll call vote may be held. All articles will be deliberated in the order in which they are printed in your warrant, unless voted otherwise by town meeting.

As you know, all articles will be read by the moderator. I'll read each number. If you wish to ask a question, to discuss or to talk on the article, simply call out the word "pass," and we will set that article aside. All articles not passed will be voted in one omnibus motion, and they will be dealt with and set aside, and then we'll go back and consider the articles that have been set aside for discussion.

1 The warrant book contains the wording
2 of the article, and underneath that is the
3 recommendation, in most cases, of the finance
4 and warrant committee, and on articles that
5 pertain to zoning of the planning board. The
6 recommendation of those two bodies is called the
7 original motion, and that, in all cases, is what
8 you are voting on. If you wish to amend that,
9 then you can rise and offer an amendment to the
10 original motion. Remember, the original motion
11 is only a recommendation.

12 Motions for reconsideration require a
13 majority vote if the vote is taken within one
14 hour of the original vote and two-thirds voting
15 if the motion for reconsideration is made after
16 an hour. Matters of law will be referred by the
17 moderator to town counsel. Questions of town
18 meeting procedure are the responsibility of the
19 moderator.

20 I want to make one comment on an
21 issue that comes up from time to time, and that
22 is move the question. Move the question is
23 parliamentary talk for let's stop talking and
24 vote. You do have to be recognized to move the

1 question. Calling out from the audience, which
2 happens frequently, is more of an indication of
3 unrest than an actual lever to get anything
4 done, but that's fine.

5 So if you're recognized, you can move
6 the question. Please understand that if you
7 want to move the question, you can't give a
8 speech. So you can't give a speech and say what
9 a rotten job the previous speaker did and then
10 move the question. So you either give a speech
11 or you move the question. You can't do both.

12 Please understand that it takes a
13 two-thirds vote to move the question, in other
14 words, to stop debate, and that vote has to be
15 taken immediately. Even if there are people who
16 grab me in Dedham Square and said I want to
17 speak Monday night, or if you saw me at Roche
18 Brothers and said remember, I want to speak
19 Monday night, or if you're standing at the
20 microphone. So a motion to move the question
21 takes precedence over all other adages.

22 Are there any question on our rules
23 this evening? This lady is shaking her head, so
24 I'm going to take that as representative of the

1 whole group. Thank you. Please silence your
2 cell phones, and if there's anybody out there
3 that still uses a pager, shut that off, too,
4 please, although you certainly can put them in
5 tweeter mode. Ladies and gentlemen, please
6 remove your hats.

7 That being said, we will now move to
8 consideration of the warrant. Starting with
9 Page 3, Article 1. On Article 1, the chart on
10 Page 3 indicates the line items that the money
11 is being taken from and the line items that the
12 money is being taken from [sic], and all of the
13 money is either coming from appropriations or,
14 in one case, being added to the tax rate.

15 Article 2 is passed by the Chair, and
16 there is a new original motion from the finance
17 committee. Article 3 will be passed by the
18 Chair as a borrowing article that requires a
19 two-thirds vote.

20 Article 4 is passed by the Chair so
21 that we can have some explanation and discussion
22 by some of our (inaudible). Article 5. Article
23 6 requires a borrowing. So that automatically
24 calls for a two-thirds vote, so the Chair will

1 pass Article 6. Article 7. Article 8. Is
2 there a pass on Article 8?

3 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Yes.

4 **THE MODERATOR:** Article 9.

5 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Pass, and on
6 5, too.

7 **THE MODERATOR:** I'm sorry?

8 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** On 5, too.

9 **THE MODERATOR:** You want to pass
10 Article 5, okay. And it was a pass on Article
11 9, did I hear?

12 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Yes.

13 **THE MODERATOR:** Article 10. Article
14 11.

15 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Pass on 10,
16 please.

17 **THE MODERATOR:** Pass on 10. Article
18 11.

19 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Pass.

20 **THE MODERATOR:** I'm sorry?

21 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Pass on 11.

22 **THE MODERATOR:** Is there any article
23 that people don't want to pass? Article 12
24 requires a two-thirds vote, so the Chair will

1 pass on that. There's also a new original
2 motion on Article 12. Article 13 is on Page 17
3 as a zoning bylaw that also requires a two-
4 thirds vote, and we passed on that. Article 14.

5 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** There's a new
6 original.

7 **THE MODERATOR:** Article 15. Oh,
8 Article 14 is an original motion. Thank you.
9 Article 16.

10 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Pass.

11 **THE MODERATOR:** Pass on Article 16.
12 Any articles that weren't passed that people
13 want to pass on before we take the vote?

14 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** 16.

15 **THE MODERATOR:** 16 is passed.

16 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Was Article 1
17 passed?

18 **THE MODERATOR:** Article 1 was not
19 passed. Do you wish to pass Article 1?

20 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** I have a
21 couple of questions.

22 **THE MODERATOR:** Okay, Article 1 is
23 passed. If there's anything in this book that
24 hasn't been passed, the Chair will accept a

1 motion to accept the original motion. So it's
2 the motion printed by the finance and warrant
3 committee in the book. Is that understood? All
4 those in favor of accepting the original motion
5 on articles that have not been set aside for
6 discussion, please say aye.

7 (Aye)

8 **THE MODERATOR:** Opposed, nay. The
9 ayes have it. Thank you. We'll go back to
10 Article 1. Is there discussion on Article 1?
11 Mrs. Gilbert.

12 **MRS. GILBERT:** Mary Gilbert, Precinct
13 4.

14 **THE MODERATOR:** Can you take your hat
15 off, please, Mary. The rule used to be that
16 gentlemen had to remove their hats, but in this
17 era, we've decided to be equal about it. So
18 everybody please remove your hat in town meeting
19 as a matter of respect. Thank you.

20 **MRS. GILBERT:** I have a couple of
21 questions on Number 5, 10, 11, and 12. So
22 Number 5, it's coming from free cash, and it's
23 for material removal. I don't know what that
24 means, exactly, dirt, I suppose, but is that

1 going to be something we're going to deal with
2 going forward?

3 Number 10 is wages. I don't -- the
4 school facilities I'm confused about.
5 Originally, it was thought to be town, but now
6 it's moving over to the schools. Tax levy, I
7 don't know what that means. Is that 15.5 that's
8 going to raise the levy, or is it just to pay
9 for the upcoming --

10 **THE MODERATOR:** We're paying on that
11 \$15,500 through the tax rate and not through a
12 transfer from another line item. That's what
13 that is.

14 **MRS. GILBERT:** And then Number 12,
15 \$650,000 for school administration salaries.

16 **THE MODERATOR:** That's to fund the
17 first year of the contract that was just
18 successfully negotiated.

19 **MRS. GILBERT:** So I guess the two
20 questions on 12 and on the other salary is is
21 there no contingency fund in the school budget?

22 **THE MODERATOR:** There was a
23 contingency fund, but the negotiations took so
24 long that the school department had to return

1 them to the town, because it crossed over on the
2 fiscal year (inaudible).

3 **MRS. GILBERT:** Thank you.

4 **THE MODERATOR:** So we're back to
5 materials. Is there somebody from the town who
6 can answer the question on the removal of
7 materials? Mr. Goodwin.

8 **MR. GOODWIN:** Good evening. Leon
9 Goodwin, town manager. So for Number 5, the
10 \$500,000 is -- as many folks know, we were
11 storing and processing materials at the Striar
12 property for a number of years. This year, we
13 had to stop that and remove those materials.

14 The cost of removing of materials is
15 approximately \$500,000 that has already been
16 incurred by the operating budget for the
17 Department of Public Works. On an ongoing basis
18 in future years, there will be a cost, maybe not
19 \$500,000, but in the hundreds of thousands of
20 dollars that we will be incurring to process and
21 remove the materials from various construction
22 projects.

23 Number 10, if you would like me to
24 answer that one as well?

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THE MODERATOR: Please.

MR. GOODWIN: That was reclassification of wages between town and school facilities. With the new assistant facilities director position, we are taking that salary under the town side of the budget. So this is just a move from one side of the budget to the other, and this is something that we had anticipated previously.

THE MODERATOR: Any further questions on Article 1?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: 11. She asked about 11.

THE MODERATOR: Hearing none, the motion comes on the original motion, as indicated in your book. All those in favor, please say aye.

(Aye)

THE MODERATOR: Opposed, no. The ayes have it.

Article 2, appropriation for prior years bills. There is a new original motion. The original motion was that it be indefinitely postponed, which is town meeting talk for no,

1 but we have discovered a bill that is due, and
2 we'll address that. It's only 300 bucks.

3 **MS. BAKER:** Nancy Baker, assistant
4 town manager. We discovered a bill for \$380
5 payable to the firm that conducts our
6 preemployment physicals and drug and alcohol
7 screening. We apologize for the confusion, but
8 that's what's in front of you tonight. The
9 finance committee voted unanimously to support
10 funding of \$380 from free cash. Thank you.

11 **THE MODERATOR:** By the way, the new
12 original motions are all in your handout, so
13 look at those at the same time you're looking at
14 your books.

15 This requires a four-fifths vote. We
16 can try for unanimous. If we hear a unanimous,
17 we don't have to do a four-fifths standing vote.
18 All those in favor, please say aye.

19 (Aye)

20 **THE MODERATOR:** Opposed, no. It is
21 unanimous. Thank you.

22 Article 3, appropriation for the Ames
23 building. That does require a two-thirds vote
24 because there's borrowing involved. Are there

1 questions on Article 3? Mr. Gorman.

2 **MR. GORMAN:** Good evening. Bill
3 Gorman, Precinct 7. I think that we needed a
4 little more explanation, at least I know I do,
5 on how this \$890,000 managed to come about. I
6 see we got this as opposed to what we got at the
7 mini, which was nothing, so it has a little bit
8 of a breakdown, but nonetheless, it's still a
9 number.

10 A little history. I was a builder
11 for 48 years and a general contractor, and
12 during that period of time, I never thought I'd
13 be able to get a very large job, carry it on for
14 many, many months beyond the deadline which I
15 said it would be done into a year or so, and
16 then I would send in all kinds of extra cost
17 overruns and get paid for it, and then I would
18 have my contract terminated.

19 And then I would turn around and sue
20 the homeowner, and then I would be reappointed
21 to the project because they happened to have had
22 a bond on the project, and now, I get to finish
23 the project. And somehow during this interim, I
24 get -- or someone gets to get \$890,000.

1 So I'd like to have someone explain
2 it. It doesn't -- in the book under Article 3,
3 the smaller portion is additional funds to
4 complete the renovation project, including the
5 cost associated with service provided by the
6 owner's project manager and the architect.

7 So I'd like to know if there is any
8 funds in there that are going to this general
9 contractor. He was the low bid, if I'm correct,
10 and I believe the town has to take that due to
11 state statutes. Is that not correct? That is
12 correct.

13 So I've often wondered, you know,
14 when that contract went out, I'm saying to
15 myself my God, I mean, the low bidder gets the
16 job, and then good luck. I don't know of
17 anybody that would take the lowest bid on the
18 projects being done on their homes, but
19 apparently, the state requires the towns to do
20 that. It works against the town and a
21 homeowner.

22 The notice I have is at the town
23 meeting, we were asked to vote on this \$890,000.
24 We should have an explanation before we take a

1 vote. If it can't be explained to the
2 satisfaction, then I don't know if it's possible
3 to move this question on until the spring town
4 meeting in order to get some answers.

5 So if some of this is going to the
6 contractor, I think this is terrible. The fact
7 of the matter that it's going to the project
8 manager, this is the same project manager, I
9 believe, that started the project.

10 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Yes, it is.

11 **MR. GORMAN:** That is correct. So
12 this is the same project manager that had to
13 oversee it for the town. I know there was
14 meetings with the selectmen. Bring them up-to-
15 date. They were granted waivers in order to let
16 the developer move on with the project. At the
17 same time, it was reported there were only a
18 couple of people working in a very large
19 building.

20 Month after month this went by. The
21 project manager reports again, oh, they're doing
22 okay, and they need a few more people. They've
23 got labor problems. Let's give them a break.
24 This person was looking at the job for us. Now,

1 this person, after all of this, is now looking
2 to be reimbursed, because the project made it so
3 far along, and the architect also is now looking
4 for more money.

5 I don't know when it stops. It's
6 already over budget. Certainly over time, and
7 God forbid anything goes wrong in the building
8 that anything will not be corrected at whose
9 expense. The bond people will probably write it
10 off. They did their part. They're gone.

11 So I'd like a real detailed
12 explanation, and I think we're entitled to it
13 after the years of watching that project
14 languish there, and now it may open in, I
15 believe, February -- January-February, more or
16 less. We didn't say what year, but we're
17 getting close.

18 I really -- that's my feeling. I'm
19 sorry if I'm ranting here, but as having been in
20 the trade for that long and seeing what took
21 place and listening to the explanations at the
22 board of selectmen's meeting, I think we're
23 getting a real hosing. So thank you.

24 **THE MODERATOR:** Mr. Goodwin.

1 **MR. GOODWIN:** Thank you to the
2 previous speaker. I think this gives me an
3 opportunity to further explain the situation,
4 describe the sheet that I think most of you
5 have. It's this sheet here that was handed out
6 earlier.

7 So the previous speaker mentioned
8 that there were approximately \$1.7 million in
9 additional costs. None of that is going to the
10 contractor. This is a monthly cost that we are
11 incurring as a result of the delay that goes to
12 the OPM, which is our project manager, and to
13 the architecture firm, our designers. That is
14 required by contract. Prior town manager did
15 negotiate those amounts down, but we're still
16 paying a little bit more than \$80,000 per month
17 for those services.

18 So as this project has gone past
19 schedule, that's how come we've incurred these
20 two relatively large bills. If I were sitting
21 in your seats, I would feel the same way. We've
22 done all we can to contain the costs. Again,
23 none of this is going to the contractor. This
24 is all attributable to the delay on the project,

1 and we're going to vigorously pursue this when
2 the project is finished, because we can
3 attribute it to the delay.

4 We want the project to finish as much
5 as you do. I've been over there. The assistant
6 town manager Baker has been on this project all
7 summer long. I would say but for her diligence,
8 we would not be in the position we are now being
9 able to say that sometime in that January-
10 February time frame we're going to be moving
11 into that building.

12 I think it's going to be something
13 that this whole town can be proud of. This is
14 an unfortunate aspect of it, the fact that we're
15 past the due date over budget, but I think we're
16 pretty confident this will be the last time
17 we're coming to you for this.

18 **MR. MODERATOR:** Thank you, Mr.
19 Goodwin. Yes, sir.

20 **MR. GILCHRIST:** Mr. Gilchrist,
21 Precinct 3. My question if we go against paying
22 this, does that leave us in a legal situation?

23 **MR. GOODWIN:** Yes.

24 **THE MODERATOR:** Good question, Mr.

1 Gilchrist.

2 **MR. GILCHRIST:** What kind of --

3 **MR. GOODWIN:** We have a contractual
4 obligation to pay our professional consultants,
5 so this money will have to come from somewhere.

6 **MR. GILCHRIST:** But the consulting is
7 something that they really haven't done, because
8 we've been hung up by other issues; am I
9 correct?

10 **MR. GOODWIN:** No. They have done the
11 consulting, and it's all based on an hourly
12 assumption. So they've done the work. We've
13 documented they've done the work.
14 Unfortunately, because the project has been
15 delayed, they've been providing us services for
16 longer than we anticipated, which is on top of
17 the original contract price that we'd expect.

18 **THE MODERATOR:** Thank you, sir. Mr.
19 Gorman.

20 **MR. GORMAN:** Still Bill Gorman from
21 Precinct 7. So \$80,000 a month -- that's not
22 correct, okay -- has that been ongoing since the
23 first of -- the opening of the job all the way
24 through? So are we paying for all of the

1 downtime where there was nothing going on?

2 **MR. GOODWIN:** No. There was --

3 **MR. GORMAN:** Excuse me. I'm sorry.

4 **MR. GOODWIN:** Sure.

5 **MR. GORMAN:** So there must be some
6 book work, some accounting, someone's been
7 keeping record of this?

8 **MR. GOODWIN:** Yes.

9 **MR. GORMAN:** So since the last
10 payment, they've incurred \$890,000 worth of
11 additional charges?

12 **MR. GOODWIN:** That's correct.

13 **MR. GORMAN:** I'm in the wrong
14 business.

15 **THE MODERATOR:** Further questions on
16 the article? Mr. Driscoll.

17 **MR. DRISCOLL:** Mark Driscoll,
18 District 4. I just have a comment. I still
19 have last year's handout from last fall, and
20 just a point I want to make for everybody to
21 hear is that the original estimate was \$12
22 million, and then it went up to \$17 million, and
23 now it's gone up another \$1 million. So it's
24 about 50 percent over what was originally

1 budgeted, which is a huge number, and I want to
2 know who's responsible. I'd say the estimator,
3 the designers, but, you know, it's the seismic
4 design to the foundation because they didn't
5 realize the whole building had to be designed
6 for seismic, which, obviously, it wasn't.

7 They didn't realize they needed
8 proper access for seniors, even though it was
9 going to be a senior center. So I hope just for
10 the future, everybody keeps in mind it was -- to
11 me, it was a blunder, and it's easy to get
12 something to pass if you keep the number looking
13 low at the beginning so there's some motivation
14 to try to keep the number down to get the vote
15 on it.

16 **THE MODERATOR:** Ms. Baker.

17 **MS. BAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Moderator.

18 The number that you saw when we originally
19 presented an article to town meeting, if you
20 recall, it included the purchase of the
21 building, included the renovation of that
22 building, and it included the renovation of the
23 existing town hall for a police station, which
24 was later -- when Mr. Kern came on board as town

1 manager working with the two chiefs, it was
2 agreed and decided, and we came back to you
3 seeking your support for a combined public
4 safety facility.

5 The number for the Ames building was,
6 in fact, an estimate, and I believe over a
7 number of meetings, Mr. Kern explained that that
8 estimate was low because of the amount of time
9 that we had to prepare for the town meeting. We
10 were in front of you, I believe, in the fall.
11 We had proposed the Rustcraft Road building at
12 that time, and that was voted down in favor of
13 the next -- of the building next door at 450
14 Washington Street.

15 We had very little time between then
16 and the spring town meeting to prepare an
17 appropriate estimate. That building was fully
18 leased at the time that we took possession of
19 it, making it extremely difficult to do the
20 necessary testing in a building close to 200
21 years old, and the little bit of testing we were
22 able to do certainly revealed things that we
23 anticipated that had to be addressed.

24 So some of the increase that you did

1 see was very legitimate, and it was unfortunate
2 that it came after your support. But every time
3 that we used or expended from the original
4 appropriation, Mr. Kern stood before this body
5 with an article letting you know what the
6 intentions were of the original \$28.5 million
7 that was voted for the project.

8 **THE MODERATOR:** Thank you, Ms. Baker.
9 Any further discussion? Mr. Sullivan.

10 **MR. SULLIVAN:** Jim Sullivan, 299
11 Riverside Drive.

12 **THE MODERATOR:** Mr. Sullivan, can you
13 pull a little closer to the --

14 **MR. SULLIVAN:** Jim Sullivan, 299
15 Riverside Drive. I'm also chair of the building
16 and planning construction committee. Just a
17 point of clarification. The OPM, owner's
18 project management, and architect are required
19 by state law from the start to the completion of
20 the project. That's the contract. As long as
21 that building is open for construction, he has
22 to be -- we have to have a body on the site. So
23 when two people are working there or there's 100
24 people working there, you have to have someone

1 on site.

2 **THE MODERATOR:** Thank you, Mr.
3 Sullivan. Is there anybody else that wishes to
4 speak on the subject of this one?

5 **MS. McINTOSH:** Susie McIntosh,
6 Precinct 1. I'm wondering at this time if
7 there's a way for the people who are managing
8 the new police station and fire station could
9 help us understand the lessons learned from
10 what's happened with the Ames Schoolhouse to be
11 sure that these kinds of major mistakes and
12 financial overruns don't happen again, and if
13 there's also a way of improving the
14 communication to the town as to what's
15 happening.

16 I feel -- I read the Dedham Times
17 every week, and I see very little information
18 and feel like I'm pretty in the dark about sort
19 of proactively going to town hall to find out
20 about it.

21 **THE MODERATOR:** Thank you, Ms.
22 McIntosh. I know there's been some discussion
23 about some town meeting representatives of doing
24 what they call in the military an after action

1 report, in other words (inaudible.) So that
2 could be an article in the spring town meeting
3 if the interest is there. Mr. Barich.

4 **MR. BARICH:** Lindsay Barich, Precinct
5 6. I was curious about the bond, how that
6 works. If it was voted no, would the insurance
7 bond pay that out, and then could you litigate
8 it at another time?

9 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** No.

10 **THE MODERATOR:** We're being told no
11 by most of the front row. Thank you, sir. Good
12 thought, though. Any other speakers? Mr.
13 Gorman.

14 **MR. GORMAN:** Bill Gorman, still at
15 Precinct 7. Could I have the correction, if I'm
16 wrong, that the manager of the Ames School is
17 also the project manager of the proposed public
18 safety building? Is that not correct? And as
19 the -- I don't believe there's a contract put
20 out on it yet, but is the Ames School contract
21 expected to bid on that?

22 **THE MODERATOR:** Mr. Goodwin.

23 **MR. GOODWIN:** So the OPM that is on
24 the Ames project is the same OPM that will be on

1 the public safety bill. That contract was
2 awarded during the planning phase. Again, by
3 law, you need to have that person on board, and
4 that was a previous election.

5 On a go-forward basis, if any of you
6 have been paying attention to what's happening
7 at the board of selectmen or the building
8 planning and construction committee, the town
9 recently decided to switch project delivery
10 methods from a design bid build, which is what
11 was happening -- what we used on the Ames
12 project, which means that the project is awarded
13 to the lowest bidder to what they call
14 construction manager at risk.

15 That allows us to choose from a
16 qualification-based system to pick a firm. We
17 fully anticipate that that will be a different
18 group of firms, and that the firm that's working
19 on the Ames School would not be included in that
20 group.

21 **THE MODERATOR:** Thank you, sir. Mr.
22 Delloiacono.

23 **MR. DELLOIACONO:** Mr. Moderator,
24 members of town meeting, just a point of

1 clarification, because I did hear the sigh. The
2 OPM that is currently on the Ames School
3 project, yes, is carried over to the police/fire
4 station. The sigh was for the contractor. Not
5 the same. The OPM has been working diligently
6 for the town. That company has worked so hard
7 and found flaws and fixed, reported back.
8 They're meticulous with their notes. It is not
9 the same. The sigh goes to the contractor, so
10 that's the point of clarification. The
11 contractor is at Ames, and there will be a new
12 bid for a different contractor for the public
13 safety. Thank you.

14 **THE MODERATOR:** Thank you, sir.

15 Further questions? Hearing none, the motion
16 comes on the -- the vote comes on the original
17 motion. It does require a two-thirds vote. All
18 those in favor, please say aye.

19 (Aye)

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

21 (No)

22 **THE MODERATOR:** It is a two-thirds
23 vote. Article 4. The Chair has passed Article
24 4. The actual scope of Article 4 is actually

1 quite limited, but obviously, there's an
2 elephant in the room that people want to
3 discuss. So we will first ask the town manager,
4 Mr. Goodwin, to address the larger issue. But
5 realize that we still have to vote on Article 4,
6 and that appropriation is not related to this
7 issue. Mr. Goodwin.

8 **MR. GOODWIN:** Good evening, and thank
9 you for indulging me once again. So at mini
10 town meeting, I know a lot of people were
11 surprised to hear that the actuarial valuation
12 of the pension liability had changed
13 significantly maybe from the last time that you
14 had heard about this reporting.

15 First and foremost, I want to
16 emphasize that the 32-million-dollar figure that
17 you all heard about at the mini town meeting is
18 still an estimate, and it's an estimate that's
19 based on a number of changes that were made at
20 the Dedham Retirement Board. It's not final
21 yet, though. It's going to still be reviewed by
22 the state Public Employee Retirement
23 Administration Commission, PERAC, and we expect
24 that review to come back sometime in December or

1 January. Again, that's not something that we
2 order as a town. It's the retirement board,
3 which is a separate entity.

4 So even holding up the \$32 million,
5 which is a significant sum, I agree, that number
6 is not something that we do next year or even in
7 two or three years. That's something that will
8 be amortized over a number of years, much like
9 the prior unfunded liability had been paid by
10 the Town of Dedham.

11 Dedham has done a fantastic job, and
12 this body has voted a couple of times in the
13 past in '16 and '17 to appropriate even more
14 money to the retirement system than what was
15 required, and that was done with an eye toward
16 the future, paying down that unfunded liability
17 and freeing up some monies for much needed other
18 improvements.

19 This \$32 million sort of puts a kink
20 in that plan, but it's not a permanent one. And
21 let me sort of explain where the \$32 million
22 comes from. So first of all, coinciding with
23 all of this was changing consultants at the
24 retirement board. The long-time consultant was

1 not selected. A new consultant came in. There
2 was a review, and there are four main drivers.

3 One is that the return on investment
4 -- that's of the retirement fund. That's the
5 amount of money that we expect to earn from the
6 100-plus-million dollars that sits in that
7 account. It was reduced from 7.5 percent to
8 7.25 percent, and just a few years ago, it had
9 been 7.75 percent. So this is a reduction
10 that's been happening over time. But that 7.5
11 to 7.25 percent resulted in an increase in the
12 pension on funded liability of about \$4.6
13 million over ten years. So that's a significant
14 sum there.

15 The mortality tables, those are the
16 actuarial tables. They're basically a set of
17 numbers that the actuaries use to determine how
18 much we're going to have to pay out over time.
19 Those were also updated, and that's something
20 that's happening across municipalities, across
21 the state. And we moved from an older set of
22 tables, that the data was considered a little
23 bit outdated, to a new set that the state, that
24 PERAC board, actually encouraged that retirement

1 board to move toward. That changed our
2 liability by \$8.2 million.

3 Stock market performance in 2018,
4 especially the end of 2018, was a busy one, as
5 most of you who follow the market were aware.
6 We actually lost two and a quarter percent on
7 our investment in 2018 when you take in
8 December. We had assumed a return on investment
9 of 5.85 percent. That changed. That
10 performance for that one year amounted to about
11 \$2.2 million of the \$32 million.

12 And then what they're calling life
13 happens or other -- it's really experience from
14 an actuarial standpoint. Much like health
15 insurance, they look at, you know, your past
16 health. For retirement systems, they look at
17 basically the health and the performance of the
18 people who are members. So mortality rates, the
19 rollover, people leaving the system, people
20 joining the system increases in wages. There's
21 just a variety of factors that we're calling
22 experience or life.

23 Those all get fed into an algorithm
24 that the consultant creates, and this consultant

1 only had one year of that experience to look at.
2 The prior consultant had many, many years. So
3 their system is perhaps maybe a little bit more
4 accurate. We don't know right now. But the
5 consultant did tell us that that change amounted
6 to about \$13 million.

7 So the retirement board, in
8 recognizing this, instead of waiting two years
9 to do an evaluation, it's going to do another
10 one on January 1, 2020. That should give us a
11 much better idea of where we stand, whether it's
12 \$32 million, whether it's \$20 million. It's
13 going to be larger than what we expected. I
14 think that's a given. What we don't know is how
15 large that number is going to be and how we're
16 going to spread it out over time.

17 I will say that for FY '20, the year
18 we're in, and what this actual article is, we're
19 looking at the same number as before, the \$3.9
20 million. For FY '21, we're looking at a number
21 of a little over \$4.2 million. That compares to
22 a prior assumption of about \$4 million, so
23 you're talking about a 200,000-dollar delta
24 there. In 2022, FY '22, and forward, things

1 start to change a little bit more. It's more
2 divergent. But again, we're going to have a
3 couple of evaluations before then, and we're
4 going to be able to make some sound decisions,
5 because we know that these are your taxpayer
6 dollars, that we have important priorities in
7 town, important things that we want to
8 accomplish with these dollars.

9 And while we may not have the drastic
10 reduction in retirement costs that we had
11 anticipated just several years ago, we're going
12 to try and manage this to make it so that it's
13 affordable and allows us to accomplish these
14 other goals.

15 So I guess that's my closing. I'm
16 happy to answer any questions on this. I just
17 want to remind everyone it is fluid. It's based
18 on the stock market. It goes up and down, and
19 anyone who has retirement accounts knows that,
20 and unfortunately, you know, we're at that point
21 right now where it looked like it went down,
22 because that was a snapshot in time. If we do
23 it again, the valuation, which we will be doing
24 this year, our earnings our great. So I think

1 you're going to see it's very cyclical. Thank
2 you.

3 **THE MODERATOR:** Thank you, Mr.
4 Goodwin. I'm going to ask you to bear with us a
5 minute. We're going to ask Dr. Teehan to speak.
6 The idea here is to get some of the facts out,
7 and then we'll get into questions, rather than
8 having questions come in for which we could
9 provide the answers up front. Dr. Teehan.

10 **DR. TEEHAN:** Thank you, Mr.
11 Moderator. Dennis Teehan, vice-chairman, board
12 of selectmen. There's a couple of things I want
13 to reiterate right from the beginning about this
14 situation. First and foremost, the Town of
15 Dedham is committed to fulfilling its retirement
16 commitments to its town employees, and there is
17 no ambiguity about it.

18 The pension is the sacred compact
19 between a public employee and a municipality,
20 earned by a lifetime of public service, and it
21 is essential that the town continue to ensure
22 that our pension fund is strong and solid. Our
23 retirement fund is still in good shape, and it
24 remains among the better funded in the state,

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and this did not happen by accident.

It is from the commitment of the board of selectmen, town meeting, Dedham taxpayers, and the retirement board, and that the town has for the last two decades been able to ensure adequate taxpayer support so we can provide our town employees the retirement they have earned and deserve. We are in great shape, and the current disagreement we have is actually a good problem to have.

I want to, again, remind everyone that the money we have invested in the pension fund is still invested in the pension fund. It is subject to the expected peaks and valleys, like any invested money may be, but, in fact, there's more money now than there was two years ago when we were near fully funded. To use an analogy, the water that was in the cup two years ago is more or less still there today and should continue to grow in the market.

What has changed, and what is the source of disagreement, is the size of the cup has been increased by some of the decisions of the retirement board, and this increase in the

1 size of the cup is the source of the 32-million-
2 dollar liability we're discussing today.

3 I want to detail a little bit of back
4 story, not too much, but for over two decades,
5 the Town of Dedham has been aggressively
6 pursuing its pension liability, and I use that
7 as a compliment, because not every town has
8 taken this responsibility so seriously. Dedham
9 deserves credit for taking ownership of this
10 liability and feeding its commitment.

11 Remember a few years ago, we had a
12 free cash surplus after an exhaustive analysis
13 by our finance department, who's recommended
14 that we put some more money into our pension
15 liability. We had a public meeting to discuss
16 the option. The plan was presented. The plan
17 was presented to mini town meeting, and the
18 night of town meeting, it was not passed, and it
19 passed unanimously.

20 I still believe this was the right
21 decision, because whatever our current liability
22 is, we'll be \$10 million higher if not for this,
23 and the only reason we're even having this
24 discussion tonight is because of those payments.

1 And to be fair, this approach has already
2 yielded tax savings, because we have been paying
3 over \$5 million a year into this fund for quite
4 some time, and the retirement board, their last
5 two years asked, have been considerably less
6 than that.

7 All in all, the five years leading up
8 to fiscal '20, the Town of Dedham has
9 contributed approximately 35 million taxpayer
10 dollars into the pension fund, thereby making
11 any suggestion questioning the town or the town
12 meeting's willingness and support as pension
13 basis.

14 Nonetheless, given the significant
15 support their time and funding gotten in the
16 past few years and the town's decision to
17 aggressively pursue full funding so we could
18 have some flexibility, flexibility that we could
19 use to mitigate taxes, the board had concerns
20 about any decision to lower projected interest
21 rate and further increase the liability.

22 Last fall, we voted five to nothing
23 to send a letter to the retirement board asking
24 that the projected interest rate be lowered from

1 7.75 to 7.5 over a period of three years instead
2 of one. Our hope was to provide the retirement
3 board the support they needed to lower the
4 projected interest rate, while still preserving
5 some of the ability to lessen the blow for our
6 taxpayers.

7 Not only was this request not met,
8 but then in the spring of this year, the board
9 voted to further lower the interest rate from
10 7.5 to 7.25. A substantial portion of the 32-
11 million-dollar liability we've discussed
12 tonight, about \$4.5 million, results from these
13 actions.

14 In early 2019, the board also voted
15 to move on from the former actuary, Darren
16 Sherman, in favor of a new firm, Segal. Segal
17 uses different actuarial tables than Mr. Sherman
18 did, and the differences in these tables was
19 projecting how long retirees live, also counts
20 for a large portion of the liability, \$8
21 million, and then just changing actuaries,
22 apparently, counts for about \$13 million.
23 Having been a part of this for the last several
24 years, I can say for sure that there is

1 flexibility in how we might implement such a
2 change.

3 Now, to the retirement board's
4 credit, they have made three decisions in recent
5 months to help the town. They reversed the vote
6 to fund to 105 percent, which they had made
7 years ago back down to 100 percent. Their ask
8 for fiscal '20 and fiscal '21, which is still
9 pending approval by PERAC, was less than it
10 would have been, and they agreed to redo their
11 actuarial study this year. That was three big
12 things.

13 But I'm speaking about myself as a
14 selectmen, and I certainly do not claim to be an
15 expert in actuarial tables, forecasting
16 investment markets or anything like this. We
17 could all argue about which actuarial table is
18 right for a long time. But I do know that we're
19 talking about taxpayer money here, and I do know
20 that when it comes to taxpayer money, nothing
21 happens in a vacuum.

22 We cannot simply keep pointing to the
23 state saying they told us to. That is not good
24 enough. It is a delicate ecosystem, and every

1 decision we make with taxpayer money has to be
2 made carefully. We could argue all day about
3 which table is better or which interest rate is
4 the right one. The truth is there is no right
5 answer. The bottom line is the town, the board
6 of selectmen, and town meeting has made
7 decisions the last five years based on a certain
8 set of conditions to promote the interest of
9 taxpayers, and I don't think it was fair to
10 change the conditions or the rules of the game
11 when the game was almost over.

12 Any undertaking that changes the
13 conditions we must -- we make must be based --
14 must be taken delicately, carefully, and slowly,
15 and it must be a collaborative process. And I'm
16 just going to be bluntly honest, it hasn't been.
17 This is taxpayer money, and in my opinion --
18 this is just my opinion -- dropping the rate at
19 half point a year and adopting a new table and
20 changing actuaries, adding \$25 million to the
21 pension liability that we're on the verge of
22 full funding was neither delicate, nor careful,
23 nor considerate.

24 Now, we believe we're doing

1 everything in our power to support a pension of
2 our retirees, but we need to find balance.
3 Regardless of what has happened the last few
4 years, our taxpayers deserve everyone involved
5 in the situation to continue to work together
6 and continue to collaborate to solve the
7 problem. And that is what we really hope to do,
8 to work together.

9 I can assure you that the board of
10 selectmen is going to continue to do everything
11 in its power to strike the correct balance
12 between ensuring our retirees get the retirement
13 they deserve and protecting the interests of our
14 taxpaying citizens, and I look forward to
15 working with everyone involved. Thank you very
16 much, and I'll be available for questions.

17 **THE MODERATOR:** Thank you, Dr.
18 Teehan. The Chair wants to recognize Kevin
19 Preston, chair of the finance and warrant
20 committee, just to tide us into the current
21 article, and then thanking you for your
22 patience, we'll then open the floor for
23 questions. Mr. Preston.

24 **MR. PRESTON:** Good evening. With the

1 exception of one matter of emphasis, I don't --
2 I wouldn't disagree with anything that Mr.
3 Goodwin or Dr. Teehan have said, and that one
4 matter of emphasis goes just to a simple fact.
5 I'm not going to get into or speculate. I think
6 it's way too early to have any discussion. I
7 cast no aspersions or suggest no one is to blame
8 or that there's any blame to be had.

9 But the simple fact that I think is
10 the only thing that we can conclude right now is
11 last year at this time, we were looking at an
12 estimate, and this body was told about an
13 estimate, of \$4.5 million as our total
14 outstanding unfunded liability.

15 Now, even then, everybody knew, and
16 it's always been represented, that that's a
17 moving target. It can go up, it can go down,
18 but it was \$4.5 million. And today, as we sit
19 here, we're looking at an estimate of \$32
20 million that has been approved by vote of the
21 board of retirement.

22 Now, granted, it hasn't been yet
23 approved by PERAC. Granted, it is a moving
24 target. It might not be \$32, it might be \$31,

1 it might be \$25, it might be \$35, it might be
2 \$15. We don't know for sure. It's a
3 projection. But the simple fact is that the
4 base figure has gone from 4.5 to 32, and the
5 sole interest we have and that the finance
6 committee have is to bring the facts to be as
7 transparent as possible and to report it.

8 Again, we don't want to overplay it.
9 We don't want to misrepresent it. But that is
10 the simple fact. There will be many more
11 chapters to this story as this plays out as we
12 see whether the numbers move and in what
13 direction they move, but that is a fact.

14 The second thing I'd just like to say
15 while we're up here, we've talked about
16 everything except what is the actual thing that
17 you're being asked to vote on, and what you're
18 being asked to vote on is a very narrow
19 question, and we think a very straightforward
20 question.

21 Last year, in the spring, when we
22 came before you, we stood here, and we
23 represented that the retirement board had sent
24 us a bill of \$3.9 million for our obligation for

1 fiscal year 2020 that we had to pay for our
2 funding obligation for retirement. The finance
3 committee had an idea that perhaps we could
4 stretch that out by one year and reduce the
5 impact on the rate this year. And so what we
6 asked you to do, which you did do, is to approve
7 part of it.

8 You approved \$2.9 million, and the
9 other roughly \$700,000 we asked you to hold off
10 on until the fall, and then we intended to have
11 some conversations with the retirement board to
12 see whether we could work something out to
13 stretch out our obligation. Although we did
14 have those conversations, they were not
15 successful, and the retirement board's original
16 bill still stands.

17 As we reflected in May, that may well
18 be the case, turned out to be the case. So we
19 have a legal obligation to pay the remaining
20 \$765,000 or whatever is in the warrant as an
21 obligation. We have an opinion of town counsel
22 that we are obligated to pay it. Even though
23 the committee has had some differences with the
24 retirement board over the years and will

1 probably continue to on some issues, there is
2 not the slightest shred of doubt. We voted
3 unanimously that this was a bill that we should
4 pay, we have to pay, and I would urge that you
5 vote yes to approve this payment tonight. Thank
6 you.

7 **THE MODERATOR:** Thank you, Mr.
8 Preston. Questions? Mr. Civian.

9 **MR. CIVIAN:** Fred Civian, Precinct 1.
10 Two questions. One, is Dedham an outlier in how
11 it's being managed by the retirement board? Are
12 other cities and towns across the Commonwealth
13 facing these same sorts of actions, or is this
14 action an outlier compared to other towns?

15 **THE MODERATOR:** Mr. Goodwin or Dr.
16 Teehan?

17 **MR. GOODWIN:** We are very much among
18 a large group of other cities and towns that are
19 facing similar changes. Again, as Dr. Teehan
20 mentioned, we are still in the upper echelon of
21 municipalities when it comes to our funding and
22 our health of our pension system. We've all
23 shifted a little bit as a result of some of
24 these actuarial changes, and marketing

1 conditions, for that matter, but we are still in
2 the upper echelon, but we are certainly not
3 alone.

4 **MR. CIVIAN:** The second question is,
5 and we may not be able to answer this tonight
6 but at subsequent meeting, what kind of
7 flexibility or limits are placed on a retirement
8 board's assumptions when it changes its
9 assumptions? The reason I'm asking that
10 question is because I'm trying to figure out my
11 own retirement -- not that I can retire now, but
12 I'm trying to figure out my own retirement.
13 When I'm figuring out how to turn on an
14 investment, there is no way I would ever try to
15 estimate how much the market is going to return
16 every year.

17 Since 1957, the S&P 500 has returned
18 just about eight percent -- 7.96 percent as of
19 last year. So I'm wondering if there's anything
20 in the enabling legislation that directs a
21 retirement board to use multi-year estimates
22 when it's trying to calculate the return on
23 investment or, said in a snarky way, is the
24 retirement board basically telling us what they

1 think the market is going to do every year?

2 **MR. GOODWIN:** No, they actually --
3 they take what they call I think a smoothing
4 approach, so they're looking at it over the
5 long-term, much like you referenced historical
6 return -- rate of operator return for the S&P
7 500. They are very much doing the same thing
8 based on the advice of their professional
9 consultants and the state investment board that
10 handles the investments.

11 **MR. CIVIAN:** Is there any action that
12 would state the level, to be able to look at the
13 enabling legislation for the retirement boards
14 if accounts inside the retirement boards are
15 moving too aggressively or outside what should
16 be their area of responsibility?

17 **MR. GOODWIN:** Not to my knowledge.

18 **THE MODERATOR:** Thank you, Mr.
19 Civian. Mr. Barich.

20 **MR. BARICH:** Lindsay Barich, Precinct
21 6. Last week at town meeting (inaudible), it
22 was quite a shocker for everyone there. We were
23 under the impression that we would have to pay
24 \$32 million next year. I reached out to the

1 select board and the town manager with concerns,
2 and I was able to also sit in on a retirement
3 board's meeting and have some takeaways here for
4 everyone.

5 Part of the notes are most employees
6 are paying 9.5 percent -- 9 percent to 2 percent
7 of their pensionable earnings that earn over
8 \$30,000 that are funding themselves. The
9 unfunded liability goes back to the beginning of
10 town when no provisions in the future were made
11 until the late '80s when the state changed the
12 rules and the Dedham town meeting adopted
13 Section 22D. No one in town needs to worry
14 about the liquidity of the fund as long as the
15 town continues to pay the required obligations
16 as mandated by Chapter 32.

17 Also, investments are 100 percent
18 invested in PRIT (?) which is -- that recognizes
19 one of the best performing pension funds in the
20 country, and Seabold Consulting is known around
21 the world and is considered one of the top
22 actuarial firms. As of October 31, their
23 investment year-to-date has been a 13 percent
24 return on the total fund.

1 Please keep in mind when Mr. Preston
2 spoke of the \$32 million, he did not clarify
3 that the report was a draft and not yet approved
4 by PERAC. Also, the payments would be amortized
5 over a number of years, not all due at once, and
6 that figure will change with the next valuation
7 and the one after that, along with the
8 assumptions within the review to keep pace with
9 the financial environment at the time.

10 The original article submitted for
11 town spring meeting had an entire payment due of
12 \$3.7 million. However FINCOM voted to reduce
13 that figure by \$731,000 to \$2.9 million, which
14 is why we're here today to vote on this. As of
15 December 1, 2019, the amount due, with interest,
16 is \$755,000. This will increase daily until the
17 payment is made.

18 Some of the points here are
19 unfortunately that the annual report has data
20 from 2017. There's a total of 440 active
21 members that pay 11 percent of their weekly
22 salary over \$30,000. Retired, there's 331
23 employees that are collecting, on average,
24 \$26,900. As of 2017, the fund was valued as

1 to happen? Also, why was the \$9.5 million
2 additional payments made to try to lower the
3 fund obligation, not share it with the Dedham
4 retirement board? They found this out in the
5 newspaper. We're trying to talk about more
6 transparency and better communication. It's not
7 happening.

8 More recently, in late fall of 2018,
9 the Dedham Rehab Board invoiced the town, due
10 July 1, again, \$3.7 million, but once again, the
11 town paid \$2.9 million, a reduction of \$731,000,
12 which is why we're here tonight. The town order
13 article states to vote for \$765,000. Once
14 again, it will be paying interest at 7.5
15 percent, which is roughly \$34,000 additional.
16 State Chapter Law 32 has to be followed with
17 compliance. There's no way you can argue with
18 it.

19 The disparity should have been
20 included in the breakdown of this Article 4 so
21 town meeting members know the real reason of
22 this error. I suggest that we all vote in favor
23 of this article and stop paying the interest and
24 that the town and FINCOM pay the amount for the

1 Dedham retirement board moving forward could
2 save us \$150,000. Thank you.

3 **THE MODERATOR:** Mr. Barich, thank you
4 for your sitting in on that retirement board
5 meeting. I think you presented a lot of good
6 information. Let me make one notation as
7 moderator. The reason we're here voting for the
8 \$765,000 is not because the finance committee
9 made a decision. It's because town meeting made
10 a decision at the last town meeting, and that
11 decision was after a full explanation of the
12 pros and cons of holding back some of the money,
13 with the hope that we could negotiate a better
14 deal, which didn't work out.

15 But it's not because the finance
16 committee made a recommendation. I say this at
17 the beginning of every town meeting. A
18 recommendation is only a recommendation.
19 Nothing happens unless town meeting buys into
20 it, and that's what we did.

21 **MR. BARICH:** Mr. Moderator, if we had
22 known that we had to pay \$115,000 in interest, I
23 think the decision would have been completely
24 different.

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THE MODERATOR: I'm sorry, Mr. Barich. That was discussed at the town meeting. It was revealed there would be interest due on money, as it would be on any money that's owed. I appreciate -- I agree with 99 percent of what you said, and I appreciate you taking the time to sit in on that meeting and then convey it to the town meeting. Thank you, sir.

Are there questions or comments from the town meeting representatives? Ms. Gilbert.

MS. GILBERT: Mary Gilbert, District 4. I appreciate the difficulty this has put -- frankly, the town and the boards, two separate boards. It did come as a shock that we suddenly jumped from almost being funded to now \$32 million. I suspect that that number is pretty close, based on what I read and what Mr. Goodwin put in. It's, you know, 19.5, plus, plus.

My question is we've been funding all along. I think the \$3.9 million a year just -- that's been our normal payment. If this goes up, that payment chances are -- again, let's assume it's \$32 million, could go up to -- who determines the spread? Is it ten years, is it

1 15 years, we as a town? Maybe that payment goes
2 up \$5 million, maybe \$6 million a year.
3 Assumingly, that would come out of our operating
4 budget, but that money, that extra money, has to
5 come from somewhere.

6 So my concern is fully support this
7 article. We should vote for it, I agree, but
8 going forward, this will impact our taxes,
9 because we are committed to paying people's
10 pensions. So it's an unknown that I'm
11 uncomfortable with and that we need a better
12 explanation as to how it will impact our taxes.
13 I don't feel like we're getting a straight
14 story, and it is -- I realize it's an unknown,
15 but to say that this is going to bump our
16 operating budget up, this is going to bump the
17 levy up. Everything is going to go up based on
18 now this extra money we have to pay.

19 And my second question or comment is
20 that kind of interest rate, that's pretty high.
21 That's state mandated, apparently, I'm assuming,
22 but who gets 7.5 percent interest? You know,
23 that perhaps could be proposed to the state to
24 lower that. That seems very arbitrary and very

1 high to me. So those are my sort of questions
2 and points that we, as a body, have to think
3 about everything we're going to vote on when it
4 comes to these money issues. And this, we're
5 obligated to pay. I support that. I just
6 realize that it will impact our tax rate, too.
7 Thank you.

8 **THE MODERATOR:** Thank you. Further
9 questions or comments? Hearing none, the vote
10 comes on the original motion that the sum of
11 \$765,000 be appropriated to pay the balance of
12 the fiscal year 2020 assessment. All those in
13 favor, please say aye.

14 (Aye)

15 **THE MODERATOR:** Opposed, no. The
16 ayes have it. Thank you very much.

17 Article 5. Is there any discussion
18 on Article 5? There being none, the vote comes
19 on the original motion, as printed on Page 6 of
20 your warrant book. All those in favor, please
21 say aye.

22 (Aye)

23 **MR. MODERATOR:** Opposed, no. The
24 ayes have it.

1 Article 6. Article 6 is the Manor
2 Field Striar property article. It's on Page 6
3 and carries over to Page 7. The Chair
4 recognizes the chairman of the planning board,
5 Mr. John Bethoney, to give the report of the
6 planning board. Oh. Jonathan Briggs gave me 20
7 bucks to call you up here.

8 **MR. BRIGGS:** So after that last
9 discussion, I get to get up and ask you for
10 \$14.5 million for a park. So I'm John Briggs.
11 I'm the chairperson of the Arts and Rec
12 Commission, and we're here to talk about what we
13 would like to call Manor Park. And some of
14 this, I guess, will be redundant to some of you
15 who were here for mini town meeting, but I don't
16 think that was even half of this group, so we'll
17 go through these slides again.

18 But I think what's really important
19 is to cover the timeline of why we're here and
20 what this is, what Manor Park is, the Striar
21 property, as most of us know the property as,
22 the old Striar property. In 2001, this group,
23 town meeting, in Article 18, voted to
24 appropriate funding for land to be held under

1 jurisdiction of Parks and Recreation to come
2 back to a future town meeting to decide its fate
3 for Parks and Recreation use, and we are there
4 now in 2019 at this meeting. And what we're
5 asking you as we move forward here for this is
6 that you allow this to go to a town-wide vote.

7 That's what happened in 2001. When
8 the property was purchased, it passed -- Article
9 18 passed town meeting, and then it went to a
10 town-wide vote, and it was voted so, and this
11 property was purchased.

12 In 2003, at the 2003 town meeting,
13 fiscal year 2004 a capital improvement plan
14 voted to appropriate \$300,000 for the planning
15 of the project, which was noted at the time in
16 2001. And at that meeting, from that meeting,
17 that request for a proposal, an RFP for Vollmer
18 & Associates, we did a feasibility study, an
19 engineering study for the project, what could go
20 there, how would it work, how would it happen.
21 So that feasibility study happened.

22 At that time, with part of that
23 engineering study, there was an environmental
24 impact study. There are a lot of things you

1 have to do by state standards. There's wetlands
2 out there. So at that time, that feasibility
3 study gave us the information we needed to know.
4 And then jumping forward -- there may be one or
5 two things left out of there. One was that the
6 Norfolk department -- engineering department did
7 a plan kind of for free for us, if you will, to
8 just show us what it could look like out there
9 with the layout.

10 It wasn't really their forte, but it
11 was something they provided, and that plan was
12 put forward to Activitas. Activitas came in and
13 did the engineering plan, the final site plan
14 that you will see appear on the screen, please.
15 So here is the site plan. I know there were
16 town meeting members that came out to do the
17 tours with us. We've been touring the site on
18 Saturday mornings.

19 So for those of you that did come
20 out, thank you for taking the time to really,
21 you know, get the information, see it with your
22 eyes, and what could be done there. This is
23 over -- it's 24.5, 24.65 acres, and of that
24 24.65, we are developing just over ten acres.

1 You can see the wooded area there. I guess
2 someone had called that Manor Woods. We'd love
3 to call it Manor Woods. We'll put a sign up
4 there. Those trails that go through there now,
5 most of them are marked on there. We want to
6 update those trails, put a couple of bridges and
7 boardwalks over the wetland areas, put some
8 educational signage out there.

9 One thing I didn't talk about in the
10 timing was that this year, Parks and Recreation
11 finished its master plan. So last year, we had
12 the same plan, and we wanted to come to town
13 meeting with that plan and propose it last year
14 when everyone would have thought, hey, 14.5
15 million, let's spend it. Look, there's never a
16 good time to ask for money.

17 So when our master plan wasn't
18 finished last year, we went before the FINCOM.
19 It was suggested that we wait. Hey, one more
20 year is not going to hurt anybody. Let's wait
21 one more year and bring it back after your
22 master plan is complete. If the master plan
23 shows a need for this project and warrants what
24 is on that paper and on that plan, then great.

1 So let's bring it to town meeting.

2 So that was last year. So this year,
3 we did go to the FINCOM. We passed the FINCOM,
4 we're here, and here's where we are. So that
5 was part of that. So within this plan now, in
6 that master plan, all of the amenities that are
7 here -- you know, we're calling this a
8 destination park. There's something there for
9 everybody in the community.

10 I know there's been some amenities
11 that are called out as maybe more important than
12 others, but the way our master plan reads, we
13 know where our deficiencies are as the Parks and
14 Rec Department, and we know where we need to get
15 better, and some of those things are called out
16 on this plan, some of the activities and
17 programs that we can provide with the amenities
18 that are on this plan.

19 So the cost, \$14.5 million.
20 Originally, we were asking for \$14.2 million,
21 and through further vetting of this process,
22 what we realized is we may need further
23 engineering money. One of the things that's
24 happened over the years is the adjacent property

1 where are access is currently to get into this
2 site and use the site, that property now has
3 Amazon moving in. We don't know if they're
4 going to move in 100 percent. There's nothing
5 before any of the town boards saying that, but
6 they are currently using the property, so it has
7 changed the traffic structure, certainly on
8 Sprague Street. I think we all know that.

9 So part of what we have done is added
10 another \$300,000 for potential engineering. We
11 may need to do another traffic study. Just in
12 terms of timing, when we originally got all of
13 the appropriate board approvals for this project
14 -- some of them have timelines on them, and
15 others don't. So we have the appropriate
16 approvals from the planning board.

17 If we use this same plan, we do not
18 have to go back before the planning board by
19 law, but we do have to go back before the
20 Conservation Commission. Our order of
21 conditions from the Conservation Commission
22 expired, so we'll have to go through that
23 process again from the beginning.

24 So we may -- we do anticipate that

1 there may be further engineering needed, and if
2 we do have to do a traffic study and further
3 mitigation -- we want to do what's right for the
4 town, obviously, and what's right for the
5 neighborhood, so that \$300,000 was for that
6 possible future engineering, just to try to stay
7 in front of it and foresee that. So that tax
8 bill is an increase of about \$81 over 20 years
9 per household, and that household was, average
10 household, a 546,000-dollar home.

11 So a couple of the -- I want to just
12 go over the amenities quickly that are out
13 there. I was told to try to stick to ten
14 minutes, and I want to try to do that, so you
15 can start timing me now.

16 So the amenities. Two multi-use
17 synthetic turf fields. We put this first
18 because this is the biggest gain we're going to
19 get from this in terms of use of our fields
20 currently within the town. We need more fields.
21 We have very robust athletic programs in this
22 town, youth groups in this town, and they are
23 growing. Some are growing, some are
24 diminishing, but as some diminish, others grow.

1 And we can specifically talk about
2 this, but what I did on the slides, and I don't
3 know how well everyone can see these slides, but
4 what's called out on the slides is what is in
5 our master plan. And I put the pages down there
6 at the bottom, and hopefully people have looked
7 at our master plan and have gone on and read our
8 master plan. I know it's not the greatest
9 reading, I'm sure, for a lot of people here, but
10 if you want to be informed and you're sitting
11 here and you're representing other people, then
12 I would hope that you would get into that and
13 know what it says.

14 So part of this with the fields, the
15 two multi-use synthetic turf fields, lacrosse,
16 soccer, football, field hockey, they're lighted
17 fields. And one of the things that are planned,
18 athletic fields in Dedham are over-scheduled and
19 overused compared to their capacity. Natural
20 grass fields need to be rested and allowed to
21 recover.

22 That was our biggest issue in terms
23 of field usage, that we could not rest our
24 natural turf fields. And if you can't rest a

1 natural turf field, then it's really hard to
2 appropriately maintain it. So we need more
3 field space. It's not a mystery, and this is
4 going to help greatly. And it's a tiered
5 effect, too, because it's kind of a trickle down
6 thing where if we have a natural turf field, the
7 maintenance is obviously a lot less than a --
8 you know, synthetic turf field maintenance is a
9 lot less than a natural turf field.

10 Well, currently, let's say we put --
11 our football field for pee wee football is in
12 the outfield of the baseball fields at Memorial.
13 So it's hard to rest the field when seasonally
14 you're staying on it 100 percent of the time
15 until the snow falls.

16 So what happens is with these
17 additional fields and being able to move
18 football over to there and have these additional
19 fields for practice for everything that's
20 mentioned up there, it allows relief on those
21 other fields. Not only does it allow relief,
22 but when you do maintenance, the maintenance
23 takes, and it's less maintenance on those other
24 fields. So it's kind of that trickle down of

1 that maintenance cost. Yes, there will be
2 maintenance costs out here, and we can discuss
3 that, but we're going to have less maintenance
4 costs in other places because of it.

5 Other amenities. So four tennis
6 courts. We lost tennis courts when the middle
7 school was built, and at that time, the SBRC,
8 you know, had promised that we would get those
9 courts back at some point, and well, here's that
10 point. We can get our tennis courts back.
11 We'll have five tennis courts out there. This
12 says four.

13 One is going to be a pickle ball
14 court, but what we can do and what Activitas has
15 told us, we'll just line the tennis courts. So
16 we can have five tennis courts, which we're told
17 is best for tournaments -- that's why the five
18 -- and we can put pickle ball lines on one or
19 two of the tennis courts. You know, we had 13
20 tennis courts at one point in this town, and now
21 we're down to three. So there's a need there.

22 Again, you know, pickle ball -- look
23 it up if you want to see it. It's a growing
24 sport. Seventy-five percent of the people that

1 play pickle ball are 55 and over, and that's a
2 demographic that Parks and Rec needs to better
3 cater to within the community, and that's part
4 of it in this plan. Basketball courts. Again,
5 we lost basketball courts. The state park --
6 when the state park was put in over at the Avery
7 School, before the Avery School was redone, we
8 had lost the basketball courts over there. So
9 these outside basketball courts would be there.

10 The nature trail. So over a mile and
11 a half of nature trails. One of the number one
12 things on one of the surveys within our master
13 plan was that people want more walking trails,
14 and they want more exposure to nature. In
15 certain parts of town, you can't get that. I
16 live in Riverdale. So, you know, we have a lot
17 of walking trails over there. We have a lot of
18 nature over there. You can get to places in
19 your neighborhood. So this is something we want
20 to provide.

21 The other part is, look, this is a
22 destination park. We have kids going there, and
23 it's going to be a soccer tournament, say, and
24 they're coming in for a soccer tournament in

1 town. Maybe they're not exposed to outside
2 trails where they are, in the part of town where
3 they're from. Maybe they'll walk around here
4 and learn something, and maybe we can create
5 stewards of the environment and help a little
6 bit. There's a lot of intangibles here within
7 the plan.

8 Bocci courts. So again, you know,
9 ensure equitable recreation experiences for the
10 diverse community, and that diverse community of
11 age. It's an age thing, right. We have 27 or
12 so percent young families, and we have 24 -- and
13 I'd like to mix up those numbers -- 24 percent
14 or so of people over 55 within the community.
15 So again, as Parks and Recreation, what we're
16 tasked with, we need to better provide amenities
17 for those age groups, and that's part of what
18 this is doing.

19 You know, the number one thing -- for
20 people over 65, the number one accident that
21 happens that puts them in a hospital is falling
22 down, a fall, a bad fall. So the more we can
23 provide places for low-impact agility type
24 recreation, the better off we are.

1 Another playground. We'll have a
2 playground there, picnic area, shade structures.
3 One of the other things within our master plan
4 is we need to provide better amenities for the
5 entire community, something for everybody. It's
6 hard to do in an older park, and I'll pick on
7 Rustcraft. Rustcraft was kind of a dumping area
8 that was given to Parks and Recreation years
9 ago, and they said, hey, throw some fields
10 there.

11 It didn't start out that way as a
12 park. It started out it was just, you know, an
13 area that had a cleared area that was a dump,
14 basically, and we put fields there. Well, those
15 fields are all jammed in there. We can't have
16 soccer and baseball going at the same time.
17 It's very hard. People get hit by balls when
18 they're not looking from one side to the other.
19 Everything is in there at different angles,
20 exposure, the way those fields are set up with
21 the sun.

22 There was a lot of things that
23 weren't thought of at the time that these other
24 fields were created. So again, just another

1 great perk when you're starting a park from
2 scratch, and you have professionals putting them
3 together and offering all of those amenities.

4 The other part of that trickle down
5 effect and relief from this project is take
6 Rustcraft. If we pull soccer from there because
7 we have additional fields and additional usage,
8 then potentially that could become a baseball
9 arena over there. That could just be baseball.
10 And we could readjust the fields, which is
11 something in our plan, readjust the parks now to
12 make them better facilitate the entire
13 community. The problem is the field space. You
14 have to have the field space.

15 And there will also be two dog parks
16 -- actually, it's one dog park connected. One
17 thing we've learned from the Dolan Center dog
18 park, which gets a lot of use, is that a lot of
19 people don't want to bring their smaller dogs
20 there because of the bigger dogs in the park.
21 So it's a dual dog park. This is also turf.
22 It's something else we found out.

23 And then concession stands and
24 restrooms. There will be restrooms at the dog

1 park. There will also be restrooms up by the
2 concession stand within the fields, which is
3 where the playground is. The way this is all
4 positioned from off of -- from the neighborhood,
5 if you will, it comes in, there's a berm, sits
6 back down and goes in and sinks in a little bit
7 more. So what's nice is there's not a bunch of
8 bleachers around these fields. There's natural
9 berms, so kind of in a bowl a little bit, if you
10 think of it that way where you can sit on a log
11 and sit about to watch the games.

12 And then another thing that was
13 added. There was also a study group put
14 together way back in, I don't know, 2004 -- '03
15 or '04, something like that, once the town did
16 require this, and it was people from a bunch of
17 different boards and committees. So at that
18 time, one of the things they thought of -- and
19 it came directly from town meeting.

20 If you recall, and a lot of you have
21 been sitting here a long time, every now and
22 then, we have to pay some extra money to get rid
23 of snow, because once the Department of Public
24 Works uses all of their areas for snow, then

1 sometimes we have to ship it out and pay.

2 So this is set up to take that extra
3 snow -- so the snow, the extra snow that starts
4 on here -- this is an emergency egress that we
5 needed for fire emergency, so that would stay
6 open all year. And then the snow could be put
7 on the road, and then it would go back this way.
8 So it's starting over here and go back. The way
9 this field is, there's drainage under the field,
10 and that field takes the excess water. There's
11 clean-outs along the road and adjacent to the
12 field, so that water is going down and getting
13 contained and going back down in.

14 It may not sound like much, but if it
15 can save a couple of hundred thousand dollars
16 every now and then, you know, good foresight.

17 So again, why we're here. You know,
18 we respectfully ask for your support with the
19 project so that this thing -- we just want to
20 get this to the town. The town voted to buy
21 this, and we would just ask that you allow the
22 town to decide what they want to do with it.
23 And that's about all I have. Is that ten
24 minutes?

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THE MODERATOR: Thank you, Mr.

Briggs.

MS. PALUMBO: Mr. Moderator?

THE MODERATOR: Yes. The Chair

recognizes Karen Palumbo.

MS. PALUMBO: Good evening. My name

is Karen Palumbo, and I live at 390 Sprague Street. I'm also one of the many neighbors who abut the Striar property, also known as Manor Field, Manor Park, or tonight, Article 6.

I'm here to make a brief statement as an abutter, and on behalf of the 73 fellow neighbors and abutters who signed a petition stating they do not want this project. You may have received our green handout with the petition on the back.

Would any of the neighbors in the audience please stand and raise your hands and show that you are opposed to this plan? I don't know if anybody wants to turn around and look. Everybody is in the back.

This past year, the Parks and Recreation Department ignored the town's protocol and ran a for-profit industrial site

1 right behind our homes without the town's
2 permission. They allowed three acres of land to
3 be destroyed. There was no communication to the
4 neighbors. There was no guidance from the
5 Conservation Commission, and no knowledge by the
6 board of selectmen, town counsel, or town
7 finance department.

8 We were subjected to grinding of
9 materials from road fill, which caused
10 significant noise and air pollution to our
11 neighborhoods. It was only through the
12 abutters' actions that the town stepped in, shut
13 this -- the town, which accepted, shut this
14 unapproved operation down, and removed the money
15 from Parks and Recreation's revolving fund.

16 As town meeting members tonight, I
17 implore you to not give Article 6 your stamp of
18 approval. There are too many unanswered
19 questions to this project, examples of poor
20 judgment by this board of commissioners, and a
21 proposed project that doesn't make fiscal sense
22 for the whole town.

23 With the town hall, the retirement
24 fund, and new public safety building, we are

1 maxed out. We can't afford \$14.5 million for
2 fields. And I know in the past, town meeting
3 members have listened to the abutters, and so
4 tonight, I ask you as a neighbor, a town meeting
5 member, and a taxpayer to please vote no on
6 Article 6. Unfortunately -- the slide we
7 created showed where all the abutters live and
8 all of the 73 signatories to our neighborhood.
9 So unfortunately, we don't have it, but I hope
10 you get the point.

11 **THE MODERATOR:** Thank you, Ms.
12 Palumbo, and I offer my apologies for our
13 inability to project the slide.

14 The Chair recognizes Joanne Keaton.
15 Do you want to take a few minutes, and I'll
16 recognize another speaker?

17 **MS. KEATON:** Yes.

18 **THE MODERATOR:** Yes, what?

19 **MS. KEATON:** Just give us a few
20 minutes. Thank you.

21 **THE MODERATOR:** Are there other
22 people wishing to speak?

23 **MS. KILROY:** Marjorie Kilroy,
24 Precinct 6. Town meeting members are being are

1 being asked to vote on Article 6 without having
2 all the necessary information to do so. We
3 know, because five years has elapsed since the
4 Conservation Commission board reviewed the plan,
5 and regulations have changed. The permitting
6 phase (inaudible) be completed (inaudible).

7 In addition, the Park and Recs
8 Commission has given us an estimated cost of
9 this project to be \$14.5 million. This is based
10 on 6,623 single-family homes, using an average
11 tax base, not actual property valuation amounts.
12 It's stated that the cost per household be \$81 a
13 year over 20 years.

14 Do you know for a fact that the plan
15 can be bought for 20 years, if the plan is to
16 rent fields? Based on all of this, we do not
17 have the necessary information to vote yes. In
18 order to give it to the residents, town meeting
19 members need to be able to make an informed
20 decision based on facts, which we do not yet
21 have. This is not a transparent plan and should
22 not be rushed to conclusion tonight. Thank you.

23 **THE MODERATOR:** Thank you, Ms.
24 Kilroy. Ms. Hickey.

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MS. HICKEY: Virginia Hickey,
Precinct 6. So my question is about this plan,
is there any room for changes to it, because
like looking at the survey and the master plan
from 2017, it seems like -- I'm not sure how you
can incorporate some of the suggestions and the
wants from the citizens into the plan. Like
racquetball sports were rated kind of very low.
I mean, I know we need the tennis courts, but
the pickle ball court, no one requested that, or
the bocci courts. So maybe community gardens
instead of the pickle ball court. How much can
we change this plan if we want to vote for it?

MR. MODERATOR: Thank you. Mr.
Briggs.

MR. BRIGGS: I believe it is a well-
vetted process, and within the plan, some of the
things, we have changed. Again, no one
specifically asked for a pickle ball within the
plan, but it's the fastest growing sport for 55
and up, and it's something that we deem, you
know, important to provide. Could community
gardens go out there? Yeah, we could probably
put a couple of raised beds somewhere out there

1 for sure. We have community gardens at the
2 Dolan Center, you know. That's something we
3 want to grow around town. It wasn't deemed one
4 of the best spots to do that.

5 You know, on another board I was
6 involved with, we looked at other areas to put
7 community gardens, and that area wasn't one of
8 them. But can it be changed? We've changed
9 some things on it, so I think we're very
10 confident with what is on there and what we feel
11 the needs would be. We've listened to -- again,
12 it was a well-vetted process to get to this
13 point.

14 **MR. MODERATOR:** Thank you, Mr.
15 Briggs.

16 **MS. HICKEY:** May I ask one more
17 question?

18 **THE MODERATOR:** Yes, Ms. Hickey.

19 **MS. HICKEY:** Just the turf fields.
20 Like I'm getting very uncomfortable with
21 artificial turf. If you're adding two more
22 fields, could we make it grass, and wouldn't
23 that -- would that be enough additional fields
24 to allow grass fields the rest that you have

1 determined that they need, instead of having
2 artificial turf, especially in an area where
3 there's all the nature and the groundwater and
4 all of the -- I mean, I'm really not comfortable
5 with turf -- artificial turf.

6 **THE MODERATOR:** Mr. Briggs.

7 **MR. BRIGGS:** I know there was an
8 article in The Globe not too long ago. It was a
9 community out by Worcester, what have you.
10 There are plenty of manufacturers, as we've had
11 Activitas look at and ourselves, make phone
12 calls, that provide fields with non-carcinogen
13 fill, non-carcinogen release agents in the
14 production on the fields. So there are
15 manufacturers that provide other types of
16 synthetic turf fields at this time. Yes, we
17 could put natural turf fields out there, but if
18 we're going to spend the money, it's
19 counterproductive to what we'd be doing.

20 **THE MODERATOR:** Mr. Gilchrist.

21 **MR. GILCHRIST:** Ken Gilchrist,
22 Precinct 3. I ask to move the question.

23 **THE MODERATOR:** It has to be put to a
24 vote. Move the question means we end debate.

1 It does take a two-thirds vote, which is a high
2 threshold. All those in favor of stopping
3 debate, moving the question, please say aye.

4 (Aye)

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

6 (No)

7 **THE MODERATOR:** It is not a two-
8 thirds vote. Mr. Sullivan.

9 **MR. SULLIVAN:** Jim Sullivan, Precinct
10 2. If I'm to vote on this, if I'm to approve
11 money for this -- we are here to send it to the
12 voters of the entire town. I'm a representative
13 of Precinct 2. I represent my neighbors.
14 Whether I'm for this or against this, I
15 personally will vote to send it to the voters.
16 I believe in the empowerment of this body, but
17 for a project like this that has been ongoing
18 for eight years --

19 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** 18.

20 **MR. SULLIVAN:** -- I believe we give
21 them the common courtesy of all this hard work
22 to put before the voters. It's as simple as
23 that.

24 **THE MODERATOR:** Thank you, Mr.

1 Sullivan. Ms. Keaveney.

2 **MS. KEAVENEY:** I think it's a full
3 moon. So thank you. So my name is Joanne
4 Keaveney, Precinct 5. Good evening. Thanks for
5 being here.

6 I won't keep this long, but I grew up
7 in Dedham and went to Capon School, and I
8 actually know these woods. I've been walking
9 these woods for 50 years. And it's my birthday
10 today. Thank you. So thank you, and I couldn't
11 live in a better place. I was going to go out
12 to dinner, and I go I'm going to Dedham High.
13 That's where I'm going.

14 So I just wanted to bring up some
15 points of concern about this, because the theme
16 tonight is money, transparency, and what do we
17 do right now. What do we do about the costs.
18 What are the needs for the entire community. So
19 right now, we have a 14.5-million-dollar
20 project, and the thing with this is that's --
21 Activitas, which Parks and Recs has already said
22 is a great engineering firm who did the design
23 of this, but the thing is -- I've got to kind of
24 look here, but -- we have an inflationary

1 unpredictable construction climate.

2 What I did was I was looking at the
3 cost of Activitas -- which, by the way, is on
4 the Parks and Recs website -- and like
5 everything else in life, I didn't look at the
6 small print. For one, I need readers. I didn't
7 have the readers on. Two, I thought, well, you
8 know what, I'm looking at the big print, and I
9 can see the cost of this.

10 But what I found is I took the small
11 print, the one that you can barely see without
12 those readers, and I put it up here. And the
13 words of Activitas is, "We don't know the cost
14 exact of this project." We've already been
15 talking about this all night. All I want, and
16 I'm going to talk about this right now quickly,
17 is I just want you to have the information.
18 Don't you want to have all the data, and you
19 decide what you want to do. That's all that
20 matters, right, for all of us, transparency.

21 So Activitas says, "Inflationary
22 unpredictable construction climate may not
23 represent the actual cost of construction." And
24 this is Activitas' last quote of 2017. "This

1 project is based on" -- and this makes me
2 nervous -- "opinion of probable construction
3 costs. We have no control over labor,
4 materials, equipment, or services. We cannot
5 guarantee this opinion will not vary from the
6 actual bid and project costs."

7 So if you can read between those
8 lines, this \$14.5 million is what's going on
9 right now, and next year, will be 14.8 to 15,
10 then 15.5, and then 15.8, and every year it goes
11 up and up and up, but the most important thing
12 is that there's hidden costs.

13 Next slide. Thank you. So the
14 additional unknown cost is, "No cost provided
15 yet for financing, legal fees, temporary or
16 permanent easements needed, operational costs,
17 client costs, extra operational costs." Did we
18 not just talk about this for town hall. I mean,
19 I kind of feel like Bill Murray in Groundhog
20 Day. "We have no control if the project goes
21 over." How can you say in good faith this is
22 exactly 14.5, and this is if the project is not
23 going to go over. Nobody can say that. Has
24 anybody not built an addition to their house,

1 and all of a sudden, it's like don't go down
2 that wall, and you're tearing all this
3 electrical stuff. At the end of the day, you
4 can't be certain.

5 Are you guys good up front? Okay.
6 There's a lot going on right there. So the
7 costs are based on 75 percent of the design.
8 The cost of \$14.5 million is not 100 percent.
9 Activitas said this is for 75 percent of the
10 design for that, and that's huge.

11 Next slide, please. And then what I
12 wanted to just add before we talk about the
13 fields is that it doesn't include union. So you
14 were talking about a construction bill a little
15 while ago. When you have union versus nonunion,
16 union labor is 25 percent more, always. This is
17 an expensive puppy, folks.

18 Number two, fix the existing fields.
19 We should be fixing all of our local Dedham
20 fields first, and this is really important,
21 including the school fields. All I want -- I
22 think any project that is for everybody in the
23 town, including kids, who doesn't want that. Of
24 course, we do. Of course, we want our kids to

1 play on fields that are safe. That's a no
2 brainer.

3 What this is about right now is that
4 we don't have options. We don't have several
5 solutions. There should be several options when
6 you're doing a project. It's not the Price is
7 Right, door number one, door number two, door
8 number three, because those options would be one
9 field, say lacrosse, then two fields, door
10 number two. Door number three would be the
11 megaplex, and this destination park is a
12 megaplex. Call it a small Disney sports
13 village. Call it whatever you want. This is
14 one expensive project, and you need to know the
15 costs.

16 Next slide. So artificial turf over
17 grass. You already know now that there's
18 artificial turf for this project. We just don't
19 know. I'm a clinician. I've been in healthcare
20 25 years. I also worked in oncology, and I
21 consult for Dana Farber. You don't know that 80
22 percent of cancers are from the environment. We
23 all might have a genetic stamp to get sick, but
24 75 to 80 percent is from the environment. It's

1 very important. And the largest organ in your
2 body is skin. Skin is absorbing the artificial
3 turf residue.

4 So it's synthetic fiber, and they
5 like to use it now because it's more hard
6 wearing, but you have to remember that this
7 project is not an indoor project. It's outside.
8 So you're going to be paying money for a field
9 that you're only going to be using a few months
10 out of the year.

11 So it's made from crumb rubber from
12 recycled tires, and tires contain carcinogens.
13 You can't -- and we don't know about natural
14 turf, by the way. There is no companies right
15 now that have, quote, "natural." The grass
16 itself is micro plastic, and then there's a
17 crumb rubber underneath. So this is a chemical.
18 Rubber breaks down and overheats in the summer.
19 So, for example, if it's 80 degrees outside, the
20 synthetic turf can be 110, which is why they
21 have to be washed down to cool.

22 Last, but not least, Boston Globe had
23 an article, Franklin, Mass., just October, has
24 contaminants that they found from turf that was

1 sitting there. And I want to ask anybody in
2 this room. AstroTurf lasts seven years. When
3 it's done, does anybody know how you dispose of
4 it?

5 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** The ocean.

6 **MS. KILROY:** Not the ocean. You
7 would think, though, right, with all the junk in
8 the ocean. It becomes hazardous waste.
9 Hazardous waste. Whatever happened to plain old
10 grass?

11 Next. So the next thing to go over
12 -- there's only a few points here -- is safety
13 and traffic. And because I wanted to make this
14 short, I put it all on one slide. But the
15 traffic study that was done the Parks and Rec
16 talked about was before Amazon. So in case you
17 wanted to know, this data is from the planning
18 board website, and the data was supplied by
19 Amazon.

20 The Town of Dedham right now has --
21 Amazon has a schedule, 20 to 40 trucks per 30
22 minutes. That's 1,300 trucks per day. That is
23 13,000 vehicles per week, 50 feet from a park.
24 So their solution is a crosswalk, flashing

1 light, trim some branches. Are you all right
2 with that? I'm not. I don't think that's very
3 safe.

4 When you go down Sprague Street, you
5 can hear the trucks, and they're speeding. We
6 get five trucks go under Endicott, the rotary
7 bridge this summer; very, very concerned about
8 traffic, very concerned about safety. This
9 isn't just a couple of fields. This is a huge
10 undertaking, and you have to look at everything.
11 All I want to present to you is just that, and
12 then you decide.

13 Next one, please. So this is peace
14 and quiet. And I don't know if this will work
15 because of the technical difficulties we had and
16 because -- normally, this would be going up
17 higher. Is there a way to turn this on? Okay.
18 Well, just to show you, it's not the greatest,
19 and my apologies, and the sound isn't working,
20 but that's all right. You get the gist.

21 For those of you who don't know what
22 Manor Woods, Manor Fields look like, we walk in
23 it every day, and it's woods. It's 25 acres.
24 So with the woods, it's beautiful trails. It's

1 quiet. There's a brook, and there's peace and
2 quiet. Once they built this, that peace and
3 quiet that, sadly, you're not hearing right now,
4 you're not going to hear that. I'm going to
5 hear a football game, and I'm going to hear a
6 soccer game or whatever. So the point is for
7 people that love nature, you're going to hear a
8 lot of noise.

9 And speaking of the nature trails
10 that Mr. Briggs just brought up, those nature
11 trails -- there's already trails. So they're
12 going to put trails over trails. You're going
13 to pay for that. They already exist. So I
14 would encourage you to think about that. Why
15 are we putting trails on top of trails. So
16 people walk this every day. They bring their
17 dogs, and it's free. You pay for this, and I'm
18 really glad that we paid for this in 2001, I
19 really am, because I'm grateful. Thank you to
20 the people that voted for this, because it's the
21 last piece of publicly-owned land that Dedham
22 has.

23 You can hold onto it and use it as a
24 buffer. And I'm not saying this project will

1 never be done. What I'm saying is you have to
2 pick the right time. I heard somebody say, you
3 know, because we voted on it in 2001 that we
4 should be doing this. No. 2001 is 2001. It's
5 almost 2020. Our needs are completely
6 different.

7 So last slide, if you may. Thank
8 you. Now is not the time. We have a huge
9 financial burden of unknown costs. We have new
10 police and fire at \$45 million. Retirement
11 pension fund, various quotes tonight, new
12 schools to build. I just want to think about
13 Dedham's needs. I want to think about my
14 wallet. I want to think about the taxes. We
15 Wilson Mountain on one side of the town.

16 Why can't you just walk in the woods
17 for free? Why can't we do that? Why can't we
18 work as a team? None of this us versus them.
19 Why don't we work as a team, all of us, that we
20 work on a rotation maintenance program for the
21 fields? Why can't we?

22 We can do this. We can do anything
23 you want, but when do you say enough is enough.
24 This is a want, not a need. So I can't thank

1 you enough for letting me talk tonight, but I
2 have to tell you, folks, you have to decide a
3 want versus a need for a small piece of the
4 demographic in Dedham. I'm thinking of 25,000,
5 and because I represent my district, it is my
6 responsibility to not bring this to a town vote.
7 How fiscally irresponsible would that be? How
8 could I do that and let the town vote, when a
9 lot of people don't even know what's going on?

10 I just presented unknown costs to
11 you. So do you think the public is going to
12 know that? This would be irresponsible to bring
13 this to a vote. You're awesome. Thank you. I
14 don't want to keep you anymore, but thank you so
15 much.

16 **THE MODERATOR:** Thank you.

17 **MS. KEAVENEY:** Thank you.

18 **THE MODERATOR:** We've allowed the
19 proponents to give an extended presentation and
20 the opponents to give an extended presentation.
21 So from this point forward, we're going to ask
22 people to keep their remarks a little shorter.

23 The Chair recognizes Carlene
24 Campbell-Hegarty.

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MS. CAMPBELL-HEGARTY: Thank you.

My name is Carlene Campbell-Hegarty, and I live in Precinct 5, and I live within walking distance of this project. And everyone is talking about how there's no transparency, how we did go through this process. It started in 2001. Well, I went and my husband went to every single meeting in 2014, and I stuck my stickers on the board, and I went to all the followup meetings, and I casted my vote. And now, it's finally come to fruition that this project might go forward.

And I am 100 percent in favor of this project, and just so everyone knows, there's no -- I signed onto a letter in the newspaper with over 100 people in the Manor neighborhood in support of this project. Now, I'm sorry that what happened around the Manor Field and the abutters are upset about that. I truly am sorry about that.

But to try to come in here and tell us that it's irresponsible to send this project back to the voters, I'm appalled and angered by it, because I pay taxes. I have children. I

1 would like to see this in my neighborhood so I
2 could take my dog and my three-year-old twins
3 somewhere to play that's new and safe and
4 wonderful. And the fact that 73 people -- and
5 then they put a letter in the newspaper, which
6 they didn't even speak to the rest of the
7 precinct on this letter that they all signed off
8 on -- can come in here and try to derail a
9 project that we've been trying to get done now
10 for, what, 17 years.

11 What is before us tonight is we're
12 not choosing to spend this money, the \$14.5
13 million. We want to put this out to the whole
14 entire town. And as a representative of my
15 precinct, I don't think the rest of the town is
16 that stupid not to ask those questions that are
17 up there.

18 I think the people of Dedham are
19 well-educated, smart, articulate, and if they
20 want this project, then guess what, they'll pay
21 the money. If they don't, they don't. But we
22 as representatives here, all we're being asked
23 for is to put this on a ballot. And if we don't
24 do that, then we should all resign, because we

1 have stopped the democratic process. Thank you.

2 **THE MODERATOR:** Thank you, Ms.
3 Campbell-Hegarty. Mr. (Inaudible).

4 **MR. ?:** (Inaudible) Precinct 5. I've
5 lived in Dedham my entire life, and I'm tired of
6 watching my kids play on the same tire
7 (inaudible) that I played on as a child. The
8 Striar property is an opportunity to develop a
9 state-of-the-art recreational facility that the
10 entire town can be proud of.

11 I drive my kids to surrounding towns
12 and watch them play soccer, football, softball,
13 lacrosse at these beautiful complexes, and I say
14 to myself why can't we have this in Dedham. Why
15 do my kids have to play on fields where the
16 grass struggles to keep up with the use, but
17 eventually loses out to the crabgrass that
18 appears. Parks and Recreation do the best they
19 can with what they have, but it's an uphill
20 battle. Fields need time to rest and
21 rejuvenate, but this is not possible with our
22 current field situation.

23 Striar will give us two large fields
24 that will help with the overuse issue. It will

1 provide walking trails for every age group of
2 the community. It will provide a dog park for
3 our pets and replace four tennis courts that we
4 lost when the middle school was built. It will
5 replace two outdoor basketball courts that we
6 lost when the Avery School was built, courts
7 that were promised to us when they were removed
8 to make way for these two schools.

9 But the one reason I feel this
10 project is most needed is strictly for safety.
11 Go down to Rustcraft Field any Saturday morning
12 in the fall or spring and watch as little kids
13 along with their parents attempt to cross
14 Rustcraft Road to get to the Red Cross parking
15 lot as several cars speed by. Just so you know,
16 there's no crosswalk there, whereas these kids
17 walk along the sidewalk to get to the
18 overcrowded parking lot, as these same cars
19 speed by just a foot or two away. Go up or down
20 Memorial Park in the fall as kids and adults
21 play softball, baseball, football, soccer, and
22 cheerlead, and then attempt to find a parking
23 spot. Pretty much impossible.

24 People are forced to park across the

1 street at the American Legion and navigate their
2 way across Eastern Ave. at a very dangerous
3 curve. Again, no crosswalk. It gets even more
4 interesting when practice is over. You get in a
5 line of cars, attempting to make a left- or
6 right-hand turn out onto a very busy Eastern
7 Ave.

8 You get those same families trying to
9 walk back across Eastern Ave. to get back to
10 their cars at the legion, and all of this while
11 it's starting to get dark out, and believe me,
12 it's a nightmare. Manor Field will have 170
13 parking spots, more than enough to alleviate the
14 safety concerns I just spoke about.

15 To the abutters, I understand your
16 concerns. Nobody likes change, but sometimes
17 change can be good if it's done right. Dedham
18 doesn't have the space like other towns to put
19 this complex out in the middle of nowhere. It
20 is my opinion that fields and playgrounds are
21 meant to be in the neighborhoods, with easy
22 access, and much like mostly other fields and
23 playgrounds for that town.

24 These playgrounds are the fabric of

1 our neighborhood. If this passes, I urge Parks
2 and Recreation to include these neighbors in the
3 planning process in an attempt to address their
4 concerns. And to the people concerned about tax
5 increases, I get that. Nobody wants to pay more
6 taxes. But unfortunately, for 40 years, my
7 parents' generation built nothing in this town,
8 and now my generation is paying the price.

9 We built a new middle school, we
10 built the new Avery School, we built a new ECEC.
11 We converted the beautiful and historic Ames
12 schoolhouse. Not very well, but we did it. We
13 (inaudible) a much-needed senior center. We
14 gave Dedham Square a facelift. All projects
15 that were long overdue. I'm proud of the
16 progress that this town has made over the last
17 10 or 12 years, and I feel Manor Field will be
18 the most important decision this town can make
19 in the next 20 years, along with the most
20 impactful.

21 The Striar property was purchased a
22 long time ago for recreational purposes, and its
23 development is long overdue. We can't afford to
24 keep pushing it down the road. I think it's sad

1 and ridiculous that this has to be a fight. All
2 I'm asking is that we do, as a group, let the
3 people of Dedham vote and decide the fate of
4 this project. Let's do it for the kids. Let's
5 do it for Dedham. Thank you.

6 **THE MODERATOR:** Thank you, Mr. ???

7 The Chair will recognize Karen Palumbo now that
8 we've -- and I want to say Bob Stanley, for the
9 past 45 minutes, has worked to get -- Bob
10 Stanley is the director of Park and Recreation.
11 He's for the project. He spent 45 minutes
12 assisting two people who opposed the project to
13 get their (inaudible).

14 **MS. PALUMBO:** Thank you, Bob Stanley,
15 for helping us. Behind me on the screen is the
16 map that Parks and Recreation has used to model
17 their project. We thought that this map would
18 be the best way to show you where we live. Each
19 of the homes in red with Xs represents the
20 households that are opposed to this project. So
21 there's your visual.

22 And the reason that we went door to
23 door asking people if they knew about the
24 project is because most do not. And frankly,

1 having an entrance, a one way in and a one way
2 out, on Sprague Street is terrifying, especially
3 for the neighbors on Sprague Street. It is -- I
4 basically bless myself getting out of my
5 driveway every single day.

6 And because Amazon has been -- it has
7 been heard that Amazon will be taking over the
8 whole entire building, they're going to be
9 taking pretty much our whole neighborhood over.
10 And that, to me, is concerning. So there it is,
11 folks, and I'll let other people speak. Thank
12 you.

13 **THE MODERATOR:** Thank you. Mr.
14 Loporto.

15 **MR. LOPORTO:** Bob Loporto, P5. On
16 the Activitas estimations of cost from Manor
17 Field's web page, which I have in my hand, on
18 Page 9, it says the field will cost \$14.2
19 million, plus the additional 300K for
20 incidentals, like the traffic study, which we're
21 at \$14.5. That's the price tag for 2019. For
22 2020, it's \$14.8 plus \$300,000 with the traffic
23 study equals \$15.1; 2021 is \$15.4 million plus
24 300K for the traffic study, equals \$15.7

1 million.

2 The plan has to be approved -- if the
3 plan is approved, it goes to the voters in
4 April, then back in front of a whole bunch of
5 different boards. Does anyone actually think
6 this plan is going to be built next year? So if
7 the field is built in 2021, we are already over
8 budget by \$1.2 million.

9 The finance committee came to town
10 meeting six months ago asking us to cut our
11 school budget when our teachers didn't have a
12 contract. There was a 5-4 vote by FINCOM to
13 build the field, that per Park and Recs own
14 documentation, is already over budget. I would
15 like to hear from both sides of FINCOM as to why
16 the people on that board are for and against the
17 fields.

18 **THE MODERATOR:** Thank you, Mr.
19 Loporto. Mr. Lindemann.

20 **MR. LINDEMANN:** Hello. I'm Marty
21 Lindemann. I live in Precinct 1, and I'm on the
22 FINCOM, have been for almost five years now. We
23 have lots of back and forth to report to you,
24 and I was one of the ones who voted against this

1 motion right now. But I want to basically tell
2 you that I have two teenage boys who have
3 probably put their soles and cleats on every
4 piece of athletic ground over the last seven
5 years here. So I am a big booster of Parks and
6 Rec. So you should understand that before I
7 tell you why I voted against this.

8 I am concerned, having watched from
9 the stage here at several meetings now, how so
10 many of these proposals come to us sort of baked
11 in by a special interest, and, you know, the
12 emotions that come from having abutters baked in
13 proposals and so on are always kind of tough to
14 deal with.

15 So I looked at our hearing, and we
16 had a great presentation by the Park's
17 representatives, and we asked a few questions.
18 And the number one for me is that is this
19 proposal needed. They attempted to answer that.
20 Is this the right proposal to go before the
21 people of Dedham, because, obviously, the costs
22 and the emotions dealing with a 15-plus-million-
23 dollar project should be fully vetted.

24 So I said, well, let's just talk

1 about what's in here. First of all, if you
2 notice this piece of ground that's on the map,
3 it is exactly what has been given to the care
4 and custody of the Parks Department for 20 -- as
5 you've noted, 20 years. So abutters say not in
6 my neighborhood, not in my backyard.

7 They've been given walking trails, in
8 essence, for free, you know, because they abut.
9 But we're saying, well, what does the town need.
10 So we say, well, this is -- how much land is
11 left in Dedham. And I think one of our speakers
12 before said not much, and this may be the last
13 piece of public ground. I would submit to you
14 it's not the last piece, but it's an interesting
15 point.

16 We have a school committee that has
17 care and custody of other ground in this town.
18 We have given them a new school, in case you may
19 have not noticed, a 30-million-dollar project,
20 and it's a wonderful addition to our town, but
21 they said we don't need Capon School.

22 So here we are. We have a public
23 piece of ground right next to this park ground.
24 I'd ask you as the town meeting why are we

1 putting up with not combining this public ground
2 into a complete redesign, not shoe-horned into a
3 conservation questionable area, having a
4 million-and-a-half-dollar bridge, a 300,000-
5 dollar -- and I think that's low -- mitigation,
6 to exit onto a speedway. And as we've already
7 heard, thousands of trips coming through there.

8 So where else would we get in and out
9 of the ground that we own. Well, it's pretty
10 clear that we need to talk to the school people.
11 What are you using Capon for, now that we've
12 given you a new school? So like I said, I asked
13 the Parks Department have you been talking to
14 the school committee? "Yeah, we have." So I
15 turned to Sam, and I said -- this is all a part
16 of our public record in our hearing -- and I
17 said have they been talking to you? Sam says
18 no.

19 So here we have two special interests
20 who have care and custody of not their land, our
21 land. It's our town land, not their land. So
22 when these kinds of proposals come over and over
23 saying we are a special interest that wants to
24 use our land, it's not your land. It's our

1 land. All land in Dedham belongs to us. And
2 these are two pieces of public lands that abut,
3 join, are contiguous, however you want to
4 describe it. Yes, some terrain will have to be
5 changed.

6 But I voted against it, because I
7 want to hear a design proposal that's ready to
8 go to the people that says here's our best
9 effort to use our land. And until I hear that,
10 I think all of this is just obfuscation. We
11 need to hear the right outcome to use our
12 resources, and that's why I voted against it.
13 Thank you.

14 **THE MODERATOR:** Thank you. The Chair
15 recognizes Mr. Heffernan from the finance and
16 warrant committee.

17 **MR. HEFFERNAN:** Good evening. My
18 name is John Heffernan. I'm on the finance and
19 warrant committee representing District 6. I've
20 also been on the committee for a while. I've
21 been on for 12 years, so I've been following
22 this process for a long time.

23 As has been stated, town meeting has
24 voted in 2001 and 2003 for recreation -- keep in

1 mind, for recreation at Striar property.
2 There's never been a no vote. They've always
3 been in support of it. Our committee, finance
4 and warrant committee, last year only requested
5 to see the master plan. That plan is now
6 completed. Page 121 of the master plan states
7 one high priority, that the Manor Field Park is
8 passed -- is approved, as planned.

9 Waiting for Capon School is not an
10 option. The schools are utilizing the space for
11 the Blue Hills Adult Education, which has been
12 actually noted in the paper this past week. So
13 waiting to see what we're going to do with Capon
14 is not an option. As a matter of fact, we now
15 know what is happening with that.

16 The process has been discussed
17 extensively. It's been well-vetted, and now,
18 it's time to move forward and approve this
19 article. Thank you.

20 **THE MODERATOR:** Thank you, Mr.
21 Heffernan. The Chair recognizes the chairman of
22 the school committee, Mr. Coughlin.

23 **MR. COUGHLIN:** Good evening. Kevin
24 Coughlin, chair of the school committee. I

1 would just like the body to know that the school
2 committee and the Park and Rec discuss various
3 projects on a very routine basis. We have a
4 subcommittee and an MOU between the school
5 committee and the Park and Rec. We talked
6 fields all the time.

7 The Park and Rec did come in front of
8 the school committee probably two or three years
9 ago now, and request if they could have access
10 to the Manor Field through the Capon property.
11 We thought about it. We did not take any action
12 with that, but that's something we would
13 consider.

14 We are in the middle of our master
15 plan. Once our master plan gets completed,
16 we'll have a better idea of what we're going to
17 do with the Capon School. It is being rented
18 with Blue Hills, and it's a very, very
19 successful endeavor right now. But the Park and
20 Rec and the school committee have numerous
21 conversations regarding this, all our fields.
22 Thank you.

23 **THE MODERATOR:** Thank you, Mr.
24 Coughlin. Mr. Pape.

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MR. PAPE: Jonathan Pape, Precinct 5.

I also live on Sprague Street. I believe Jen referred to it as a racetrack. I want to just express my concern about traffic.

If the article passes on Sprague Street, Manor Park would bring 170-plus parking spaces, and the turnover to those spaces on some of the busy game days. I think the chairman referred to it as for soccer tournaments from Parks and Rec.

There's also Amazon. We've heard about that, and that means employees entering and leaving the building for shift changes, white delivery vans, blue tractor trailers from East Street going to 128. You may have already noticed the traffic signs the town put in to direct those trucks to their warehouses after they spent the last year having their GPSs directed to the Manor and Russcraft Streets.

Less than a third of a mile down the road from the proposed entrance to Manor Park is the 247 housing units and parking for 251 vehicles scheduled to be built at 3640 Sprague Street. On the other side of the bridge,

1 Readville Yard 5 is being built to support 230
2 parking spaces.

3 It's hard to imagine many of those
4 vehicles not taking advantage of the easy access
5 to 128 or Russcraft Road so that you get to
6 Legacy. Even if there is a Manor Park traffic
7 study, even if you put a traffic light or some
8 other form of mitigation, that's not going to
9 stop the volume of traffic. That's only going
10 to back it up. Thank you.

11 **THE MODERATOR:** Thank you, Mr. Pape.
12 Mr. Barich.

13 **MR. BARICH:** Lindsay Barich, Precinct
14 6. I've been a past coach and director of
15 Dedham East basketball, coach of baseball,
16 girl's soccer, boys and girls basketball, and
17 flag football. I want to support this article
18 that it be allowed to go to the town-wide ballot
19 of 2020.

20 I've been following this project
21 closely. I've attended the FINCOM presentation,
22 the Parks and Rec presentation, gone on the
23 tours, and the town has a clear need, and still
24 needs these playing fields. Basketball and

1 tennis courts. Two teams are losing them to
2 previous school projects and to increase the
3 number of teams vying for field time for
4 practice and games.

5 Last spring, I watched a Parks and
6 Rec meeting where all the coaches and directors
7 in new sports were debating on how to get their
8 field time, and it was painful to watch. This
9 is a real problem, and the opponents who say the
10 town doesn't need more fields have never coached
11 in this town or had the experience of this
12 frustration firsthand. When you have to tell
13 your players' parents you don't know where the
14 next practice is until next week, that's a
15 problem.

16 In addition, there will be two large
17 parks, dog parks, playgrounds with concession
18 stands, and will serve a dual purpose location
19 for town snow removal, with a drainage
20 mitigation system. The last couple of years, we
21 waited until May and June for all the snow to
22 melt in those parking lots. One of the town
23 realtors told me recently that over 250 families
24 moved to Dedham this year. The Manor Park is a

1 need, and will be used for future decades of all
2 ages.

3 Residents have said for many years
4 why can't Dedham have better fields, like
5 Needham, Medfield, and Westwood. If we proceed
6 with this project, the Manor Park will be
7 similar to DeFazio Field in Needham. The
8 entrance will be off of Sprague Street and have
9 safe access with plenty of parking. The present
10 locations at Russcraft and Memorial Park will
11 have enough parking, and the crossing on
12 Russcraft Road and Eastern Avenue during busy
13 weekends is very challenging.

14 Also, this project has a one-and-a-
15 half-mile nature trail through scenic woods and
16 will be ADA compliant. So people of all
17 abilities will be able to enjoy it, as well as
18 the habitat signage, like other trails and
19 parks. I have a disabled family member, and I
20 can't wait to take him in his wheelchair through
21 the trails.

22 The board of assessors say the
23 average cost to Dedham residents would be \$81
24 per year, or equivalent to 22 cents a day for a

1 family. That's the cost of a dinner out on one
2 night with your family to pay for that entire
3 year to have this unbelievable opportunity.

4 It will also have a significant
5 impact on the Manor neighborhood and its
6 businesses. The town-wide election in 2002
7 authorized a purchase of the Striar for
8 recreational purposes. My kids were at the
9 ECEC, and my oldest son's class is graduating
10 college.

11 As the Patriots motto says, it's time
12 to finish the job so that we can finally get
13 some return on the two-and-a-half-million-dollar
14 investment. Lastly, Manor Park has the support
15 of four boards: your appointed FINCOM committee
16 and the disability commission, and the elected
17 officials of the board of selectmen and Parks
18 and Recs.

19 We are here as representatives for
20 our representative respective neighborhoods. As
21 such, we should be allowed to have our fellow
22 neighbors to vote, just like they did in 2002.
23 Please vote yes, and let this move forward to
24 the 2020 ballot. Thank you very much.

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THE MODERATOR: Thank you, Mr. Barich. Mr. Tacci.

MR. TACCI: Thank you, Mr. Moderator. John Tacci. I'm in Precinct 6, and with the permission of the moderator appearing here tonight as the co-chair of the Dedham Commission on Disability.

I think the perspective of Dedham disabled residents are sometimes overlooked when it comes to planning and construction for the town. I'd like to briefly explain why the nine-member Commission on Disability voted unanimously in support of this plan.

Despite the passage of the EAA almost 30 years ago now, there are great disparities in remaining employment and housing and current income, transportation, recreational, and natural resource attainment and accessibility for your disabled neighbors.

Significantly, the disabled remain at a disadvantage with respect to recreational access. So as a result, they are disadvantaged in their physical and their mental health. Dedham has made some terrific recent gains on

1 accessibility, the new ECDC, which came in on
2 time and under budget. It's a model of
3 accessibility. Your school committee has
4 committed to making all of their schools'
5 playgrounds accessible for in play. In this
6 town meeting a couple of years ago I think
7 awarded or appointed -- appropriated \$100,000
8 toward that effort.

9 Gonzalez Field, newly-renovated with
10 artificial turf, is completely accessible. It's
11 not unusual to see residents with wheelchairs
12 traversing through pathways or watching their
13 children or grandchildren from the sidelines
14 that had previously been inaccessible due to the
15 uneven terrain of grass fields.

16 Much remains to be done. The
17 organizers of challenger leagues for disabled
18 children in this town have little access to
19 proper playing fields. These are artificial
20 turf fields where children with accessibility
21 issues can play, and which provides coaches and
22 assistants the ability to monitor children in an
23 environment which is free from distraction of
24 the multiple events going on in the same field

1 simultaneously. If you've ever been to
2 Russcraft Road on a Saturday morning when soccer
3 games are going on, you know what I'm talking
4 about.

5 Challenger league organizers need to
6 fight for permits due to the burgeoning use
7 sports programs in this town and the short
8 supply of fields and facilities. This article
9 -- you've seen the presentation. This
10 recreational complex is going to provide a
11 tremendous benefit to Dedham's residents with
12 disabilities.

13 The property will be developed to
14 meet all requirements of the ADA and local and
15 state disability laws. The plan calls for
16 construction of a fully accessible (inaudible)
17 playground, dog parks. It will be accessible as
18 well for disabled residents, service dogs, or
19 just dog owners. The plan calls for
20 construction of an accessible bocci court. For
21 those who may not know, bocci is a special
22 Olympic event, and it's a paralympic sport as
23 well.

24 The playing surfaces from the two

1 fields, of course, are going to be artificial
2 turf, and because of that, they're going to be
3 fully accessible to participants and spectators
4 with disabilities. And as Mr. Barich mentioned,
5 critically, the site will have one and a half
6 miles of past trails, much of which will be
7 accessible to Dedham residents in wheelchairs or
8 with other accessibility issues.

9 Look, we understand that this complex
10 is not going to come cheaply. Providing
11 compliant facilities for those most in need is
12 not inexpensive, it really is, but we believe
13 access should not be available only to those
14 wealthiest among us, those who can afford the
15 finest clubs and exclusive schools and
16 facilities.

17 We ask the town meeting members to
18 view this development as advanced in the context
19 of social progress for those with disabilities.
20 Social progress is founded on the tenets of
21 respect, of dignity, and equal opportunity. The
22 basis for each of these tenets have the
23 opportunity for valuable and valid life
24 experiences, including the availability of

1 recreational experiences. Dedham has the
2 opportunity here to not only open the door for
3 truly meaningful experiences for participants
4 with disabilities, but to create a model for
5 real systemic change and recreational
6 accessibility.

7 So for the Commission on Disability
8 and myself, Vicki Burr, Ernie Churokis, Ken
9 Chimino, the town's building commission and ADA
10 coordinator, Ellen Conway, Diane Loud, Max
11 Sterling, my co-chair, Patricia Whitehouse, and
12 Robert Winston, we urge passage of this article
13 and ask you to put it to a town-wide vote.
14 Thank you.

15 **THE MODERATOR:** Thank you, Mr. Tacci.
16 Ms. Gilbert.

17 **MS. GILBERT:** Mary Gilbert, Precinct
18 4. Move the question.

19 **THE MODERATOR:** Move the question
20 means end debate. You know that. It takes a
21 two-thirds vote. All those in favor of ending
22 debate and moving the question, please say aye.

23 (Aye)

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

1 (No)

2 **THE MODERATOR:** It is a two-thirds
3 vote. So the vote comes on the recommendation
4 of the finance and warrant committee, which is
5 printed on Page 7, and this recommendation calls
6 for an appropriation of money to be borrowed,
7 step 2 being the board of selectmen intends to
8 put this to a town-wide vote at the end of the
9 town election. Is there any question about what
10 we're voting for? Hearing none, all those in
11 favor, say aye.

12 (Aye)

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

14 (No)

15 **THE MODERATOR:** Move to a standing
16 vote. All those in favor -- and this is
17 probably a good time to remind the members here
18 today that only elected town meeting
19 representatives may vote, and only town meeting
20 representatives who are -- only town people who
21 are sitting in front of the indicators of town
22 members sitting and have a lanyard on. We have
23 two exceptions in the back for access.

24 So all those in favor of

1 appropriating the money, please stand, and
2 remain standing until you are counted, please.
3 If I could hear one voice with the question, I
4 can answer it. What's the issue?

5 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** There's no
6 money involved.

7 **THE MODERATOR:** There is money
8 involved. That's what I just said. This is --

9 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** The town voted
10 on it (inaudible).

11 **THE MODERATOR:** This is a two-step
12 process. The first step is the town meeting
13 appropriates the money. The second step is that
14 the board of selectmen intends to submit this to
15 a town-wide vote. The town meeting, as the
16 legislative body, does its part. The board of
17 selectmen does its part. So is that clear?

18 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS:** No.

19 **THE MODERATOR:** Town counsel.

20 **MS. GOLDBERG:** Mr. Moderator, for
21 you. So with Proposition 2 1/2, in order to
22 borrow outside the levy limit, you need two
23 parts: a town meeting vote and a town election
24 vote. There is a thing called a contingent

1 election -- contingent appropriation, and many
2 times when we voted on debt exclusions, you
3 voted it in a contingent manner.

4 A contingent election has to happen
5 at least -- within 90 days of the date of a town
6 meeting -- of a special town meeting vote, which
7 would have put this election very near to the
8 timing for the annual town election, but not
9 quite, if it was a special election, a
10 contingent vote.

11 So it's been proposed, and the board,
12 as you have already heard, intends to put this
13 on the ballot at the annual town election. So
14 tonight, you'd actually be appropriating the
15 money. The board is committed to put it on the
16 ballot at the annual town election and then --
17 and not borrow until then.

18 So it's a little bit different than
19 usual, because it saves the price of a special
20 election, right on top of -- if you recall, this
21 spring we're going to have the presidential
22 preference primary and then the town election.
23 So it's a way to save the town some money and
24 still be able to act on it tonight to be

1 prepared for the spring.

2 **THE MODERATOR:** Is that clear enough
3 for folks? So all those in favor, please stand,
4 and remain standing until the tellers have
5 counted you and have made their report to the
6 town clerk.

7 (Pause.)

8 **THE MODERATOR:** Thank you. You may
9 be seated. All those who are opposed, please
10 rise.

11 (Pause.)

12 **THE MODERATOR:** Thank you. You may
13 sit. 218 town meeting representatives voted.
14 66 percent of that is 144. 144 yes's have been
15 counted tonight, so the motion passes.

16 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Roll call.

17 **THE MODERATOR:** Fifteen people have
18 to rise to call for a roll call. Fifteen people
19 having risen, we will now take a roll call.
20 We're prepared for the roll call. The procedure
21 is that when your name is called, stand and
22 enunciate your vote clearly, please.

23 **THE MODERATOR:** Martha Abdella.

24 **MS. ABDELLA:** No.

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THE MODERATOR: Michelle Apuzzio.
MS. APUZZIO: Yes.
THE MODERATOR: Mike Atlas.
MR. ATLAS: (Not present)
THE MODERATOR: Norman Berkowitz.
MR. BERKOWITZ: (Not present)
THE MODERATOR: Fred Civian.
MR. CIVIAN: No.
THE MODERATOR: Eldon Clingan.
MR. CLINGAN: Yes.
THE MODERATOR: Thomas Cochran, Jr.
MR. COCHRAN: No.
THE MODERATOR: John Dashe.
MR. DASHE: No.
THE MODERATOR: Mary Jane Devins.
MS. DEVINS: (Not present)
THE MODERATOR: Diane DiBiasio.
MS. DiBIASIO: Yes.
THE MODERATOR: Margaret Duncan.
MS. DUNCAN: No.
THE MODERATOR: Elizabeth Emery.
MS. EMERY: No.
THE MODERATOR: Jay Fialkow.
MR. FIALKOW: (Not present)

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THE MODERATOR: Andrea Gilmore.

MS. GILMORE: Yes.

THE MODERATOR: Nicole Prowell Hart.

MS. HART: No.

THE MODERATOR: Susan Hicks.

MS. HICKS: No.

THE MODERATOR: Jennifer Hyde.

MS. HYDE: No.

THE MODERATOR: Jennifer Jordan.

MS. JORDAN: (Not present)

THE MODERATOR: Marie-Louise Kehoe.

MS. KEHOE: (Not present)

THE MODERATOR: Sean Kelleher.

MR. KELLEHER: Yes.

THE MODERATOR: Mary Keough.

MS. KEOUGH: Yes.

THE MODERATOR: Alexander Leith.

MR. LEITH: No.

THE MODERATOR: Elizabeth Martin.

MS. MARTIN: Yes.

THE MODERATOR: Hope McDermott.

MS. McDERMOTT: No.

THE MODERATOR: Rachel Blair

McGregor.

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MS. MCGREGOR: (Not present)
THE MODERATOR: Susan McIntosh.
MS. MCINTOSH: Yes.
THE MODERATOR: Stephen Moorhead.
MR. MOORHEAD: No.
THE MODERATOR: Barbara Judith
Naditch.
MS. NADITCH: Yes.
THE MODERATOR: Howard Ostroff.
MR. OSTROFF: No.
THE MODERATOR: Amy Paxson.
MS. PAXSON: No.
THE MODERATOR: May Polly Pierce.
MS. PIERCE: (Not present)
THE MODERATOR: David Rosenthal.
MR. ROSENTHAL: (Not present)
THE MODERATOR: Robert Sandman.
MR. SANDMAN: Yes.
THE MODERATOR: Robert Peter Shapiro.
MR. SHAPIRO: (Not present)
THE MODERATOR: Peter Smith.
MR. SMITH: No.
THE MODERATOR: Shannon Boyle Teehan.
MS. TEEHAN: Yes.

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THE MODERATOR: Antonia Thomas.

MS. THOMAS: (Not present)

THE MODERATOR: Fred Wofford.

MR. WOFFORD: No.

THE MODERATOR: Alex O'Connell.

MS. O'CONNELL: No.

THE MODERATOR: Diane Barry-Preston.

MS. PRESTON: Yes.

THE MODERATOR: Jacquelyn Blasi.

MS. BLASI: No.

THE MODERATOR: Carl Bonvini.

MR. BONVINI: Yes.

THE MODERATOR: Paul Brennan.

MR. BRENNAN: Yes.

THE MODERATOR: Ellen Burns.

MS. BURNS: Yes.

THE MODERATOR: Maurice Burns.

MR. BURNS: Yes.

THE MODERATOR: Nancy Clement.

MS. CLEMENT: Yes.

THE MODERATOR: Beth Cormack.

MS. CORMACK: Yes.

THE MODERATOR: Neil Cronin Jr.

MR. CRONIN: Yes.

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THE MODERATOR: Jeremiah Donohue.
MR. DONOHUE: Yes.
THE MODERATOR: Mark Engdahl.
MR. ENGDahl: (Not present)
THE MODERATOR: Steven Feeley.
MR. FEELEY: (Not present)
THE MODERATOR: Michael Feeley Jr.
MR. FREELEY: (Not present)
THE MODERATOR: Ann Frasca.
MS. FRASCA: No.
THE MODERATOR: Janet Holmes.
MS. HOLMES: Yes.
THE MODERATOR: Carolyn Jenkins.
MS. JENKINS: No.
THE MODERATOR: Kristina Krug.
MS. KRUG: No.
THE MODERATOR: Tracey Legendre.
MS. LEGENDRE: (Not present)
THE MODERATOR: John Lombardi.
MR. LOMBARDI: (Not present)
THE MODERATOR: Sunshine Millea.
MS. MILLEA: Yes.
THE MODERATOR: Anthony Juju

Mucciaccio Jr.

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MR. MUCCIACCIO: Yes.

THE MODERATOR: Paul Mullen.

MR. MULLEN: No.

THE MODERATOR: Daniel W. Murphy.

MR. MURPHY: Yes.

THE MODERATOR: Amy Lynn O'Brien.

MS. O'BRIEN: Yes.

THE MODERATOR: Kathleen O'Neil.

MS. O'NEIL: No.

THE MODERATOR: Judith Piazza.

MS. PIAZZA: No.

THE MODERATOR: Martha Podolski.

MS. PODOLSKI: Yes.

THE MODERATOR: Paul Podolski.

MR. PODOLSKI: Yes.

THE MODERATOR: Russell Poole.

MR. POOLE: Yes.

THE MODERATOR: Christine Ross.

MS. ROSS: Yes.

THE MODERATOR: Frederick Ross.

MR. ROSS: Yes.

THE MODERATOR: Mona Saltalamacchia.

MS. SALTALAMACCHIA: (Not present)

THE MODERATOR: Janet Sebago.

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MS. SEBAGO: Yes.
THE MODERATOR: Jason Sullivan.
MR. SULLIVAN: Yes.
THE MODERATOR: Jacqueline Sullivan.
MS. SULLIVAN: Yes.
THE MODERATOR: James M. Sullivan.
MR. SULLIVAN: Yes.
THE MODERATOR: Patricia Tobin.
MS. TOBIN: No.
THE MODERATOR: Michael Walter.
MR. WALTER: Yes.
THE MODERATOR: Michael Warren.
MR. WARREN: Yes.
THE MODERATOR: Thomas Boncek.
MR. BONCEK: (Not present)
THE MODERATOR: Virginia Brobst.
MS. BROBST: No.
THE MODERATOR: William C Brobst III.
MR. BROBST: No.
THE MODERATOR: Kelly Chaffee.
MS. CHAFFEE: No.
THE MODERATOR: Lloyd Cushman.
MR. CUSHMAN: (Not present)
THE MODERATOR: Rita Mae Cushman.

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MS. CUSHMAN: (Not present)

THE MODERATOR: Jean Daley.

MS. DALEY: Yes.

THE MODERATOR: Deana Delloiacono.

MS. DELLOIACONO: Yes.

THE MODERATOR: Joseph Dineen.

MR. DINEEN: (Not present)

THE MODERATOR: Heidi Dineen Serpis.

MS. SERPIS: Yes.

THE MODERATOR: Francis Fitzgerald.

MR. FITZGERALD: No.

THE MODERATOR: Anne Geier.

MS. GEIER: (Not present)

THE MODERATOR: Kenneth Gilchrist.

MR. GILCHRIST: No.

THE MODERATOR: Christine Grey.

MS. GREY: (Not present)

THE MODERATOR: Raymond Harris.

MR. HARRIS: No.

THE MODERATOR: Stephen Heaslip.

MR. HEASLIP: No.

THE MODERATOR: Joseph Heisler.

MR. HEISLER: Yes.

THE MODERATOR: Nicole Keane.

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MS. KEANE: Yes.

THE MODERATOR: Jacqueline Kerr.

MS. KERR: (Not present)

THE MODERATOR: Charles Krueger.

MR. KRUEGER: Yes.

THE MODERATOR: Carol Krueger.

MS. KRUEGER: Yes.

THE MODERATOR: Miguel Lopez.

MR. LOPEZ: (Not present)

THE MODERATOR: Frederick Matthies.

MR. MATTHIES: Yes.

THE MODERATOR: Kevin Mawe.

MR. MAWE: Yes.

THE MODERATOR: Daniel Megan.

MR. MEGAN: Yes.

THE MODERATOR: Theresa O'Connor-
Heisler.

MS. HEISLER: Yes.

THE MODERATOR: Richard Pierce.

MR. PIERCE: (Not present)

THE MODERATOR: Linwood Putney.

MR. PUTNEY: Yes.

THE MODERATOR: Pina Reda.

MS. REDA: (Not present)

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THE MODERATOR: Antonio Reda.

MR. REDA: (Not present)

THE MODERATOR: P. Carey Reid.

MR. REID: No.

THE MODERATOR: Geraldine Roberts.

MS. ROBERTS: (Not present)

THE MODERATOR: Kevin Scollan.

MR. SCOLLAN: Yes.

THE MODERATOR: Kenneth Scott.

MR. SCOTT: Yes.

THE MODERATOR: Mark Serpis.

MR. SERPIS: Yes.

THE MODERATOR: Barbara Smith.

MS. SMITH: Yes.

THE MODERATOR: Maureen Teti.

MS. TETI: Yes.

THE MODERATOR: Molly Uppencamp.

MS. UPPENCAMP: No.

THE MODERATOR: F.P. Bass.

MS. BASS: Yes.

THE MODERATOR: Brad Bauer.

MR. BAUER: No.

THE MODERATOR: Dianne Bauer.

MS. BAUER: No.

1 **THE MODERATOR:** Jodi Bissonette.
2 **MS. BISSONETTE:** (Not present)
3 **THE MODERATOR:** Robert L. Black.
4 **MR. BLACK:** No.
5 **THE MODERATOR:** Mark Blazejewski.
6 **MR. BLAZEJEWSKI:** Yes.
7 **THE MODERATOR:** William Boudrow.
8 **MR. BOUDROW:** Yes.
9 **THE MODERATOR:** Mary Butler.
10 **MS. BUTLER:** Yes.
11 **THE MODERATOR:** Patricia Cariofiles.
12 **MS. CARIOFILES:** Yes.
13 **THE MODERATOR:** Lacey Cohen.
14 **MS. COHEN:** Yes.
15 **THE MODERATOR:** Joan Cummins.
16 **MS. CUMMINS:** Yes.
17 **THE MODERATOR:** Joseph D'Amico.
18 **MR. D'AMICO:** Yes.
19 **THE MODERATOR:** Carmen Delloiacono.
20 **MR. DELLOIACONO:** Yes.
21 **THE MODERATOR:** Kayla Delloiacono.
22 **MS. DELLOIACONO:** Yes.
23 **THE MODERATOR:** Carol Dixon.
24 **MS. DIXON:** Yes.

1 **THE MODERATOR:** James Driscoll.
2 **MR. DRISCOLL:** Yes.
3 **THE MODERATOR:** Robert Driscoll.
4 **MR. DRISCOLL:** Yes.
5 **THE MODERATOR:** Robert Frasca Jr.
6 **MR. FRASCA:** No.
7 **THE MODERATOR:** Sheala Jean Frasca.
8 **MS. FRASCA:** No.
9 **THE MODERATOR:** Mary Gilbert.
10 **MS. GILBERT:** No.
11 **THE MODERATOR:** Kevin Hampe.
12 **MR. HAMPE:** Yes.
13 **THE MODERATOR:** Maureen Hanlon.
14 **MS. HANLON:** No.
15 **THE MODERATOR:** Ronald Hathaway.
16 **MR. HATHAWAY:** Yes.
17 **THE MODERATOR:** Brian Keaney.
18 **MR. KEANEY:** (Not present)
19 **THE MODERATOR:** Mary Elizabeth Kelly.
20 **MS. KELLY:** Yes.
21 **THE MODERATOR:** Paul Lyons Jr.
22 **MR. LYONS:** (Not present)
23 **THE MODERATOR:** Jason Maher.
24 **MR. MAHER:** Yes.

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THE MODERATOR: Colleen McGourty.

MS. MCGOURTY: No.

THE MODERATOR: Ann Louise Mercer.

MS. MERCER: (Not present)

THE MODERATOR: Katharine Privert.

MS. PRIVERT: Yes.

THE MODERATOR: Sarah Sally.

MS. SALLY: Yes.

THE MODERATOR: Jacob Santamaria Jr.

MR. SANTAMARIA: (Not present)

THE MODERATOR: Kathleen Schortmann.

MS. SCHORTMANN: No.

THE MODERATOR: Robert Schortmann.

MR. SCHORTMANN: Yes.

THE MODERATOR: Donald Seager.

MR. SEAGER: Yes.

THE MODERATOR: Louis Tedeschi.

MR. TEDESCHI: Yes.

THE MODERATOR: Nicholas Tedeschi.

MR. TEDESCHI: (Not present)

THE MODERATOR: Rosa Tedeschi.

MS. TEDESCHI: Yes.

THE MODERATOR: Robert Zahka Jr.

MR. ZAHKA: Yes.

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THE MODERATOR: Francis Adams.

MR. ADAMS: (Not present)

THE MODERATOR: Maria Antonuccio.

MS. ANTONUCCIO: Yes.

THE MODERATOR: Erin Blume.

MS. BLUME: (Not present)

THE MODERATOR: Barbara Carney.

MS. CARNEY: Yes.

THE MODERATOR: William Carney.

MR. CARNEY: Yes.

THE MODERATOR: Katherine Casey.

MS. CASEY: Yes.

THE MODERATOR: Robert Curran.

MR. CURRAN: Yes.

THE MODERATOR: Carole Donovan.

MS. DONOVAN: (Not present)

THE MODERATOR: Richard Downing.

MR. DOWNING: Yes.

THE MODERATOR: Lisa Farnham.

MS. FARNHAM: No.

THE MODERATOR: Andrea Griffin.

MS. GRIFFIN: Yes.

THE MODERATOR: Keith Hampe.

MR. HAMPE: Yes.

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THE MODERATOR: Kerry Ann Hawkins.

MS. HAWKINS: No.

THE MODERATOR: Carlene Campbell-
Hegarty.

MS. HEGARTY: Yes.

THE MODERATOR: Michelle Holmes-
Labadini.

MS. LABADINI: No.

THE MODERATOR: Michael Huff.

MR. HUFF: Yes.

THE MODERATOR: Joanne Keaveney.

MS. KEAVENEY: No.

THE MODERATOR: Monica Linari.

MS. LINARI: Yes.

THE MODERATOR: Robert Loporto.

MR. LOPORTO: No.

THE MODERATOR: Kathleen Maher.

MS. MAHER: Yes.

THE MODERATOR: Gemma Martin.

MS. MARTIN: Yes.

THE MODERATOR: Marianne T. Martin.

MS. MARTIN: Yes.

THE MODERATOR: Paul McGowan.

MR. MCGOWAN: Yes.

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THE MODERATOR: Diane McLeish.

MS. McLEISH: Yes.

THE MODERATOR: John Nolan.

MR. NOLAN: Yes.

THE MODERATOR: Elizabeth O'Donnell.

MS. O'DONNELL: No.

THE MODERATOR: Ann Palermo.

MS. PALERMO: No.

THE MODERATOR: Karen Palumbo.

MS. PALUMBO: No.

THE MODERATOR: Jonathan Pape.

MR. PAPE: No.

THE MODERATOR: Laura Park.

MS. PARK: Yes.

THE MODERATOR: Matthew Quinn.

MR. QUINN: Yes.

THE MODERATOR: Lawrence Rooney.

MR. ROONEY: (Not present)

THE MODERATOR: Rosemary Rooney.

MS. ROONEY: Yes.

THE MODERATOR: Heather Springer.

MS. SPRINGER: No.

THE MODERATOR: Peter Springer.

MR. SPRINGER: No.

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THE MODERATOR: Daniel Teahan.

MR. TEAHAN: Yes.

THE MODERATOR: Maria Thornton.

MS. THORNTON: No.

THE MODERATOR: John Tighe.

MR. TIGHE: Yes.

THE MODERATOR: Dorothy Victoria.

MS. VICTORIA: (Not present)

THE MODERATOR: Margaret Adams.

MS. ADAMS: No.

THE MODERATOR: Clarissa Altagracia

Robyn.

MS. ROBYN: No.

THE MODERATOR: Cynthia Barich.

MS. BARICH: Yes.

THE MODERATOR: Lindsay Barich.

MR. BARICH: Yes, yes.

THE MODERATOR: Joe Borsellino.

MR. BORSELLINO: Yes.

THE MODERATOR: Sharna Small

Borsellino.

MS. BORSELLINO: Yes.

THE MODERATOR: Gustavo Burkett.

MR. BURKETT: No.

1 **THE MODERATOR:** Susan Butler Walko.
2 **MS. WALKO:** Yes.
3 **THE MODERATOR:** Thomas Clinton.
4 **MR. CLINTON:** Yes.
5 **THE MODERATOR:** Michael Cocchi.
6 **MR. COCCHI:** No.
7 **THE MODERATOR:** Joan Donovan.
8 **MS. DONOVAN:** Yes.
9 **THE MODERATOR:** Cheryl Fish.
10 **MS. FISH:** (Not present)
11 **THE MODERATOR:** Robert Fish.
12 **MR. FISH:** (Not present)
13 **THE MODERATOR:** William Gallagher.
14 **MR. GALLAGHER:** No.
15 **THE MODERATOR:** Barbara Gula.
16 **MS. GULA:** (Not present)
17 **THE MODERATOR:** Amy Haelsen.
18 **MS. HAELSEN:** No.
19 **THE MODERATOR:** Daniel Hart Jr.
20 **MR. HART:** Yes.
21 **THE MODERATOR:** Thomas Healy.
22 **MR. HEALY:** No.
23 **THE MODERATOR:** Michele Heffernan.
24 **MS. HEFFERNAN:** Yes.

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THE MODERATOR: Virginia Hickey.
MS. HICKEY: No.
THE MODERATOR: Marjorie Kilroy.
MS. KILROY: No.
THE MODERATOR: Amy Larson.
MS. LARSON: Yes.
THE MODERATOR: Andrew Lawlor.
MR. LAWLOR: Yes.
THE MODERATOR: Roberta Lawlor.
MS. LAWLOR: Yes.
THE MODERATOR: Steven Mammone.
MR. MAMMONE: (Not present)
THE MODERATOR: Margaret Matthews.
MS. MATTHEWS: No.
THE MODERATOR: Maryann Molloy.
MS. MOLLOY: Yes.
THE MODERATOR: Kalee Polito.
MS. POLITO: Yes.
THE MODERATOR: Paul Reynolds.
MR. REYNOLDS: No.
THE MODERATOR: Cherylann W. Sheehan.
MS. SHEEHAN: Yes.
THE MODERATOR: Kathleen Smith.
MS. SMITH: Yes.

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THE MODERATOR: Allison Staton.

MS. STATON: No.

THE MODERATOR: Amy Tiglianidis.

MS. TIGLIANIDIS: Yes.

THE MODERATOR: Marianne Tuohy.

MS. TUOHY: Yes.

THE MODERATOR: Christina Whalen.

MS. WHALEN: Yes.

THE MODERATOR: Mark Whalen.

MR. WHALEN: Yes.

THE MODERATOR: Georganna Woods.

MS. WOODS: No.

THE MODERATOR: Jean Ellen Zeiler.

MS. ZEILER: No.

THE MODERATOR: Martha Zeolla.

MS. ZEOLLA: No.

THE MODERATOR: A. Peter Benson.

MR. BENSON: No.

THE MODERATOR: Cheryle Biggar.

MS. BIGGAR: Yes.

THE MODERATOR: Douglas Biggar.

MR. BIGGAR: Yes.

THE MODERATOR: Celia Black.

MS. BLACK: Yes.

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THE MODERATOR: Charles Black.

MR. BLACK: Yes.

THE MODERATOR: David Corsi.

MR. CORSI: Yes.

THE MODERATOR: Joseph Croscup.

MR. CROSCUP: Yes.

THE MODERATOR: Richard Delloiacono.

MR. DELLOIACONO: Yes.

THE MODERATOR: Anne Dolan.

MS. DOLAN: No.

THE MODERATOR: Tracy HR Forbes.

MS. FORBES: Yes.

THE MODERATOR: Edward Goodwin.

MR. GOODWIN: No.

THE MODERATOR: William Gorman.

MR. GORMAN: Yes.

THE MODERATOR: Mitzi Buckley Kane.

MS. KANE: Yes.

THE MODERATOR: Stephen MacDougall.

MS. MACDOUGALL: Yes.

THE MODERATOR: Lisa Mackinnon.

MS. MACKINNON: Yes.

THE MODERATOR: Lawrence Manning.

MR. MANNING: Yes.

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THE MODERATOR: Ryan McDermott.

MR. McDERMOTT: No.

THE MODERATOR: Mary Ellen McDonough.

MS. McDONOUGH: Yes.

THE MODERATOR: Kristen Morse.

MS. MORSE: Yes.

THE MODERATOR: Peter Morse.

MR. MORSE: Yes.

THE MODERATOR: Nicole Munchbach.

MS. MUNCHBACH: Yes.

THE MODERATOR: Lisa O'Connor.

MS. O'CONNOR: Yes.

THE MODERATOR: George Panagopoulos.

MR. PANAGOPOULOS: (Not present)

THE MODERATOR: Maria Panagopoulos.

MS. PANAGOPOULOS: (Not present)

THE MODERATOR: Stacy Panagopoulos.

MS. PANAGOPOULOS: (Not present)

THE MODERATOR: Andrew Pepoli.

MR. PEPOLI: No.

THE MODERATOR: Kathleen Podolski.

MS. PODOLSKI: Yes.

THE MODERATOR: Marguerite Polito.

MS. POLITO: Yes.

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THE MODERATOR: Thomas Polito Jr.
MR. POLITO: Yes.
THE MODERATOR: Mark Reilly.
MR. REILLY: Yes.
THE MODERATOR: Bernadette Ryan.
MS. RYAN: Yes.
THE MODERATOR: Cheryl Schoenfeld.
MS. SCHOENFELD: Yes.
THE MODERATOR: Julie Scolastico.
MS. SCOLASTICO: (Not present)
THE MODERATOR: Mark Skehill.
MR. SKEHILL: Yes.
THE MODERATOR: Korrin Slavin.
MS. SLAVIN: (Not present)
THE MODERATOR: Liam Allen Slavin.
MR. SLAVIN: Yes.
THE MODERATOR: April Wilmar.
MS. WILMAR: Yes.
THE MODERATOR: Camille Zahka.
MS. ZAHKA: Yes.
THE MODERATOR: Peter A. Zahka II.
MR. ZAHKA: Yes.
THE MODERATOR: That's it. Now we
count them.

1 (Pause.)

2 **THE MODERATOR:** Excuse me, is Miguel
3 Lopez here?

4 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** He voted yes.

5 **THE MODERATOR:** No, that was Lindsay
6 who voted twice. Okay, there is no vote for
7 Miguel Lopez. There are five people counting
8 the votes, and four of them had no vote for
9 Miguel Lopez.

10 (Pause.)

11 **THE MODERATOR:** 223 town meeting
12 representatives having voted, two-thirds of that
13 is 147. 148 people voted yes, 75 voted no.

14 Article 8. Article 8 was passed. Is
15 there discussion on Article 8? Seeing none, the
16 vote comes on the original motion on Page 8.
17 All in favor, please say aye.

18 (Aye)

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

20 (No)

21 **THE MODERATOR:** The ayes have it.
22 Article 9, the cellular tower article, that was
23 passed. Are there questions or comments on
24 Article 9?

1 **MS. HART:** Hello. I'm Nicole Hart,
2 Precinct 1. You may know me as the current star
3 on the cover of last week's Dedham Times. Thank
4 you, Scott, wherever you are. I just wanted to
5 bring attention -- I love technology, you know,
6 many of us do. I used to work at IBM, MIT media
7 lab, and now, I've worked for Cambridge Public
8 Schools, where I am their instructional
9 technology specialist. Part of this was
10 overseeing a rollout of (inaudible) to 2000 of
11 our students and making our wifi more robust.

12 So my concern, however, is 5G that I
13 believe is coming with the construction of this
14 new cell phone tower. 5G for those of you who
15 don't know is like wifi, but way faster, about
16 100 times faster than 4G currently, which is
17 amazing, but it's short range, even though it's
18 very strong.

19 Short range means they have to
20 install more mini cell phone towers in
21 residential areas about every 500 feet. They
22 will be installing them on telephone poles and
23 lamp posts in the area. To me, there's not
24 enough research done about the radiation and the

1 concerns about public health. There have been
2 local towns -- I know Brookline and Norwood are
3 currently trying to -- discussing some great
4 public awareness about it, because they're
5 concerned about it as well. I just feel we
6 don't have enough information, and bottom line,
7 5G is to the current wifi and 4g what vaping is
8 to cigarettes. So thank you.

9 **THE MODERATOR:** Any further
10 discussion on the article? Ms. Palumbo.

11 **MS. PALUMBO:** Karen Palumbo, P5. My
12 question was how much will it cost to demo the
13 existing structure?

14 **MR. GOODWIN:** That is the second
15 phase, actually, of the project. We don't have
16 that number. That will be coming back to spring
17 town meeting.

18 **THE MODERATOR:** Mr. Goodwin.

19 **MR. GOODWIN:** Thank you, Mr.
20 Moderator. Ted Goodwin, Precinct 7. What is
21 the purpose of this tower? If I had gone to the
22 mini town meeting last week, I would have had
23 the answer. But what is it for, who's going to
24 use it, and why?

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THE MODERATOR: Thank you, Mr. Goodwin. Mr. Goodwin.

MR. GOODWIN: We have an existing agreement -- we have several existing agreements with cell phone companies currently that are located on a stack that's located at the old transfer station proper. That stack is structurally unstable. It needs to come down in the future. We are contractually obligated to provide a place for those cellular towers where those cellular -- that cellular equipment could be located.

We actually would have liability if it were to fall down. And when we take it down and don't provide them with additional space -- they provide approximately \$360,000 of revenue to the town every year, those lease agreements. So it's in both our financial interests and our legal interests to provide a new tower for those to be located on.

THE MODERATOR: Thank you, Mr. Goodwin. Further questions on the article? Hearing none, the vote comes on the original motion that the \$650,000 is appropriate. All

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those in favor, please say aye.

(Aye)

THE MODERATOR: Opposed, no.

(No)

THE MODERATOR: The ayes have it.

Thank you.

Article 10. Questions, comments?

Article 10, the sign code. The vote comes on the original motion -- oh, I'm sorry.

MR. DELLOIACONO: I have a question about this \$35,000. Who does this job right now, anyone, a code enforcement officer?

THE MODERATOR: Town planner.

MR. ROSENBERGER: Good evening, everybody. Jeremy Rosenberger, town planning director. Currently, the signage code which regulates signs that we would find on private -- mostly private properties is regulated both by the zoning board of appeals and the design review board, known as DRAB.

MR. DELLOIACONO: So why we would want to bring in an outside contractor for 35 grand?

MR. ROSENBERGER: The main basis here

1 is to provide better customer service both to
2 our business community, who is the main user of
3 our -- or recipient of the sign code, who have
4 to deal with it on a daily basis. Those
5 ultimately are the two boards that I just
6 referenced, who I'd say for our department,
7 accounts for about between 40 and 60 applicants
8 both to the zoning board of appeals and the
9 design review board.

10 What I've found is that it's
11 antiquated as a document, caused quite a bit of
12 conflict between departments trying to decipher
13 this document, and ultimately, I think the end
14 user here in the business community is
15 unfortunately subject to that, and I think we
16 have abundant support both from the business
17 community and many stakeholders that have to
18 deal with the sign code.

19 And what we found is that the
20 appropriate -- the sum that I'm asking for --
21 we've looked at other cities and towns, and this
22 is what they found appropriate to do such a
23 study.

24 **MR. DELLOIACONO:** So you're going to

1 do a study for \$35,000 just to make sure that
2 the two departments are working together right?

3 **MR. ROSENBERGER:** We're going to
4 totally overhaul our existing signage
5 regulations, which are antiquated and cause
6 conflict. And it's tough to understand.

7 **MR. DELLOIACONO:** That's all right.
8 I got all night.

9 **THE MODERATOR:** Mr. Delloiacono, the
10 rest of us don't. The \$35,000 is to do a study
11 to update --

12 **MR. DELLOIACONO:** I get it. That's
13 fine. I don't think we need the study.

14 **THE MODERATOR:** Okay, sir. Thank
15 you. Anybody else? The vote comes on the
16 original motion that it be so voted, and we hire
17 a consultant. All those in favor, say aye.

18 (Aye)

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

20 (No)

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

22 Thank you.

23 Article 11, capital requests.

24 Discussion, questions? All those in favor, say

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aye.

(Aye)

THE MODERATOR: Opposed, no.

(No)

THE MODERATOR: The ayes have it.

Thank you.

Article 12, the zoning bylaw amendment. The first step is the report of the planning board chairman, Mr. John Bethoney.

MR. BETHONEY: Thank you, Mr. Moderator. Good evening, town meeting members. I'm John Bethoney, the planning board chair. Tonight the planning board is proposing a new original motion to Article 12. That new original motion has been made available to all town meeting members. It's this yellow document here that you found at the sign-in desk up front.

In a report from the planning board, dated November 14, 2019, and mailed to town meeting members, the purpose and the rationale of Article 12 is certainly explained in detail. I'm just going to take a minute to summary the objectives of Article 12 as noted in our report.

1 Currently, firearm bylaws -- excuse
2 me. Currently, firearm businesses are not
3 specifically regulated under the Dedham zoning
4 bylaw. They can essentially open wherever
5 retail establishments are allowed. Article 12
6 would change that by establishing four key
7 regulatory controls within our zoning bylaw,
8 relating specifically to firearms businesses.

9 These include regulatory controls
10 specific to the allowed location, as well as the
11 operation of any proposed firearm business
12 within our town. The proposed zoning bylaw will
13 accomplish the following.

14 A firearms business would be allowed
15 only by special permit and only in a specific
16 location within town. If a firearms business
17 were proposed and ultimately approved by the
18 zoning board of appeal, the firearms business
19 would be only allowed within the existing adult
20 use overlay district.

21 Essentially, that's the area located
22 along Legacy Boulevard. A map of the adult use
23 overlay district was available at the sign-in
24 desk at the front of the hall tonight, and it

1 was available to everyone at mini town meeting.

2 The bylaw also sets forth very
3 specific requirements and conditions that an
4 applicant must meet in order to obtain a special
5 permit from the ZBA. If the applicant can't
6 meet those requirements, the application would
7 not be considered. Furthermore, the zoning
8 bylaw creates new definitions relating
9 specifically to firearms businesses so that the
10 town can responsibly regulate them.

11 And lastly, the new original motion
12 contains revised language recommended by town
13 counsel that sets forth common sense
14 requirements for firearms businesses operating
15 within our town.

16 The planning board has taken the
17 concerns of our community very seriously
18 regarding this matter. On August 8, 2019, we
19 held a public meeting to listen and understand
20 the concerns of our citizenry and the concerns
21 of elected officials, as well as those appointed
22 officials.

23 Subsequently, we held three public
24 hearings related to Article 12. We took

1 testimony from town residents, town leaders, and
2 legal counsel. After such, we deliberated and
3 voted unanimously to recommend to town meeting
4 that Article 12 be so voted. Thank you.

5 **THE MODERATOR:** Thank you, Mr.
6 Bethoney. The Chair recognizes Marisa Howard-
7 Carr.

8 **MS. HOWARD-CARR:** Hi. My name is
9 Marisa Howard-Carr. I am not a town meeting
10 member. I am a resident of Precinct 3. I'm a
11 parent to two children, a resident of East
12 Dedham, and I am here tonight to ask for your
13 vote in favor of Article 12. I think Mr.
14 Bethoney did a great job of explaining what this
15 is all about.

16 Article 12 is a common sense bylaw --
17 safety bylaw, and would promote public safety
18 and it would support Dedham's economic
19 development. This is not about gun ownership,
20 and it's not about anybody's ability to purchase
21 guns. This is about closing a loophole in our
22 existing zoning laws so that our neighborhoods
23 can continue to thrive.

24 As town residents, we count on our

1 elected officials, that's all of you, to protect
2 the town with thoughtful, proactive zoning laws.
3 This proposal is a forward thinking proposal
4 that addresses whether we want gun stores in
5 residential neighborhoods next to where we live,
6 where we walk our dogs, and where our children
7 play soccer.

8 Yesterday, Brian McGrath issued a
9 statement on behalf of the mother of a community
10 group. In his explanation of why the group
11 decided to support Article 12, he wrote, "Great
12 strides have been made with the approval of new
13 projects that are changing the face of East
14 Dedham Square for the better."

15 The recent opening of J&J Arms in
16 East Dedham Square represents a step backwards
17 in our economic development efforts. The
18 proposed amendment to the zoning bylaw would
19 correct a gap in our current regulations and
20 will prevent this type of impact to other
21 neighborhoods in town.

22 When I moved to Dedham with my family
23 seven years ago, we knew exactly what we were
24 looking for, a house where my family could grow,

1 a neighborhood where my kids could safely have
2 some independence as they grew older, and a
3 little outdoor space where I could plant bulbs
4 in the ground every fall and every spring watch
5 as they didn't come up.

6 A local gun store was not on my list,
7 and I would guess it was not on your list either
8 when you were thinking about real estate. Gun
9 stores don't belong in residential
10 neighborhoods. While the discussion about gun
11 stores recently has focused on East Dedham, this
12 amendment would also protect Oakdale Square, the
13 East Dedham Rotary, Devin Square, and every
14 other mixed zoning area in town.

15 In a letter to the editor in this
16 week's Dedham Times, the board of health also
17 shared a statement regarding their unanimous
18 support for Article 12. Gun safety is widely
19 recognized by the public health community as a
20 public health imperative. Restricting gun
21 stores to commercial areas is a great comment to
22 a public health and safety approach.

23 As town meeting members, you have the
24 ability tonight to pass a bylaw that will

1 protect the health and safety of this town and
2 support our town's economic development. So I
3 ask, please, vote yes on Article 12.

4 **THE MODERATOR:** Thank you. Mr.
5 Heaslip.

6 **MR. HEASLIP:** Thank you, Mr.
7 Moderator. Steve Heaslip, Precinct 3. I could
8 have brought my children tonight to stand
9 outside for, you know, like a sympathy vote or
10 something saying please support the
11 Constitution, please support our right to keep
12 and bear arms, but I didn't want to play that
13 card.

14 So we have gone for almost 400 years
15 in this town without a firearms zoning bylaw,
16 and everything has been fine. We've had --
17 people have been able to purchase firearms, you
18 know, forever. So I don't see a need for it.
19 There are some people who say use scare tactics
20 and say, oh, you know, people -- it's right next
21 to a playground and a school, and, you know,
22 it's right next to everything where children are
23 going to be playing with guns. I don't know
24 what the concerns are there. Like it's not

1 going to happen.

2 But anyway, I just think it's -- we
3 already have a rule on this. It's the
4 Constitution. And they say, well, this isn't
5 about owning guns, it's -- but then they start
6 quoting about health and safety. The thing is
7 if you want to address the problems with school
8 shootings, look at mental health issues. Look
9 at the drugs, you know, you're putting your
10 children on, all these prescription drugs for
11 ADD and ADHD and depression, all these, you know
12 -- how about all the pharmacies that are in the
13 area of playgrounds and schools.

14 You know, that's -- try to get at the
15 roots of the causes of the issues. How about,
16 you know, parents start being at home, raising
17 their children, both parents working. These are
18 the kind of issues which --

19 **THE MODERATOR:** Please keep your
20 extraneous comments at a very, very low level so
21 Mr. Heaslip has the opportunity to present his
22 point of view.

23 **MR. HEASLIP:** Thank you. I
24 appreciate that. But that is my point, and I

1 hope that you vote no on this. Thank you.

2 **THE MODERATOR:** Thank you, Mr.
3 Heaslip. Mr. Reilly.

4 **MR. REILLY:** Thank you. Mark Reilly
5 at Precinct 7. I first want to thank the select
6 board and the planning board for their
7 responsiveness and the thoughtful process they
8 undertook to hear from all interested residents
9 over the past several months to come up with
10 this zoning proposal.

11 As I have talked with many people
12 around town, a few have raised the argument that
13 changing the zoning may not be fair to the
14 individual who proposed to open a firearms store
15 in East Dedham, but there are two very important
16 facts to remember about this.

17 First, the planning board began the
18 process to zone where firearm stores should be
19 located in the town before that individual
20 received permits that he needs to open a store.
21 He's been on notice for many months now, and
22 most importantly, since before he received those
23 permits, that it may not be permissible to
24 upgrade the firearms store in the East Dedham

1 neighborhood.

2 It's also important to remember that
3 if town meeting votes to approve the zoning
4 change, he and any other business owner who
5 obtains the necessary permits would be allowed
6 to open a firearms store in the Town of Dedham.
7 It would just need to be in the more appropriate
8 commercial area off Route 1 in the vicinity of
9 Legacy Place.

10 Because Article 12 is a sensible
11 solution that balances the interests of
12 concerned residents and business owners who may
13 wish to open a firearms store, I hope you will
14 vote in favor of the article. Thank you.

15 **THE MODERATOR:** Thank you, Mr.
16 Reilly. Ms. Gilbert.

17 **MS. GILBERT:** Mary Gilbert, Precinct
18 4. Move the question.

19 **THE MODERATOR:** So by now, we know
20 what "move the question" means. All those in
21 favor of cutting off debate and moving the
22 question, please say aye.

23 (Aye)

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

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(No)

THE MODERATOR: The ayes have it. This is a zoning bylaw change that requires a two-thirds vote. All those in favor of the original motion, please say aye.

(Aye)

THE MODERATOR: Opposed, no.

(No)

THE MODERATOR: It is a two-thirds vote. Thank you.

I need to update you on the Manor Fields article. There are more than one method for calculating two-thirds of a number. The method that this moderator has always used, which was to multiply the total by .66, produces a number of 147 is needed, and we had an alternative method that I've discussed with town counsel. It's the required threshold at 149, which we don't have.

The ultimate decider on this is the bond counsel. So whenever we float a bond, we hire a specialized attorney, and one of the things the attorney will do is look at the vote. And if it turns out that the bond attorney does

1 not agree with my method and comes up with a
2 higher threshold, then the article will not have
3 passed. But that is the method that we've used
4 for all of my years, but I don't think we're
5 going to have a vote on a two-thirds article
6 that came out within one vote of the threshold,
7 so it hasn't been an issue before. But I felt
8 you needed to know that.

9 I ask that the chairman, John Briggs,
10 be called back to the meeting, if he is here and
11 has heard that. So if you have any questions,
12 you can see me after the meeting. That's full
13 disclosure on the Manor Fields article.

14 We move to -- having passed the
15 original motion on Article 12, we move to
16 Article 13, which is also a planning board
17 article and requires a two-thirds vote to amend
18 the zoning bylaw. The report of the planning
19 board chairman John Bethoney.

20 **MR. BETHONEY:** Town meeting members,
21 Article 13 proposes to extend the current
22 moratorium on mixed use development from its
23 current end date of November 30, 2019 to May 31,
24 2020, basically to May's town meeting.

1 As members may recall the May 2019
2 town meeting approved the planning board's
3 request for a moratorium on mixed use
4 developments and generously approved the
5 planning board request for funding necessary to
6 hire a professional consulting team to perform a
7 study to determine benefits, as well as the
8 negative impacts of mixed use development within
9 our town.

10 Based on the study, it was the
11 planning board's attempt to be before you this
12 evening with proposed amendments to Dedham's
13 only bylaw relating to mixed use development.
14 Such amendments, if supported by the study,
15 could potentially relate to size setbacks or
16 parking requirements for mixed use development,
17 whether or not developers should be required to
18 include affordable units within mixed use
19 developments, and, if so, at what rate, and
20 whether there should be different standards for
21 mixed use developments within different zoning
22 districts.

23 The fund that you approve is used to
24 hire a consulting team consisting of a

1 professional planner, an engineering firm, and a
2 zoning attorney. The study has been thorough
3 and comprehensive, and, in fact, an executive
4 summary has been submitted to the planning board
5 earlier this evening.

6 Unfortunately, as a result of the
7 procurement process that the planning department
8 was required to use in hiring a consulting team,
9 our efforts were delayed in excess of 45 days.
10 When we stood before you in May, we believed,
11 and town meeting confirmed, that it was
12 important to temporarily prevent mixed use
13 developments in order to have time to not only
14 study mixed use development, but also to prevent
15 town meeting zoning amendments based on the
16 results of the study that the planning board
17 believes would further protect and benefit the
18 town. Simply stated, due to the unexpected
19 procurement process, we need some additional
20 time, specifically, until May's town meeting.

21 I would like to make one point of
22 clarification. In response to comments at mini
23 town meeting, I referenced how the filing of a
24 Form A subdivision plan would freeze the

1 underlying zoning, as well as the regulations.
2 The correct reference should have been filing of
3 a preliminary or definitive subdivision plan and
4 not a Form A subdivision plan.

5 Town meeting members, the planning
6 board held a public hearing on Article 13 on
7 October 24, 2019. We took testimony, we
8 deliberated, and we voted 3-2 to recommend to
9 town meeting that Article 13 be so voted. Thank
10 you.

11 **THE MODERATOR:** Thank you, Mr.
12 Bethoney. Yes, ma'am.

13 **MS. FIELDS:** Hi. Patricia Carrier-
14 Fields, Precinct 4. It's my understanding this
15 is the first time in many years that the
16 planning board has not voted unanimously, so I
17 just wanted to know what the position of the
18 people who are voting no is.

19 **THE MODERATOR:** The Chair recognizes
20 Jessica Porter.

21 **MS. PORTER:** Hi. I'm just going to
22 speak for myself. There are two no votes, and
23 I'll just say this is, I think, a friendly
24 disagreement among colleagues around kind of

1 risk assessment. My colleagues who voted yes, I
2 think their feeling is that it is riskier to end
3 the moratorium than it is to continue -- sorry.
4 It's riskier to -- yeah, end it than it is to
5 continue it. But there are zoning changes that
6 we would need to have in place before anyone
7 would come in to do any mixed use development.

8 My feeling is that the risk is
9 actually the other way, that right now, our
10 special permitting authority, the zoning bylaws
11 that we have already in hand and peer review
12 give us enough control to really make sure that
13 any development, even without additional zoning
14 changes, reflects the wishes of Dedham, is the
15 best for Dedham.

16 That's been true for past projects as
17 well. So I see some risk in continuing the
18 moratorium in terms of this potential risk of
19 litigation. But that's basically what it is,
20 and I think -- hopefully that's helpful.

21 Thanks.

22 **THE MODERATOR:** Thank you, Ms.
23 Porter. Mr. McGrath.

24 **MR. McGRATH:** Thank you. I also

1 voted no for two primary reasons. The first
2 reason was I did not think it should have taken
3 six months to conduct this study, and two, I do
4 think the planning board currently has the tools
5 it needs to deal with mixed use development, to
6 deal with the concern of affordable housing, 55-
7 over housing, to deal with the concern of
8 potential expansion of 40B projects and things
9 of that sort.

10 I constantly hear from people in this
11 town about young people that grew up in Dedham
12 that would like to stay in Dedham and
13 affordability issues, and this development is a
14 way to address some of those things.

15 I hear about people 55 and over, the
16 issues with housing we have in this town
17 relative to those issues, and this mixed use
18 development helps address those issues with the
19 developers through negotiation and things of
20 that sort.

21 So I just -- I think that there will
22 be steps taken. In fairness to the planning
23 board members that voted yes, this will be a
24 good process. This will result in changes of

1 the zoning articles and things of the sort come
2 spring, but I don't see the need for a
3 moratorium right now, because I do think we have
4 tools to address the problems that people raise
5 when we talk about this issue. Thank you.

6 **THE MODERATOR:** Thank you, Mr.
7 McGrath. Mr. Sullivan.

8 **MR. SULLIVAN:** Jim Sullivan, Precinct
9 2. We funded a study. I think we should give
10 the planning board the additional time they need
11 to make use of that study and create zoning that
12 we can vote on in the spring.

13 **THE MODERATOR:** thank you.

14 **MR. SULLIVAN:** We just closed a
15 loophole. Let's not create any more. Thank
16 you.

17 **THE MODERATOR:** Thank you, Mr.
18 Sullivan. Mr. ?

19 **MR. ?:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman, town
20 meeting members. So I voted with John and Jay
21 O'Brien. The three of us voted to extend the
22 moratorium. I have a couple of reasons why I
23 think the moratorium being vacated at this time
24 could put us at risk, the first being that our

1 zoning bylaw provides nothing about affordable
2 housing, and if our town wants to try to avoid
3 40Bs down the road, we need to get a provision
4 in our bylaw for a 40B and affordable housing.

5 I also believe it would be, in my
6 opinion, almost a waste of money for us to walk
7 away from the -- or to cut the moratorium off
8 now, because it's (inaudible). It seems to be
9 that it might very well happen that there will
10 be preliminary subdivisions put in before we get
11 back here in May and vote the bylaw itself.

12 I don't want to take that risk. I
13 think it's important that we keep the mixed use
14 development under control at this time, as it is
15 on moratorium, and be able to give you a much
16 better and well thought out, approved by town
17 council bylaw in May and not have wasted our
18 money, perhaps, in our town by having things
19 happen between an extinguishment of the
20 moratorium in May. Thank you.

21 **THE MODERATOR:** Thank you, Mr. ???
22 Mr. Civian.

23 **MR. CIVIAN:** Thank you. Fred Civian,
24 Precinct 1. I'm a land use planner by

1 profession. I'm going to vote no on this. The
2 reason is because I think it exposes the town to
3 some significant litigation risk. If we don't
4 get sued -- if we're lucky and don't get sued,
5 this will work. If we get sued, we'll be
6 spending money defending ourselves in the court
7 on the moratorium.

8 There's been a lot of talk about 40B,
9 and I'm very uncomfortable with the idea that's
10 being floated around that we rely upon the
11 developer's projects and developer's proposals
12 in order to get affordable housing in Dedham.
13 There's a better way to do it. It's
14 underwritten by the state. It's called a
15 housing production plan.

16 If we develop a housing production
17 plan that figures how we're going to get
18 affordable housing in Dedham, we can -- and I'm
19 quoting here from MAPC (?) -- possibly prevent
20 unwanted 40B development through a certified
21 housing production plan in favor of residential
22 development that complies with local zoning.
23 That would buy us five years.

24 So if we're really concerned about

1 affordable housing, whether or not we have
2 developers proposing mixed use, puts it in
3 someone else's power. We ought to be doing this
4 a different way.

5 **THE MODERATOR:** Thank you, sir. Any
6 further discussion? Mr. Krueger.

7 **MR. KRUEGER:** This is Alec Krueger,
8 Precinct 3. I've been a town meeting member for
9 15 years. Every single year, I sit in front of
10 all this group here. Everybody complaints about
11 studies, studies, studies, wasting money on
12 studies, studies, studies.

13 They ask for \$45,000. We granted
14 that \$45,000. They have every right to use your
15 tax dollars, absorb what's in the study, come
16 back in the spring and tell us what they found
17 out. I don't think we should just be throwing
18 our money out the window, like most people would
19 like us to do. Give them the six months. Our
20 housing isn't going to go crashing through the
21 floor in six months. Let them work, let them
22 absorb what's in the study and come back and
23 tell us what they find. Vote yes on this.

24 **THE MODERATOR:** Thank you, Mr.

1 Krueger. Mr. Delloiacono.

2 **MR. DELLOIACONO:** Mr. Moderator,
3 thank you, town meeting members. Carmen
4 Delloiacono, Precinct 4. I'd like to just
5 clarify a couple of quick items. This article
6 is to extend the moratorium for six months, and
7 that's it. This article has nothing to do with
8 affordable housing or zoning. It is simply for
9 an extension of time. I respectfully ask you to
10 support this article and extend it six months.
11 Thank you.

12 **THE MODERATOR:** Thank you. Are there
13 any further members wishing to speak? If not,
14 we come to the vote. It's a two-thirds vote.
15 All those in favor of the original motion, that
16 the moratorium be implemented, please say aye.

17 (Aye)

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

19 (No)

20 **THE MODERATOR:** I can't tell if
21 that's a two-thirds vote, so let's go to a
22 standing vote. All those in favor of the motion
23 to extend the moratorium, please stand.

24 (Pause.)

1 through. I didn't think you folks let anything
2 through tonight.

3 Article 16. Any discussion on
4 Article 16? Mr. Polito.

5 **MR. POLITO:** I'd like to recommend
6 this article indefinitely be postponed. There's
7 a couple of reasons why. There's a committee
8 the board of selectmen is putting together to
9 review all the liquor licenses in the Town of
10 Dedham. I think there's been so many over the
11 years that have come out of these single use
12 licenses. You know, the site-specific licenses
13 in the town could pop up anywhere.

14 Another gentleman wanted to put one
15 in East Street, and I was told, you know, wait
16 until after the selectman does his survey to see
17 if we need more licenses and what they want to
18 do with them. They might want to agree, those
19 selectmen, to six licenses and make them as they
20 want, not just site-specific.

21 And the one they approved last year,
22 we approved at the town meeting last year for
23 Dedham Square, we sent a letter stating you've
24 been approved, sent back to the Town of Dedham

1 with no fee. There's a 5,000-dollar fee
2 attached to these, and the board of selectmen
3 and this legislature took the fee out. The
4 board of selectmen the last couple of weeks
5 rejected that motion saying they want the fee
6 in. So I think we should get all of this solved
7 and where that fee is going to come.

8 I don't want to give liquor licenses
9 out for nothing. I mean, they're worth money.
10 There's people who have bought liquor licenses
11 over the past years who've paid good money for
12 their licenses who plan some retirement money
13 and not going to have that now. If you can go
14 to town meeting and basically get a free license
15 with no fee. You could pay the annual fee to
16 the town, but no up front additional fee. This
17 fee of \$5,000 was going to go for the economic
18 development department.

19 Right now, the legislation turned it
20 down. But I think we should put a hold to this
21 license and come back on it next year and see
22 what the study does that the board of selectmen
23 has authorized to do and see if the town does
24 really need another liquor license in the Town

1 of Dedham. We have almost no (?) liquor
2 licenses in the area.

3 As you know, in the past year, the
4 town has done a lot of stings. The liquor
5 licenses can't control what they do now.
6 There's been ten or twelve. Every time they do
7 a sting, they're cited for serving minors. I
8 think we should put this on hold, come back next
9 year after the board of selectmen does their
10 survey and report back to town meeting. Thank
11 you.

12 **THE MODERATOR:** Thank you, Mr.
13 Polito. Mr. Hampe.

14 **MR. HAMPE:** Thank you, Mr. Moderator.
15 Keith Hampe, District 5, an attorney from
16 Winbourne, Hampe & Sheehan, and also a proponent
17 for this article. I just want to clarify a
18 couple of things and ask you to vote against
19 IP'ing this article.

20 A couple of things to clarify. There
21 has been no recommendation or request that the
22 5,000-dollar fee be waived. Ms. Menna (?) is
23 looking to simply have a beer and wine license,
24 not a liquor license for her establishment. She

1 would like to have a small selection of craft
2 beverages and fine wines to pair with her many
3 food offerings that many of her patrons enjoy.

4 Also, many of her patrons are
5 actually turned away because she does not have
6 this license. She does not have a beer and wine
7 license, and obviously, then you have to go to
8 other establishments in the area. It's a site-
9 specific license. Ms. Menna will not be able to
10 transfer this or sell it to anybody else to make
11 a profit. It stays with the property. So if
12 Ms. Menna ceases operation, the license reverts
13 back to the board of selectmen, and the board of
14 selectmen have to approve any new operator at 3
15 Eastern Ave.

16 Just to clarify, Mr. Polito's
17 comments, there was a study done by the economic
18 development director, Mr. John Sisson. It was
19 recommended that we actually go -- that the
20 board of selectmen request more than one
21 license. That was tabled, obviously, with the
22 amount of stuff that was on the docket for the
23 board of selectmen this year.

24 Just to give you some stats, Dedham

1 Square currently has only ten beer and wine
2 licenses and liquor licenses. Legacy Place has
3 11. That is right now the -- we're trying to
4 even out the balance between Dedham Square and
5 Legacy Place. And I ask you to vote against the
6 IP of this motion. Thank you.

7 **THE MODERATOR:** Thank you, Mr. Hampe.
8 Are there others wishing to speak? Ms. Haelsen.

9 **MS. HAELSEN:** Amy Haelsen, Precinct
10 6. I am also the executive director of Dedham
11 Square Circle. We did come here last year and
12 request an additional license for the Grateful
13 Dedham Diner, which is actually still in
14 process. It hasn't actually been granted from
15 the state to the town yet, but it's been there
16 over three and half years ago. It's been a
17 thriving business. It's been a wonderful
18 addition to Dedham Square, and it will help
19 supplement her business.

20 It's an economic development tool.
21 She's not looking to be a bar. It's not going
22 to be a destination where people go and hang out
23 and drink. It's simply to have another offering
24 to her many customers. Again, the 5,000-dollar

1 contribution to the economic development fund, I
2 mean, that's a pretty big investment for a small
3 business.

4 So she's thought about this long and
5 hard. She is missing some business
6 opportunities right now. There will be people
7 that come to the square, and they try to go out
8 to dinner, whether it be, you know, Café
9 Chemezzo, Deli After Dark, Oscar's or Steve's,
10 what have you, and there's a wait, and people
11 are looking for a place to go and enjoy a glass
12 of wine after the theater.

13 So I would ask that you would think
14 about this from the perspective of a small
15 business owner who's trying to continue to be
16 successful in our small downtown. There's a lot
17 of competition on Route 1 and in the outskirts.
18 So I would urge you to vote in favor of this
19 article. Thank you.

20 **THE MODERATOR:** Thank you, Ms.
21 Haelsen. Mr. Gorman.

22 **MR. GORMAN:** Thank you. Bill Gorman,
23 Precinct 7. I think Peter Zahka hasn't voted me
24 out of it yet. I think there's only ten or

1 twelve seats, is there, in the Bare Coffee Shop,
2 and then there's some outside stuff. If you
3 want a little beer or wine, you can go right
4 next door to the restaurant that used to be the
5 Mug & Muffin, or whatever it is today --

6 **THE MODERATOR:** You're really dating
7 yourself.

8 **MR. GORMAN:** I looked around the
9 room, and I figured a lot of people would
10 probably know what the Mug & Muffin was.

11 Anyway, there's a place you can go in
12 there. I hope the new -- the Grateful Dedham
13 there doesn't go. I mean, I like that as a
14 breakfast place, a sandwich place. I hope that
15 never gets a license either. But it's just too
16 bad. How many of these do we need in the small
17 little square in Dedham. I think there's plenty
18 of places to get it. Thank you. Vote no.

19 **THE MODERATOR:** Thank you. Ms.
20 Matthews.

21 **MS. MATTHEWS:** Margaret Matthews,
22 Precinct 6. I believe that if we have a license
23 across the street where Ali has a coffeehouse
24 with a beer and wine license, and we don't give

1 it to a woman business owner, frankly, that's
2 discriminatory to me. And think about it. Bill
3 just said what the problem is. If she can't
4 serve it, they'll go elsewhere, and that's not
5 what I think Dedham Square is about.

6 **THE MODERATOR:** Thank you, Ms.
7 Matthews. Are there any other --

8 **MS. McDONOUGH:** I was not expecting
9 to be dressed as a lumberjack. Anyway, I am
10 just going to echo Mr. Gorman's comments. I
11 feel like we've been here many -- at least I've
12 been here many, many years, and many of you have
13 been with me. And we have a business that's,
14 you know, designed for one use that wants to
15 expand to another.

16 We've seen it in Oakdale Square,
17 where it was a convenience store that just got a
18 beer and wine license and then expanded that to
19 get, you know, a full liquor license. We've
20 seen it in -- now, we're seeing a coffee shop
21 that also wants to expand as well.

22 I get everybody wants business
23 opportunities, but at some point, then open up a
24 different business. Why do we always have to

1 say this one is okay, this one is okay, and if
2 we don't give it to this one, then it's not
3 fair, because we gave it to him. Life is not
4 fair, and if you don't want to do that, then
5 open up a different business.

6 **THE MODERATOR:** Thank you. Mr.
7 Hampe.

8 **MR. HAMPE:** Thank you, Mr. Moderator.
9 Keith Hampe, Precinct 5, a proponent of this
10 article. Just to clarify comments, the capacity
11 of the property right now is 20. That includes
12 two employees, so 18 patrons of the property.

13 Ms. Menna does not envision this to
14 be a huge money making opportunity for her. In
15 fact, we only look at it for a ten to twenty
16 percent bump in her revenue. But again, as Mr.
17 Gorman and Ms. McDonough have echoed, it is an
18 opportunity that she is missing. She has every
19 right as a business owner to try to expand her
20 sales and to make more money.

21 She is a leasee. She's not an owner
22 of the property. And we all know that the rise
23 in rents for commercial business is in Oakdale
24 Square. She needs other revenue streams to make

1 sure that she can maintain her thriving café and
2 espresso bar. Again, it's a café and espresso
3 bar, not just a coffeehouse. So that's why she
4 would like to have the opportunity to pair wines
5 and craft beverages with her food offerings.
6 Thank you.

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

9 **MR. CIVIAN:** Move the question.

10 **THE MODERATOR:** All those in favor of
11 moving the question, say aye.

12 (Aye)

13 **THE MODERATOR:** Opposed, no. It's a
14 two-thirds vote. The original motion is that it
15 be so voted. That would require a two-thirds
16 vote, because we're changing -- no. There were
17 no requests for change. That would require a
18 majority vote.

19 The amendment would also require a
20 majority vote. So a yes vote is a vote to
21 indefinitely postpone, in other words, to turn
22 down this article. That's a yes vote of this
23 first motion. You have a point of order, I
24 think, Mr. Civian.

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MR. CIVIAN: I do. I wondered if there's a substitute motion.

THE MODERATOR: There is. Mr. Polito made it at the microphone that it be indefinitely postponed.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No one seconded it, and we're going to vote now.

THE MODERATOR: Well, we're voting on it now. That's how it works.

MR. CIVIAN: So yes means no? I'm ready for it. I could handle that.

THE MODERATOR: Wait a minute, I'm got whispering in my ear over here from the brain trust.

The amendment gets voted first on any -- on the consideration of any article. In this case, the amendment is that it be indefinitely postponed. If you're in favor of an indefinite postponement, if you do not want the liquor license to go there, you should vote yes, as you're voting yes against, keep it out. Is that clear? The motion before you is don't do it. Do you agree with don't doing it, vote yes. If you don't agree with don't doing it, vote no.

1 I'm running out of ways to explain this.
2 However, if there are still questions, tell me
3 what you want to do, and I'll tell you how to
4 vote. How's that?

5 **MR. CIVIAN:** Mr. Moderator.

6 **THE MODERATOR:** Mr. Civian.

7 **MR. CIVIAN:** I'd like Tom Polito to
8 withdraw his motion so we can just vote this
9 thing up or down. His motion confused me.

10 **THE MODERATOR:** Mr. Polito has made
11 an amendment, and he's entitled to do that, so
12 that's what we're voting on.

13 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Was it
14 seconded?

15 **THE MODERATOR:** Yes, it was seconded.
16 So all in favor of Mr. Polito's position, which
17 is that the liquor license not be granted, no
18 liquor license -- if you're in favor of no
19 liquor license, say yes.

20 (Yes)

21 **THE MODERATOR:** If you are opposed to
22 Mr. Polito's motion, say no.

23 (No)

24 **THE MODERATOR:** The no's have it.

1 The amendment fails. The vote comes on the
2 original motion that it be so voted. All in
3 favor, say aye -- this is a vote for the liquor
4 license -- aye.

5 (Aye)

6 **THE MODERATOR:** Opposed.

7 (No)

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

9 Hold on. Ms. Palumbo.

10 **MS. PALUMBO:** Mr. Moderator, I'd like
11 you to reconsider the vote for Article 6.

12 **THE MODERATOR:** It's been moved that
13 we reconsider the vote on Article 6, which is
14 the Manor Fields article. The motion for
15 reconsideration -- which I admit, we don't get
16 many of, but we do get them -- the motion for
17 reconsideration, having been made within one
18 hour of the original vote, requires a simple
19 majority to reconsider. So what you're voting
20 on right now is do we reconsider what we did
21 previously.

22 **UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE:** This is the one
23 we did the roll call?

24 **THE MODERATOR:** Yes, it is. It's the

1 Manor Fields article we did the roll call on,
2 that's right. Mr. Delloiacono.

3 **MR. DELLOIACONO:** It's 11:19. I feel
4 that may have been more than an hour.

5 **THE MODERATOR:** Ms. Palumbo, how did
6 you vote on that original? How did you vote the
7 first time around?

8 **MS. PALUMBO:** Voted no.

9 **THE MODERATOR:** You voted no.

10 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** She has no
11 standing.

12 **THE MODERATOR:** So this has been a
13 night on seasonal firsts. So here's the rules
14 on reconsideration. If reconsideration was done
15 by a voice vote or a standing vote, then anybody
16 can move reconsideration. If reconsideration is
17 done by roll call, though, then only a person
18 who voted on the winning side can ask for
19 reconsideration.

20 **MS. GOLDBERG:** Mr. Moderator, if I
21 may. I just wanted to make sure that people
22 understood. The way that the moderator
23 explained it before, one way of calculating the
24 two-thirds vote, it appeared it passed exactly

1 by two-thirds.

2 The other way of calculating a two-
3 thirds vote, and I know that sounds silly, it
4 loses by one vote. So if we want to be sure
5 about what the vote is, then there would be
6 another vote. A motion to reconsider, you would
7 vote yes, and then you would have that question
8 right back in front of you again as though it
9 was three hours ago and we were still talking
10 about Article 6.

11 If it's left how it is, then it will
12 be up to bond counsel to decide whether it was
13 actually a two-thirds vote, and in my
14 experience, bond counsel is very conservative.
15 We can make the argument. We can explain how
16 the vote went. But that's not a guarantee that
17 bond counsel will agree that it's a two-thirds
18 vote. So again, it was one vote. If it was
19 149, we wouldn't be talking about this right
20 now, but it was 148. So that's why we're having
21 this conversation.

22 **THE MODERATOR:** Thank you.

23 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** We have a
24 quorum. Does everyone want to come back on

1 Tuesday to start this whole thing all over
2 again?

3 **THE MODERATOR:** No. We wouldn't have
4 to come back. If reconsideration passes, we'd
5 do the reconsideration right now, and then we
6 would dissolve the town meeting.

7 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** I question the
8 quorum.

9 **THE MODERATOR:** Here's the thing,
10 once a -- first of all, somebody who voted yes
11 has to ask for reconsideration.

12 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** So what you're
13 saying right now is because Ms. Palumbo voted
14 no, she cannot ask for reconsideration; is that
15 correct?

16 **THE MODERATOR:** That's correct.

17 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** So if no one
18 asks for reconsideration who voted yes, it just
19 goes, and we will deal with how it comes out
20 after that, correct, the original vote?

21 **THE MODERATOR:** The vote that was
22 taken that stands, and then because of the
23 technicalities of two-thirds, the bond counsel
24 will determine whether the vote is sufficient,

1 and if the bond counsel does not, then the Parks
2 and Recreation Commission would have to bring it
3 up at a future town meeting, assuming they still
4 want the project to be done.

5 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Thank you for
6 the clarification.

7 **THE MODERATOR:** So it's my ruling
8 that this was done less than an hour ago. Is
9 there some serious objection to that? Did
10 somebody document that it was more than an hour
11 ago. I do not believe it was more than an hour
12 ago.

13 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Mr. Moderator,
14 I got a text from my daughter's phone. At 9:45,
15 someone asked to move the question, and I
16 believe the speaker after that moved the
17 question.

18 **THE MODERATOR:** So you believe we
19 stopped at 9:45?

20 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Yes.

21 **UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE:** If we're going
22 by that measure, I sent a text to my family
23 saying the matter is going to a vote at 10:31.

24 **THE MODERATOR:** 10:31. Ms. ?, your

1 text said it's going to a vote, so the vote
2 hadn't been done yet.

3 **UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE:** Excuse me. Why
4 does the time matter, if she's a no, and she
5 can't ask for a new vote?

6 **THE MODERATOR:** Okay, folks, let's
7 everybody take a deep breath. If you want to
8 speak, you go to the microphone, and you ask to
9 be recognized.

10 **UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE:** My text was
11 saying the matter is going to be on the town
12 ballot in April. It has been voted here, and
13 it's going to the ballot.

14 **THE MODERATOR:** It has been voted at
15 10:30, okay. In answer to your question, ma'am,
16 we need to know what the quantum of the vote
17 would be in case somebody on the yes side stands
18 up and moves for reconsideration. Obviously,
19 we're not going to sit here very long waiting
20 for that. So there being no motion to
21 reconsider -- yes, Mr. Heaslip.

22 **MR. HEASLIP:** Move to adjourn.

23 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS:** Second.

24 **THE MODERATOR:** It has been moved by

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Mr. Heaslip and seconded by -- that the fall
2019 annual town meeting be dissolved. All
those in favor, please say aye.

(Aye)

MR. MODERATOR: Opposed, no. Good
night and God bless.

(Whereupon, the meeting was adjourned
at 11:25 p.m.)

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 10th day of December 2019.

Arlene R. Boyer, CVR
Notary Public

My Commission Expires
November 21, 2025