



***Town of Nantucket***  
***2023 Annual Town Meeting***

***Nantucket High School***  
***Mary P. Walker Auditorium***  
***Saturday, May 6, 2023 – 8:30 am***

***The Voter's Guide to***  
***Warrant Articles***

## INTRODUCTION

*Greetings, Nantucket Voter!  
And welcome to the 2023 Annual Town Meeting.*

Warrant articles are written to conform to the language of various Laws and Codes and are crafted to accomplish intended administrative and legal purposes. The language is necessarily technical and does not always allow the articles to be easily understood. This Guide provides an easy-to-understand overview of the warrant articles; it explains the objective(s) of an article and how the article would realize those objectives.

The Guide takes no position on any article. It is meant for informational purposes only and is not legally binding. There will likely be Technical Amendments to Motions that arise after the warrant goes to print. Those amendments are not covered in this Guide. They will be addressed as one of the first orders of business at the beginning of Town Meeting.

Also not covered are citizen-sponsored articles, except in unusual circumstances. For the 2023 Annual Town Meeting, we have not addressed any citizen articles in this document. Citizen sponsors are expected to represent their own articles and sponsors often make handouts available at the handout table in the lobby. The articles discussed in this guide have been written by Town Boards, Committees, Town staff and Town Counsel.

Voters vote on the MOTION to an article. See the Town Moderator's [Nantucket Town Meeting Traditions and Procedures](#) booklet (available at the handout table) for details on voting, amendments and other procedures.

In case you wondered...How are motions and recommendations developed for Town Meeting warrant articles?

-- In the fall, the warrant for the Annual Town Meeting “opens” to citizen petitions - usually mid-October to mid-November. During this “open” period, citizens are encouraged to meet with Town Counsel if they have ideas about a potential article. Multiple sessions are scheduled to help citizens craft their language to accomplish their intended purpose. Nantucket is one of the Commonwealth’s few towns to offer its citizens this service.

-- Several other groups expend considerable effort reviewing and preparing financial and other articles for Town Meeting: the Planning Board, the Community Preservation Committee, the Real Estate Assessment Committee, the Health and Human Services Contract Review Committee, the Finance Committee, the Capital Program Committee,

and the Enterprise Funds: Airport Commission, Nantucket Board of Water Commission, Our Island Home, Sewer, Solid Waste, and finally the Select Board.

-- In September, the **Capital Program Committee** (CapCom) begins its review of all General Fund and Enterprise Fund capital project requests. (CapCom is a 7-member group comprised of at-large citizens appointed by the Select Board, plus representatives from the Finance Committee, Nantucket Planning and Economic Development Commission, and Select Board.) CapCom typically meets once a week through December. Every department submitting request(s) attends at least one meeting, and often several. All meetings are posted and open to the public.

-- In December, the **Finance Committee** (FinCom) begins its comprehensive review of all warrant articles (FinCom is a 9-member group appointed by the Select Board). From December through early-March the Committee meets 1-2 times a week. Department Heads, Committee Chairs, and citizen sponsors all speak before the FinCom to represent their articles. All meetings are posted and open to the public; many are public hearings where citizens are encouraged to attend and ask questions.

-- During January and February and often into March, the **Planning Board** holds public hearings on both citizen and Board-sponsored zoning articles. All meetings are posted and open; many are public hearings where citizens are encouraged to attend and ask questions.

-- Except for zoning articles, each article on the warrant has a Finance Committee Motion. Zoning articles have Planning Board Motions. There also may be Comments to various articles by the Planning Board, Finance Committee or Select Board. This Guide does not address their Comments.

On to the Guide...

### *Article 1 – Receipt of Reports*

Article 1 follows the State law (Chapter 40, s. 49) that requires the Select Board to provide an Annual Town Report. The Report contains the reports of specific (and other) agencies and departments of the Town. The Annual Town Report is typically published just before the Annual Town Meeting and covers the activities of the Town departments for the prior Fiscal Year. A copy of the Fiscal Year 2022 Annual Town Report is on the handout table. Fiscal Year 2022 is July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022.

**The Finance Committee’s Motion is positive.**

### *Article 2 – Appropriation: Unpaid Bills*

With few exceptions, Massachusetts municipalities are not legally allowed to pay bills from prior fiscal years in the current fiscal year without the approval of Town Meeting. “Unpaid bills” are generally bills which arrived after the close of a fiscal year, were inadvertently not paid, or could not be paid for budgetary or other reasons in the fiscal year within which they were incurred.

**The Finance Committee’s Motion is positive. The funding source is Free Cash (defined in the Glossary herein) for the General Fund bills, Current Year Budgets or Retained Earnings (see Glossary) for the Enterprise Fund bills.**

### *Article 3 – Appropriation: Prior Year Articles*

From time to time, previously approved capital projects are completed “under budget”. In such cases, Town Meeting can re-appropriate the remaining funds to other eligible projects. If the original funding was borrowed, leftover funds may only be re-appropriated for projects of similar type to the project for which the original borrowing was incurred. If the original funding was not borrowed, the funding may be re-appropriated to any other project or funding source (for example, Free Cash or Stabilization Fund).

**The Finance Committee’s Motion is to re-appropriate numerous prior year unexpended articles for numerous purposes. Please refer to the item included in the warrant for Article 3.**

**This article is not expected to have an impact on the tax rate.**

### *Article 4 – Revolving Accounts: Spending Limits for FY 2024 (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024)*

A revolving account receives revenue generated by a particular activity which is used to pay for items related to that activity. These accounts operate outside of the General Fund. For example, the Town’s Beach Improvement Revolving Account receives revenue from the sale of beach driving permits. Those proceeds are then used for expenses such as printing and purchasing

beach stickers and maps, beach signage and fencing, police beach patrols, and all-terrain vehicle expenses.

Town Meeting sets an annual Spending Limit on each revolving account; this limit is based on a historical review of past years' spending. Each revolving account is listed in the Finance Committee's Motion.

**The Finance Committee's Motion is positive and sets forth the Spending Limit for each account for the coming Fiscal Year.**

*Article 5 – Appropriation: Reserve Fund*

The Town, under Massachusetts General Law, can make appropriations by a vote of Town Meeting to a Reserve Fund – available by law for “extraordinary or unforeseen expenditures” that may arise during the year. Money available in the Reserve Fund may be accessed only through a vote of the Finance Committee and any such appropriation may not exceed five percent of the prior year's tax levy. Five percent of the prior year (FY 23 tax levy was \$100,597,483) would be \$5,029,875.

**The Finance Committee's Motion is to appropriate \$500,000 for the FY 2024 Reserve Fund.**

*Article 6 – Fiscal Year 2023 (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023) General Fund Budget Transfers*

Transfers of funds between different departments and within a specific department's budget, including between the “salary” and “other expense” categories, requires a vote of Town Meeting. Near the end of a fiscal year, such transfers afford the Town flexibility to adjust (or “true up”) the budget to fund remaining departmental needs as the Fiscal Year draws to a close. This Article will “true up” department budgets using already appropriated funds. There is no impact on the taxpayer.

**The Finance Committee's Motion is positive and utilizes funding already appropriated at the 2022 Annual Town Meeting.**

*Article 7 – Personnel Compensation Plans for Fiscal Year 2024 (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024)*

This Article seeks approval of the compensation schedules for positions outside of collective bargaining units, or without employment contracts, or otherwise not covered by the Town's personnel policies. The Article primarily lays out employee compensation schedules for *per diem* (“by the day”) employees, seasonal and temporary employees, as well as elected officials. Funding for the positions listed is contained within various departmental budgets.

**The Finance Committee’s Motion is positive.**

*Article 8 – Appropriation: Fiscal Year 2024 (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024)*

*General Fund Operating Budget*

Article 8 asks the Town Meeting to approve a General Fund operating budget for Town departments and agencies. The proposed expenditures are detailed in the Finance Committee’s Motion. Of note in the General Fund operating budget is additional funding for several new positions including two Facilities Technicians in the Facilities Division of the Department of Public Works (DPW), an administrative position in the Central Fleet Division of the DPW; four Lieutenants in the Fire Department; a Deputy Harbormaster in the Marine Department; a Senior Planner position in the Planning and Land Use Services (PLUS) Department; establishing a Communications Division within Town Administration and funding for an updated Information Technology Assessment and Strategic Plan. These additional amounts are in support of Select Board Strategic Plan goals of Efficient Town Operations, Environmental Leadership and Quality of Life. The FY 2024 General Fund operating budget, which is balanced and is within the projected revenues of the Town, is proposed to increase by 10.15% over FY 2023.

The tax rate is not expected to increase as a result of this budget.

**The Finance Committee’s Motion is positive.**

*Article 9 – Appropriation: Health and Human Services*

Each year, the Town of Nantucket executes grant agreements with non-profit agencies to provide various health and human services to island residents. The Town has accorded importance to this appropriation and provided it for over 20 years. This appropriation provides needed services without expansion of Town departments and personnel in fields that are not considered municipal services.

There is a specific process in place for agencies to seek an allocation of the available funding. A rigorous review process, managed by the Town’s Human Services Contract Review Committee, evaluates agencies’ goals and funding requests each year. The Committee’s annual recommendations are typically reviewed and endorsed by the Select Board before the Finance Committee’s consideration. Following Town Meeting approval, grant agreements are executed with each agency. The agreements contain reporting and other oversight provisions meant to ensure proper use of the funds. The tax rate is not expected to increase because of this article.

For FY 2024, the allocation was level-funded at \$650,000. An additional \$175,000 from a Special Stabilization Fund for Substance Abuse Efforts is recommended for allocation. The additional funding is generated from the local share of the retail marijuana tax and Community Benefit Agreements with the marijuana dispensaries.

**The Finance Committee’s Motion is positive.**

**Stabilization Fund appropriations require a quantum vote of two-thirds.**

*Article 10 – Appropriation: General Fund Capital Expenditures*

Capital expenditures are “big-ticket” items meant to last five years or longer. The Town Code (Chapter 11, section 12.2 A and B) defines them as:

“A. A capital expenditure is a non-recurring expenditure for land, buildings and/or building improvements having a useful life equaling or exceeding 10 years, or an expenditure for municipal infrastructure and equipment having a useful life equaling or exceeding five years.”

“B. Furthermore, capital expenditures must have aggregate direct and indirect costs, even if expended in multiple fiscal years, equaling or exceeding a dollar amount to be hereafter set forth by the Capital Program Committee. Any change in the dollar amount must have a two-thirds majority vote by the Committee. Furthermore, \$50,000 is to be established as the initial amount until otherwise set forth in accordance with this article.”

The Town’s annual capital project review process begins in August or earlier. Proposed projects are reviewed by: Town Administration, the Select Board, the Capital Program Committee, and the Finance Committee. Capital projects are generally funded by: 1) the General Fund and/or other available funds, 2) the re-appropriation of funds, 3) Free Cash or 4) Borrowing. Borrowing requires a two-thirds vote of Town Meeting, and subsequent approval by the voters at an election if it requires a debt or capital exclusion.

Several items this year totaling \$970,000 are contingent upon a Capital Outlay Exclusion to be put before the voters at the Annual Town Election on May 23, 2023.

**The Finance Committee’s Motion is positive for the proposed projects and funding sources. If the capital exclusion (vehicles and equipment) is approved by the voters at Town Meeting and Town Election, the annual tax bill for a year-round property valued at \$1,688,790 and which qualifies for a residential exemption will increase by approximately \$31.31 for just one year.**

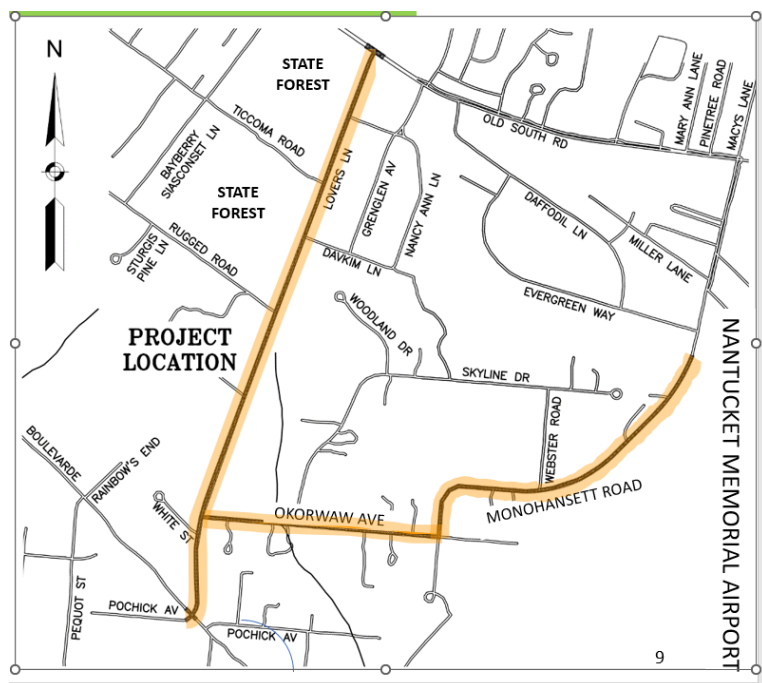
**In summary, funding sources for the \$17,732,044 of capital projects would be as follows:**

<b>\$3,183,044</b>	<b>FY 23 Tax Levy and Other General Revenues (<i>Contingent upon Capital Outlay Exclusion</i>)</b>
<b>\$8,574,000</b>	<b>Free Cash</b>
<b><u>\$5,975,000</u></b>	<b><u>Borrowing</u></b>
<b>\$17,732,044</b>	<b>Total</b>

**Borrowing funds requires a quantum vote of two-thirds.**

*Article 11 – Supplemental Appropriation: Surfside Area Roads Reconstruction and Transportation Improvements*

Article 11 seeks to borrow \$13,000,000 contingent upon a Debt Exclusion at the May 23, 2023, Annual Town Election, to make transportation (roadway/side path) and drainage improvements to Lover’s Lane, Okorwaw Avenue, and Monohansett Road in support of the Select Board’s Strategic Plan Transportation Focus Area with a goal to provide infrastructure to encourage a shift in the mode of transportation from driving to other modes. This article further supports the Efficient Town Operations Focus Area by reconstructing and improving municipal infrastructure. Finally, the article also supports the Quality of Life Focus Area by providing residents and visitors with approximately 2.4 miles of safe and convenient side path access to the State Forest, the Airport, and between Old South Road and Surfside Road. This is supplemental to the \$3,272,892 appropriated in Article 12 of the 2021 Annual Town Meeting for Reconstruction of Lover’s Lane.



**The Finance Committee’s Motion is positive. The tax rate impact of an affirmative vote at Annual Town Meeting and Annual Town Election will mean the annual tax bill for a year-round property valued at \$1,688,790 and which qualifies for a residential exemption will increase by approximately \$30.90 annually for 20 years.**

**Borrowing funds requires a quantum vote of two-thirds.**



*Article 12 – Supplemental Appropriation: Town Pier Improvements*

This is a request to appropriate \$2,580,000 by borrowing. The funding supplements the \$4,500,000 appropriation that was approved at the 2020 Annual Town Meeting and subsequent Town Election. The Town Pier improvement project was delayed for several years due permitting issues at the Federal and State level. During this permitting delay period, labor and raw material costs for these types of marine sector projects skyrocketed. Acknowledging the anticipated cost increases, the Town bid out this project in four project phases. Funding was sufficient to complete two of the project phases which were the wave barrier extension and structural repairs to the timber pier. This supplemental appropriation will allow the Town to complete the remaining two phases which will replace the floating dock system in its entirety as well as replace and improve the electrical service, water and vessel sewer pump-out piping for the entire Town Pier.

The tax rate is not expected to increase as a result of the borrowing.

**The Finance Committee’s Motion is positive.**

**Borrowing funds requires a quantum vote of two-thirds.**

*Article 13 – Supplemental Appropriation: Landfill Closure Costs*

Article 13 seeks an override for additional funding to close and cap cells 1A, B, and C and cells 2A and B of the Town’s landfill. Initial funding of \$14,000,000 was appropriated under Article 14 of the 2019 Annual Town Meeting and subsequently approved at the 2019 Annual Town Election. Closure of the cells has been delayed due to regulatory uncertainty, potential PFAS concerns and inflation. The new estimate has been provided by the landfill operator and an external consultant. This article seeks a supplemental appropriation to borrow \$5,000,000 contingent upon a Debt Exclusion at the May 23, 2023 Annual Town Election.

**The Finance Committee’s Motion is positive. The tax rate impact of an affirmative vote at Annual Town Meeting and Annual Town Election will mean the annual tax bill for a year-round property valued at \$1,688,790 and which qualifies for a residential exemption will increase by approximately \$11.73 for 20 years.**

**Borrowing funds requires a quantum vote of two-thirds.**

*Article 14 – Supplemental Appropriation: Wauwinet Road Shared Use Path*

This is a request to appropriate \$4,600,100 by borrowing, contingent upon a Debt Exclusion at the May 23, 2023 Annual Town Election, for a shared-use path along Wauwinet Road in support of the Select Board’s Strategic Planning Goal to shift the commuter mode of choice from driving to using other modes of transportation. A shared-use path between Polpis Road and the Gate House at the end of Wauwinet Road would safely accommodate pedestrians and bicyclists as

they traverse along our local roads while respecting the historical setting of our community. The Town has received federal grant funding to offset the cost of the project.

**The Finance Committee’s Motion is positive. The tax rate impact of an affirmative vote at Annual Town Meeting and Annual Town Election will mean the annual tax bill for a year-round property valued at \$1,688,790 and which qualifies for a residential exemption will increase by approximately \$10.81 for 20 years.**

**Borrowing funds requires a quantum vote of two-thirds.**

*Article 15 – Appropriation: Nobadeer Playing Fields Complex – Field Addition; Associated Renovations to Adjacent Fields; Site Enhancements*

This is a request to appropriate \$3,800,000 by borrowing, contingent upon a Debt Exclusion at the May 23, 2023 Annual Town Election, to construct a third natural grass multi-use field and renovate the two existing natural grass fields at the Nobadeer Athletic Fields. This is phase one of the Parks and Recreation Master plan in support of the Select Board’s Strategic Planning Efficient Town Operations Focus Area as well as the Quality-of-Life Focus Area related to maintaining and improving municipal infrastructure.

**The Finance Committee’s Motion is positive. The tax rate impact of an affirmative vote at Annual Town Meeting and Annual Town Election will mean the annual tax bill for a year-round property valued at \$1,688,790 and which qualifies for a residential exemption will increase by approximately \$8.87 for 20 years.**

**Borrowing funds requires a quantum vote of two-thirds.**

*Article 16 – Supplemental Appropriation: Miacomet Pond Dredging*

This is a request to appropriate \$4,000,000 by borrowing, to dredge Miacomet Pond for water quality and recreational purposes. The funding is expected to be offset by contributions from the Land Bank and Nantucket Pond Coalition. The tax rate is not expected to increase as a result of the borrowing.

Miacomet Pond is currently not meeting water quality standards for swimming, boating, and fishing due to high Total Phosphorous (TP) and high Total Nitrogen (TN) levels, dense submerged aquatic vegetation and invasive phragmites. A study conducted in 2017 examined nutrient inputs to the Pond from surrounding sources (e.g., surface water, groundwater) and in-situ sources (sediments), with results determining that both these sources were contributing phosphorous to the Pond, which has resulted in significant algal and aquatic vegetation problems. The study recommended a combination of dredging and phosphorous inactivation with aluminum to control cyanobacteria and rooted aquatic plants. This project will focus on removal of nutrient laden sediment through dredging. The Town feels that improving this water body to

have swimmable water, decrease the potential for harmful algal blooms and improve the overall aesthetic of the pond is an important goal for the Town's pond management program.

**The Finance Committee's Motion is positive.**

**Borrowing funds requires a quantum vote of two-thirds.**

*Article 17 – Amend Description of Public Works Facility Improvements Design Location*

Following the affirmative vote on Article 16 of the 2018 Annual Town Meeting to appropriate funds for the design of an improved Public Works facility at 188 Madaket Road, and after the Town had begun to look at what it would take to improve the facility at 188 Madaket Road (excluding the solid waste facility), the Coastal Resiliency Plan (CRP) was issued and endorsed by the Select Board (in 2022). The CRP and also sea level rise projections indicate that Madaket, west from the current Public Works facility site, will be increasingly vulnerable to water infiltration in the foreseeable future. As a result, the Town turned its attention to inland areas of Town-owned property. The site at 10 Sun Island Road, under the jurisdiction of the Airport is a sufficiently sized, centrally located site to accommodate a new and improved facility. While conceptual design is underway, in order to properly utilize the existing funding, the scope of the article needs to be exact. As an aside, the Town will hold informational sessions for abutters as this project progresses. There is no cost impact with this article.

**The Finance Committee's Motion is positive.**

**Borrowing funds requires a quantum vote of two-thirds.**

*Article 18 – Appropriation: Affordable Housing Trust Fund*

Article 18 is a permanent override seeking to provide ongoing annual funding of \$6,500,000 for the creation and preservation of affordable year-round housing on Nantucket. This appropriation will allow for the development of rental property locations which will count toward the state 10% affordability requirement as well as provide the necessary funding to initiate robust ownership programs. This funding and the associated intended uses are in furtherance of the Select Board's Strategic Plan Housing goals to address the Island's year-round housing crisis both in rental and homeownership opportunities.

**The Finance Committee's Motion is positive. An affirmative vote at Town Meeting and Town Election will mean that the annual tax bill for an average year-round property valued at \$1,688,790 and qualifies for a residential exemption will increase by approximately \$211.30.**

*Article 19 – Renewal of Board of Health Septic System Betterment Loan Program*

This Article seeks to borrow \$2,000,000 from the Commonwealth/State. The funds borrowed will then be loaned to property owners – through an established program with the Board of Health – to repair, replace and/or upgrade their septic systems. All costs associated with the loan program will be borne by the property owners.

**The Finance Committee’s Motion is positive.**

**Borrowing funds requires a quantum vote of two-thirds.**

*Article 20 – Establish and Appropriate: Storm Water Enterprise Fund*

This Article seeks to establish a new enterprise fund within the Town, focused on storm water. The Town’s storm water infrastructure needs to be upgraded, installed, mapped and maintained. The intent is that the enterprise fund would eventually be funded through fees obtained from storm water permitting. This initial appropriation will allow for the establishment of a dedicated storm water division within the Sewer Department. The tax rate is not expected to increase as a result of the Article.

**The Finance Committee’s Motion is positive.**

*Article 21 – Appropriation: Enterprise Funds Operations*

Under Massachusetts General Law, Enterprise Funds are intended to fund their operations through user fees and other self-generated revenue. Enterprise Funds are subsidized by the General Fund when Enterprise Fund revenue does not cover the Enterprise operations. The Town of Nantucket currently has five Enterprise Funds (if Article 20 passes, there will be six):

- Nantucket Memorial Airport
- Our Island Home\*
- Sewer
- Solid Waste\*
- Water Department

*\*Has required a General Fund subsidy since inception*

**The Finance Committee’s Motion is positive and lists the proposed General Fund subsidy(s) for each Fund where applicable. Article 21 also seeks an operating override to cover a potential revenue shortfall in the Solid Waste enterprise fund. The proposed appropriation of \$3,750,000 will explicitly be used to fund the operations of the Solid Waste enterprise from the Town’s tax levy and general revenues. If this override passes, the Town’s ability to raise revenue to support the operations of the Solid Waste enterprise will be permanent. Question 7 on the election ballot addresses this item. An affirmative vote at**

**Town Meeting and Town Election will mean that the annual tax bill for an average year-round property valued at \$1,688,790 and qualifies for a residential exemption will increase by approximately \$121.76.**

*Article 22 – Appropriation: Enterprise Funds Capital Expenditures*

Proposed Enterprise Fund capital projects follow the same review process as General Fund capital projects. Most Enterprise Fund capital projects are funded by that fund's Retained Earnings, or, more typically, through a borrowing (requiring a two-thirds vote of Town Meeting). Any such debt is repaid over time from the Enterprise Fund's operating budget. If the debt service for a particular project is beyond what the Enterprise Fund can reasonably generate, the Town will seek approval of the voters for a debt exclusion at an election. In certain circumstances, the Town may use Free Cash to fund the capital expense. The tax rate is not expected to increase as a result of these projects.

**The Finance Committee's Motion is positive, and Article 22 lists the proposed projects and funding sources.**

*Article 23 – Enterprise Funds: Fiscal Year 2023 (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023)  
Budget Transfers*

This article is similar to Article 6 (General Fund Budget Transfers). It authorizes transfers of funds between salaries and expenses or additional funding from another source, and requires a vote of Town Meeting.

**The Finance Committee's Motion is positive.**

*Article 24 – Appropriation: Waterways Improvement Fund*

The Town of Nantucket is entitled to establish a Waterways Improvement Fund, into which it may deposit income derived from mooring permit sales, rental of Town Pier slips, and the Town's share of boat excise taxes. Appropriations from the fund must be for waterways-related purposes and require a vote of Town Meeting. Annually, applicable projects and some personnel costs are budgeted from the Waterways Fund. For FY 2024, Article 24 would authorize the Town to spend money on the regular annual items.

**The Finance Committee's Motion is positive to appropriate \$367,000 from the fund for FY 2024.**

*Article 25 – Appropriation: Ambulance Reserve Fund*

Receipts from the Town's ambulance service are deposited into this fund, and expenditures made from this fund support the ambulance service. That support includes supplies, equipment, and

personnel costs for up to seven full-time firefighter/EMT positions and/or paramedic positions, and the periodic replacement of ambulances.

**The Finance Committee’s Motion is positive to appropriate \$806,669 from the Fund for FY 2024.**

*Article 26 – Appropriation: Ferry Embarkation Fee*

The Town’s share of the 50-cent ferry ticket surcharge has been approximately \$200,000 annually. Since initiation of this fee, the Town has used the funds for seasonal law enforcement through the Police Department budget. Each year Town Meeting must appropriate the funds. The Fiscal Year 2024 appropriation will be used again for seasonal law enforcement and is in-line with the projected receipts.

**The Finance Committee’s Motion is positive to appropriate \$200,000 for seasonal law enforcement purposes for FY 2024.**

*Article 27 – Appropriation: County Assessment*

The County Assessment is an amount that Nantucket County charges its one (and only) Town for the County’s rather limited services to the Town. The assessment covers a portion of expenses for the Registry of Deeds and for legal services, professional services, and other expenses associated with County Administration items. This Article will not increase the tax rate.

**The Finance Committee’s Motion is positive to appropriate \$179,075 for the FY 2024 County Assessment.**

*Article 28 – Appropriation: Finalizing Fiscal Year 2024 (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024) County Budget*

Article 28 is included in the warrant in the unlikely event that the Finance Committee, acting as the County Review Committee, votes a denial of all or part of the proposed County budget. (This has never happened since the enactment of the County Charter.) With this article, the County Commissioners could seek such a denial to be overturned by Town Meeting.

**The Finance Committee’s Motion is to take no action, since the County budget of \$179,075 was approved by the County Review Committee as presented.**

*Article 29 – Rescind Unused Borrowing Authority*

Cities, towns, and districts may rescind or reduce borrowing authorizations to the extent that no liabilities have been incurred and/or where projects have been completed under budget. Numerous borrowings are proposed to be rescinded for Airport projects that are either completed or not proceeding.

**The Finance Committee’s Motion is to approve the proposed rescissions as listed in the Motion.**

*Article 30 – Appropriation: Other Post-Employment Benefits Trust Fund*

The most common type of post-employment benefit is a pension. Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) include health insurance and dental, vision, prescription or other healthcare benefits provided to eligible retirees, and, possibly, their beneficiaries; and certain types of life insurance. The Town currently funds the costs for OPEB as part of the operating budget, but actuarial studies suggest that these costs will rise significantly in future years. The appropriation under Article 30 is intended to anticipate these future costs by setting aside money in a trust fund for meeting future OPEB obligations.

Funding this trust fund annually is a prudent financial practice that improves the Town’s credit rating. This will be the ninth year that the Town has opted to make this appropriation. The tax rate is not expected to increase as a result of this Article.

**The Finance Committee’s Motion is positive to appropriate \$500,000 from the FY 2024 tax levy.**

*Article 31 – Appropriation for FY 2024 Senior Work-off Program*

The senior work-off program allows eligible senior citizens to work in various Town departments. The maximum each senior is allowed to work is 100 hours in a calendar year. The money earned by the seniors is applied to their real estate tax bill. This program has been valuable to both the Town and the seniors. The program has allowed eligible seniors to gain credits toward their tax bills through work, while allowing the Town to benefit from their experience and expertise. This year, funds are needed to support the program. The tax rate is not expected to increase as a result of this Article.

**The Finance Committee’s Motion is positive to transfer \$25,000 from the Overlay Surplus Account.**

*Article 32 – Appropriation for Special Purpose Stabilization Fund for Airport Employee Accrued Liabilities*

This Stabilization Fund was authorized at the 2017 Annual Town Meeting, with an initial appropriation of \$200,000. It is intended to cover accrued liabilities for compensated absences (e.g., accrued unused vacation and sick days) owed to Airport employees upon termination of Airport employment.

**The Finance Committee’s Motion is to take no action.**

*Article 33 – Appropriation for Special Purpose Stabilization Fund for Town Employee Accrued Liabilities*

This Stabilization Fund was authorized at the 2018 Annual Town Meeting, without an initial appropriation. As with Article 32, it is intended to cover accrued liabilities for compensated absences (e.g., accrued unused vacation and sick days) owed to Town employees upon termination of Town employment. This year, there is no proposed appropriation; however, that was not known until after the warrant was published.

**The Finance Committee’s Motion is to take no action.**

*Article 34 – Community Preservation Committee: FY 2024 Appropriation*

The Community Preservation Committee (CPC) is a municipal group that recommends annual expenditures for allowed purposes. Community Preservation funds are received through a three percent surcharge on Nantucket property owners’ tax bills plus a state funded “match.” The funds received may be spent only on projects in the statutory categories of: Open Space Conservation/Recreation, Historic Preservation, Community Housing, as well as administrative expenses of the CPC. The appropriation recommendations are for new and/or continuing projects for FY 2024. The appropriation will have no impact on the tax rate.

**The Finance Committee’s Motion is positive.**

*Articles 35-36* – These are citizen-sponsored articles and not explained here, as noted in the Introduction to this Guide.

It should be noted that for any citizen articles that seek an appropriation, there is no funding source identified and none of these are contained within the Town’s proposed FY 2024 spending plan.

*Articles 37 – 69 – Zoning Articles*

These are a combination of Planning Board and citizen-sponsored zoning articles. All have Planning Board Motions (and some Planning Board Comments) and Finance Committee Comments.

The Planning Board Report (at the end of the Warrant) provides an overall explanation of these articles along with a Glossary of Terms related to zoning articles. In addition, a zoning district comparison between the years 2005 and 2022 indicates how the percentage of the land area of the island within each district has changed over time. The Land Use Implementation Schedule contained within the Master Plan provides clear direction to the Board; and Town Meeting voters have consistently supported map change articles that further implementation. In 2005, when the Board first began the research necessary to draft the Master Plan, 8.65% of the island was in a



high density (minimum lots size of 5,000 square feet or less) zoning district and 81.75% was in a low density (minimum lot sizes of 40,000 square feet or more) zoning district. Today, 3.44% of the island is in a high-density zoning district and 86.82% is in a low-density zoning district. Progress has been achieved in many areas, but more work needs to be done to advance Master Plan goals related to phasing out certain zoning districts, matching the zoning district to the character of the area, and aligning the zoning district with the Town and Country Overlay Districts. The articles presented to you by the Planning Board in the 2023 Annual Town Meeting Warrant continue the work necessary to accomplish the land-use related goals of the Master Plan that were previously approved by Town Meeting.

*Article 70 – Bylaw Amendment: False Private Alarms*

This article will amend the Town’s false private alarm bylaw so that false fire alarms are treated using the same methodology as false intrusion (burglar) alarms. The bylaw was originally adopted in 1989 – alarm systems are much different today than they were 34 years ago. Specifically, the proposed amendments will:

- Create uniformity for the public safety dispatchers to enter data into the records management software for intrusion and fire alarm calls;
- Encourage owners of private fire alarm systems to communicate with the Fire Department before repair and service of alarms systems or general work that may affect the performance of fire alarm system;
- Require fire alarm owners to register their system with the Town so there is a current contact person who can respond to a scene, access the property and help determine the cause for a false alarm;
- Reduce the frequency of sending firefighters and apparatus to “false” alarms reducing out of service times and also reducing wear and tear on expensive fire apparatus;
- Increase the availability and reduce the response times of firefighters and apparatus to real emergencies.

**The Finance Committee’s Motion is positive.**

*Article 71 – Bylaw Amendment: Finances/Rename; Establish Revolving Account*

This article modifies the name of one revolving fund so that it accurately reflects its purpose; and, adds a revolving fund for the revenue derived from Town-owned concessions so that those funds can be used for maintenance and upkeep of the concessions that generate the revenue.

**The Finance Committee’s Motion is positive.**

### *Articles 72 – 73 Citizen Articles*

These are citizen-sponsored articles and not explained here, as noted in the Introduction to this Guide.

### *Articles 74 – 75 Bylaw Amendments: Sewer District Map Changes*

Nantucket has two sewer districts: The Town Sewer District and the Siasconset Sewer District. Proposals to add (or remove) parcels to a Sewer District undergo internal administrative review by the Health Director, Sewer Director, Director of Planning and the Town Real Estate Specialist. The review scores each parcel using specific criteria for determining if a property qualifies for inclusion, and recommendations are made to the Select Board, acting as the Board of Sewer Commissioners. Pursuant to the Nantucket Sewer Act, if the Board votes affirmatively to add the parcels, a majority vote of Town Meeting is necessary for final approval. If the Board votes not to add the parcels, a two-thirds vote of Town Meeting is required to add the parcels.

Article 74 is a Town-sponsored article. Article 75 is citizen-sponsored and went through the same review. The Select Board, acting as Sewer Commissioners, voted to endorse both articles (parcels met the required criteria). In all cases, if Town Meeting approves the requested parcels for inclusion in the sewer district, the owner(s) of the property must comply with any and all conditions of the Town prior to any sewer construction or installation. These include (but are not limited to) payment for engineering, construction, condition assessment and capacity analysis of the current and potential upgrade of the force main and/or sewer line to which the property would be connected.

**The Finance Committee Motions support the votes taken by the Select Board acting as the Sewer Commissioners.**

### *Article 76 – Citizen Article*

This citizen-sponsored article is not explained here, as noted in the Introduction to this Guide.

### *Article 77 – Acceptance of Massachusetts General Law Chapter 41, Section 110A: Voter Registration Deadline*

Massachusetts allows municipalities to “opt in” to certain laws that otherwise would not apply. The Voters Act of 2022 changed the voter registration deadline from 20 days before an election to 10 days. This means for all local elections held on a Tuesday, the voter registration deadline would be a Saturday from 9am – 5pm. Past Town Election voter registration deadlines typically fell on weekdays. Acceptance of this General Law provision would allow for the registration deadline to remain on a weekday closest to a Saturday or holiday and would save the Town the cost of opening Town offices on a holiday or weekend. There are many avenues today for people to register to vote: in person, by mail, on-line and through the Registry of Motor Vehicles.

**The Finance Committee’s Motion is positive.**

*Article 78 – Amend Declaration of Trust for Affordable Housing Trust Fund*

This article clarifies and expands the range of income levels that may be served by the Trust through clearly defining “affordable housing” as that which serves families earning less than 100% Area Median Income (AMI) and “attainable housing” as that which serves families earning up to 240% AMI. This change is necessary to allow Trust funding to be used to create new housing opportunities for families that are not currently served by any existing programs.

**The Finance Committee’s Motion is positive.**

*Article 79 – Citizen Article*

This citizen-sponsored article is not explained here, as noted in the Introduction to this Guide.

*Upcoming Home Rule Petition Articles*

*So...what’s a Home Rule Petition?*

*Massachusetts cities and towns are subject to the General Laws of the Commonwealth.*

*Sometimes though, a city or town requires special legislation (via a “Home Rule Petition”) to address a unique need or issue – perhaps an exemption (or an addition) to the law. Any such request for special legislation must first be approved by Town Meeting and then enacted by the State legislature. Thousands of Home Rule Petitions are submitted annually by Massachusetts cities and towns and years may pass before they are enacted.*

*Article 80 – Home Rule Petition: An Act Amending the Charter of the Town of Nantucket to Increase the Terms of Office for Members of the Select Board to Five Years*

The Select Board voted to include this article for the purposes of continuity of Select Board members – so that only one Board seat turns over each year. With a 5-year term, Select Board member knowledge of Town operations, projects and processes is potentially retained for a longer period than with the current three years.

**The Finance Committee’s Motion is to take no action.**

*Articles 81 – 82 Citizen Articles*

While these citizen-sponsored articles are not explained here, as noted in the Introduction to this Guide, they both relate to changing the Town’s form of government, the process for which deserves explanation. In Massachusetts, municipalities may follow one of two avenues to change their form of government:

1. Home Rule Charter
  - locally elected charter commission prepares a new (or amended) charter
  - the charter defines the structure of the local government
  - the new (or amended) charter requires approval at an annual town election
  
2. Special Municipal Legislation (Home Rule *Petition*)
  - Structural changes to the local government are approved by Town Meeting *and* the Massachusetts Legislature
  - These changes are often proposed through an appointed government study committee or work group. Nantucket's Town Code (Chapter 11, Article V) requires the constitution of a "Town Government Study Committee" every five years. The most recently constituted Committee (delayed due to the COVID pandemic) submitted recommendations in a proposed Home Rule Petition for the 2022 Annual Town Meeting (Article 78). That Home Rule Petition has not been approved by the Legislature yet and has been re-submitted to the 2023 Annual Town Meeting (Article 85).

Typically, if a significant change to a municipality's form of government is proposed, such as how the Town's local legislative body functions, there is generally at least a work group or committee to take on review and research of the options, public outreach, education and engagement. This process often takes a year or more to ensure that such a significant change has been thoroughly examined and that as much of the community as possible has been notified and included in some manner.

#### *Article 83 – Citizen Article*

This citizen-sponsored article is not explained here, as noted in the Introduction to this Guide.

#### *Article 84 – Home Rule Petition: Amendment to Nantucket Sewer Act*

This home rule petition would authorize the Select Board, acting as Sewer Commissioners, to adopt regulations that would allow it to waive certain sewer connection fees for year-round residents who meet particular criteria.

#### **The Finance Committee's Motion is positive.**

#### *Article 85 – Home Rule Petition: Town Charter Amendments*

As noted above, per the Town Code, the Select Board is supposed to appoint a Town Government Study Committee every five years. The most recent Committee completed its report in 2021. The report was reviewed with the Select Board and it voted to put forward a home rule petition at the 2022 Annual Town Meeting to implement several of the Committee's recommendations. The recommendations are enumerated in the Article. The Committee's report may be found on the Town website [Final Report \(nantucket-ma.gov\)](https://www.nantucket-ma.gov). The article was re-

submitted to the 2023 Annual Town Meeting because it has not yet been approved by the Legislature.

**The Finance Committee’s Motion is positive.**

*Article 86 – Home Rule Petition: An Act Regulating the Application of Nutrient Management and Fertilizer in the Town of Nantucket*

This home rule petition was a Finance Committee Motion to a citizen article at the 2022 Annual Town Meeting (Article 79). While Article 79 was ultimately approved as it had been submitted (it calls for a ban on the application of fertilizer, except for farming purposes) and the Select Board has indicated support for it to the Legislature, it is believed that passage is unlikely due to the State’s regulatory structure regarding materials such as fertilizer. That regulatory structure does not allow municipalities to adopt local bans on materials such as fertilizer. There was a process initiated in 2012 which gave the Town a two-year window within which to adopt regulations relating to nutrient management and fertilizer guidelines within certain parameters. However, that window expired without action and this home rule petition seeks to re-initiate it.

**The Finance Committee’s Motion is positive.**

*Article 87 – Home Rule Petition for Real Estate Conveyance (50 Altar Rock Road to Nantucket Conservation Foundation)*

The 50 Altar Rock Road property (where the Altar Rock monument is located) is owned by the Town for park purposes. Through discussions with the Nantucket Conservation Foundation (NCF), the Town proposes to convey the property to NCF. In order to dispose of the property, the care, custody, management and control of the property must be transferred from the Select Board held for park purposes to the Select Board held for purposes of conveyance. In addition, since the Town acquired the property for park purposes, the Town must comply with Article 97 of the Amendments of the Massachusetts Constitution by filing the Home Rule Petition with the State Legislature authorizing the transfers of the property and the conveyance of the property to NCF for open space, recreational and conservation purposes. A vote of the 2022 Annual Town Meeting authorized the Home Rule Petition to be filed with the State Legislature; however, the Home Rule Petition was not approved as the State Legislative session ended prior to its final approval. The Town has re-filed the Home Rule Petition with the State Legislature. Town Meeting approval is required in the event that the State Legislature requires it to be re-voted.

**The Finance Committee’s Motion is positive.**

*Article 88 – Home Rule Petition: Real Estate Conveyance/Portion of Ames Avenue*

The Town is the owner of certain parcels of land shown as Lots 35-38 inclusive on Land Court Plan No. 2408-M, which are under the care, custody, management and control of the

Conservation Commission for conservation purposes. In order to convey this land held for conservation purposes, the Town must comply with Article 97 of the Amendments of the Massachusetts Constitution and thereby file a Home Rule Petition with the State Legislature for its approval of the transfer of the land and the conveyance of portions of the land for roadway and for other purposes. A portion of this land lies within the roadway of Ames Avenue and a portion is to be conveyed to an abutter of Ames Avenue in exchange for a lot of approximately equal size and value. The passage of this Home Rule Petition will also enable the Town to use a portion of these lots for the alteration of Ames Avenue. A vote of the 2022 Annual Town Meeting authorized the Home Rule Petition to be filed with the Legislature, however, the Home Rule Petition was not approved as the State Legislative session ended prior to its final approval. The Town has re-filed the Home Rule Petition with the State Legislature. Town Meeting approval is required in the event that the State Legislature requires it to be re-voted.

**The Finance Committee's Motion is positive.**

*Article 89 – Home Rule Petition: Issuance of Pension Obligation Bonds and Notes*

If passed in the State Legislature, this article would authorize the Town of Nantucket to issue, at one time or from time to time, bonds or notes for the purpose of funding the portion of the unfunded pension liability of the Barnstable County Retirement Association allocable to the Town of Nantucket, Nantucket County, and the Nantucket Islands Land Bank. This is the first step in a process to gain authorization from the State and the article does not represent any immediate authorization to borrow.

**The Finance Committee's Motion is positive.**

*Article 90 – Home Rule Petition: Real Estate Conveyances from Town of Nantucket to Nantucket Islands Land Bank*

The Town is the owner of the parcels of land contained in this article which are held for conservation or recreational purposes. In order to convey the parcels to the Land Bank, the Town must comply with Article 97 of the Amendments of the Massachusetts Constitution and thereby file a Home Rule Petition with the State Legislature for its approval of the transfer of the care, custody, control and management of the parcels from the Select Board held for conservation and recreational purposes to the Select Board for purposes of conveyance and for the conveyance of the parcels to the Land Bank for all purposes pursuant to its enabling legislation. A Town Meeting vote is required to change the purposes for which the parcels are held from conservation or recreational purposes to purposes of conveyance, and for conveyance to the Land Bank (there are two companion articles authorizing the Select Board to transfer the parcels – Articles 94 and 95) and, to file the Home Rule Petition. The parcels are proposed to be conveyed to the Land Bank for the projects the Land Bank is undertaking in connection with coastal resiliency measures along Washington Street and adjacent areas.

**The Finance Committee’s Motion is positive.**

*Article 91 – Home Rule Petition: Conveyance of Properties from County to Town*

The County is the owner of the parcels described in this Article held for bicycle path purposes. In order to convey the parcels from the County to the Town the Town must file a Home Rule Petition to authorize the transfer and conveyance of all or a portion to the Select Board for purposes of conveyance. The Town Meeting vote is required to authorize the Town to file the Home Rule Petition with the State Legislature. Article 95, a companion article to Article 91, authorizes the parcels to be conveyed to the Land Bank.

**The Finance Committee’s Motion is positive.**

*Upcoming Real Estate Articles*

*A few words about real estate articles:*

*These are permissive articles. That means the Select Board is authorized (but not required) to act on each of them. Approval of any articles (including citizen articles) does not ensure action. Approval means only that the Board may act. The citizen real estate articles, while not explained in this Guide, were reviewed by the Town’s Real Estate Specialist as well as the Town’s Real Estate Assessment Committee and those recommendations and/or comments are reflected in the Finance Committee Motions and/or Comments to those articles.*

*Article 92 – Long-term Lease Authorization: Solid Waste Facility*

Leases of Town property exceeding five years require the approval of Town Meeting pursuant to Chapter 46 of the Town Code. The Town currently has a long-term contract, which includes the lease of Town property, with its solid waste facility operator that will expire in 2025. The Town will most likely enter into a subsequent agreement with an operator to continue operating the facility, following a procurement process. The Town will need to have this authorization in place in order to enter into a new contract.

**The Finance Committee’s Motion is positive.**

*Article 93 – Real Estate Conveyance: Utility Easement at Wilkes Square*

National Grid is in the process of a planned infrastructure upgrade in the Wilkes Square area. In order for the electric connections and associated work to be done, National Grid requires a non-exclusive easement from the Town in a private way which is located between Candle Street and Washington Street and bounded by two parcels of Town-owned land being (1) 12 Washington Street and (2) a parcel of land on Candle and Washington Street more particularly described in a Deed recorded with Nantucket County Registry of Deeds in Book 108, Page 506 for purposes to construct, install, repair, maintain, operate and use the infrastructure and facilities of National Grid. Town Meeting approval is required for the conveyance of the easements.

**The Finance Committee’s Motion is positive.**

*Article 94 – Real Estate Acquisition: Goose Pond Lane and Portion of Spruce Street*

This Article will authorize the acquisition by eminent domain, gift or purchase of the parcels on Goose Pond Lane and Spruce Street as described therein for open space purposes and for purpose of conveyance. It is intended that these parcels will be conveyed from the Town to the Land Bank pursuant to Article 90 - a Home Rule Petition, required in order to transfer these parcels to the Land Bank; and, Article 95, which authorizes the Select Board to convey the parcels to the Land Bank.

**The Finance Committee’s Motion is positive.**

*Article 95 – Real Estate Conveyance: Town of Nantucket to Nantucket Islands Land Bank – Miscellaneous Parcels*

This Article is a companion Article to Article 90 which approves of the Home Rule Petition and its filing with the State Legislature. It will authorize the conveyance of the parcels described in this Article to the Land Bank for purposes pursuant to its enabling legislation.

**The Finance Committee’s Motions are positive.**

*Article 96 – Real Estate Acquisition: Easements in Skyline Drive, Webster Road, Portions of Monohansett Road and Okorwaw Avenue for Water Main Extension Project*

This article allows the Town to acquire easements that are necessary to complete a water main extension project in the streets named.

**The Finance Committee’s Motion is positive.**

*Article 97 – Real Estate Conveyance: Easement – 9 East Creek Road*

The Land Bank is undertaking a project on Land Bank-owned land at 19 East Creek Road (“Land Bank Property”) adjacent to the Town-owned property at 9 East Creek Road (“Town Property”) which will provide public access to a public deck and viewing area on the harbor. To enable the project to be constructed, the Town will grant an easement over a portion of the Town Property for the purposes of the installation, construction, maintenance, repair and use of an ADA-compliant parking space for the public use for access to the Land Bank Property and the construction, maintenance and repair of an ADA-compliant connector path from Our Island Home to the Land Bank property for public use and access to the Land Bank property. Town Meeting approval is required for the conveyance of the easements.



**The Finance Committee’s Motion is positive.**

*Articles 98 – Real Estate Acquisition: Mayflower Circle and Daffodil Lane and 99 – Real Estate Conveyance: Mayflower Circle and Daffodil Lane*

These articles allow the Town to acquire the leftover portions of Mayflower Circle identified and then to convey them to abutters pursuant to the Town’s Yard Sale program.

**The Finance Committee’s Motions are positive.**

*Article 100 – Real Estate Acquisition: Rights in Dartmouth Lane*

This Article will authorize the Select Board to acquire by eminent domain, gift or purchase the rights to pass and re-pass over Dartmouth Lane and the driveways located on Parcels E and F located therein and shown on Plan recorded with Nantucket Registry of Deeds as Plan No. 2014-63. The Town had previously adopted an Order of Taking by Eminent Domain of Portions of Dartmouth Lane which was filed with the Nantucket Registry District of the Land Court as Document No. 146324. This Article will authorize the Select Board to amend the Order of Taking in order that it may acquire the right, title and interest in Dartmouth Lane as originally intended.

**The Finance Committee’s Motion is positive.**

*Article 101 – Real Estate Acquisition: Stone Alley*

This Article will authorize the Select Board to acquire non-exclusive easements over a portion of Stone Alley, a private way between Union Street and Orange Street, for pedestrian and bicycle access, and for roadway repairs.

**The Finance Committee’s Motion is positive.**

*Articles 102 – Real Estate Acquisition: 31 Easy Street and 103 – Real Estate Conveyance: 31 Easy Street*

These are companion articles which allow the Town to acquire by purchase, gift or eminent domain the referenced property for public way, sidewalk, drainage, flood control, coastal resiliency measures and other purposes. Portions of the property may then be conveyed to the Land Bank and Steamship Authority for all purposes pursuant to their respective enabling legislation.

**The Finance Committee’s Motions are positive.**

*Article 104 – Appropriation: Stabilization Fund*

The Town maintains several stabilization funds. The “main” Stabilization Fund (aka the “Rainy Day Fund”) is what municipalities typically rely on to fund extraordinary items (e.g., large legal settlements). This Stabilization Fund is intended to “stabilize” the budget when emergencies arise, or to fund unanticipated significant future capital projects that should not be postponed. The Town also has a Capital Projects Stabilization Fund, for similar reasons – which are specific only to capital projects. Currently, Town policy requires that the balance in the Stabilization Fund equal to at least five percent of revenue (which the Town now achieves). The Town does not have any appropriations proposed for these Stabilization Funds for FY 2024.

**The Finance Committee’s Motion is to take no action.**

*Article 105 – Appropriation: Free Cash*

The Town’s certified Free Cash for use in FY 2023 and FY 2024 is \$20,533,360. The Town proposes to use approximately \$11,236,697 (see Articles 2, 8, 10 and 22) to fund items in both fiscal years. Because the earlier articles, if passed, authorize the use of Free Cash, no additional appropriation of Free Cash should be needed.

**The Finance Committee’s Motion is to take no action.**

## Glossary of Terms

**Appropriation:** Approval by Town Meeting to spend money for specific purposes defined by a warrant article.

**Betterment:** A betterment or special assessment “is a special property tax that is permitted where real property within a limited and determinable area receives a special benefit or advantage, other than the general advantage to the community, from the construction of a public improvement.” *Definition from: “Massachusetts Department of Revenue Division of Local Services, Betterments and Special Assessments”.*

**Budget:** The Town’s annual plan of financial operations that includes an estimate of proposed revenues and budgeted expenditures in the current fiscal year. Budget expenses for operations include payroll, utility costs, supplies, annual maintenance, and repairs, etc. The annual capital budget is for big ticket items expected to last for more than five years.

**Capital Outlay Exclusion:** A Capital Outlay Exclusion allows the Town to increase its total property tax levy above the limit set by Proposition 2½. The amount of the exclusion is added to the levy limit for one year only. A Capital Outlay Exclusion requires both a two-thirds quantum at a Town Meeting and a simple majority at a Town Election.

**Community Preservation Act:** A State law that provides for a three percent surcharge (which is partially matched by the Commonwealth) on property tax bills to fund local projects in the categories of affordable housing, open space and recreation, and historic preservation.

**Debt Exclusion:** A Debt Exclusion allows the Town to increase its total property tax levy above the limit set by Proposition 2½. The amount of the annual debt service payment is added to the levy limit for the life of the debt. A Debt Exclusion requires both a two-thirds quantum at a Town Meeting and a simple majority at a Town Election. *NOTE: Surprisingly, Debt Exclusion Ballot questions do not contain amounts. The wording of these Questions is strictly regulated by the state and towns are not allowed to include the amounts. Nor are Towns allowed to have any explanatory information at the Election as it could be construed as influencing the voters. If a voter wants to know the amount of the debt exclusion, he/she may ask the Town Clerk for additional information. The Town Clerk is permitted to provide the minutes or final vote of Town Meeting on the article on which the Debt Exclusion was contingent, which would contain the amount.*

**Debt Service:** Payment of interest and principal to those who loan the Town money (technically, the holders of the Town’s bonds and notes).

**Enterprise Funds:** An organizational structure that helps a community to direct the costs for certain services to those who use those services – in other words, the user pays. Sometimes, a particular service cannot support itself and requires a subsidy from the General Fund. Nantucket has five (six if Article 20 passes) enterprise funds (Airport, Our Island Home, Solid Waste, Sewer, Water), two of which require a General Fund subsidy (Our Island Home, Solid Waste).

**Fiscal Year:** A 12-month period running from July 1 – June 30, commonly used in municipal government as the time period within which budget funds will be spent. Most of the monies appropriated at the 2023 Annual Town Meeting are for the Fiscal Year 2024, which starts on July 1, 2023, and ends June 30, 2024.

**Free Cash:** A dollar value, which must be certified by the State, and represents revenues that exceeded expectations and expenses that were below projections. Town Meeting approval is required to spend Free Cash. In Nantucket, Free Cash is generally used for one-time items such as capital projects, but not to balance the budget.

**General Fund:** The major Town fund created with Town receipts and tax revenues from which most Town expenses are spent. The General Fund contains several categories defined in the budget, such as personnel costs.

**Levy:** The amount a community raises through the property tax. The levy can be any amount up to the levy limit, which is re-established every year in accordance with Proposition 2½ provisions.

**Override:** A majority vote by Town Meeting and a Town Election to permanently increase the levy limit.

**Proposition 2½:** A law approved by Massachusetts voters in 1980. It sets a limit of two and a half percent on the year-to-year increase of real and personal property taxes that a community may levy on its taxpayers.

**Retained Earnings:** The Free Cash for an Enterprise Fund.

**Stabilization Fund:** A “rainy day” fund that is a special reserve account created primarily to provide for capital improvements and unforeseen circumstances. It requires a two-thirds vote of Town Meeting to disburse money from this fund and appropriate it for expenditure. Appropriation into the Fund may not exceed ten percent of the prior year’s tax levy. The current balance in Nantucket’s Stabilization Fund exceeds the threshold recommended by the state.

**Warrant:** A list of the articles to be acted upon by Town Meeting. The language of an article frequently conforms to the style of the code into which it will be placed if passed, such as zoning.

*Prepared by Town Administration, April 2023*