

## **Weston Finance Committee**

Meeting Minutes

March 3, 2022

A meeting of the Finance Committee of the Town of Weston, which was duly called and posted in compliance with the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, was held on Thursday, March 3, 2022, via a Zoom video conference. It was broadcast live and recorded by Weston Media Center. There being a quorum present, the meeting was called to order at 7:04PM.

Present for the meeting were:

*Finance Committee:* Lisa Reitano (Chair), James Jarrett, Karen Meslin, John McDonald, Kamalatha (Latha) Seshadri, and Bharath Venkataraman.

Also Present:

*School Committee:* Anita Raman (Chair), Alyson Muzila, Attia Linnard, Kenneth Newberg, and Danielle Black.

*Weston Public Schools:* Marguerite (Midge) Connolly (Superintendent), and Sheri Matthews (Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations)

*Weston Town Government:* Leon Gaumond (Town Manager) and Susan Kelley (Finance Director).

Bharath Venkataraman was appointed to serve as Secretary Pro-Tempore and charged with keeping the minutes of the meeting. The Zoom video conference meeting was recorded by Weston Media Center and is available on-line.

1. There were no resident comments.
2. The minutes of the FinCom meeting on Feb 17, 2022 were approved by all the 5 members who were present at the time.
3. The first item on the agenda was a review of the FY23 Schools Budget. Midge Connolly and Anita Raman presented a brief overview of the budget.

Sheri Matthews presented the proposed FY23 Schools budget, which will be posted online on the Weston Schools website. The updated recommended FY23 Schools budget of \$44,911, 436 is an increase of 2.5% (\$1,093,519) from FY22 (FY22 budget: \$43,817,917). A reduction of 2.070 General Fund FTEs and 7.116 Grant and Revolving Fund FTEs has been proposed as part of the FY23 budget.

Sheri presented information on how per-pupil expenditures are calculated by Massachusetts, based on what numbers are reported by each town to DESE. She pointed out that with different districts allocating expenses differently between school vs. municipal to determine Town chargebacks, and getting different amounts of grants, it is difficult to do a true comparison of true per-pupil expenditure for different Towns.

4. Members of FinCom and School Committee discussed the proposed School Budget and Sheri's presentation.

The total number of students in Weston Public Schools is estimated to be 1927 for FY23. In comparison, the total number of students was 1948 for FY22, 1906 for FY21 and 2039 for FY20.

5. The next item on the agenda was a discussion on the Town's Financial Model and the tax impact of the FY23 budget.

Leon and Susan plan to upload the initial recommended and final recommended budgets to ClearGov prior going to Town Meeting once the Select Board and School Committees approve their budgets. They will also provide us with updated summary sheets (along with the FY18, FY19, FY20 and FY21 actuals).

With the current proposed budgets, assuming no increase in home values, the tax rate would go by 3.67% to \$13.28 (up \$0.47 from \$12.81 in FY22), with the median home tax increasing by \$625 to \$17,620.

Susan and Leon mentioned that there were still some numbers to be determined – these include revenues, insurance, State Aid, Chapter 90 Funds and School Aid. These would have some effect on the final tax rate for residents, though the effect is unlikely to be significant. Once these numbers are finalized, they will be entered into the Financial Model to estimate the increase in taxes.

The current Free Cash available is about \$2.7M. The current proposed budget spends about \$2.1M of this amount, leaving about \$600K in reserve (which is in conformance to the Town Reserve Policy on Free Cash).

6. The FinCom discussed and took up voting on several of the warrant articles submitted for FY23 Town meeting.

The FinCom voted unanimously to support the following warrant articles:

- a. Accept Chapter 90 Road Improvement Funds
- b. Approve Property Tax Deferral Income Limits
- c. Appropriate Fiscal Year 2023 Water Enterprise Budget
- d. Appropriate for Water Main Rehabilitation
- e. Appropriate Fiscal Year 2023 Recreation Enterprise Budget

- f. Appropriate Fiscal Year 2023 Brook School Apartments Enterprise Budget
- g. Appropriate Fiscal Year 2023 Public Access Operations
- h. Appropriate For Drainage Improvements
- i. Appropriate for Culvert Replacement (Bogel Brook at Sherburn Circle)
- j. Appropriate for Snow Removal Equipment
- k. Appropriate for Air Supply Emergency Response Vehicle
- l. Appropriate for Network Improvements
- m. Appropriate for Fiscal Year 2023 Community Preservation Committee Operating Budget
- n. Telecommunications Lease – Weston Police Department (180 Boston Post Road)

The FinCom voted 5-1 to support the following warrant article:

- a. Appropriate for Intersection Improvements (Route 20 & Highland Street)

The FinCom voted unanimously to take No Position on the following warrant article:

- a. Ministerial Amendments To The Town Bylaws

The FinCom requested the Town Manger to provide further information for the following warrant articles:

- a. Appropriate for Public Tree Maintenance Plan
- b. Appropriate for Historical Preservation – 669 Boston Post Road
- c. Septic Repair Program

7. The meeting adjourned at 9:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Bharath Venkataraman



Weston Public Schools

FY'23 Recommended Budget

Weston School Committee  
Finance Committee Presentation

March 03, 2022

# School FY'23 Budget Planning and Budget Process

- Strategic Plan
- Budget Guidelines
  - Excellent Instruction
  - Safe and Secure Facilities
  - Fiscally Responsible
- Enrollment Projections
  - Class Size Policy
  - Federal, State and Special Education Mandates
- Superintendent Proposes Budget
- Updated Budget with Public Review and Refinements
- **Finance Committee Meeting (March 3, 2022)**
- School Committee Vote
- Town Meeting Vote

# Collective Bargaining Obligations for FY'22

- 2.0%      WEA      Weston Teacher's Association
- 2.0%      WAPA      Weston Aides and Paraprofessionals
- 1.75%      WEAAA      Weston Admin Assistants Association
- 1.5%      SABG      Weston Buildings/Grounds Association
- 1.5%      SABD      Weston Bus Drivers Association
- 1.25%      SAFS      Weston Food Services Association

<b><i>FY'23 Updated Recommended Budget</i></b>	<i>FY'22 Budget</i>	<i>FY'23 Updated Budget</i>	<i>FY'23 Increase</i>	<i>Percentage Change</i>
Salaries	\$36,899,117	\$37,905,207	\$1,006,090	2.73%
Non-Salary Expenses	\$8,841,093	\$9,085,229	\$244,136	2.76%
State Aid and Offset Accounts	(\$1,922,293)	(\$2,079,000)	(\$156,707)	8.15%
	<b>\$43,817,917</b>	<b>\$44,911,436</b>	<b>\$1,093,519</b>	<b>2.50%</b>

<b>Main Components of Increases</b>	<i>Sub-Total Percent Change</i>
Salaries	
Base/Longevity/Step Salary Increases	0.30%
Contractual Collective Bargaining	2.43%
Non-Salary Expenses	
Contracted Services, Supplies and Other Expenses	0.69%
Increase in Out of District Tuitions	2.07%
	<b>\$1,250,226</b>

<b>FY'23 Anticipated Offsets</b>	<b>FY'22 Offsets</b>	<b>FY'23 Offsets</b>	<b>Difference</b>	
Grant/Revolving Salary Offset	(\$490,000)	(\$560,000)	(\$70,000)	
Grant/Revolving Non-Salary Offset	(\$376,000)	(\$416,000)	(\$40,000)	More In-Person Activities
Circuit Breaker Offset	(\$1,056,293)	(\$1,103,000)	(\$46,707)	Increase in Circuit Breaker
	<b>(\$1,922,293)</b>	<b>(\$2,079,000)</b>	<b>(\$156,707)</b>	

# FY'23 General Fund Updated Budget Overview



- 2.50% increase over FY'22 reflects:
  - Known and unknown contractual obligations
  - Removal of five (5) general fund building substitutes (4.375 FTE's)
  - Additional staffing cuts (3.2965 FTE's)
  - Funding of special education out-of-district costs
  - Increase in offsets



# Additions / Reductions

Changes made since Superintendent's  
Recommended Budget in January 2022

<u>FTE Change</u>	<u>Financial Change</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>School</u>
• (4.3750)	• (\$181,273)	Building Subs	All Schools
• <u>(3.2965)</u>	• <u>(\$129,655)</u>	Various	All Schools
<b>(7.6715)</b>	<b>(\$353,797)</b>		

# FY'23 Budget Summary

Category	FY'22 Approved Budget	FY'23 Updated Budget	FY'23 Variance	% Change
Salary and Other Compensation	\$36,899,117	\$37,905,207	\$1,006,090	2.73%
Instructional and Supply Materials	\$1,519,568	\$1,588,364	\$68,796	4.53%
Contractual Services	\$1,131,847	\$1,200,159	\$68,312	6.03%
Contractual Student Services	\$3,945,647	\$4,133,500	\$187,853	4.76%
Utilities	\$1,579,922	\$1,467,717	(\$112,205)	(7.10%)
Equipment and Vehicles	\$664,109	\$695,489	\$31,380	4.73%
State Aid and Offset Accounts	<u>(\$1,922,293)</u>	<u>(\$2,079,000)</u>	<u>(\$156,707)</u>	<u>8.15%</u>
Total General Fund:	\$43,817,917	\$44,911,436	\$1,093,519	2.50%

# FTE Comparison

Description	FY'21 Budgeted FTE	FY'21 Covid FTE	FY'22 FTE	FY'22 Head Count	FY'23 Proposed FTE	FY'23 Head Count	FY'23 FTE Change
<i>Districtwide</i>	13.754	13.754	13.754	14.25	13.754	14.25	0.000
<i>Country</i>	33.299	36.461	33.130	38.83	33.859	40.06	0.729
<i>Woodland</i>	31.297	35.082	30.634	35.47	30.383	34.96	-0.251
<i>Field</i>	28.801	35.101	28.526	33.36	28.526	33.36	0.000
<i>Middle</i>	54.571	58.434	52.676	57.61	51.899	56.61	-0.777
<i>High</i>	78.018	83.493	75.145	79.50	74.995	79.10	-0.150
<i>Facilities</i>	31.000	31.000	31.000	31.00	31.000	31.00	0.000
<i>Technology</i>	12.025	13.025	12.025	12.38	12.650	13.00	0.625
<i>Transportation</i>	23.010	24.950	26.088	29.00	24.906	29.00	-1.182
<i>Student Services</i>	109.078	114.139	111.339	129.00	110.276	126.00	-1.064
<b>Total General Fund FTE's</b>	<b>414.853</b>	<b>445.439</b>	<b>414.317</b>	<b>460.39</b>	<b>412.247</b>	<b>457.33</b>	<b>-2.070</b>

Description	FY'21 Budgeted FTE	FY'21 Covid FTE	FY'22 FTE	FY'22 Head Count	FY'23 Proposed FTE	FY'23 Head Count	FY'23 FTE Change
<i>Sped IDEA 94-142 Grant</i>	4.713	4.713	5.313	6.600	5.313	6.600	0.000
<i>Title I Grant</i>	2.650	3.715	3.766	5.000	2.650	4.000	-1.116
<i>METCO Grant</i>	4.824	4.824	4.824	6.000	4.824	6.000	0.000
<i>Nurses Grant</i>	2.000	2.000	2.000	2.000	2.000	2.000	0.000
<i>ESSER II Grant</i>	0.000	0.000	13.375	13.625	0.000	0.000	-13.375
<i>ESSER III Grant</i>	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	7.375	8.000	7.375
<i>Early Childhood Grant</i>	0.255	0.255	0.255	0.500	0.255	0.500	0.000
<i>Food Services Revolving</i>	18.813	18.813	17.813	23.000	17.813	23.000	0.000
<b>Total Grant &amp; Revolving Funds FTE's</b>	<b>33.255</b>	<b>34.320</b>	<b>47.346</b>	<b>57.73</b>	<b>40.230</b>	<b>50.10</b>	<b>-7.116</b>

# School Costs Managed by Town



○ Administrative

○ Debt Service

○ Health Care

○ Retirement (Staff Only)

○ OPEB

○ Bus Maintenance

○ Facility & Grounds

Maintenance

○ Insurance

✓ Unemployment

✓ Workers' Compensation

✓ Property

○ Minuteman Vocational

School

✓ Tuition

✓ Transportation

# Per Pupil Expenditure Explanations

- Massachusetts calculates per pupil expenditures by dividing the districts total operating costs by its average pupil membership, including in-district expenditures per pupil and total expenditures per pupil, which includes in-district and out-of-district spending and enrollment.
- Per pupil expenditure amounts are calculated from the submitted DESE End of Year (EOY) report.
- It is difficult to compare district to district expenses as each district could report differently.
- What is included and what isn't included?

# Questions / Discussions



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**ARTICLE 5: ACCEPT CHAPTER 90 ROAD IMPROVEMENT FUNDS**

To authorize the Select Board to permanently construct, reconstruct, resurface, alter or make specific repairs upon all or portions of various Town Ways and to authorize the expenditure of such sums of money as may be received for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2022 provided or to be provided by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts through the Massachusetts Department of Transportation; or take any other action relative thereto.

*Article 5 Explanation:* Massachusetts law requires that Town Meeting approve the use of funds received from the Commonwealth for road construction purposes, including engineering or addressing traffic improvements. In fiscal year 2023, the Town is expected to receive \$470,596.

Commented [GL1]: Awaiting final number from the state

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**ARTICLE 6: APPROVE PROPERTY TAX DEFERRAL INCOME LIMITS**

To establish Fiscal Year 2023 income eligibility limits under Chapter 421 of the Acts of 2004, An Act Authorizing the Town of Weston to Regulate Certain Property Tax Exemption Eligibility Requirements for the Elderly; or take any other action relative thereto.

*Article 6 Explanation:* Several years ago, Weston obtained special legislation to change the eligibility criteria for the property tax deferral program, allowing the Select Board to set the interest rate for residents over 60 who defer their property taxes. For Fiscal Year 2023, the rate remains set at 4%. This legislation also allows the Select Board, with Town Meeting approval, to establish the income eligibility limit for this program each year. The Select Board is recommending that the income limit be increased to \$96,650 for fiscal year 2023, which is the limit for a two-person household at 100% of the area median income and is also the limit for moderate income housing funded by the Community Preservation Act. Ratification of this amount is required by Town Meeting.

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**ARTICLE 7: APPROPRIATE FISCAL YEAR 2023 WATER ENTERPRISE BUDGET**

To raise and appropriate and transfer from receipts and retained earnings the following sums of money to operate the Water Division of the Department of Public Works during fiscal year 2023, under the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 44, section 53F½:

	Expended FY20	Expended FY21	Appropriated FY22	Recommended FY23
Salaries	\$311,086	\$317,429	\$322,019	\$340,300
Expenses	190,083	258,708	255,850	265,850
MWRA Assessment/Water Purchases	2,419,299	2,400,081	2,856,200	2,446,100
Debt Service (non-exempt)	552,406	617,076	671,442	671,442
Capital Outlay+	95,897	59,249	65,000	65,000
Total	\$3,586,751	\$3,652,544	\$4,170,511	\$3,788,692

Or take any other action relative thereto.

*Article 7 Explanation:* Debt service includes amounts for previously approved projects and the water main rehabilitation project to be considered under Article 8. The operating expenses for the Water Division are entirely funded by water fee revenue.

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**ARTICLE 8: APPROPRIATE FOR WATER MAIN REHABILITATION**

To appropriate a sum of money to pay costs of laying and relaying water mains of not less than six inches but less than sixteen inches in diameter, and all incidental and related costs, to be spent under the direction of the Town Manager, the money so appropriated to be raised by borrowing under the authority of G.L. C.44, §8, or any other enabling authority, and to authorize the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, to issue bonds or notes for this purpose; and further, that any premium received upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any premium applied

to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with G.L. c.44, §20, thereby reducing by a like amount the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs; or take any other action relative thereto.

*Article 8 Explanation: This request is part of an ongoing program to replace old cast iron and asbestos transite cement water mains. This material is no longer used to construct water mains. This appropriation is to replace roughly 2300 linear feet of transite water main on Loring Rd. that was installed in 1936 and remove 350 linear feet of 6 inch CLDI from the system and connect those services to a new 12 inch CLDI (cement lined ductile iron pipe) main on the street. The design for this project will be completed by the DPW's engineering division. The amount to be requested under this article is \$678,000, to be funded by borrowing. A two-thirds vote of Town Meeting is required for approval of this article.*

**ARTICLE 10: APPROPRIATE FISCAL YEAR 2023 RECREATION ENTERPRISE BUDGET**

To raise and appropriate and transfer from receipts and retained earnings the following sums of money to operate the Recreation Department during Fiscal Year 2023, under the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 44, section 53F½:

	Expended FY20	Expended FY21	Appropriated FY22	Recommended FY23
Salaries	\$1,055,995	\$819,615	\$1,239,097	\$1,377,215
Expenses	364,137	229,843	482,405	491,655
Community Center	40,910	53,193	76,550	96,375
Capital Outlay+	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,461,043</b>	<b>\$1,102,651</b>	<b>\$1,969,044</b>	<b>\$1,965,245</b>

Or take any other action relative thereto.

*Article 10 Explanation: Program fees cover approximately 70% of the salaries and expenses for this department; the remaining 30% is funded by property taxes. This is up from a 40% property tax contribution in FY22 due to concerns about the COVID-19 pandemic and its effect on recreation revenues. In addition, there will be a contribution of \$47,403 from the Council on Aging budget to the Recreation Enterprise fund to support the cost of operating the Community Center, in which the Council on Aging is housed.*

**ARTICLE 11: APPROPRIATE FISCAL YEAR 2023 BROOK SCHOOL APARTMENTS ENTERPRISE BUDGET**

To raise and appropriate and transfer from receipts and retained earnings the following sums of money to operate the Brook School Apartments during Fiscal Year 2023, under the provisions of Chapter 76 of the Acts of 2009 and M.G.L. Chapter 44, section 53F½:

	Expended FY20	Expended FY21	Appropriated FY22	Recommended FY23
Salaries	\$184,725	\$178,391	\$197,755	\$204,121
Expenses	298,642	300,504	392,250	413,933
Payments in Lieu of Taxes	24,548	25,162	25,791	25,791
Debt Service	256,568	247,873	239,354	231,399
Repairs & Replacements+	69,408	129,112	185,290	196,407
Capital Improvements+	71,915	49,161	100,000	100,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$905,806</b>	<b>\$930,202</b>	<b>\$1,140,440</b>	<b>\$1,171,651</b>

Or take any other action relative thereto.

*Article 11 Explanation: Funding for the operation of the Brook School Apartments comes from rental income and the Community Preservation Fund, which is covering the cost of the debt service for construction of thirteen affordable units completed as part of the expansion project in 2004.*



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**ARTICLE 12: APPROPRIATE FISCAL YEAR 2023 PUBLIC ACCESS OPERATIONS**

To see if the Town will transfer from the PEG and Cable Related Fund a sum of money as a grant to Weston Media, Inc. for Cable Access and PEG purposes for FY2023, and to authorize the Town Manager to enter into a grant agreement with Weston Media, Inc. upon such terms and conditions as the Town Manager deems appropriate, or take any other action relative thereto.

*Article 12 Explanation: The Commonwealth established rules governing the method by which cable franchise fees are used to support public access operations in the state. This article follows guidance from the Commonwealth by accepting a provision of the law designed for this purpose and transfers to the account franchise fees collected by the Town and intended for public access operations.*

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**ARTICLE 14: APPROPRIATE FOR DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS**

To appropriate a sum of money for the construction or reconstruction of surface drains and all incidental and related costs, including the acquisition by gift, purchase and eminent domain of such temporary or permanent easements as may be necessary for this project, and to authorize appropriate Town officials to acquire such interests, to be spent under the direction of the Town Manager, the money so appropriated to be raised by borrowing under the authority of G.L. c. 44, §7, or any other enabling authority, and to authorize the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, to issue bonds or notes for this purpose; and further, that any premium received upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with G.L. c.44, §20, thereby reducing by a like amount the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs; or take any other action relative thereto.

*Article 14 Explanation: This request is part of the ongoing program to replace, upgrade or install new storm drainage lines and structures to improve substandard drainage systems in town. Important future projects include, but are not limited to locations on Glen Rd., Rolling Lane, and Ash Street. Public/private partnerships are funded from this program and help to resolve deficient drainage systems affecting runoff from public ways through private property. Drainage funds are also used for street drainage repairs for the road paving program. The amount to be requested under this article is \$450,000. A two-thirds vote of Town Meeting is required for approval of this article.*

**ARTICLE 15: APPROPRIATE FOR INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS (ROUTE 20 & HIGHLAND STREET)**

To appropriate a sum of money for the design and engineering services for the eventual reconstruction of the intersection of Route 20 and Highland Street, including all incidental and related expenses, to be spent under the direction of the Town Manager, the money so appropriated to be raised by borrowing under the authority of G.L. c. 44, §7, or any other enabling authority, and to authorize the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, to issue bonds or notes for this purpose; and further, that any premium received upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with G.L. c.44, §20, thereby reducing by a like amount the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs; or take any other action relative thereto.

*Article 15 Explanation: The project scope includes planning & engineering services involved in the design of intersection improvements and potential traffic controls/signals for the intersection of Boston Post Road By-Pass (Route 20), Highland Street and Boston Post Road. The project goals will include reconstructing said intersection which will simplify turning movements and reduce driver confusion and accidents. This request is for funds for design, permitting and construction phase services. Ultimately this project will be submitted to MassDOT for inclusion on the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) and the construction costs would be borne by the Commonwealth. The cost of this project is expected to be \$413,400. A two-thirds vote of Town Meeting is required for approval of this article.*

**ARTICLE 16: APPROPRIATE FOR CULVERT REPLACEMENT (BOGEL BROOK AT SHERBURN CIRCLE)**

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To appropriate a sum of money for the replacement of the Bogel Brook Culvert at Sherburn Circle, including all incidental and related expenses, to be spent under the direction of the Town Manager, the money so appropriated to be raised by borrowing under the authority of G.L. c. 44, §7, or any other enabling authority, and to authorize the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, to issue bonds or notes for this purpose; and further, that any premium received upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with G.L. c.44, §20, thereby reducing by a like amount the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs; or take any other action relative thereto.

*Article 16 Explanation: The existing box culvert on Bogle Brook at Sherburn Circle is becoming undermined resulting in partial failure of the road surface above. Repairs have been done on two occasions in recent years, however this 60+ year old culvert is considered to be beyond repair and is now recommended for replacement. Construction funds are proposed for replacement of this culvert and is estimated to cost \$480,000. A two-thirds vote of Town Meeting is required for approval of this article.*

#### **ARTICLE 17: APPROPRIATE FOR SNOW REMOVAL EQUIPMENT**

To appropriate a sum of money for the purchase and equipping of a piece of snow removal equipment, including all incidental and related expenses, to be spent under the direction of the Town Manager, the money so appropriated to be raised by borrowing under the authority of G.L. c. 44, §7, or any other enabling authority, and to authorize the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, to issue bonds or notes for this purpose; and further, that any premium received upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with G.L. c.44, §20, thereby reducing by a like amount the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs; or take any other action relative thereto.

*Article 17 Explanation: The School Department is seeking funding for a piece of Equipment is for Snow Removal and small grounds projects. Currently they use a 20-year-old Bobcat to remove snow within the school grounds and have utilized outside vendor equipment to supplement for large storms. This machine would also replace the current Bobcat and the need to seek out outside vendors. The current design of parking areas have cells and requires snow to be pushed in multiple locations to clear. This machine will have the ability to clear and remove piles at all the corners and intersections within the school campuses. This request includes a snow bucket and snow pusher to further enhance the use of the equipment for snow plowing in addition to removal. The amount to be requested under this article is \$115,000. A two-thirds vote of Town Meeting is required for approval of this article.*

#### **ARTICLE 18: APPROPRIATE FOR AIR SUPPLY EMERGENCY RESPONSE VEHICLE**

To appropriate a sum of money for the purchase and equipping of an Air Supply Emergency Response Vehicle, including all incidental and related expenses, to be spent under the direction of the Town Manager, the money so appropriated to be raised by borrowing under the authority of G.L. c. 44, §7, or any other enabling authority, and to authorize the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, to issue bonds or notes for this purpose; and further, that any premium received upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with G.L. c.44, §20, thereby reducing by a like amount the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs; or take any other action relative thereto.

*Article 18 Explanation: The Fire Department seeks replacement of a 27-year-old Air Supply Emergency Response Vehicle which has reached the end of its life. The amount to be requested under this article is \$360,000. A two-thirds vote of Town Meeting is required for approval of this article.*

#### **ARTICLE 19: APPROPRIATE FOR NETWORK IMPROVEMENTS**

To appropriate a sum of money for updates to and replacements of Town and School information systems and communication infrastructure equipment, including all incidental and related expenses, to be spent under the direction of the Town Manager, the money so appropriated to be raised by borrowing under the authority of G.L. c. 44, §7, or any other enabling authority, and to authorize the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, to issue bonds or notes for this purpose; and further, that any premium received upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote,

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less any premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with G.L. c.44, §20, thereby reducing by a like amount the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs; or take any other action relative thereto.

*Article 19 Explanation: The Town and Schools share a data and communications infrastructure that needs updating. Our current infrastructure has served the town very well, but the demands have never been greater. This phase of the network improvement project will be addressing a number of smaller targeted needs including updated copper network cabling, replacement/upgrades of components of our network/wireless infrastructure, two server infrastructure hosts, security surveillance & related devices, addition of radio channel bandwidth in the school campus, and school building PA updates. The amount to be requested under this article is \$387,400. A two-thirds vote of Town Meeting is required for approval of this article.*

#### **ARTICLE 20: APPROPRIATE FOR PUBLIC TREE MAINTENANCE PLAN**

To appropriate a sum of money to pay costs of creating a Public Tree Maintenance Plan, as well as incidental costs related thereto, to be spent under the direction of the Town Manager, the money so appropriated to be transferred from available funds (free cash), or take any other action relative thereto.

*Article 20 Explanation: Weston values the benefits of its trees. They provide the picturesque, semi-rural character the town is known for, they clean particulates and CO2 from the air, reduce waterway pollution and storm water runoff, and keep our air temperature cooler. Beginning In 2017, a multi-phase Tree Inventory was conducted to survey Weston's public Right of Way (RoW) trees. Over 15,000 trees were assessed for size, species, condition and risk. Despite Weston's seemingly robust tree population, a surprising 66% of those trees were rated in "Fair", "Poor" or "Critical" condition. These findings mean that a high proportion of Weston's RoW trees are highly susceptible to storm failure, drought impact, as well as the pressures of insect infestation and disease. As this survey is a snapshot in time - trees in "fair" condition can deteriorate to "poor" condition and "poor" trees can deteriorate to "critical" and become high-hazard trees. However, a proactive management approach can improve Weston's "fair" trees to "good" trees— making them more resilient to changing conditions and less of a risk to the community. When coordinated with a robust planting plan of new trees suitable to the new climate, Weston can restore the town's tree canopy. Like neighboring towns, Weston needs a thoughtful, actionable, and fiscally responsible long-term management plan to reduce risk and manage cost, rather than reacting to storm-related demands as they occur. Such a plan will enable the town to grow and maintain a healthy street canopy and urban forest suited to the changing conditions of 2021 and beyond. The amount of money to be requested under this article is \$60,000. A majority vote of Town Meeting is required for approval of this article.*

#### **ARTICLE 24: APPROPRIATE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE OPERATING BUDGET**

To hear and act on the report of the Community Preservation Committee on the Fiscal Year 2023 Community Preservation budget and to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund a sum of money to meet the administrative expenses and all other necessary and proper expenses of the Community Preservation Committee for fiscal year 2023; and further, to reserve for future appropriation for purposes consistent with the Community Preservation Act the amounts as recommended by the Community Preservation Committee for open space, including land for recreational use, historic resources and community housing; and further, to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund a sum of money for payment of debt service on Community Preservation projects previously approved by Town Meeting, all as recommended by the Community Preservation Committee, or take any other action relative thereto.

*Article 24 Explanation: The Community Preservation property tax surcharge will raise more than \$2,300,000 in fiscal year 2022, which is expected to be matched, in part, by the State. By law, a minimum of 10% of Community Preservation funds raised by the surcharge and as matching funds from the state must be spent or set aside for future spending in each of three categories: open space, including land for recreational use; historic resources; and community housing. The remaining 70% of available funds may be allocated to any one or a combination of the three categories, all as specified in G.L. c.44B, §5(b)(2), as most recently amended.*

*The administrative expense budget, limited by law to no more than 5% of annual Community Preservation Fund revenues, is estimated to be \$132,000 and is funded from the Community Preservation Fund. Any administrative funds remaining unused at the end of the fiscal year are returned to the Unallocated allocation of the Community Preservation Fund. The administrative expense budget covers the cost of a part-time staff person for the Committee and Committee expenses such as appraisal fees, legal fees, and advertising for public hearings.*

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The appropriation for debt service includes \$5,280 for Brook School Apartments, \$361,988 for the Weston Art and Innovation Center, \$331,096 for Case Estates, \$192,775 for 500 Wellesley St., and \$580,093 for the Josiah Smith Tavern.

Commented [GL2]: This will need to be updated.

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**ARTICLE 27: APPROPRIATE FOR OPEN SPACE – CASE PARK RESTORATION AND REHABILITATION, PHASE 2**

To appropriate a sum of money for open space purposes under the Community Preservation Program for Phase 2 of the Case Park Restoration and Rehabilitation Project, including all related incidental costs; to be spent under the direction of the Town Manager, and as funding therefor, to transfer said sum from the Unallocated allocation of the Community Preservation Fund; or take any other action relative thereto.

*Article 27 Explanation:* This project is a continuation of CPC's Case Park Restoration and Rehabilitation Project Phase 1, FY19, which focused on the ~0.4 acre southern tip of Case Park between Wellesley and School Streets. Phase 2 proposes to design and install new landscaping on ~0.4 acre along School St. (see map), with the aim of increasing community use through improved visual appeal and functionality (seating), and operating as a teaching resource with examples and information about attractive, low-maintenance, primarily native plantings that provide significant environmental benefits to pollinating insects and birds. The amount to be requested under this article is \$42,000.

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**ARTICLE 29: APPROPRIATE FOR HISTORICAL PRESERVATION – 669 BOSTON POST ROAD**

To appropriate a sum of money for historical preservation under the Community Preservation Program for a Historic Preservation Deed Restriction for the property located at 669 Boston Post Road, including all related incidental costs; to be spent under the direction of the Town Manager, and as funding therefor, to transfer said sum from the Unallocated allocation of the Community Preservation Fund; or take any other action relative thereto.

*Article 29 Explanation:* The Historic Commission has classified the property at 669 Boston Post Road as 'Preferably Preserved' and has imposed a demolition delay, which expires in June 2022. A community group was established to explore alternatives to demolition and are proposing a Historic Preservation Deed Restriction to be placed upon the property. The Historical Commission is working to determine the fair amount for the deed restriction and the current amount to be requested under this article is \$206,000.

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**ARTICLE 33: TELECOMMUNICATIONS LEASE – WESTON POLICE DEPARTMENT (180 Boston Post Road)**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the care, custody, management and control of the property described below, currently held by the Select Board for police purposes, to the Board of Select Board for police purposes and for the purpose of leasing for telecommunications purposes; and to authorize the Select Board to enter into such a lease or leases for telecommunications purposes for all or a portion of the property located off of the Boston Post Road By-Pass containing the Weston Police Station, as shown on Assessors Map 27 as Parcel 75-10, which property is described in a deed recorded with the Middlesex Registry of Deeds at Book \_\_\_\_\_, Page \_\_\_\_\_, upon such terms and conditions as the Select Board determines to be in the best interest of the Town, such lease or leases to exceed three years; and to authorize the Select Board to grant such non-exclusive access and utility easements as the Select Board deems necessary and appropriate; and to further authorize the Select Board to enter into such agreements and execute such instruments as may be necessary to effectuate the purposes of this article; or take any other action relative thereto.

*Article 33 Explanation:* There is an existing cell tower at the Police Station located at 180 Boston Post Road. The existing lease expires July 2023. The current tenant is seeking to extend the ground lease for additional years however the previous procurement did not contemplate such an extension. The intent of this article would be to allow the police station property to also be used for telecommunications leasing purposes. Article 16, as contained in the May 2003 Annual Town Meeting Warrant, reference a change in the Town's Zoning By-Law relative to the Personal Wireless Services Overlay District however this article did not address the leasing of the site at the police station for telecommunications purposes. Since this article contemplates a transfer of the property based upon the purpose for which it is currently held, a two-thirds majority vote would be required for passage pursuant to G.L. c. 40, sec. 15A.

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**ARTICLE 34: MINISTERIAL AMENDMENTS TO THE TOWN BYLAWS**

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town Bylaws to make ministerial and clerical amendments and grammatical corrections thereto, and further to correct any citations which may have been changed from time to time, a complete copy of which has been placed on file with the Town Clerk and is available for viewing on the Town's website at: [REDACTED], such amendments to take effect upon their adoption by the voters of Weston, or take any other action relative thereto.

*Article 34 Explanation: This article authorizes changes only of a ministerial, clerical, and grammatical nature to the Town Bylaws. Over the years through amendment, formatting has become inconsistent and legal citations may have changed. These ministerial changes seek to correct these unintentional errors. The changes can be viewed online and at the Town Clerk's Office.*

**ARTICLE 35: SEPTIC REPAIR PROGRAM**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds in the Treasury, if any, or borrow a sum of money for purposes of financing the following projects: sewer connection, repair, replacement and/or upgrade of septic systems, pursuant to agreements with the Board of Health and residential property owners, including without limitation all costs thereof as defined in Section 1 of Chapter 29C of the General Laws; and to meet this appropriation the Treasurer with the approval of the Board of Selectmen be authorized to borrow said sum and issue bonds or notes therefor under Chapter 44 of the General Laws and/or Chapter 29C of the General Laws; that the Treasurer with the approval of the Board of Selectmen be authorized to borrow all or a portion of such amount from the Massachusetts Water Pollution Abatement Trust established pursuant to Chapter 29C and in connection therewith to enter into a loan agreement and/or security agreement with the Trust and otherwise to contract with the Trust and the Department of Environmental Protection with respect to such loan and for any federal or state aid available for the project or for the financing thereof; and that the Board of Selectmen or other appropriate local body or official is authorized to enter into a project regulatory agreement with the Department of Environmental Protection, to expend all funds available for the project and to take any other action necessary to carry out the project, or take any other action relative thereto.

*Article 35 Explanation: This article authorizes the Board of Health to participate in the Community Septic Management Program offered by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. This article will authorize the Town of Weston to borrow loan funds to assist needy homeowners to make improvements to their septic systems as needed and to allow the Town to charge the cost of this program to the participating homeowners through a betterment process.*