

Annual Town Meeting 2018

“Article of the Day”



Article 1 Hear Reports: This article is where the Town accepts the Town reports created by each department and committee.

Article 2 Budget Adjustments: This article is when the Town makes transfers in the last fiscal year's budget; basically moving money around the divisions. We don't anticipate any budget adjustments just yet.

Article 3 Budget: This article is the Town's operating budget for the Fiscal Year starting in July. The budget includes the operating funding for Town Departments and both school districts. More information on the budget can be found in the back of the warrant and here: <https://sudbury.ma.us/finance/fy19-town-manager-proposed-budget/>

Article 4 Capital Budget: Article 4 is the Town Manager's capital budget and includes small capital items costing less than \$50,000. More information on the Town Manager's capital budget can be found here: <https://sudbury.ma.us/finance/fy19-town-manager-proposed-budget/>

Article 5, 6, 7 Enterprise Fund Budgets: The Town has three enterprise fund budgets, the Transfer Station, the Pool and the Recreational Field maintenance. Enterprise Funds are accounts that are self-sufficient and pay for their expenses with their own revenues. More information on those budgets can be found here: <https://sudbury.ma.us/finance/fy19-town-manager-proposed-budget/>. More information on enterprise funds in general can be found here: <http://www.mass.gov/dor/docs/dls/publ/misc/enterprisefundmanual.pdf>

Article 8 Snow and Ice: This article will allow the town to appropriate free cash to pay for this year's snow and ice deficit. As you know, this season had intense storms, and the town spent more than anticipated to fund the removal of snow and ice.

Article 10 and Article 11 Consent Calendar: These are routine items that likely will not warrant discussion at Town Meeting. Article 10 allows the town to spend the Chapter 90 funding received from the state for regional roadwork. More information on Chapter 90 is available here: <http://www.massdot.state.ma.us/highway/DoingBusinessWithUs/LocalAidPrograms/Chapter90Program.aspx> Article 11 authorizes the Town's revolving accounts.

Article 12 Fund litigation costs Eversource: This article allows the town to continue to oppose the Eversource proposal to run a 115Kv power line through Sudbury. The Town is opposing the project both at the Energy Facility Siting Board and in Land Court. These funds would pay for both of those cases, as well as an appeal.

Article 13 Fund litigation costs Sudbury Station: This article will continue to fund litigation and the defense of the Housing Appeals Committee case regarding Sudbury Station. Sudbury Station is a 40b project in Sudbury Town Center. The applicant applied for 250 units, the Zoning Board of Appeals permitted 30 and the applicant appealed.

Article 15 Means Tested Senior Tax Exemption Extension: In 2012, the Town authorized special legislation that allows for a means tested senior exemption program, which reduces real property taxes for certain low to moderate income seniors through a redistribution of residential property taxes. This legislation requires further vote by town meeting to extend the program. In 2018, the Town approved 113 applications with an average benefit of \$3,664. It cost the average single family home's tax bill to increase by \$73.

Article 16 Amend Bylaw Regarding Capital Planning: The current capital planning bylaw does not allow the Town Manager to include capital projects over \$50,000 in the Town's Operating Budget. This means that these articles have to be voted on separately. The new bylaw would increase that threshold to \$100,000 for efficiency. Town Meeting would still vote on the items as part of the budget. Some examples of these types of items to be discussed at this Town Meeting are a pickup truck (article 22) and a phone system (article 27). The Capital Improvement Advisory Committee would review projects over the new threshold as well.

Article 17 Amend the Article Town Meeting: This article would amend the current town meeting bylaw to allow the fall town meeting to be held during the months of September, October or November (currently, it must be held in late October). It would also allow the Board of Selectmen to determine not to hold the fall town meeting after a public hearing. This flexibility in the scheduling is particularly important during election season.

Article 18 Repeal Smoking Prohibition: Last year, the Board of Health updated the Town's Smoking Regulations (<https://sudbury.ma.us/health/?p=83>). The existing Bylaw (Article V, C: <https://bit.ly/2HBsr5W>) is dated and contrary to the new regulations. The new regulations should be the governing document, thus we are requesting to delete the bylaw.

Article 19 Amend Dog Regulation Bylaw: Currently, the Board of Selectmen are tasked with conducting investigations of nuisance or dangerous dog complaints. This bylaw change would allow the Board of Selectmen to delegate that responsibility to the police department or other employee. After an investigation, the Board of Selectmen would receive a report and hold a dog hearing.

Article 20 Amend Zoning Bylaw Regarding Recreational Marijuana: In 2014, Massachusetts voters passed state law to allow the sale of recreational marijuana in Massachusetts. The vote did not pass in Sudbury. Due to the way that Sudbury voted, Sudbury has the option to pass zoning bylaws to ban retail marijuana establishments, as well as cultivation and wholesale in town. This would not affect the medicinal marijuana zoning that is already in place. You can find the town forum here to learn more about this topic: <https://sudbury.ma.us/boardofselectmen/2018/05/01/2018-town-forum-marijuana/>

Article 21, 22 and 23 DPW Rolling Stock, Equipment and Fuel Storage System: All three of these articles concern DPW equipment and DPW needs. The different articles allow for the purchase of trucks and rolling stock, including street sweepers and a bucket truck. The third article is a replacement of the 20 year old fuel island and fuel tanks at DPW. They are beyond their useful life. The fuel island services all town departments, including police and fire. The first article is funded by free cash, while the second two articles are funded by debt.

Article 24 Stearn Mills Pond Design and Dutton Road Bridge Replacement: This article relates to two large infrastructure projects. The Stearn Mills Pond has been deemed by the state to be a significant hazard dam and the Town received a Notice of Noncompliance on the dam. The Dutton Road Bridge is in disrepair and requires reconstruction. This article will be funded with a bond and totals \$1,850,000.

Article 25 SPS Playground Equipment: This is a multi-year project to construct, reconstruct and repair the playgrounds located at the Sudbury Public Schools. A portion of this project is proposed to be funded by Community Preservation Funds and a portion to be funded by free cash. These improvements would be done at the Noyes Elementary School.

Article 27 Replacement of Phone System at LSRHS: This article will allow LS to replace its phone system. The current system was installed in 2004. The total number of phones to be replaced is 320 phones and the project would be completed this summer. The project total cost is \$80,000, with Sudbury paying approximately 85% out of free cash.