

ARTICLE 7

SELECT BOARD'S SUPPLEMENTAL RECOMMENDATION

The Select Board will be revisiting Article 7 to consider funding a potential agreement with the Fire union. A report and recommendation will be available after their 5/23 meeting.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE'S SUPPLEMENTAL RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation: FAVORABLE ACTION on Article 7 by a vote of 21-0-1.

The Advisory Committee has reviewed the proposed appropriations for FY2024 and is pleased to present this report to Town Meeting. Since February of 2023, the Committee and its subcommittees have conducted well-attended public hearings with the Town's department heads and the leadership of the Public Schools of Brookline. By a vote of 21-0-1 the Advisory Committee recommends FAVORABLE ACTION on the FY2024 budget. The full motion follows this report.

We thank all of the people who assisted in this year's process, including (but not limited to) the Select Board, Town Administrator, Deputy Town Administrator, Assistant Town Administrator, the Administrative Services Director, School Committee, and Town department heads. Particular thanks are extended to Deputy Town Administrator Melissa Goff, Assistant Town Administrator Charles Young, and Finance Director Lincoln Heineman for their time and patience in explaining the intricacies of municipal finance and their willingness to answer the Committee's many questions. Special thanks should be given to all of the citizens of Brookline who volunteer their time and effort to serve on committees or attend the countless hearings and meetings which are necessary for this planning.

DISCUSSION

The FY2024 main budget motion is \$365,519,900, a 4.9% increase from FY2023. The Town Administrator's annual budget message outlines some of the broad concerns into which we will dive more deeply below. The good news is that residential income tax receipts increased by over 5% (prior to the override vote), but balancing that is the fact that State Aid for education (under Chapter 70) increased by only 1.3% and Unrestricted General Government Aid increased by 2%. As we mentioned in this budget summary last year, increased demand for services, coupled with cost increases across the board (some driven by the burst of inflation we all experienced in our personal lives), would result in ongoing shortfalls. FY2024 was no exception. The Town Administrator prepared two operating budgets and the Select Board asked the voters to approve an operating override to address the various shortfalls.

All of the information to be shared in this report, including the Town Administrator’s budget message, can be found in interactive form online and we recommend that you explore it in detail. (Start on the Town’s home page at <http://brooklinema.gov/> and follow the navigation links to “Open Government.”)

As the May operating override vote succeeded, the numbers below reflect the FY2024 budget based on the higher revenue estimate. This higher estimate allows the Town to invest in services that were requested at recent Town Meetings, but for which no funding was identified or readily available. (Examples of this include the development of the “Comprehensive Plan,” increased funding for sanitation control due to increased trash in parks and the corresponding increase in rats, and urban forestry management.)

This budget is the last budget for which the one-time American Rescue Plan Act funds have any meaningful impact. The Town needs to move into its “new normal” phase, focusing on post-pandemic growth opportunities.

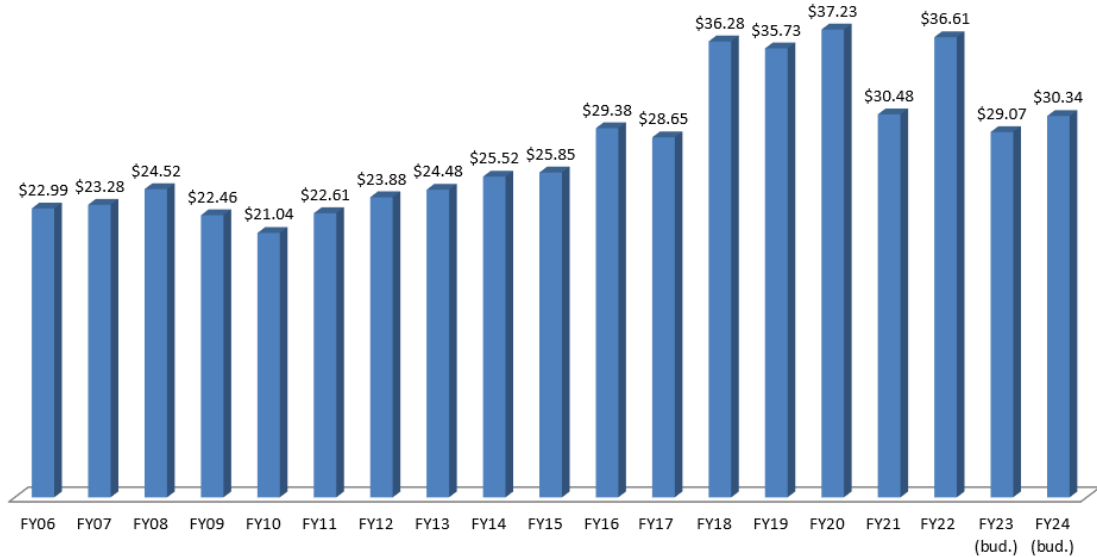
During the budget review process there were several topics which came up repeatedly and which will be discussed in more detail below: (1) ensuring proper training for the public safety departments; (2) concerns about underfunding with respect to vulnerable populations, most notably for the Council on Aging and Veterans’ Services; (3) the overall size of the School budget, especially as it relates to the aforementioned underfunding; and (4) the size, scope, and appropriateness of the Pierce School CIP item.

Revenues

Local receipts continue to rebound. We project an increase of 4.4% from FY2023, which leaves us with local revenues comparable to what we received in FY2016 (still approximately \$7M below the FY2020 peak). The trend is positive. Food and lodging in particular have rebounded considerably from their pandemic numbers. Marijuana excise taxes may have peaked, and revenues from Host Community Agreements have dropped

precipitously.

LOCAL RECEIPT HISTORY (in millions)



During the pandemic the Town deferred an increase to parking meter rates that had been anticipated to raise over \$750,000. Last year we noted that this increase should be revisited once we settle on a “new normal” for parking, especially since some parking spaces have been eliminated due to the outdoor dining program, and enforcement activity has declined. We continue to hold that opinion.

A total of \$20.1M in Free Cash has been certified. Free Cash is generated when the actual operating results compare favorably with the budget, such as when actual revenues exceed the original estimates and/or when actual expenditures are less than appropriated. It is also affected by increases or decreases in uncollected property taxes, non-General Fund deficit balances, and any other legally incurred operating deficits. The certified Free Cash number this year is higher than usual, primarily due to a one-time tax payment and receipts from a large building permit. In FY2024, the Town is appropriating Free Cash into the Operating Budget Reserve, the Stabilization Fund, the Liability Reserve, as well as to the special purpose of paying for COVID emergency expenses that the Federal Emergency Management Agency has or may declare ineligible for reimbursement. The remainder (\$13M) will be used to fund capital improvements.

Expenses

The full set of departmental allocations is broken out in the budget resolution; this report will focus on selected areas of interest. You may recall from last year’s budget report that the Advisory Committee had expressed significant concern regarding the funding of the Building Department (and in particular the funding allocated to building

maintenance). This year’s budget responds to that concern. One can see a notable increase in the allocation for the Building Department. We repeat the table we included last year, showing spending for selected departments over the past 6 budget cycles. Below we address some specific departmental budgetary concerns.

	FY19 ACTUAL	FY20 ACTUAL	FY21 ACTUAL	FY22 ACTUAL	FY23 BUDGET	FY24 BUDGET
Police	\$18,578,613	\$17,742,983	\$17,386,626	\$17,493,030	\$17,703,841	\$17,648,217
Fire	\$15,586,571	\$16,105,142	\$15,951,670	\$16,481,472	\$16,934,284	\$16,853,102
Building	\$5,511,493	\$8,158,293	\$8,831,246	\$9,587,404	\$10,237,173	\$11,142,213
Public Works	\$16,069,996	\$16,360,644	\$16,008,198	\$16,668,234	\$16,747,737	\$18,153,751
Schools	\$110,918,206	\$116,978,533	\$120,748,990	\$119,870,476	\$125,098,883	\$130,702,376

Selected Department Expenses Over Time

Schools. The largest single allocation in the budget is for the Public Schools of Brookline (PSB). The School Department’s budget is recommended to be funded at \$130,704,685, a 4.1% increase from FY2023. The School Department will supplement these funds via its revolving and gift funds, and the use of federal, state, and private grants and funds.

In recent years, the PSB has used short-term and one-time funds to support permanent operating expenses. In last year’s Combined Reports we stated that if organic growth in revenue was insufficient to make up for the projected end of state and federal Covid related assistance, the PSB would either have to reduce expenses or obtain funds via an increase in taxes, or some combination of both. The Town Administrator repeated the same in his budget message this year. The ‘No Override’ budget reflected those warnings, as it would have required the PSB to make approximately \$4.85M of reductions. The budget as recommended, post-override, decreases those reductions by \$3M but also adds approximately \$700K for new initiatives.

The Advisory Committee, as the Town’s finance committee, has raised many issues and concerns with the PSB over the past year, while also acknowledging the Department has been shorthanded in its senior central administration staff. These issues and concerns have had two broad areas of focus. The first is that the PSB has not presented a coherent set of metrics that can be tied to the PSB’s stated operational goals and used to measure system progress. The second is that the PSB receives a disproportionate share of Town revenues, a consequence of which has been the requirement of Town departments to forego funds that could have a significant positive impact on non-school services, as well as employee safety and satisfaction.

The Advisory Committee has requested the PSB, via the School Committee, address (or help the Advisory Committee address) both of these matters by developing a clearer and perhaps narrower identification of priorities reflecting a greater appreciation for balance with the non-school needs of the Town. The Advisory Committee has expressed a desire to work more closely with the PSB on this matter.

The Superintendent and some members of the School Committee have indicated general agreement with the Advisory Committee on the issue of goals and metrics. The PSB intends to complete a strategic plan this calendar year which, it expects, will help establish useful and transparent links between goals and valuable measurements while concurrently moving the PSB towards being a “school system” versus what has been described as a “system of schools.” The latter has been highlighted by PSB leadership and outside consultants as a primary impediment to uniform and equitable access to teaching and learning in the PSB.

Police. The Police Department budget for FY2024 is \$17,648,217, essentially level-funded from FY2023. It should be noted that, as explained in the report for Warrant Article 2, the Joint Labor-Management Committee (JLMC) recently issued an arbitration decision to extend the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Town of Brookline and the Brookline Police Union, adjusting the wages for Fiscal Years 2021-2023, which adjusts the base for FY2024. This adjustment is not reflected in the FY2024 budget for the Police Department; since any funds for FY2024 come from the Collective Bargaining reserve or out of the existing budget. (How does that work? Human Resources director Ann Braga informed the Advisory Committee that there are currently close to 30 open positions in the Police Department. Despite their best efforts, and despite the fact that the salary increases bring the Department’s salaries closer in line with neighboring communities, it is unlikely that all of these positions will be filled before the end of the fiscal year. Those unpaid but budgeted salaries result in savings that will be applied towards overtime costs that will be required due to the number of unfilled position. The expected remainder should be sufficient to fund any FY2024 gap between the arbitration award and the funds in the Collective Bargaining reserve.)

In last year’s report, we identified a number of budgetary issues within the Police Department, most notably those related to the absence of a collective bargaining agreement which impacted recruiting, retention, and morale. Although the number of vacancies in the department is higher now than it was at this time last year, Chief Jennifer Paster is hopeful that the department is turning a corner. In March, there were six hires in the training academy, with five additional hires likely to attend the Lowell training academy. The JLMC award makes compensation competitive.

Body Cameras

The CIP budget for FY24 has \$200,000 budgeted for the purchase of body cameras. Grants are available at both the state and federal levels to help fund

implementation of this initiative. (Newton received a grant to fund a pilot program.) The JLMC award includes an agreement regarding body cameras, so there should be no impediments to rolling out their use.

Training

The Advisory Committee expressed concerns about the year-over-year decline in the training budget, which has fallen from \$74,000 in FY2020 to an initial proposal of \$31,300 for FY2024. Chief Paster noted that adequacy of training is especially important under current conditions. The department has many young officers, as well as younger persons at the management level. New young officers joining this year; a lack of in-person hands-on training during the past few years due to the constraints of COVID; increased calls for assistance with more violent incidents, more serious mental health problems, and difficult emotional and behavioral circumstances that may require more use of force and more de-escalation techniques, all may lead to increased need for training. Consequently, the Advisory Committee’s budget proposal originally included an additional \$40,000 for the Police Department’s training budget. This requested funding was ultimately provided via ARPA funds. (In other words, the training will be provided, but is not accounted for in this budget line item.). Because this funding will be provided by one-time dollars, its inclusion in future budgets is uncertain and will need to be reconsidered.

Fire. The Fire Department budget for FY2024 is \$16,853,102, essentially level funded. As of March, the department had one vacancy and anticipated four more in FY24. The Chief has noted that currently there are 18 members out injured on duty (IOD), which drives up overtime costs. The average department IOD was 12-13 over the past two years. Four employees have exceeded or are approaching the 2-year mark since injury, three employees are approaching the 1-year mark since injury, and 10 are within six months from their injury. Some of the reasons overtime is so high are “an inability to quickly and efficiently move employees through to the retirement process,” “an inability to accelerate treatment or surgical interventions with providers,” and “contractual restrictions (collective bargaining) with regard to modified duty.” The Fire Department has responded to an increasing number of calls in recent years, rising from 8,201 in 2017 to 9,134 in 2022.

Training

As with the Police Department, the Advisory Committee expressed concerns over the training budget. The requested Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion training would have gone unfunded in the FY2024 budget. As such, the original Advisory Committee budget proposal included \$45,000 for such training. This, too, has been provided through ARPA funds and is not explicitly included in this line item. As with training for the Police Department, the use of one-time funding means a funding source for this training, if desired for FY2025, will need to be identified.

Health of Firefighters

Firefighters face increased risks of cancers from the job, and there are increased efforts to minimize exposure to potential risk factors, which can include exhaust from fire trucks and toxins from increased use of plastics, flame retardants, rechargeable batteries, and the like. The union is working with OSHA to compile statistics on cancer rates. Firefighters are given two sets of clothing; each station now has working washing machines; and each station has been divided into zones which seeks to limit contaminated gear, etc. from contaminating station living areas. (This is one of the drivers of the planned fire station renovations. Improving air quality in stations is also a key part of the renovations.)

There is also a new recognition of the dangers of PFAS. For example, there are more electric cars on the road. When those vehicles catch on fire, firefighters need to use foam instead of water to stop the battery fire. Today, that foam contains PFAS, and can cause health problems. The department is trying to minimize the use of foam and is looking for a greener alternative. Additionally, it is now known that the chemical used to waterproof the turnout gear that firefighters use everyday also contains PFAS. The Chief has instituted a new policy that allows firefighters to forgo wearing the turnout gear in situations that don't need it (medical calls, etc.), reducing their exposure.

Renovations of Fire Stations

The debt exclusion to renovate the Town's antiquated fire stations passed easily at the November 2022 election. The estimated cost is around \$60-65M and the renovations will be net-Zero. The project is planned to be done in stages over several years. First will be the renovation of Station 4 on Boylston St., followed by Station 1 in the Village. This project also includes the complete replacement (onsite) of Station 5 on Babcock St. The Town has received bids from three potential vendors, and hopes to begin the first project this coming fall or winter.

Council on Aging. The Advisory Committee commends the Council on Aging (COA) for its good work and felt strongly that the COA could benefit from additional funds for two important purposes: (1) funding transportation initiatives for seniors, including but not limited to sustaining the existing transportation options and exploring so-called "micro-transit" options; and (2) developing a strategic plan for the COA. The budget request of \$1,192,722 includes an additional \$100,000 of funding intended for these purposes.

Veterans' Services. The Advisory Committee supports the Veterans' Services budget request of \$322,728, but expressed concern regarding some practices of the department which appear to be in response to perceived budgetary constraints. Most notably, the director of the department will sometimes transport veterans in his personal vehicle (which can sometimes include heavy or awkward lifting), rather than use professional transport services. This appears to be a liability risk for the Town (and the director) and the Advisory Committee would like to see attention paid to reducing this risk, possibly through increased funding for ride sharing, e.g., Uber/Lyft, or through the acquisition of a vehicle.

Capital Improvement Plan

The amount of funding for Brookline’s Capital Improvement Program (CIP) is, by policy, determined to be 6% of the prior year’s net revenue (4.5% debt financed, i.e., funds that are raised and paid for within the property tax levy, and 1.5% revenue financed), plus sufficient funds from Free Cash to reach 7.5% of the prior year’s net revenue. It should be noted that debt service for Water and Sewer projects and Golf Course projects is paid for by the revenue streams of the Water and Sewer Enterprise Fund and the Golf Course Enterprise Fund.

The 2023 Annual Town Meeting will be asked to vote on a CIP for FY2024 that totals \$232,938,585. Of that amount, 74% or \$172,787,447, is funded by the recently approved debt exclusion override for the Pierce School project; 16% or \$38,048,756 by state and federal grants (MSBA funds for the Pierce School and state funds for road rehab); 2% or \$5,600,000 by Water and Sewer utility bonding, and 7% or \$16,252,382 by property taxes and Free Cash. Among the pressures on the CIP are the leases for “Classroom Capacity” (\$2,026,982) and the debt service on the \$11 million settlement of the Gerald Alston case (\$1,359,528), which was financed in its entirety with a 10-year bond.

Details and explanations for the CIP requests the Advisory Committee recommends funding can be found later in this report.

Concerns

The FY2024 budget is a comprehensive plan to address the needs of the Town, but of course there are concerns which must be noted.

Staffing

During the budget review process for FY2023 we heard many concerns about the Town’s ability to hire and whether the total compensation offered for positions is competitive. The Town contracted with the Collins Center for Public Management to initiate a salary study; the results of which were deemed to be incomplete and inconclusive. During the FY2024 budget cycle we heard fewer complaints. The Department with the most difficulty in hiring has been the Police Department, which has just seen its overall compensation increased. It is hoped that this will have a positive impact on hiring.

Maintenance

As noted last year, the Advisory Committee recommends that a new approach to building maintenance funding be considered, possibly involving the use of a stabilization fund dedicated to building maintenance, with funds being directed to this stabilization fund via the debt exclusion for new construction. (In other words, a portion of the maintenance budget should be included and earmarked in the planning/costing when new buildings are built.)

Similarly, the Department of Public Works’ vehicle inventory is getting long in the tooth. Vehicles that have outlived their planned lifespan are still on the road because

insufficient funds have been allocated for their replacement. Estimates show that over \$10M in replacement costs for DPW vehicles will be necessary over the next 5 years.

Pensions/Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEBs)

The Town continues to follow its plan to shore up the Pension Fund and OPEB funding deficits. Based on current estimates, the Town remains on track to fully fund the Pension Fund by 2030, freeing up funds to direct to cover the OPEB liability. Despite these welcome steps, it is important to recognize that a significant liability (approximately \$225M each) currently exists in each area. As a percentage of revenue, Brookline's unfunded pension liability is third highest among AAA-rated communities, while our unfunded OPEB liability is in the middle of the pack.

Debt

The Town has maintained its AAA bond rating, indicating that the rating agencies continue to trust our management of our finances. Still, as of July 2022, the Town has amassed \$468.6M in bonded debt (see https://dls.gateway.dor.state.ma.us/reports/rdPage.aspx?rdReport=Dashboard.Category_6_Debt), with the possibility of an additional increase due to CIP Item 70 (the Pierce School reconstruction). Although the voters have continued to approve debt exclusions, this level of debt is higher than the vast majority of our peer communities. There is more to say on this topic below in the report on CIP Item 70.

Structural liabilities

One year ago in these pages, we pointed out the inherent structural deficits that result when our costs increase more than our revenues increase. Given that overall costs typically increase by 5% to 6% annually, while revenue (absent overrides) increases by 3% to 4% (held in check by Proposition 2½), we have a recurring structural budget deficit. For FY2023, we allocated almost double to the Collective Bargaining Reserve than had been allocated in FY2022. This trend continued for FY2024. The amount allocated to this reserve is \$1.1M higher than in FY2023, and it represents 2.1% of the total departmental expenditures in the budget, higher than the line item allocation for many departments. (By comparison, the Library budget represents 2.0% of total departmental expenditures.)

Some of our structural deficits have been addressed year over year through one-time funds, but this cannot continue indefinitely. Our options remain:

- Increase the commercial tax base through new construction and new businesses
- Increase residential real estate taxes via overrides, continuing a trend we have employed for more than 20 years
- Cut or reallocate funding

Historically we have relied heavily on the second option, and did so again earlier this month. Last year, we warned that “taxpayers may be convinced to increase the levy but it

becomes increasingly likely that there will come a day when an override or debt exclusion will fail.” The closeness of the vote for the debt exclusion for the Pierce School indicates that day may be closer than many think.

With respect to the third option, the steps that the Town took during this budget cycle to allocate additional funds to the Building Department is a positive sign, both for this budget and for future budget processes. In addition, the Advisory Committee, in late 2022, established a subcommittee that will work with department heads and the Town Administrator to move budget review and oversight earlier in the budgeting process. For this budget cycle, this mostly resulted in data gathering, but we expect that for the FY2025 budget cycle, we will have earlier involvement and a stronger set of departmental metrics on which to report.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

The Town’s Capital Improvement Program (CIP) policies define a CIP Project as follows:

A capital improvement project is any project that improves or adds to the Town's infrastructure, has a substantial useful life, and costs \$25,000 or more, regardless of the funding source. Examples of capital projects include the following:

- Construction of new buildings
- Major renovation of or additions to existing buildings
- Land acquisition or major land improvements
- Street reconstruction and resurfacing
- Sanitary sewer and storm drain construction and rehabilitation
- Water system construction and rehabilitation
- Major equipment acquisition and refurbishment
- Planning, feasibility studies, and design for potential capital projects

Criteria to evaluate CIP proposals include the following:

- Eliminates a proven or obvious hazard to public health and safety
- Required by legislation or action of other governmental jurisdictions
- Supports adopted plans, goals, objectives, and policies
- Reduces or stabilizes operating costs
- Prolongs the functional life of a capital asset of the Town by five years or more
- Replaces a clearly obsolete facility or maintains and makes better use of an existing facility
- Prevents a substantial reduction in an existing standard of service
- Directly benefits the Town's economic base by increasing property values
- Provides new programs having social, cultural, historic, environmental, economic, or aesthetic value
- Utilizes outside financing sources such as grants

The Advisory Committee recommends funding the following FY 2024 CIP requests.

37. TOWN BUILDING FURNITURE

Recommendation: \$25,000 (Revenue Financed)

This item allows for the replacement of aging furniture at Town Hall and other non-school buildings.

38. MAIN LIBRARY HVAC

Recommendation: \$375,000 (Revenue Financed)

The Brookline Main Library is in need of a new, upgraded HVAC system. The present system is 20 years old. It has been maintained over the years but the repair parts are not available. Also, the AC compressors are reaching/have reached the end of their lives. The system has been plagued with many failures over the last several years causing uncomfortable conditions for the buildings occupants.

There are two large HV units on the rear roof of the Library that supply heat, cooling and fresh air. For each HV unit there is a cooling coil connected to a large condensing unit/chiller. The unit's sizes are 109 tons of refrigeration and 84 tons of refrigeration. The controls internal to the AC systems and HVAC units have poor controls and monitoring equipment. Due to the age of the equipment, it is very difficult to diagnose problems and try to make a fix. Sometimes the fix is as simple as a relay but unfortunately with the antiquated control system, this does not easily present itself.

This project would replace the HVAC systems with a new modern system using scroll compressors design and state of the art controls. The 2 HV units would remain and get new motors and controls. The systems controls would tie in directly to the energy management system which would allow for remote monitoring.

39. POLICE/FIRE RADIO INFRASTRUCTURE

Recommendation: \$900,000 (Revenue Financed)

The Police Department's FY 23 CIP request for \$900,000 represents the fifth and last annual payment of a five-year lease/purchase agreement with Motorola for upgrading police and fire radio channel infrastructure. The upgrade program began four years ago when the system's copper circuit connections could no longer be supported by Verizon and replacement parts were no longer available for the 25-year-old equipment. The new system and equipment has a life expectancy of 12-15 years.

The upgrading process, although slowed down by the pandemic with scheduling delays and delays in the arrival of equipment, is in the "final stretch."

40. BODY WORN AND IN-CAR CAMERA EQUIPMENT

Recommendation: \$200,000 (Revenue Financed)

The Brookline Police Department has been in contact with vendors with the goal of researching initial costs and additional fiduciary impacts with regard to the Department-wide implementation of Body-Worn (BWC) and In-Car (ICC) Camera Systems. This equipment will allow our Department to meet our goals of increased employee accountability and improved public trust, and will meet the public's demand for greater

transparency with regard to police involved incidents, community member complaints and internal investigations.

After years of research and meetings with vendors, our IT Division and Command Staff are exploring an integrated system which combines body cameras, cruiser cameras, information storage, and replacement/upgrade of both equipment and software. The cost of a full implementation of the system including bodycams, cruiser cameras, digital storage and scheduled equipment replacement, is approximately \$200,000 for the first year, with approximate costs of \$150,000 each following year over a five year contract which will include all necessary equipment, training, storage, and maintenance.

41. TRAFFIC CALMING / SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS

Recommendation: \$500,000 (Revenue Financed)

As of September 14, 2021, the Town currently has a list of twenty Traffic Calming projects that have been submitted to the Engineering and Transportation Division for review and prioritization. This updated list remains available on the Transportation Division's website (<https://www.brooklinema.gov/DocumentCenter/View/489/Current-Traffic-Calming-Project-Status-Report-PDF>).

The following project has been assessed, designed and are prepared for implementation subject to approved funding:

Upper Washington Street Pedestrian Safety Project

The Transportation Board and the Transportation Division of Public Works committed to improving pedestrian safety along the portion of Washington Street from the town line with Boston and Salisbury Road as a result of a fatal pedestrian crash at the intersection of Washington Street and Downing Road in November of 2021. This area of Washington Street is outside the project limits for the transportation mitigation improvements as part of the Driscoll School construction project and the planned TIP project from Beacon Street to Station Street. The section of roadway was the site of safety improvements over 15 years ago that included the construction of curb extensions on Washington Street at intersections with residential streets that flow into the arterial roadway. The initial staff plan is to expand on these measures and to further increase pedestrian safety along the corridor, by increasing pedestrian sightlines, pedestrian accessibility, and reduce vehicle speeds of those turning onto and off of Washington Street through the installation of raised crosswalks along the side street crossings on Salisbury Road, Bartlett Street, Evans Road, and Downing Road and a pedestrian actuated rectangular rapid flashing beacon (RRFB) at the unsignalized crosswalk across Washington Street at Bartlett Street. These are safety improvement techniques used both regionally and nationally to create safer pedestrian accommodations along main arterial roadways like Washington Street. With the support of the Transportation Board and the Zoning Board of Appeals, staff was able

to secure a commitment by the developer for 45 Bartlett Crescent to design and construct the raised crosswalk for Bartlett Crescent.

42. BICYCLE ACCESS IMPROVEMENTS

Recommendation: \$700,000 (Revenue Financed)

Projects funded through this appropriation originate from plans for a larger Green Routes Bicycle Network. The Network seeks to avoid circuitous routes that discourage cycling. As much as possible, its routes minimize traffic stress, avoid hills, are esthetically pleasant, and minimize stops. It incorporates routes that cyclists prefer since there is no benefit to designating routes that bicyclists won't follow. Funding supports the painting of existing and new bike lanes and sharrows, replacement and installation of protective bollards and designated signage, and the installation of curb extensions and protected bike lanes.

The Beacon Street Bridal Path Project that had been identified as the priority for design has fortunately been funded by a federal earmark. The next project identified as a priority is the Complete Street Design of the northern segment of Washington Street from Beacon Street to the Town/City line. That design effort is estimated to cost approximately \$400,000 and will occur in parallel with the Town's transformative Washington Street corridor project that is already under design. This design will work to provide continuity of bike, pedestrian, and roadway improvements throughout the entire length of the Washington Street corridor.

The balance of the funding will be used in collaboration with the Transportation Board and Bicycle Advisory Committee to design and implement items (quick build opportunities, bike lane striping, etc.) identified in the Green Routes Bicycle Network Plan available here <https://www.brooklinema.gov/DocumentCenter/View/18782/Green-Routes-Master-Network-Plan> or other priorities that work to improve safety for cyclists in the public way. If/when approved, the Engineering and Transportation team will be working with both groups to identify goals and objectives to best use this funding.

43. ACCESSIBLE PEDESTRIAN SIGNAL CONVERSION

Recommendation: \$75,400 (Revenue Financed)

Accessible Pedestrian Signals (APS), include pedestrian pushbuttons and countdown timers. They communicate information in non-visual formats to all pedestrians, including those who are vision-impaired, and play an important role in the safe navigation of signalized intersections by locating the crossing location, activating the pedestrian push buttons, and informing pedestrians when crossing the street is safe.

FY 24 CIP: Due to lack of replacement parts, the APS system on Beacon Street will have to be replaced with an updated version. This APS system was installed as part of the rebuilding of Beacon Street in 2007.

44. STREET REHABILITATION – TOWN

Recommendation - \$4,680,000 (Revenue Financed)

In 1992, the Department of Public Works (DPW) undertook a comprehensive study of its roads and implemented a pavement management system. The system was designed to

bring Town- owned streets to a sufficient level of repair such that they could be maintained without undertaking costly full reconstruction. From 1992 to 1997, some progress in this regard was made, but funding was inconsistent. Starting in 1997, the Town began allocating \$1 million per year to street repair, which was added to Chapter 90 funding from the State, reserved for streets and roads that meet specific criteria. With the approval of the 2008 Operating Override, an additional \$750,000 was added to the CIP for streets and sidewalks (\$700,000 for streets and \$50,000 for sidewalks), along with an annual 2.5% increase in the CIP appropriation associated with this work. In 2018 Stantec updated the Town’s Pavement Management Program, noting that the \$18.5 million backlog of Street Maintenance work in 2014 had increased to a \$23.5 million backlog, that the PCI rating (Pavement Condition Index) was 73 and that the annual appropriation needed to keep the Town’s public ways in good condition was \$3 million.

In July 2021 Beta Engineering published a report on the Town’s public ways based on survey work undertaken in Spring 2020. The report noted that the average PCI rating had dropped to 70.80, that the current backlog had increased to \$53.9 million and that the annual appropriation needed to maintain streets and roads in good condition had increased to \$5 million.

Going forward, Street Rehabilitation projects will be looked at through the lens of Complete Streets and will include traffic volume data, traffic counts, vehicular speed, crash summaries, pedestrian reports, sidewalk conditions, the Green Routes Master Plan for bicycle access, Safe Routes to School, traffic signals, accessibility ramps, and traffic calming. This is a far more comprehensive approach than has been used in the past and will involve more process and greater community input. It is also an approach that will cost more in time and in dollars and presents even greater justification for significantly increasing the annual appropriations for the Street Rehabilitation Program.

While the FY24 appropriation is higher than what the formula provides due to a strong Free Cash number, the out-years reflects the current constraints under a lower Free Cash estimate. This includes a \$750,000 increase due to the 2023 Override approved by the Select Board and electorate.

45. SIDEWALK REPAIR

Recommendation - \$500,000 (Revenue Financed)

Sidewalk Repair funds are directed to sidewalks that are not reconstructed as part of a larger street rehabilitation or major repair project. The 2008 Override included \$50,000 for sidewalk repair, to be increased annually by 2.5%. Small sections of sidewalks are repaired by the crews of the Highway Division of the DPW, and some of the CIP appropriation is used to purchase materials for this purpose. Most of the CIP funds, however, are used to pay outside contractors to repair long stretches of sidewalks in the Town.

Similar to the department’s pavement management program, as part of our larger Transportation and Mobility Plan, the DPW Sidewalk Improvement program is a data-driven approach to repair deteriorated sidewalks and ramps, reach ADA/AAB compliance Town-wide, provide essential pedestrian connectivity, and create more

walkable neighborhoods. While some sidewalks are reconstructed as part of the street reconstruction program, those that are not, are funded under this program.

46. WASHINGTON ST. REHAB AND COMPLETE STREETS

Recommendation - \$800,000 (Revenue Financed)

Funding for the project supports survey, design, engineering, analysis, and project management services necessary to assist the Town in obtaining Federal and/or State funding for the rehabilitation of 1.3 miles of Washington Street and associated intersections from Station Street (Brookline Village) northerly up to and including its intersection with Beacon Street (Washington Square). The Washington Street Rehabilitation and Complete Street Project scored well with the Boston MPO and was one of only three new projects to be considered for inclusion in the next round of TIP funding. Based upon the recent Project Review Committee approval, the estimated construction cost for the project is \$28.2M. The Town funding share is currently estimated at 6 million spread over several years to include preliminary design, public participation, right of way approvals, engineering bid documents, construction oversight, project management, funding assistance, implementation, and Town preferred betterments.

The primary goal of this project is not only to rehabilitate a critical arterial roadway that is in poor condition but to create a true Complete Street throughout the Washington Street corridor.

The Washington Street project work elements required by MassDOT include a survey, functional design report, preliminary right-of-way plans, community participation and outreach, preliminary design, state submittals, and final design. Town funding over several years will support the associated engineering design services for the preparation of designs, plans, specifications, and cost estimates. It will also be used for right-of-way agreements, project oversight, community engagement, and construction services. The first phase of work will include preliminary design and preparation of information and submittals to the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) and the Boston Metropolitan Organization (MPO) to include the project into the Federal and/or State Aid Funding Program.

47. AMORY TENNIS COURTS, PARKING AND HALLS POND RENOVATION

Recommendation - \$520,000 (Revenue Financed)

This item includes the reconstruction of the drainage, subgrade, irrigation and clay tennis courts and associated infrastructure at Amory Park. It also allows for improvement to drainage and reconstruction of the parking lot and entrance to the park, picnic areas and includes rehabilitation of the existing boardwalk structure and pathways at the Halls Pond Conservation Sanctuary. The current board walk structure was installed in 2002 as a component of the overall restoration of the entire Conservation Sanctuary. Heavy use of the area is causing the decking and railings of the boardwalk to degrade, and the frequency of repairs is increasing. This project will remove the existing decking and railings, leave the piers and substructure in place, and install new pressure treated decking and handrails to ensure visitors will have a safe, and accessible, boardwalk system. This project will impact approximately 600 linear feet of boardwalk with a low bump rail, 140 linear feet with full handrails on both sides, and two overlook platforms. The FY24 appropriation include design costs only for this project.

48. MONMOUTH PARK

Recommendation - \$350,000 (Revenue Financed)

Monmouth Park is located on St. Mary's Street close to Beacon. It was last renovated in 2006. The park is framed by an ornamental fence, has mature trees, stone seat walls, a walking path, bluestone plaza, lawn area, and playground. The park is located next to the Brookline Arts Center which was located here after an old chemical firehouse was remodeled in 1968. In Fall 2002, Town Meeting voted for both lots to be protected under Article 97. The playground is in need of full replacement. As part of the renovation, the lawn will be refurbished, plantings replaced, masonry repaired and plaza space repaired. The FY24 appropriation include design and construction costs for the playground structure.

49. SCHICK PLAYGROUND

Recommendation - \$2,000,000 (Revenue Financed)

Schick Park, located on Addington Road, is in need of a full site renovation to meet new safety and accessibility requirements. Renovations will include new play equipment for older and younger children, repointing the stone walls, repair of the wooden picnic shelter, field renovation, fencing, paving and site furniture. The FY24 appropriation includes design and construction costs.

50. PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS REHABILITATION & UPGRADE

Recommendation - \$285,000 (Revenue Financed)

This annual, town-wide program directs CIP funds to the evaluation, repair and replacement of unsafe and deteriorating park, playground, fence, and field facilities or components. Items funded under this program include fences, gates, backstops, retaining walls, picnic furniture, turf restoration, infield refurbishment, bench replacements, play structures, safety surfacing, and drainage improvements. This program avoids more expensive rehabilitation that would be necessary if these items were left to deteriorate.

51. TOWN/SCHOOL GROUNDS REHAB

Recommendation - \$100,000 (Revenue Financed)

Town and School grounds require on-going structural improvements and repair. These funds will be applied to create attractive and functional landscapes and hardscape improvements including plant installation, regrading, reseeding, tree work, repair to concrete or asphalt walkways through the site, trash receptacles, bike racks, drainage improvements, retaining walls, and repairs to stairs, treads, railings, benches, or other exterior structures. This funding does not include capital replacement of areas over building structures or directly connected to the buildings, such as entrance stairways and ramps into the building that are under the Building Department's jurisdiction. This program avoids more expensive rehabilitation that would be necessary if these items were left to deteriorate.

52. TENNIS COURTS/BASKETBALL COURTS

Recommendation - \$300,000 (Revenue Financed)

The Town has over 19 basketball courts and 36 hard-surface tennis courts. Over time, the court surfaces begin to deteriorate, crack, and weather. In order to maintain the integrity, safety, and playability of the courts, the Town needs to plan for the phased reconstruction/renovation/resurfacing of the courts, lighting and drainage improvements.

53. TREE REMOVAL AND REPLACEMENT / URBAN FORESTRY MANAGEMENT

Recommendation - \$375,000 (Revenue Financed)

The tree removal and replacement program represents the Town's effort to balance street tree removals with plantings. As trees mature or are impacted by storm damage or disease, it is critical to remove these before they become public safety hazards. New tree plantings are also critical, as they directly impact the tree-lined character of the community, improve stormwater quality, provide oxygen, reduce heat impact in the summer, and improve the overall quality of life in Brookline. In addition, funding is included for on-going management work in the four conservation properties (Hall's Pond Sanctuary, Amory Woods Sanctuary, D. Blakely Hoar Sanctuary, and the Lost Pond Sanctuary) and parks. Storm damage, disease, and old age continue to reduce tree canopies. The funds will be utilized to remove hazard trees and provide structural, health, and safety pruning to prolong the life and viability of our significant trees. New trees will be planted in anticipation of the ultimate loss of existing mature trees.

Included in the requested annual amount is funding for Urban Forest Management to address a range of significant improvements needed, such as: tree removals, crown thinning, soil amendments, woodland canopy gap management, invasive removal, pest management, health and structural pruning, and planting throughout the Town's parks and open spaces. This program will help with resiliency to disease, pests and rapid decline attributed with trees unmanaged in an urban environment. The first phase of work will be performed in collaboration with the Olmsted Tree Society of the Emerald Necklace Conservancy who has worked with the Town of Brookline, City of Boston and Commonwealth of Massachusetts on an Urban Forestry Management Plan for the Emerald Necklace. The work outlined in this plan will be supported with public, private and grant funding. The protocol outlined in the plan shall be used to plan for and address urban forestry management priorities throughout Town.

54. SOULE-COURTYARD RENOVATION

Recommendation - \$150,000 (Transfer)

Soule Early Childhood Education Center's philosophy supports nature, diversity, and discovery. This school is 100% cost recovery. We are looking to more formally design an outdoor classroom space, to help them achieve the mission. We currently utilize the Soule Courtyard for an outside classroom space, but it has fallen into disrepair and is in need of a capital improvement to re-design to make space more developmentally appropriate for the growing school. The project is in a space is approximately 3,100 square feet. Historically, during significant weather events, there have been drainage issues that have impacted the wood frame of outdoor space (Soule Structure). The project would start with removal of the current asphalt, assessing for appropriate drainage and assessing Soule building structure base for weather damage. We plan to replace the pavement with a more weather proof natural surfacing and materials. We expect \$150,000 for feasibility, design, specs, equipment, and construction. We expect to purchase equipment to enhance the usability of space. Areas of play would be designed.

55. PUTTERHAM WOODS

Recommendation - \$300,000 (Revenue Financed)

Putterham Woods at the Brookline Golf Course has suffered from significant forest die back and failure of the tree canopy, due to storms and other environmental concerns. The Putterham Woods site is approximately fifteen acres of forested land. The site is in need of tree work to remove down and damaged trees for safety reasons. This project would make the area safe, which is the first step before it is decided how the area is designed. Future phases include paths and plating new trees.

56. SCHOOL FURNITURE

Recommendation - \$25,000 (Revenue Financed)

Funds in this program are used to replace school furniture, which absorbs significant wear and tear through daily use. Funds may also be used to respond to the occasional special request from a PSB teacher.

57. HVAC EQUIPMENT

Recommendation - \$200,000 (Revenue Financed)

These funds would be used to primarily replace the larger, more expensive parts up to and including the entire unit for air conditioners, HVAC equipment and boilers. A majority of the money would be used for ac compressor replacements. There are presently 199 permanent air conditioning systems in both Town and School buildings. Their sizes range from 2 tons to over 100 tons. The equipment age goes from 1975 up to 2017, with 112 units 10 years or older. Typically, air conditioning compressors last only 5 - 10 years. Depending on the size, costs can range from \$3,500 to \$150,000. Instead of being proactive, there is presently a reactive response when there is a failure, usually in very hot weather. The cost to repair is born out of the operations and maintenance budget (O&M). However, with the large increase in installations of AC equipment over the years, the O&M would not be able to handle a large cost such as this. The plan would be to replace compressors and do upgrades in the off season, based on age and conditions.

The monies would also be used to replace gas fire equipment with no fossil fuel equipment in all buildings which would include hot water and heat. This would allow a start to achieve zero emissions by 2050. Emissions would be reduced over a number of years. The first to be replaced would be gas fire hot water heaters with hybrid electric hot water heaters. Then phase in heat pumps units.

58. TOWN/SCHOOL BUILDING - ADA RENOVATIONS

Recommendation - \$90,000 (Revenue Financed)

This annual program of improvements is requested in order to bring Town and School buildings into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which requires that the Town make public buildings accessible to all.

Handicap operators, signage, chair lifts, automatic flushometers. Some these items are on a maintenance cycle. Other are new locations or additional. Some these funds are also used for reasonable accommodations for HR or student requirements.

59. TOWN/SCHOOL BUILDING - ELEVATOR RENOVATIONS

Recommendation - \$250,000 (Revenue Financed)

The Town presently has 47 elevators, LULAs, and wheelchair lifts throughout all buildings. When a building is renovated, most elevators are upgraded (new controls, motors, cables, refurbishment of the car, etc.). Some elevators are also partially upgraded to meet the requirements of the existing building codes. The buildings that have not been renovated have elevators that are close to 30 years old. Maintenance is an issue and parts

are increasingly difficult to find. The elevator's controller is basically a computer. The controller needs to be upgraded or replaced as technology progresses and older technology is not supported. This project would upgrade those cars and lifts with new equipment.

On schedule and presently fully funded is the modernization of the elevators and the Unified Arts Building (UAB) and the Lynch Rec Center.

60. TOWN/SCHOOL BUILDING - ENERGY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Recommendation - \$130,000 (Revenue Financed)

This project is to upgrade the energy management systems in Town and School buildings. A few of the larger buildings have older (30 years) energy management systems that have exceeded their life expectancy and replacement parts are no longer available. These systems would be replaced and upgraded with new web-based systems integrated into the Town's existing computer network. Other systems would be upgraded with newer software or firmware. The Building Department will continue to work with the Information Technology Department on these projects. Hardware lifecycle is 10 years, software upgrades every 3 years. As buildings get more complicated, this cost may go up in the future.

61. PUBLIC BUILDING FIRE ALARM UPGRADES

Recommendation - \$125,000 (Revenue Financed)

The Town engaged with Garcia, Galuska & Desousa to conduct a study to assess the existing fire alarm and fire protection systems. The funding will allow the Building Department to address the recommendations in the study to properly maintain and upgrade these systems. Upgrading older systems and new equipment in some years.

62. TOWN/SCHOOL BUILDING - SECURITY/LIFE SAFETY SYSTEMS

Recommendation - \$170,000 (Revenue Financed)

Over the last number of years, several large capital projects have been undertaken that included security improvements in Town and School buildings. This program will extend the effort and improve areas where security may be lacking. In general, the plan calls for making all doors around the perimeter of a building more secure by replacing the doors, frames, door handles, and locks with electronic locks that may only be opened with a keypad and/or on a specific schedule. Only the front main entrance of the building would allow for general access. At the front door, a speaker and doorbell will be added to connect to the building's existing intercom or phone system for use by visitors. The lighting around each building will be improved and placed on a timer. A small camera system connected to a computer will be added at the main entrance to monitor access to the building.

School buildings will be a priority. Most schools are reasonably secure, but based on an assessment by the Police Department, security can and should be improved. These funds

would also be used to continue the on-going process of replacement and installation of new and upgraded burglar alarms, fire alarm systems, sprinkler systems, emergency lighting, and egress signs.

School badge ID system for the students at the High School. More discussion of why we are going in this direction needs to happen. There is a concern of tracking of students. \$120,000 for Badges. Other expenses include cameras and digital storage.

63. SCHOOL BUILDING REHAB/UPGRADES

Recommendation - \$1,000,000 (Revenue Financed)

This is an on-going school-wide program for the repair and upgrade of school facilities in between major renovation projects. Items funded under this program include large scale painting programs, new flooring, ceilings, window treatments and toilet upgrades. This program avoids more expensive rehabilitation that would be necessary if these items were left to deteriorate. There is a backlog of approximately \$17,000,000 in deferred maintenance of the school buildings.

Last year's funding for this item was \$50,000. The Building department has prioritized list for this FY24. It includes work done to the Lincoln, Baker and Runkle Schools.

64. CLASSROOM CAPACITY

Recommendation - \$2,026,982 (Revenue Financed)

In response to the need for additional space to accommodate growing school enrollment and before the expansion/rebuild of several K-8 school buildings, a "Classroom Capacity" account was created and supported with CIP dollars. Initially used to repurpose existing space and to add modular units via lease-purchase arrangements, more recently Classroom Capacity funds have been used to lease not only classroom space for the Brookline Early Education Program (BEEP) but also office space for School administrators and support staff.

Currently, Classroom Capacity funds are used to lease space at Temple Ohabei Shalom, Temple Emeth, and 2 Clark Road, a property owned by the Maimonides School. All three locations house BEEP classes, but in the case of 2 Clark Road, while seven classrooms are used by BEEP, the remaining classrooms have been converted into administrative offices for curriculum directors and for SPED, Steps to Success, and School Operations support staff, all of whom total approximately 40 people.

For FY24, the draft request is for 3 leases to continue and to modify space at the former Newbury College library building located on Fisher Ave to prepare the space for PSB admin and support staff to relocate from 2 Clark Road.

PSB rents three properties for BEEP Classrooms and BEEP staff. The three properties reasonably represent 3 sections of Town:

- East – Temple Ohabei Shalom (BEEP @ Beacon)
- Central – Maimonides School (BEEP @ Clark Rd)
- South and West – Temple Emeth (BEEP @ Putterham)

Per prior School Committee Request, the leases from Temple Emeth and Temple Ohabei Shalom were to include tenant option years. From FY24 forward, PSB has the option to extend both each lease for an additional year or not, and needs to inform the landlord by November 1 each year.

2 Clark Road is under contract until the end of FY24, with a tenant option for FY25. There was an extensive discussion at the Advisory Committee Capital Subcommittee hearing regarding 1) the continued use of CIP funds for rent; 2) the School Department's timeline for moving all educational programs and administrative staff back onto school campuses or into other Town-owned properties; and 3) options to pursue in the interim. There is currently considerable pressure on the CIP, to the point that there are insufficient dollars to maintain and therefore prolong the lifespan of the significant investments that have been made in Town and School buildings and in public parks and playgrounds. There are also insufficient funds to address Climate Change and support Climate Change mitigation to the degree warranted.

For these reasons and understanding the need to have sufficient time to execute an alternative plan, the Advisory Committee, through its Capital Subcommittee, has requested that by February 2024, with the release of the FY 2025 CIP, the School Department will have prepared a plan that identifies steps to reduce reliance on CIP funds for leased spaces, including the specific goal of reducing the use of leased buildings for administrative space. Such measures could include 1) reducing the number of offices needed by creating shared office space, particularly for School staff members who spend much of their working day outside of their offices; 2) developing hybrid work models that include working from home as well as working from an office; 3) using current excess space on K-8 campuses resulting from current lower student enrollment; and 4) exploring the Baldwin School and the Town-owned property on the former Newbury College campus for office space, with the understanding that particularly in the case of the Newbury property, such office use might very well be temporary.

Some BEEP classes will move to the new Driscoll School.

Because of the other unmet demands on the CIP and because of the Town's published CIP policy, the School Department has been asked to develop a plan to eliminate reliance on the CIP for leased space, particularly administrative space, with any further leasing of such space after FY2024 to be funded from the Department's operating budget.

65. STORMWATER IMPROVEMENTS

Recommendation - \$600,000 (Utility Bond)

As climate change continues to influence the frequency and intensity of storm events in the region, the Town is looking to better understand flood and storm risks to the community, infrastructure, and resource areas. The Town continues to develop plans that adapt to the severe extremes in the weather. This includes monitoring and assessing locations that are flood prone to develop ways to mitigate and/or reduce the potential for storm damage by managing stormwater flows upstream of these sensitive areas. Project funding will be put towards consulting services to assist with the EPA's NPDES Phase II MS4 Permit compliance and provide planning/design/installation of Best Management Practices (BMPs) to help reduce the amount of flow and pollutants discharged to resource areas. Projects will be prioritized in environmental justice areas within Town or climate-vulnerable neighborhoods and support goals of both the Town's Climate Action Plan and Urban Forest Climate Resiliency Master Plan. Construction costs to install the BMPs would also be covered with these funds. Funding for this important work follows both local initiatives for climate resiliency and compliance with Federal and State mandates.

66. WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

Recommendation - \$2,000,000 (Utility Bond)

Water System Improvements funding supports the ongoing capital improvements, analysis, repair/replacement, and servicing of the Town's water distribution system to provide high-quality, well-maintained, and properly managed potable water that meets state and federal regulations, protects the health and safety of the community, and is metered to provide accurate and efficient usage readings and calculations. In addition to distribution system upgrades to improve quality and reliability, Water System Improvement funding priorities are meter/MTU replacement and lead service line (LSL) replacements in accordance with state regulations. The last town-wide meter swap was completed in 2006. Typical meters have a 15 to 20-year service life. As meters age, they tend to under register. Under registration leads to revenue loss, delays in proper payment, and inefficiencies in business administration. The Town will purchase and install replacement meters over a 3-year period. Concurrent with the meter swap program, the Water & Sewer Division will focus on replacing all known and unknown Lead Service Lines (LSL). An LSL inventory will be developed in FY23 and used as a guidance tool to prioritize and plan the LSL replacements. Funds requested for FY24 will be used towards design and construction costs to physically replace the LSLs. The Town's goal would be in line with the MADEP goal of protecting public health by removing all identified lead services in 5 years or less. There are State Revolving Fund (SRF) loans available to help assist with the funding of LSL replacements.

67. WASTE WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

Recommendation - \$3,000,000 (Utility Bond)

The Wastewater System Improvements project provides funding for the rehabilitation of

the wastewater collection system (sanitary sewer). The asset rehabilitation program is based on the recommendations of the Sewer System Capital Improvement Program completed in 2016. The goal is to rehabilitate the entire sewer system over 18 years to protect the asset and reduce infiltration and inflow (I&I) by 2032. I&I reduction not only helps reduce the chance of backups in the system, but also lowers the MWRA wholesale costs by reducing extraneous clear water flows. Funding for this annual work is supported by generous grant/loan programs offered by the MWRA, reducing the Town's financial impact significantly.

68. ROBINSON PLAYGROUND

Recommendation - \$275,000 (General Fund Bond)

At the recommendation of bond counsel, item 68 is a project that was previously authorized at the 2022 Special Town Meeting but flagged for not being explicitly listed in the warrant for the budget amendment (Article 1, STM2). Bond counsel recommended putting this item back on for the Annual Town Meeting, voting new authorization, and rescinding the previous authorization. This project has been listed in the warrant under Article 7. The warrant language and the motion were crafted by bond counsel.

69. MURPHY PLAYGROUND

Recommendation - \$355,000 (General Fund Bond)

At the recommendation of bond counsel, item 69 is a project that was previously authorized at the 2022 Special Town Meeting but flagged for not being explicitly listed in the warrant for the budget amendment (Article 1, STM2). Bond counsel recommended putting this item back on for the Annual Town Meeting, voting new authorization, and rescinding the previous authorization. This project has been listed in the warrant under Article 7. The warrant language and the motion were crafted by bond counsel.

70. PIERCE SCHOOL RECONSTRUCTION

Recommendation - \$209,915,958 (General Fund Bond)

After 2005, Brookline experienced historic enrollment growth in its public schools. The K-8 elementary schools grew by 40%, going from 3,904 students in 2006 to 5,482 students in 2017, which is equivalent to adding three schools into our existing schools in just over 10 years. For a decade now, the Town and School Department have been addressing the expanding student population by studying potential sites for a new elementary school and by adding classrooms to existing schools by dividing classrooms; converting offices, locker rooms, and hallways into classrooms; renting private buildings; and building new classrooms or adding modular classes. Despite adding nearly 60 classrooms to our existing schools through this "Expand-in-Place" strategy, the schools continued to be severely overcrowded. However, this trend reversed with the arrival of Covid, and school enrollment decreased.

The Pierce School Building Project is part of the Town's ongoing effort to address substandard facilities in the Public Schools of Brookline. Brookline will be working in

partnership with the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) during this project and will follow the MSBA’s process for school building design and construction.

During the month of December 2022, the Project Team focused on responding to questions from the MSBA on the Schematic Design Submission prior to the December 21, 2022 MSBA Board of Directors Meeting. At the Board Meeting, the Project was approved and a Project Scope and Budget Agreement is underway. The Town requested an extension of the 120-day deadline in which to execute to the Project Funding Agreement. (The Town needed to extend the timeframe for execution until June 2023 to allow the Town Vote and Election to occur in May 2023. In May, Question 1 passed.)

The Advisory Committee had concerns about the wisdom of tearing down the Pierce School and significant concerns regarding the cost proposed by the School Committee. These concerns included the environmental impact of razing the school, the difficulties involved in the site (including the parking garage), the ability to fund future capital projects should borrowing capacity be largely taken up by Pierce, and the effect on taxpayers, making the Town a less affordable place for existing residents. Thus, the Advisory Committee initially voted 5-12-8 to recommend NO ACTION on the Pierce project.

After voters narrowly approved the project in the debt exclusion referendum of May 2, 2023, the Advisory Committee reconsidered its earlier vote, and reversed itself, voting 12-9-3 in favor of the project.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE’S FISCAL YEAR 2024 BUDGET RECOMMENDATION

By a vote of 21-0-1, the Advisory Committee submits the FY2023 Town Budget with a recommendation of FAVORABLE ACTION on the following motion:

MOVED: To approve the budget for fiscal year 2024 set forth in the attached Tables I and II; to appropriate the amounts set forth for such fiscal year in the departments and expenditure object classifications within departments, as set forth in Tables I and II, subject to the following conditions; to raise all sums so appropriated, unless other funding is provided herein; and to establish the following authorizations:

1.) **TRANSFERS AMONG APPROPRIATIONS:** Transfers between the total departmental appropriations separately set forth in Tables 1 and 2 shall be permitted by vote of Town Meeting or as otherwise provided by Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 33B(b). Within each separate departmental appropriation, expenditures shall be restricted to the expenditure object classifications set forth in the recommendation of the Advisory Committee, and voted by the Town Meeting, for each department, subject to the following exceptions:

- A) Expenditures within the appropriation for the School Department shall not be restricted.
- B) The following transfers within the appropriations for each department (other than the School Department and the Library Department), shall be permitted only with the prior written approval of the Select Board and Advisory Committee:
 - i) Transfers from the appropriation for the capital outlay object classification to any other object classification.
 - ii) Transfers to the appropriation for the personal services object classification from any other object classification.
 - iii) Any transfer which has the effect of increasing the number of positions or the compensation for any position, exclusive of adjustments in wages and benefits voted separately by Town Meeting.
 - v) Transfers within the Department of Public Works from the Parks Division to any other purpose.
 - vi) Transfers within the Department of Public Works from the Snow and Ice budget to any other purpose.
- C) Transfers within the Library Department appropriation shall be permitted with the approval of the Board of Library Trustees, and written notice of such approval shall be submitted promptly to the Advisory Committee, Town Administrator and Town Comptroller.
- D) All other transfers within the total appropriation for a particular department shall be permitted with the written approval of the Town Administrator, subject to review and approval of the Select Board, and upon the condition that written notice of each such approval shall be submitted promptly to the Advisory Committee and Town Comptroller.

2.) PROCUREMENT CONTRACTS AND LEASES: The Chief Procurement Officer is authorized to lease, or lease with an option to purchase, any equipment or capital item funded within the FY2023 budget, and to solicit and award contracts for terms of not more than four years, provided that in each instance the longer term is determined to be in the best interest of the Town by a vote of the Select Board.

3.) ALLOCATION OF SALARY ADJUSTMENTS: Appropriations for salary and wage adjustments (Item #20) shall be transferred by the Town Comptroller to the various affected departments within (60) days from the beginning of the fiscal year, or in the absence of duly approved collective bargaining agreements, within (60) days of the approval of the collective bargaining agreements by Town Meeting. The Select Board shall determine the salaries, which may include merit adjustments, for employees not included in any collective bargaining agreement.

Should a balance remain after the Town Comptroller has made the transfers specified herein, said balance shall be transferred by the Town Comptroller to a budget line entitled Personnel Services Reserve (Item #19), which shall be used to fund costs incurred over the course of the fiscal year pursuant to employee contracts and/or established personnel policies. The Town Comptroller shall include an accounting of all transfers made from this reserve in the Annual Financial Report.

4.) STIPENDS / SALARIES OF ELECTED OFFICIALS: The stipends of members of the Select Board shall be at the rate of \$4,500 per year for the Chair and at the rate of \$3,500 per year for each of the other four members. The annual salary of the Town Clerk shall be at the rate of \$106,861 effective July 1, 2023, plus any adjustment approved by vote of the Select Board. The Town Clerk shall pay all fees received by the Town Clerk by virtue of their office into the Town treasury for Town use.

5.) VACANT POSITIONS: No appropriation for salaries, wages, or other compensation shall be expended for any benefit-eligible position which has become vacant during the fiscal year unless the Select Board, at an official meeting, has determined that the filling of the vacancy is either essential to the proper operation of the Town or is required by law. This condition shall not apply to appropriations of the School Department.

6.) GOLF ENTERPRISE FUND: The following sums, totaling \$2,517,574 shall be appropriated into the Golf Enterprise Fund, and may be expended under the direction of the Park and Recreation Commission, for the operation of the Golf Course:

Salaries	\$875,572
Purchase of Services	\$438,060
Supplies	\$481,000
Other	\$9,600
Utilities	\$137,741
Capital	\$170,642
Debt Service	\$119,721
Reserve	<u>\$25,000</u>
Total Appropriations	\$2,257,336
Indirect Costs	<u>\$260,238</u>
Total Costs	\$2,517,574

Total costs of \$2,517,574 to be funded from golf receipts with \$260,238 to be reimbursed to the General Fund for indirect costs.

7.) **WATER AND SEWER ENTERPRISE FUND:** The following sums, totaling \$32,522,728 shall be appropriated into the Water and Sewer Enterprise Fund, and may be expended under the direction of the Commissioner of Public Works for the Water and Sewer purposes as voted below:

	<u>Water</u>	<u>Sewer</u>	<u>Total</u>
Salaries	2,658,407	622,907	3,281,314
Purchase of Services	163,617	150,000	313,617
Supplies	149,805	27,000	176,805
Other	13,900	6,980	20,880
Utilities	141,379	0	141,379
Capital	543,349	65,000	608,349
Intergovernmental	8,551,815	14,169,817	22,721,632
Debt Service	925,750	1,261,540	2,187,290
Reserve	<u>139,185</u>	<u>180,425</u>	<u>319,610</u>
Total Appropriations	13,287,207	16,483,669	29,770,876
Indirect Costs	<u>2,218,878</u>	<u>532,974</u>	<u>2,751,852</u>
Total Costs	15,506,085	17,016,643	32,522,728

Total costs of \$32,522,728 to be funded from water and sewer receipts with \$2,751,852 to be reimbursed to the General Fund for indirect costs.

8.) REVOLVING FUNDS:

- a.) The Park and Recreation Commission is authorized to maintain and operate, under the provisions of General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53E1/2 and Chapter 79 of the Acts of 2005, a revolving fund for special recreation programs and events. All receipts from said programs and events shall be credited to the fund. Annual expenditures from the fund shall not exceed \$4,600,000.
- b.) The Building Commissioner is authorized to maintain and operate, under the provisions of General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53E1/2 and Chapter 79 of the Acts of 2005, a revolving fund for the repair and maintenance of the Town's rental properties, including all those listed in the vote under Article 13 of the Warrant for the 1999 Annual Town Meeting. All receipts from said rental properties shall be credited to the fund. Annual expenditures from the fund shall not exceed \$225,000.
- c.) The Commissioner of Public Works is authorized to maintain and operate, under the provisions of General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53E1/2 and Chapter 79 of the Acts of 2005, a revolving fund for the construction and reconstruction, upkeep, maintenance, repair and improvement of sidewalks and walkways along public streets and ways over, across and through town owned property. Annual expenditures from the fund shall not exceed \$100,000.
- d.) The Director of Planning and Community Development is authorized to maintain and operate, under the provisions of General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53E1/2 and Chapter 79 of the Acts of 2005, a revolving fund for the Façade Improvement Loan Program. Annual expenditures from the fund shall not exceed \$30,000.
- e.) The Library Director is authorized to maintain and operate, under the provisions of General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53E1/2 and Chapter 79 of the Acts of 2005, a revolving fund for the Copier Program. Annual expenditures from the fund shall not exceed \$30,000.
- f.) The School Department is authorized to maintain and operate, under the provisions of General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53E1/2 and Chapter 79 of the Acts of 2005, a revolving fund for the School bus Program. Annual expenditures from the fund shall not exceed \$75,000.

9.) SCHOOLHOUSE MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR: The sum of \$7,635,891 included within the Building Department appropriation for school building maintenance, shall be expended for School Plant repair and maintenance and not for any other purpose. The listing of work to be accomplished shall be established by the School Department. The feasibility and prioritization of the work to be accomplished under the school plant repair and maintenance budget shall be determined by the Superintendent of Schools and the Building Commissioner, or their designees.

10.) SNOW AND ICE BUDGET: The sum of \$457,530, included within the Department of Public Works appropriation for snow and ice operations, shall be expended for snow and ice operations and not for any other purpose, unless transferred per the provisions of Section 1.B.vi of this Article 9.

11.) INTERFUND TRANSFERS: In order to fund the appropriations voted for the various departments itemized on Table 1, the Town Comptroller is authorized to make the following interfund transfers:

Cemetery Sales Special Revenue Fund [to the General Fund for the Department of Public Works]	\$ 100,000
Recreation Revolving Fund [to the General Fund for benefits reimbursement]	\$460,811

13.) HOST COMMUNITY FUNDS

Appropriate \$683,639 to be expended under the direction of the Town Administrator for marijuana mitigation activities, and to meet the appropriation transfer \$683,639 from the HCA stabilization fund.

14.) BUDGETARY REPORTING: The Town Comptroller shall provide the Advisory Committee with a report on the budgetary condition of the Town as of September 30, December 31, March 31, and June 30, within 45 days of said dates. This financial report shall include a summary of the status of all annual and special appropriations voted in this article; a report on the status of all special appropriations voted in prior years which remain open at the reporting date; and a summary of the status of all revenues and inter-fund transfers which have been estimated to finance the appropriations voted under this article.

15.) SPECIAL APPROPRIATIONS: The appropriations set forth as items 36 through 70, inclusive, in Table 1 shall be specially appropriated for the following purposes. In addition, with the exception of Items #65 - 70, they shall be transferred from the General Fund to the Revenue-Financed Capital Fund.

Appropriate sums of money for the following special purposes:

- 35.) Raise and appropriate \$1,099,920, to resolve the special revenue account deficit as a result of COVID expenses that may not be eligible for reimbursement.
- 36.) Raise and appropriate \$25,000, to be expended under the direction of the Chief Procurement Officer for town furniture upgrades.
- 37.) Raise and appropriate \$375,000, to be expended under the direction of the Building Commissioner, with any necessary contracts over \$100,000 to be approved by the Select Board, for the Brookline Village Library HVAC improvements.
- 38.) Raise and appropriate \$900,000, to be expended under the direction of the Police Chief, with any necessary contracts over \$100,000 to be approved by the Select Board, for upgrades/replacement of the Police and Fire Department's radio infrastructure.
- 39.) Raise and appropriate \$200,000, to be expended under the direction of the Police Chief, with any necessary contracts over \$100,000 to be approved by the Select Board, for the equipment and of the Body Worn and In-Car Camera program.

- 40.) Raise and appropriate \$500,000, with any necessary contracts over \$100,000 to be approved by the Select Board, to be expended under the direction of the Commissioner of Public Works, for traffic calming.
- 41.) Raise and appropriate \$700,000, with any necessary contracts over \$100,000 to be approved by the Select Board, to be expended under the direction of the Commissioner of Public Works, for bike access improvements.
- 42.) Raise and appropriate \$75,400, to be expended under the direction of the Commissioner of Public Works, for Accessible Pedestrian Signals.
- 43.) Raise and appropriate \$4,680,000, to be expended under the direction of the Commissioner of Public Works, with any necessary contracts over \$100,000 to be approved by the Select Board, for the rehabilitation of streets.
- 44.) Raise and appropriate \$500,000, to be expended under the direction of the Commissioner of Public Works, with any necessary contracts over \$100,000 to be approved by the Select Board, for the rehabilitation of sidewalks.
- 45.) Raise and appropriate \$800,000, to be expended under the direction of the Commissioner of Public Works, with any necessary contracts over \$100,000 to be approved by the Select Board, for design work related to the Washington Street Rehabilitation and Complete Streets Program.
- 46.) Raise and appropriate \$520,000, to be expended under the direction of the Commissioner of Public Works, with any necessary contracts over \$100,000 to be approved by the Select Board, for the design of the renovation of Amory Tennis Courts, Parking and Halls Pond.
- 47.) Raise and appropriate \$350,000, to be expended under the direction of the Commissioner of Public Works, with any necessary contracts over \$100,000 to be approved by the Select Board, for improvements to Monmouth Park.
- 48.) Raise and appropriate \$2,000,000, to be expended under the direction of the Commissioner of Public Works, with any necessary contracts over \$100,000 to be approved by the Select Board, for the renovation of Schick Playground.
- 49.) Raise and appropriate \$285,000, to be expended under the direction of the Commissioner of Public Works, with any necessary contracts over \$100,000 to be approved by the Select Board, for the renovation of playground equipment, fields, and fencing.
- 50.) Raise and appropriate \$100,000, to be expended under the direction of the Commissioner of Public Works for the rehabilitation of Town and School grounds.

- 51.) Raise and appropriate \$300,000, to be expended under the direction of the Commissioner of Public Works, with any necessary contracts to be approved by the Select Board and the Park and Recreation Commission, for the rehabilitation of tennis courts and basketball courts.
- 52.) Raise and appropriate \$375,000, to be expended under the direction of the Commissioner of Public Works, with any necessary contracts over \$100,000 to be approved by the Select Board and the Tree Planting Committee, for the removal and replacement of trees.
- 53.) Appropriate \$150,000, to be expended under the direction of the Recreation Director for the renovation of the Soule Courtyard, and to meet the appropriation transfer \$150,000 from the recreation revolving fund balance.
- 54.) Raise and appropriate \$300,000, to be expended under the direction of the Recreation Director, with any necessary contracts to be approved by the Select Board and the Park and Recreation Commission, for tree work at Putterham Woods.
- 55.) Raise and appropriate \$25,000, to be expended under the direction of the Chief Procurement Officer for school furniture upgrades.
- 56.) Raise and appropriate \$200,000, to be expended under the direction of the Building Commissioner for HVAC equipment.
- 57.) Raise and appropriate \$90,000, to be expended under the direction of the Building Commissioner for ADA renovations to Town and School facilities.
- 58.) Raise and appropriate \$250,000, to be expended under the direction of the Building Commissioner for elevator renovations.
- 59.) Raise and appropriate \$130,000, to be expended under the direction of the Building Commissioner for upgrades to energy management systems in Town and School facilities.
- 60.) Raise and appropriate \$125,000, to be expended under the direction of the Building Commissioner, for public building fire alarm upgrades.
- 61.) Raise and appropriate \$170,000, to be expended under the direction of the Building Commissioner, for improvements to life safety systems and building security in Town and School facilities.
- 62.) Raise and appropriate \$1,000,000, to be expended under the direction of the Building Commissioner, with any necessary contracts over \$100,000 to be approved by the School Committee, for minor renovations / upgrades to school buildings.

- 63.) Raise and appropriate \$2,026,982, to be expended under the direction of the School Superintendent, with any necessary contracts to be approved by the School Committee, for the expansion of classroom capacity in various schools.
- 64.) Raise and appropriate \$600,000, or any other sum, to be expended under the direction of the Commissioner of Public Works, with any necessary contracts over \$100,000 to be approved by the Select Board, for storm water improvements and to meet the appropriation, authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, to borrow \$600,000 under General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 8(5), as amended, or pursuant to any other enabling authority; and authorize the Select Board to apply for, accept, receive and expend grants, aid, reimbursements, loans, and all other forms of funding and financial assistance from both state and federal sources and agencies for such purpose.
- 65.) Raise and appropriate \$2,000,000, or any other sum, to be expended under the direction of the Commissioner of Public Works, with any necessary contracts over \$100,000 to be approved by the Select Board, for water system improvements and to meet the appropriation, authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, to borrow \$2,000,000 under General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 8(5), as amended, or pursuant to any other enabling authority; and authorize the Select Board to apply for, accept, receive and expend grants, aid, reimbursements, loans, and all other forms of funding and financial assistance from both state and federal sources and agencies for such purpose.
- 66.) Raise and appropriate \$3,000,000, or any other sum, to be expended under the direction of the Commissioner of Public Works, with any necessary contracts over \$100,000 to be approved by the Select Board, for wastewater system improvements and to meet the appropriation, authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, to borrow \$3,000,000 under General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 7(1), as amended, or pursuant to any other enabling authority; and authorize the Select Board to apply for, accept, receive and expend grants, aid, reimbursements, loans, and all other forms of funding and financial assistance from both state and federal sources and agencies for such purpose.
- 67.) To raise and appropriate \$275,000 to be expended under the direction of the Commissioner of Public Works, with any necessary contracts over \$100,000 to be approved by the Select Board, for improvements at Robinson Playground; and to meet the appropriation, authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, to borrow \$275,000 under General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 7(1), as amended, or pursuant to any other enabling authority; and authorize the Select Board to apply for, accept, receive and expend grants, aid, reimbursements, loans, and all other forms of funding and financial assistance from both state and federal sources and agencies for such purpose; and to rescind a like amount voted at the November 15, 2022 Special Town Meeting under Article 1, Item 4, which item was inadvertently omitted from the warrant for such meeting.

- 68.) To raise and appropriate \$355,000, or any other sum, to be expended under the direction of the Commissioner of Public Works, with any necessary contracts over \$100,000 to be approved by the Select Board, for improvements at Murphy Playground, and to meet the appropriation, authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, to borrow \$355,000 under General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 7(1), as amended, or pursuant to any other enabling authority; and authorize the Select Board to apply for, accept, receive and expend grants, aid, reimbursements, loans, and all other forms of funding and financial assistance from both state and federal sources and agencies for such purpose and to rescind a like amount voted at the November 15, 2022 Special Town Meeting under Article 1, Item 5, which item was inadvertently omitted from the warrant for such meeting
- 69.) Appropriate Two Hundred Nine Million Nine Hundred Fifteen Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty-Eight Dollars (\$209,915,958) to pay costs of constructing a new PreK-8 School which includes renovations/addition to the existing historic Pierce School and other site improvements including reconstruction and repair of the Town Hall and Pierce School garages which are beneath the new school and the Town Park across School Street, including the payment of all costs related to designing the new school project, equipping and furnishing the school, site improvements, and all other costs incidental and related thereto (the “Project”), which new school facility shall have an anticipated useful life as an educational facility for the instruction of school children of at least 50 years, and for which the Town may be eligible for a grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority (the “MSBA”), said amount to be expended under the direction of the Town of Brookline Select Board; that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, is authorized to borrow said amount pursuant to G.L. c.44, §7(1) or G.L. c.70B, or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor; that the Town acknowledges that the MSBA’s grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA, and any project costs the Town incurs in excess of any grant approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the Town; that any grant that the Town may receive from the MSBA for the Project shall not exceed the lesser of (1) thirty-five and fifty-five hundredths percent (35.55%) of eligible, approved project costs, as determined by the MSBA, or (2) the total maximum grant amount determined by the MSBA; that the amount of the borrowing authorized by this vote shall be reduced by any grant amount set forth in and received pursuant to the Project Funding Agreement that may be executed between the Town and the MSBA; provided, however, that the appropriation and authorization to borrow pursuant to this vote shall be contingent upon the Town’s passage of a ballot question to exempt the principal and interest payments on such borrowing from the tax limitations of G.L. c.59, §21C (Proposition 2 ½).

16.) **FREE CASH:** Appropriate and transfer \$20,008,706 from free cash for the following purposes:

- a.) Operating Budget Reserve Fund (MGL Chapter 40, Section 6) – \$767,368;
- b.) Liability/Catastrophe Fund (Chapter 66 of the Acts of 1998, as amended) – \$381,006;
- c.) Stabilization Fund (MGL Chapter 40, Section 5B) - \$4,500,000
- d.) Reduce the tax rate (Special Appropriations) – \$14,360,332.

Article Description	FY2024 Omnibus Budget
AC recommendation (Favorable Action unless indicated)	21-0-1
Ben Birnbaum	Y
Harry Bohrs	Y
Cliff Brown	Y
Patty Correa	Y
John Doggett	Y
Katherine Florio	Y
Harry Friedman	A
David-Marc Goldstein	Y
Neil Gordon	Y
Susan Granoff	Y
Kelly Hardebeck	Y
Amy Hummel	Y
Anita Johnson	Y
Alisa Jonas	Y
Janice Kahn	Y
Pam Lodish	Y
Joslin Murphy	
Donelle O’Neal, Sr.	
Linda Olson Pehlke	
Markus Penzel	Y
David Pollak	Y
Stephen Reeders	Y
Carlos Ridruejo	Y
Lee Selwyn	
Alok Somani	
Carolyn Thall	Y
Christine Westphal	Y
Dennis Doughty *	
* Chairperson does not vote except to break a tie	

ARTICLE 7 ADVISORY COMMITTEE VOTES