

TOWN OF IPSWICH

WARRANT ARTICLE SYNOPSIS

**SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
November 14, 2011**

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ARTICLE 1

FY 2012 TOWN BUDGET AMENDMENTS

Summary:

The Board of Selectmen proposes the following amendments to the FY'12 budget:

- 1) Appropriate **\$75,331** in additional aid from the Commonwealth, from additional payments-in-lieu-of-taxes from the Electric Department and from unappropriated funds below the levy limit to the budget of the Facilities Department for a variety of capital improvements.

Explanation: The Legislature decided to appropriate 50% of the state's budget surplus for Fiscal 2011 and to distribute the funds to cities and towns as additional unrestricted general government aid. Of the total of **\$98,169**, the **38.3%** proportionate share for the Town is **\$38,590**.

The Electric Light Department was asked by the Commissioners to increase the payment-in-lieu-of-taxes (PILOT) to the Town's general fund. The Department will contribute an additional **\$50,000** for Fiscal 2012.

Lastly, there is **\$48,465** available under the levy limit for FY'12. It has been the Town's practice to reserve some funds under the levy limit during the budget process in May as a safeguard against any last minute reductions in state aid. This year the state increased local aid, so the reserve is available and must be appropriated prior to setting the tax rate in December.

These monies will fund the following capital projects:

- a) **\$24,500** to be used by the Facilities Department to repair and replace damaged and broken sidewalk at Town Hall.
- b) **\$8,000** to replace the spotlights on Town Hall. These lights help secure the building at night. The existing lights are old, and they become overheated and shut off.
- c) **\$6,000** to install energy efficient lighting in the Town Hall gym. This will save approximately **\$3,000** per year on the Town's electric bill.
- d) **\$20,000** to replace two rotted columns (northernmost and southernmost columns) at the entrance of Town Hall.
- e) **\$14,000** to renovate the foyer and the rest room at the Cemetery Office. The current rest room is in poor condition. This facility is

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used by the Superintendent for meetings with residents to arrange for funerals or to purchase burial plots.

- f) **\$2,831** to replace damaged carpeting in the Town Hall.
- 2) Transfer \$30,650 from free cash to the Feoffees Legal Services Account. The Town appropriated **\$50,000** into a special Feoffees Legal Services account at the Annual Town Meeting. At the end of Fiscal 2011, **\$30,650** remained unspent, and it closed out to free cash. This item will transfer the **\$30,650** from free cash back to the Feoffees Legal Services account to cover litigation costs related to the Feoffees.
- 3) Transfer a total of **\$5,298** from free cash for postage and special printing. Funding for mailing the Finance Committee report for the October 17 Special Town Meeting was not included in the budget. This item will transfer from free cash **\$1,908** to the Miscellaneous Finance postage account and **\$3,390** to the Finance Committee Special Printing budget to offset the cost of printing and mailing the Finance Committee report.

Fiscal Impact:

There is no impact on the FY 2012 tax rate.

ARTICLE 2

FY 2012 SCHOOL BUDGET AMENDMENTS

Summary:

The following changes are proposed for the School budget:

- 1) Appropriate **\$121,303** from the supplemental local aid from the Commonwealth, from the additional PILOT payment from the Electric Department and from available funds under the levy limit to the School Department budget for Fiscal 2012.

Explanation: **\$78,104** of the total will be appropriated to the Other Post Employment Benefits line in the Schools budget to fund the remainder of the **\$300,000** obligation for the current fiscal year. The remaining **\$43,200** will be allocated for professional development, specifically as it relates to implementation of the Common Core over the next two years as well as preparing for the new educator evaluation format under the Race to the Top (RTTT) program.

Fiscal Impact:

There is no impact on the Fiscal 2012 tax rate.

