TOWN OF IPSWICH

WARRANT ARTICLE SYNOPSES

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.

<u>Explanation:</u> 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

- 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:

 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.

ARTICLE 3 ESTABLISHMENT OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST FUND

Summary:

Chapter X, Section 1. of the General Bylaws of the Town, "Affordable Housing Trust Fund" provides that there shall be a Board of Trustees of the Ipswich Affordable Housing Trust Fund established by the vote under Article 26 of the Warrant for the 2007 Annual Town Meeting. The Board of Trustees shall consist of **five (5)** members: One shall be a member of the Board of Selectmen; at least two members shall be chosen from the Ipswich Housing Partnership; one member shall be the Town Manager or his designee, and, according to the Article, **two** other members shall be appointed by the Board of Selectmen.

This article will correct the error in Article 26 by changing the number of Trustees appointed by the Selectmen from "two" to "one" so that the Board will consist of five members rather than six.

Fiscal Impact:

There is no impact on the Fiscal 2012 tax rate.

ARTICLE 4

WIND TURBINE LAND LEASE

Summary:

This article will authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a lease of a parcel of land or portion thereof known as Tax Map 13, Parcel 40, sub-parcel A and shown on attached map for the purposes of erecting, maintaining and operating a wind turbine to generate electricity for a term not to exceed 25 years. The lease will include terms and conditions that the Board of Selectmen deems appropriate.

Fiscal Impact:

There will be no impact upon the Fiscal 2012 tax rate.

ARTICLE 5

RECONSIDERATION

Summary:

This article will permit the Town Meeting to reconsider all previous articles raising and appropriating money which have a direct impact on the tax levy for the next fiscal year. The purpose is to finalize a budget which is balanced and in compliance with the levy limit provisions of Proposition 2½, so that certification of the FY 2012 tax rate can be completed successfully.