

# Finance Committee Recommendations

## Special Town Meeting Feb. 25, 2026

The Finance Committee reviews warrant articles with financial impact. Articles not related to financial impact are not reviewed for FinCom recommendation. The FinCom recommendation sheet also includes additional information discussed and sought out as required to ensure an informed vote at the FinCom meeting. We hope providing this information helps with your vote at Town Meeting. We are available for questions/comment during Town Meeting.

The typical recommendations are:

**Recommend** – The Finance Committee recommends the article pass

**Not Recommend** – The Finance Committee vote does not recommend voting for the article

**Not reviewed** – No Financial Impact, no recommendation forthcoming

| Article   | FinCom Recommendation / Vote | Additional Information:<br>The warrant article partial or full description is in <b><i>bold italicized</i></b> font, to provide the context for the FinCom notes that follow.   |
|-----------|------------------------------|---|
| Article 1 | Not Recommend / 6-0          | <p><b><i>To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$41,599.79 for the purchase, implementation, and subscription of budgeting and financial planning software from ClearGov, including onboarding and setup services; or take any other action relative thereto.</i></b></p> <p>FinCom Notes:<br/>The finance committee supports budgeting software. But not at this time.<br/>The not recommended is based on the following</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Use of Free Cash, until the full requirement for snow/ice deficit is known. FinCom is recommending not using Free Cash for new expenses</li> <li>- The FinCom recommendation is to review additional software budget software solutions including one from the company of the accounting software that Townsend uses.</li> <li>- Need to determine the impact of adding the annual subscription fee into the future town budgets</li> </ul> |

|           |                                |   |
|-----------|--------------------------------|---|
| Article   | FinCom Recommendation / Vote   | Additional Information:<br>The warrant article partial or full description is in <b><i>bold italicized</i></b> font, to provide the context for the FinCom notes that follow.   |
| Article 2 | Recommend / 4-1, 1 Abstain     | <p><b><i>To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer the sum of \$4750.00 for professional actuarial services to conduct a retiree health insurance liability study for the Town; or take any other action relative thereto.</i></b></p> <p>FinCom Notes:<br/>The Finance Committee supports this recommendation as this will provide the town actual costs to ensure retirees and is also considered a benefit in retaining personnel. Dissenting vote was concern on funding a study with a very tight town budget.</p> |
| Article 3 | Not Recommend / 5-0, 1 Abstain | <p><b><i>To see if the Town will vote to establish a special purpose stabilization fund for the payment of legal services provided by Town Counsel; and to raise and appropriate or transfer the sum of \$50,000.00, or any other sum, thereto; or take any action relative thereto</i></b></p> <p>FinCom Notes:<br/>The Finance Committee supports not recommending this article as it is unclear why a special stabilization fund is required for legal services and where will the funding will come from with such a tight budget.</p>      |
| Article 4 | Recommend / 6-0                | <p><b><i>To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$53,500.00 to fund a one-year collective bargaining agreement with the Town's Police bargaining unit (AFSCME Council 93, Local 3470) Fiscal Year 2026; said appropriation to be funded from available American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds; or take any other action relative thereto.</i></b></p> <p>FinCom Notes:<br/>The Finance Committee supports this recommendation as ARPA funds will be used.</p>  |

| Article    | FinCom Recommendation / Vote | Additional Information:   |
|------------|------------------------------|---|
| Article 5  | Recommend / 5-1              | <p>The warrant article partial or full description is in <b><i>bold italicized</i></b> font, to provide the context for the FinCom notes that follow.</p> <p><b><i>To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$327,000.00 for the purpose of funding a collective bargaining agreement with the Town's Police bargaining unit (AFSCME Council 93, Local 3470) for Fiscal Year 2027, such appropriation to be contingent upon approval by the Town's voters at the ballot of a Proposition 2<sup>1</sup>/2 override, so-called, under G.L. c. 59, S 21C@; or take any other action relative thereto</i></b></p> <p>FinCom Notes:<br/>The Finance Committee supports this article to give the voters a choice on whether or not they want to support the police with a Proposition 2 ½ override. Dissenting vote concerns that this will open the door for other collective bargaining units to seek a Proposition 2 ½ override.</p>     |
| Article 6  | Not reviewed                 |   |
| Article 7  | Not reviewed                 |   |
| Article 8  | Not reviewed                 |   |
| Article 9  | Recommended / 6-0            | <p><b><i>To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000) from Free Cash to replenish the balance of the appropriation established under Article 4 of the May 7, 2024 Annual Town Meeting, said replenishment being necessary given the frequency of Special Town Meetings and Special Elections in recent fiscal years and the expectation that such activity will continue in upcoming fiscal years, or take any other action relative thereto.</i></b></p> <p>FinCom Notes:<br/>This account has been setup to support the elections operating budget. Monies in this account have been used (transferred) into the elections operating budget lines to support the expenses associated to the unplanned/unbudgeted elections since the passage in 2024. This article will ensure that any planned/unplanned election(s) will not require a future warrant article to ensure that the election can be funded.</p> |
| Article 10 | Not Reviewed                 |   |
| Article 11 | Not Reviewed                 |   |