

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

COUNTY OF FRANKLIN

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING SATURDAY OCTOBER 3, 2020

Pursuant to a warrant signed by the Erving Selectmen and duly posted, as directed by the vote of the Town, the legal voters met at the Erving Senior Center, 1 Care Drive, Erving, Massachusetts, on Saturday October 3, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. We met outside under a tent, with people social distancing by 6 feet and wearing face masks. The Town conducted the following business. The meeting was called to order by Moderator Richard K. Peabody at 10:05 a.m. and noted that a quorum was present. He then thanked everyone that worked so hard to make this meeting possible and as safe as possible. The Moderator read the call and the Officer's return, and lead the body in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE OF A PRIOR YEAR: 2020

Article 1: APPROPRIATION FOR FY2020 EXPENSES

The Town voted unanimously to appropriate the sum of One Thousand Three Hundred Fifty-four Dollars and Forty-six Cents (\$1,354.46) from FY2021 appropriations from the Wastewater Enterprise Fund for the purpose of paying Fiscal Year 2020 invoices as listed below.

	Department/ Agency	Vendor	Amount
Line Item #1	Wastewater Department	Test America, Inc.	\$1,265.50
Line Item #2	Wastewater Department	Greenfield Farmers Exchange	\$88.96
		Grand Total	\$1,354.46

SUBMITTED BY: Town Administrator

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS:

***Article Information:** In the above listed instances, invoices were identified and/or received after the start of Fiscal Year 2021 and after the books for FY2020 were closed. Approval of this article will authorize the Town to pay the above referenced vendors in the amounts indicated. Approval for expenditures in a previous fiscal year require 9/10 approval at Special Town Meeting per MGL Chapter 44 Section 64.*

FY2021 SPECIAL APPROPRIATIONS

ARTICLE 2: APPROPRIATION OF REMAINING DOG FUND FEES FOR LIBRARY USE

The Town voted unanimously to appropriate the sum One Thousand Five Hundred Fifty-five Dollars and Sixty-four Cents (\$1,555.64) from account number 27-300-49130 (Dog Fund-Library) to a special article fund to be available for expenditure by the Board of Library Trustees.

SUBMITTED BY: Board of Library Trustees

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS:

***Article Information:** Approval of this article would appropriate the sum of \$1,555.64 from the Dog Fund for use by the Board of Library Trustees. This fund is the remainder of a discontinued practice where fees for dog licensing from Franklin County would be sent to the Town and were available for appropriation for the benefit of the Library. This practice was discontinued many years ago and these funds have remained available for appropriation since that time. Approval of this article requires a majority vote.*

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT- BORROWING AUTHORIZATION

ARTICLE 3: BORROWING AUTHORIZATION FOR ERVING CENTER WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

The Town voted unanimously to appropriate the sum of Seventeen Million, Nine Hundred Forty Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$17,490,000.00) for the purpose of constructing and equipping belt drying technology for processing and drying of solids at the Erving Center Wastewater Treatment Plant (POTW#2), at 47 East Main Street, and to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectmen, is hereby authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 7 (3) of the General Laws, or any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefore.

SUBMITTED BY: Board of Selectmen

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS:

***Article Information:** This article would authorize the town to borrow the necessary funding to construct an addition at the Erving Center Wastewater Treatment Plant and the equipment for belt drying of solid waste. The Town is working with Erving Industries, and their subsidiary Erseco, on this project as a continuation of the longstanding public – private partnership. The current waste leaving the treatment plant is classified as a Class B/ Type 2 product and the opportunities to dispose of the waste is becoming limited. Erving Industries has been instructed to improve the quality of the solids to a Class A/ Type 1 product by 2021. The Town has proactively worked with Erving Industries to submit a loan application to the State Revolving Fund. If the loan is approved, it could provide a term as long as thirty (30) years and an interest rate as low as 2%. The Town and Erving Industries are developing an agreement that outlines Erving Industries responsibility to pay the annual debt service for a resulting loan. The improvements made under this article will become assets of the Town. The Town and Erving Industries are also pursuing available grant funding that, if successful, would further reduce the necessary debt service for this project. In accordance with MGL Chapter 44 Section 7, approval of this article requires a 2/3 vote at Town Meeting.*

STABILIZATION FUND ARTICLES

ARTICLE 4: APPROPRIATION FOR THE GENERAL STABILIZATION FUND

The Town voted unanimously to appropriate the sum of Five Hundred Forty-four Thousand Twenty-nine Dollars and No Cents (\$544,029.00) into the General Stabilization Account, by transferring Five Hundred Forty-four Thousand Twenty-nine Dollars and No Cents (\$544,029.00) from the Library Construction Project fund.

SUBMITTED BY: Board of Selectmen

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS: Approval [Vote: Aye (5), Nay (0)]

CAPITAL PLANNING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS: Approval [Vote: Aye (3), Nay (0), Absent (2)]

***Article Information:** Approval of this article would transfer the stated funds from the Library Construction Project fund and deposit the same amount into the General Stabilization Fund. The Town received a grant payment from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners in June 2020 of the same amount. This article is meant to replenish funds used from the General Stabilization Fund for the construction of the Erving Public Library. Approval of this article requires a majority vote.*

FY2021 CAPITAL ARTICLES

ARTICLE 5: RADIO & EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT PROJECT

The Town voted unanimously to appropriate the sum of Seventy-five Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$75,000.00) from the Capital Stabilization Fund for the purpose of purchasing radios and similar emergency communications equipment for Erving Public Safety departments.

SUBMITTED BY: Board of Selectmen

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS: Approval [Vote: Aye (5), Nay (0)]

CAPITAL PLANNING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS: Approval [Vote: Aye (3), Nay (0), Absent (2)]

***Article Information:** Approval of this article would transfer \$75,000 from the Capital Stabilization fund and appropriate it for the purchase of radio and emergency communications equipment for Erving Police, Fire, and Emergency Management Departments. The purchase is part of a Franklin County transition from a failing communication system to the State's system. The project has been in the works for several years and the region has recently received notice from the State that the transition is scheduled to occur in calendar year 2021. This project has been included on the Town's multi-year capital improvement project. Approval of this article requires a 2/3 vote.*

28 registered voters attended this meeting. The meeting was dissolved at 11:15 a.m.

A true copy, ATTEST:



Richard W. Newton
Erving Town Clerk