

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
COUNTY OF FRANKLIN

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
Wednesday, May 8, 2019

Pursuant to a warrant signed by the Erving Selectmen and duly posted, as directed by the vote of the Town, the legal voters met in the Senior and Community Center, 1 Care Drive, Erving, Massachusetts, on Monday Wednesday May 8, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. and conducted the following business. The meeting was called to order by Moderator Richard K. Peabody at 7:01 p.m. and noted that a quorum was present. The Moderator read the call and the Officer's return, and lead the body in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

FY2019 FINANCIAL ARTICLES

ARTICLE 1: APPROPRIATION FOR THE HVAC SYSTEM AT THE SENIOR & COMMUNITY CENTER – ORIGINAL ARTICLE

To see if the Town will vote appropriate the sum of One Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$125,000.00) from Free Cash for the purpose of replacing or repairing the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system at the Senior & Community Center, or take any other action relative thereto.

SUBMITTED BY: Board of Selectmen

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS: No Recommendation

AMENDMENT: It was moved and seconded to add the words "while discontinuing the current geothermal system" after the word "Center".

The amendment passed by a majority.

Article 1 as amended passed by a majority.

***Article Information:** Approval of this article would transfer \$125,000 from Free Cash for the purpose of repairing and/or replacing the HVAC system at the Senior & Community Center. The Town has experienced numerous maintenance issues with the geothermal system that was installed and has made several repairs to the system to keep it operational. In April 2019 the building's architect and a geothermal specialist were consulted about the issues that were being experienced. Through a series of tests it was realized that sand had entered into the well and was drawn into the system. This led to the damage of the intake line, the primary circulation pump, and associated equipment. The Town has spent the last few weeks working with energy efficiency consultants, reviewing the system with our liaisons at the Department of Energy Resources and to determine the options to proceed.*

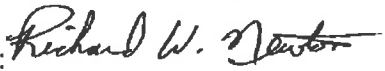
The option to repair and retrofit the geothermal system into a closed loop system has been proposed. It would require the drilling of two (2) new wells, the installation of new lines under the parking lot and sidewalk, and the repair of the circulation equipment. The Town is told that this solution should reduce the changes of sand from entering the system again, but it cannot be guaranteed. Additionally, this puts the reliance of the heating and cooling of the entire facility on a single source again. If the system experiences operational difficulty in the future the facility could lose heating and cooling again.

The estimate for this repair is approximately \$100,000. We would need to pursue some design work for this option.

The option to abandon the geothermal system and transition the facility over to an air-sourced heat pump system has been proposed. The system would utilize multiple condensers to support each of the zones of the facility. This proposal keeps the equipment above ground for maintenance needs and would provide some system resiliency. If a condenser experiences an operational problem there are other condensers that are operational to continue to heat and cool the rest of the facility. We have obtained an estimate for this project of approximately \$100,000. After consideration of the options, the Board of Selectmen are in support of transitioning to an air-sourced heat pump system and abandoning the geothermal system elements.

This article requests sufficient funding that is currently available in Free Cash to fund the equipment, installation, and associated costs of the procurement. The Town is exploring any and all grants or utility rebates that are available towards this project. Many of them are reimbursable funding sources which means that the Town would have to fund the work in advance and apply for reimbursement. Our goal is to ultimately have a HVAC system at this location that is reliable and responsible with reasonable energy usage and maintenance costs. The current system does not provide this. Approval of this article requires a majority vote.

58 registered voters attended this meeting. The meeting was dissolved at 7:38 p.m.

A true copy, ATTEST: 
Richard W. Newton, Erving Town Clerk