

Special Town Meeting 2022 – Finance Committee Recommendations

The Finance Committee has a responsibility to create the budget for the Town as well as to provide recommendations on articles in the Town Meeting Warrant. The committee reviews each article on the warrant, thoughtfully considering presented information and discussion, and then votes a recommendation. While the recommendations are printed in the warrant, the committee is presenting additional information here, in advance of Town Meeting, with the hope that it will be of benefit to residents and voters.

Article 1 – Debate Rules

Recommend: Approval 8-0-0

This article proposes the adoption of procedures for Town Meeting. These are the usual procedures under which we operate Town Meeting, except that the number of minutes a person may speak has been increased from three to five, returning to what had been the pre-pandemic rule. These procedures provide a means by which an orderly and efficient meeting may be run.

The Finance Committee recommends approval of this article.

Article 2 – Community Preservation Surcharge – Fiscal Year 2024

Recommend: Approval 6-1-0

This article would continue the 3% Community Preservation property tax surcharge for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023. Approximately 1.3% is needed, either from a surcharge or from the tax levy, to cover payments for Bedford’s existing Community Preservation debt. In fiscal year 2022, the amount of state funds Bedford received was \$908,721, which was a match of 49.93%. The Finance Committee generally approves of the CPC projects funded by this article and this article has always readily passed at Town Meeting.

The Finance Committee recommends approval of this article.

Article 3 – Community Preservation Budget – Supplemental FY2023

Recommend: Approval 6-0-1

The Finance Committee discussed the requests and found them to be warranted.

The Finance Committee recommends approval of this article.

Article 4 – Petitioners Article – Fire Station Project Design Appropriation Change

Recommendation: None

Article 10 – Minuteman Bikeway Extension

Recommendation: None

The Finance Committee was unable to reach the number of votes required to recommend approval or disapproval. Very generally, some members were concerned about or even disapproved of the use of eminent domain for this project, while other members supported the project and want it to move forward.

Respectfully Submitted the Bedford Finance Committee

Paul Mortenson, Chair

Karen Dunn, Clerk

Elizabeth McClung

Abigail Seibert

Ben Thomas

Ron O'Brien

Erica Liu

Stephen Steele

Tom Rowan