

**May 1 2017**  
**Special Town Meeting Minutes**

Town Moderator, Stephen Doherty, called the session of 2017 Special Town Meeting to order on May 1, 2017 at 7:30p.m. at the Town Hall Auditorium, 298 Central Street, Saugus, MA with 39 members, plus the moderator present. A quorum is met.

Joyce Rodenhiser from Precinct 1 and Maureen Whitcomb from Precinct 4 were appointed and sworn in as tellers at 7:32 p.m.

The presentation of colors lead by Troop 62 Boy Scouts of Saugus paraded into the hall and led the salute to our flag. Retired Pastor Bob LeRoe gave the invocation.

Town Clerk, Ellen Schena, called the roll.

Town Meeting Member name	Present/ Absent	Pct	Town Meeting Member name	Present/ Absent	Pct	Town Meeting Member name	Present/ Absent	Pct
ALLEN, P	A	3	ATTUBATO, J	A	6	BARTOLO, J.	P	6
BRAZIS, K	P	5	BROWN, W.	P	6	CANTERBURY, M.	P	6
CHRISTOPHER, R	A	6	CICOLINI, J.	P	8	COBURN, J.	A	10
CONNORS, A.	P	3	COSTELLO, M.	P	10	COSTIN, J.B.	P	7
COTTAM, J.	A	9	DECAREAU, E.	P	8	DEVLIN, F.A.	P	1
DINARDO, A.	P	4	DIVIRGILIO, A.	A	10	DOHERTY, S.	P	4
FALASCA, T.	P	2	FINN, C.	A	9	FOWLER, J	P	8
GOODWIN, P.	P	5	GROARK, L.	P	5	HORLICK, S.	P	8
JONES, C.	P	1	KELLY, D.	P	9	LEUCI, W.	P	4
LOPRESTI, A.	A	8	MCCABE, K.	P	2	MCCARTHY, S.	P	7
MCLAUGHLIN, P.	P	4	MCTAGUE, J.	P	9	MORESCHI, C.	P	2
MURPHY, S.	P	3	PAOLINI, M.	P	7	POLITANO, K.	P	7
PRIZIO, P	P	7	RAFTERY, S.	P	1	RING, D.	P	10
RODENHISER, J.	P	1	ROSSETTI, P.	A	2	SERINO, M.	P	10
SPENCER, B.	P	5	STEWART, W.	P	3	SULLIVAN, P.	A	9
SWEEZEY, S.	P	2	THOMPSON, R.	P	3	WALLACE, R.	P	5
WHITCOMB, M.	P	4	WITTEN, R.	P	1			

40 Members present, a quorum is met.

Accepting of the Minutes from the last Special Meeting. Hearing no objections the minutes are accepted and posted.

Opening of Special Town Meeting  
Seconded at 7:46 p.m.

Motion made by Eugene Decareau, Precinct 8 to move Article 6 out of order.  
Seconded at 7:47 p.m.

Unanimous vote to move Article 6 out of order at 7:48 p.m.

As a courtesy to Town Meeting, Ms. Raftery Precinct 1 moves Article 6 for consideration to the floor.

**Article as written:**

**Article 6.** To see if the Town will vote raise and appropriate a sum of money for capital improvements to the Town’s Lincoln Avenue Pumping Station, including the payments of cost incidental and related thereto; to determine whether this appropriation shall be raised by borrowing or otherwise; or to take any other action relative thereto.

Seconded at 7:49 p.m.

At 7:49 p.m. Town Manager Scott Crabtree speaks on the Pumping Station on Lincoln Ave. He states this is a main sewage station that pumps the sewage to Lynn. It was built in the 1908’s with minimal construction. If the pumps are fail the sewage will go into the Saugus River which has environmental issues. Assessors looked at it with the DPW Director and determine the Pumping Station is in poor design. This article would allow phase 1 and phase 2 to re-do the system. The borrowing would occur over 2,3 and 4 years.

**Article as voted:** Voted to recommend that \$4,300,000.00 be appropriated for capital improvements to the Town's Lincoln Avenue Pumping Station, including the payments of costs incidental or related thereto; that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer with the approval of the Board of Selectmen is authorized to borrow \$4,300,000.00 under G.L. 44 §7(1) or any other enabling authority; that the Town Manager is individually authorized to contract for and expend any federal or state aid available for the projects; and that the Town Manager is authorized to take any other action necessary or convenient to carry out the projects. Any premium received by the Town upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay for such costs by a like amount.

Call for the Question on Article 6.

Unanimous voice vote yes at 7:56 p.m.

**Article 6 passes.**

As a courtesy to Town Meeting, Ms. Raftery Precinct 1 moves Article 1 for consideration to the floor.

Seconded at 7:57 p.m.

**Article as written:**

**Article 1:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money to be transferred to the Stabilization Fund. (Town Manager)

An amendment to strike out \$1,500,000.00 to be replaced to \$1,200,000.00 leaving \$300,000.00 aside was made by Steve Murphy, Precinct 3.

Seconded at 7:57 p.m.

At 7:58 p.m., Steve Murphy, precinct 3 speaks on the amendment asking to move the \$300,000.00 to the School Committee. He states this could help reduce class size and keep the Ballard Pre-school open.

At 7:59 p.m. Town Manager Scott Crabtree speaks on the finances of the town regarding free cash and surplus for bond ratings. He is concerned by using free cash for operations which is reoccurring on an annual bases. Another concern is what if another department wants something like this? Reminds the town of the past financial difficulties when there was not enough money in times of emergencies. The town needs to spend within our means. He asks for support on the original article as written.

At 8:08 p.m., Martin Costello precinct 10 has questions for the Town Manager.

Any input on the bond ratings that we presently have and hold?

Is there a way we can fund this as a solution between the Superintendent's office and the Town Managers office?

At 8:10 p.m., Town Manager answers about the bond ratings which are independent rating on what is happening in the town on an ongoing bases. The financial practices of the town is the big picture. He states that each year we have increased the school budget try to project fixed cost increases.

At 8:18 p.m., Mr. Peter Manoogian, 50 Ballard Street speaks in support of the amendment. He asks where does the free cash come from and that the amendment is only asking to hold off on the \$300,000.00 from going into the Stabilization fund.

At 8:25 p.m., Eugene Decareau precinct 8 states he is not against the motion in its entirety, but town meeting needs to understand that we are running a business and need to keep money on the books. The other articles are all borrowing articles and we need money. He makes a substitute motion to keep the \$1,200,000.00 and the \$300,000.00 go to Article 6 to reduce the amount of money we are borrowing for the Pumping Station.

Moderator Steve Doherty states there cannot be a substitute motion – procedurally. Denied

At 8:31 p.m., Brenton Spencer, precinct 5 asks the Town manager and the Finance Committee Chairman; how much is in Free Cash?

At 8:32 p.m. Kenneth DePatto speaks on Articles 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6 on where the money is being borrowed from and out of the General Fund/certified free cash is Articles 2 and 3.

At 8:33 p.m., Town Manager answers the question that the Stabilization Fund collectively has \$4,300,000.00 (approximately) with certified Free Cash around \$2,900,000.00.

At 8:35p.m., Arthur Grabowski, 66 Denver Street, member of the School Committee reminds Town Meeting members that they are the only people that can appropriate the money.

At 8:40 p.m., Bill Brown precinct 6 has been listening to all and he thinks that there is a lack of commitment to the children of this time. There are 2 more articles of playgrounds and we want to spend more on playgrounds than education. We need to take a look at what we want to do, not just building a school but what is happening inside the school. We want to be at a level one not a level three. Need to find a way to get more money to the schools and understands the bond ratings but need to find a compromise.

At 8:43 p.m., Brian Costin, precinct 7 reminds Town Meeting how the town was in dire straits and almost in receivership. The current town manager has elevated our bond status and rating. He took us from the brink of our past failure. He has a point where if I give it to them then I have to give it to everyone that asks.

At 8:45 p.m., Ms. Lesley Parker, 86 Auburn Street, is a concerned parent and speaking on behalf of the PTO in this case. She states how parents fund raise and will do anything to help the schools.

The Moderator reminds Town Meeting on what the Amendment is asking.

Call for the Question. Steve Murphy Precinct 3 asks for a Roll Call Vote on the Amendment.

Town Clerk, Ellen Schena, called the roll call Vote at 8:51 p.m.:

Town Meeting Member name	Present/ Absent	Pct	Town Meeting Member name	Present/ Absent	Pct	Town Meeting Member name	Present/ Absent	Pct
ALLEN, P	A	3	ATTUBATO, J	A	6	BARTOLO, J.	Y	6
BRAZIS, K	N	5	BROWN, W.	Y	6	CANTERBURY, M.	Y	6
CHRISTOPHER, R	A	6	CICOLINI, J.	N	8	COBURN, J.	A	10
CONNORS, A.	N	3	COSTELLO, M.	N	10	COSTIN, J.B.	N	7
COTTAM, J.	A	9	DECAREAU, E.	N	8	DEVLIN, F.A.	N	1
DINARDO, A.	N	4	DIVIRGILIO, A.	A	10	DOHERTY, S.		4
FALASCA, T.	N	2	FINN, C.	A	9	FOWLER, J	N	8
GOODWIN, P.	N	5	GROARK, L.	Y	5	HORLICK, S.	N	8
JONES, C.	N	1	KELLY, D.	N	9	LEUCI, W.	N	4
LOPRESTI, A.	A	8	MCCABE, K.	Y	2	MCCARTHY, S.	N	7
MCLAUGHLIN, P.	N	4	MCTAGUE, J.	Y	9	MORESCHI, C.	N	2
MURPHY, S.	Y	3	PAOLINI, M.	N	7	POLITANO, K.	Y	7
PRIZIO, P	Y	7	RAFTERY, S.	N	1	RING, D.	Y	10
RODENHISER, J.	N	1	ROSSETTI, P.	A	2	SERINO, M.	N	10
SPENCER, B.	N	5	STEWART, W.	N	3	SULLIVAN, P.	A	9
SWEEZEY, S.	N	2	THOMPSON, R.	N	3	WALLACE, R.	Y	5
WHITCOMB, M.	N	4	WITTEN, R.	N	1			

Yea: 11  
Nay: 28  
Absent: 10

Amendment fails at 8:15 p.m.

The Moderator goes back to the original wording on Article 1.

At 8:52 p.m., Ms. Melanie Weinberg, 105 Winter Street states on how despicable this town treats the children.

At 8:54 p.m., Jean Bartolo Precinct 6 asks about why there are similar articles on the STM and the ATM?

At 8:55 p.m., the Town Manager answers that the ATM already had them on the agenda when the special was drafted and will most likely be Indefinitely Postponed (IP).

At 8:56 p.m., Ms. Heather Davis, 14 Walden Ave speaks on her experience with the schools.

Call for the Question at 8:57 p.m.

**Article as voted:** Voted to recommend the sum of \$1,500,000.00 be transferred to the Stabilization Fund. The source is certified free cash.

By hand vote in favor:  
Right side: 19  
Left side: 16  
Total: 35

By hand vote opposed:  
Right side: 0  
Left side: 3  
Total: 3

Articles 1 passes at 8:58p.m.

As a courtesy to Town Meeting, Ms. Raftery Precinct 1 moves Article 2 for consideration to the floor.

**Article as written:**

**Article 2:** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money for the purpose of funding maintenance and repairs of the parks and playgrounds in the Town (Town Manager).

Seconded at 8:58 p.m.

At 8:58 p.m., the Town Manager expresses that this is a one-time expenditure to repair the safety issues and update the fields at Stackpole and in the Golden Hills.

At 9:00 p.m., Brian Costin precinct 7 maintains he is only speaking on this article because he received several calls on this asking when this will be done.

At 9:01 p.m., the Town Manager answers, this is why we are having a STM she he can close the meeting to allocate the funds immediately.

At 9:02 p.m., Eugene Decareau precinct 8 asks where, when, how and who is going to do the work? He wants to know the details where the costs are going?

At 9:01 p.m., the Town Manager answers that there is a list that has been checked off of.

At 9:06 p.m. Greg Nickolas, Youth & Recreation Director supports this at 100%.

Call for the Question.

**Article as voted:** Voted to recommend the sum of \$500,000.00 be transferred for the purpose of funding maintenance repairs of parks and playgrounds in the Town. The source of funding is certified free cash.

Voice vote: Yea 38, Opposed 1

**Articles 2 passes at 9:09p.m.**

As a courtesy to Town Meeting, Ms. Raftery Precinct 1 moves Article 3 for consideration to the floor.

**Article as written:**

**Article 3:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money to be transferred to the OPEB Trust (Other Post-Employment Benefits Trust). (Town Manager)

Seconded at 9:09 p.m.

At 9:10 p.m., Martin Costello, precinct 10 ask the question: Is the town doing everything they can to assure the retirees will be taken care of?

At 9:10 p.m., the Town Manager answers on the unfunded liability of the town and how it does affect our Bond ratings.

Call for the Question

**Article as voted:** Voted to recommend the sum of \$150,000.00 be transferred to the OPEB Trust. The source of funding is certified free cash.

Voice vote: Yea 39, Opposed 0

**Articles 3 passes at 9:14p.m.**

As a courtesy to Town Meeting, Ms. Raftery Precinct 1 moves Article 4 for consideration to the floor.

Seconded at 9:16 p.m.

**Article as written:**

**Article 4:** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money for designing, constructing, repairing and replacing parks and playgrounds in the Town, including the payments of costs incidental or related thereto; to determine whether this appropriation shall be raised by borrowing or otherwise; or to take any other action relative thereto. (Town Manager).

At 9:16 p.m. the Town Manager informs town meeting on the Bristow Street, Veterans School and the Belmonte playground areas on the safety needed for cameras and more lighting. There was some money for the Veteran's School to have a single camera thru Comcast. This article will be for the security of these 3 areas. Police on their laptops in the Police cruisers will be able to see what is happening.

At 9:22 p.m. William Cash a patrol officer for the town of Saugus and representing the Patrol Officer Union. He wants to

speak on the free cash, how it gets spent and reminds all that the Patrol Officer Union starts mediation next year. He asks when the town employees are going to reap the benefits when all this money is going to parks. Not to get off topic, but in comparison to other communities, Saugus employees are one of the lowest paid employees in the State that includes the Patrol Officers. Why does this have to be done right away? The schools are looking for money, the police are looking for money and certainly the Patrol Officers union. If all the money is spent, where will the town employees be? Need to be treated better by the community that they serve.

At 9:26 p.m., Al DiNardo precinct 4 says the articles have been in discussion for many years and now the town is doing something about it.

Call for the Question.

**Article as vote:** Voted to recommend that \$500,000.00 be appropriated for designing, constructing, repairing and replacing parks and playgrounds in the Town, including payments of costs incidental or related thereto; that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer with the approval of the Board of Selectmen is authorized to borrow \$500,000.00 under G.L. c44, §7(1) or any other enabling authority; that the Town manager is individually authorized to contract for and expend any federal or state aid available for the projects; and that the Town Manager is authorized to take any other action necessary or convenient to carry out the projects. Any premium received by the Town upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with Chapter 44, section 20 of the General laws, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount.

Voice vote: Yea 38, Opposed 2

**Articles 4 passes at 9:33p.m.**

As a courtesy to Town Meeting, Ms. Raftery Precinct 1 moves Article 5 for consideration to the floor.

Seconded at 9:41 p.m.

**Article as written:**

**Article 5:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money for the purchase of Chromebooks for the Saugus Public Schools, including the payments of costs incidental and related thereto; to determine whether this appropriation shall be raised by borrowing or otherwise; or to take any other action relative thereto. (Town Manager).

At 9:41 p.m. the Town Manager informs town meeting this is a short term borrowing item after discussions with the Superintendent. Please support this article.

Call for the Question.

**Article as voted:** Voted to recommend that \$82,000.00 be appropriated for the purchase of Chromebooks for the Saugus Public Schools, including the payments of costs incidental or related thereto; that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer with the approval of the Board of Selectmen is authorized to borrow \$82,000.00 under G.L. c.44 §7(1) or any other enabling authority; that the Town Manager is individually authorized to contract for and expend any federal or state aid available for the purchase; and that the Town Manager is authorized to take any other action necessary or convenient to carry out the project. Any premium received by the Town upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount.

Unanimous voice vote.

**Article 5 passes at 9:44 p.m.**

Move to adjourn the May 1, 2017 Special Town Meeting sine die.

Seconded at 9:44p.m.

Unanimous voice vote adjourn sine die.

Seconded at 9:45p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Ellen Joyce Schena  
 Town Clerk