

Town Moderator & Town Clerk
2021 Spring Annual Town Meeting Protocols

In the interests of providing a safe environment for the conduct of our Spring Annual Town Meeting and in concert with the overriding effort to protect the public and town employees during the COVID-19 pandemic, the following protocols and procedures will be implemented. **All plans and operating procedures have been approved by the Walpole Board of Health and reviewed by Town and public safety officials and other stakeholders.** All the usual standards and accommodations of our Town Meetings will continue, other than where noted. Our primary interest is to assure both the safety and legitimacy of our Town Meeting. Updates to these protocols as well as availability of all Town Meeting resources and information can be found at www.walpole-ma.gov .

Risk

- Continuous risk assessment and contingent planning are being conducted throughout the planning of this event and will remain ongoing during the period leading up to Town Meeting. Data related to the spread of COVID-19 in our town strongly suggests that community spread of COVID-19 has significantly slowed and the number of active cases is diminishing. This data supports the responsible phased re-opening and reconstitution of many public and private functions in our town and statewide. If during the period leading to the event community spread or other conditions related to COVID-19 change, local health officials will provide input on the risk assessment. In the case of a negative risk assessment, the Moderator has the ability to postpone the meeting due to a public health/safety issue.
- A record of attendees and participants will be maintained should there be a need for contact tracing.
- All staff and volunteers associated with this event have reviewed and acknowledged the Town of Walpole's COVID-19 Employee Standard Operating Procedures and participated in the self-screening/self-certifying process.

Venue

- The meeting will be held outdoors at the high school football field. Scientific evidence is clear that an outdoor venue is much safer than indoors.
- A diagram of the field layout can be seen here www.walpole-ma.gov
- Handicapped Parking will be designated closest to the snack shack.

Pre-meeting and Check-in

- Check-in will begin at 9:00AM. When RTM Members arrive please remain in your vehicle until your appointed check-in time. RTM members will line up at each entry point. The line to check-in will be overseen by Board of Health Officials in order to ensure sufficient physical distancing per ground markings.
- Check in Time for each precinct is as follows:
 - 9:00AM-9:15AM precinct 1 & 2
 - 9:15AM-9:30AM precinct 3 & 4
 - 9:30AM-9:45AM precinct 5 & 6
 - 9:45AM-10:00AM precinct 7 & 8
- If Town Meeting Members are unable to check in at your designated check in time you will be accommodated and allowed to check in when you arrive.
- Signage detailing safety protocols will be posted at the entrances
- In accordance with the Select Board's Declaration of the State of Emergency, the Town Administrator and the Board of Health have ordered that all individuals over 2 years of age shall cover their mouth and nose with a mask or cloth face covering while attending Town Meeting if they are unable to maintain a distance of approximately six feet from every other person.

- Individuals who are unable to wear a face covering due to a medical condition or disability are exempt from this requirement and will be accommodated.
- Masks or face coverings will be required throughout the check in process. The Town will provide masks for those who do not have them.
- Tables will be installed and check-in will be by the paper attendance list used at all Town Meetings attendees are to state their name and address. Names should be stated loudly and clearly. Masked and gloved staff will manage the process.
- A care package including a bottle of water, sunscreen and hand sanitizer will be left at all of the chairs for Town Meeting Members. Please plan to bring additional water, if needed.
- Paper copies of documentation related to Town Meeting will be delivered on Friday, April 16th. No other handouts will be allowed.

Seating

- All seats, implements and venue will be properly sanitized before the meeting. Seats will be set up for single attendees. This allows 15 feet between chairs and 10 yard walking aisles between sections.
- Individuals who may need special accommodations are encouraged to contact the Town Clerk prior to Town Meeting to inform her of the accommodation needed.
- There will be a handicapped designated area that will provide access to those who may need it.
- You will be asked to remain in your seats and area at all times except to speak, utilize a rest room, or when leaving the meeting.
- No congregation of people will be allowed at any time.
- Child care will not be provided.
- Only representative Town Meeting members, Department Heads and Town officials will be allowed on the football field. All non-voters will remain outside the perimeter fencing.

The Meeting

- Our goal for the meeting is to balance discussion and debate while limiting the length of the meeting. The meeting will be conducted as close to our normal experience as possible while adhering to the deliberative process of any town meeting.
- Expect the Moderator will get straight to the business of the meeting with limited opening ceremony, brief remarks plus a review of safety protocols by the Director of Public Health.
- The consent agenda for routine and non-controversial articles will be included in this RTM meeting packet.
- Motions will only be accepted 24 hours in advance of the meeting. So, all motions need to be received by the Moderator by 10am Friday, April 30th. [Note: This is only to avoid handling of papers by multiple parties, RTM filing motion, RTM second, Town Clerk, Moderator and Town Counsel.]
- Your courtesy is sought to limit comments and questions to that which is necessary and non-repetitive. Questions and new information are encouraged for the benefit of the meeting. Statements simply stating support or opposition are discouraged.
- Speakers will be limited to three minutes per motion. So, plan your comments accordingly to make the most of your allotted time.
- Efforts by town officials and sponsors are ongoing to make citizens fully aware prior to the meeting of the articles and their merit.
- It is important for all of us to abide by physical distancing standards and other proper behaviors to ensure that we are not creating unnecessary risks to our health and well-being of others during this pandemic.
- If we do not complete the warrant for any reason, the meeting may be adjourned to a proximate date with full intent to hold a subsequent meeting in the moderate future, as necessary.

- Microphones will be set up at the front of the seating area. An array of three microphones on stands will be provided and adjusted for each speaker as they approach the microphone. The speaker should not touch the microphone.
- Only one person at a time is allowed in the speaker's area. Please be mindful of the spacing while you wait to speak.

Post the Meeting and Other Matters

- When the meeting is adjourned, please exit in an orderly fashion. The designated exits will be clearly marked the day of the event.
- The Fire Department will have an ambulance on scene.
- The Police Department will be on hand to help the Board of Health if necessary and to assist with traffic.
- In the event that the meeting cannot be held due to weather Town Meeting will be held on the following day which is Sunday, May 2nd at 10AM in the same location.
- In the event of poor weather forecast the meeting may be postponed. A reverse 911 call will alert all and notice will be posted on the town website. See Weather Protocol below for full details.
- In the event of a rainfall or other surprise weather situation during the meeting, a judgment will be made on the ground.
- The bathrooms at the snack shack will be open.
- Walpole Media TV will provide live coverage of Town Meeting on Comcast Ch.22 and Verizon Ch. 30. Live streaming will also be available on YouTube by going to the Walpole Media Channel.

Weather Protocol

- Five days prior to the event public safety officials and meteorological expertise will be consulted on the predicted weather. If at that time there is some indicator of an extreme weather factor (predicted storm(s), extreme heat/cold) the event will be evaluated.
- Two days prior the weather will be evaluated for the same parameters and actions.
- One day prior the predicted weather for the time of the event will be evaluated. If the weather will not support the event it will be deemed a "no go" and postponed.
- Early on the day of the event, public safety officials and meteorological expertise will be consulted and a go/no go judgment made. The day's weather will be continually evaluated and a decision to cancel or postpone will be made. Due to the logistic concerns and set up requirement, an early decision should be made.
- Due to the use of audio equipment excessive rain is a no go factor. Extreme heat should also be considered as a no go as this event will take place in an open field with minimal shading opportunities. Lightning is a no go. The prediction of thunderstorms would most likely be considered a no go prior to the event. A lightning monitor will be on the field at all times. Weather will be monitored during the event by the safety and operations team.

Finally, each citizen needs to make their own judgment whether to attend. We respect that personal decision and endeavor to make the conduct of the meeting as safe as reasonably possible, guided by state and local public health authorities. Please know that the Governor has signed emergency legislation authorizing the Moderator, after consulting public health officials and the Select Board, to recess the meeting for up to 30 days, and to do so repeatedly if necessary. We will be monitoring the situation with State and Town officials, and if necessary will not hesitate to reschedule the meeting in order to preserve the safety of our neighbors and the legitimacy of Town Meeting as a deliberative legislative body.

Respectfully,

Daniel Bruce
Town Moderator
dbruce@wapole-ma.gov

Elizabeth Gaffey
Town Clerk
lgaffey@walpole-ma.gov

SPRING ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
May 1, 2021
Finance Committee and Select Board votes

Article		Finance Committee Vote	Selectboard Vote
1	Committee Reports		
2	Personnel By-law Amendments	Favorable Action 12-1-1	Favorable Action 4-1-0
3	Personnel Board Salary Schedule	Favorable Action 12-0-2	Favorable Action 5-0-0
4	Personnel Board Monies	No Action 14-0-0	No Action 5-0-0
5	FY21 Budget Adjustments	Favorable Action 13-0-0	Favorable 5-0-0
6	FY22 Budget	Favorable Action 14-0-0	Favorable Action 5-0-0
7	FY 21 Water Enterprise Fund Transfer	No Action 12-0-1	No Action 5-0-0
8	FY 22 Water Enterprise Fund Appropriation	Favorable Action 12-0-1	Favorable Action 3-0-0
9	FY 21 Sewer Enterprise Fund Transfer	Favorable Action 12-0-1	Favorable 5-0-0
10	FY 22 Sewer Enterprise Fund Appropriation	Favorable Action 13-0-1	Favorable Action 3-0-0
11	FY21 Snow and Ice Deficit	No Action 14-0-0	No Action 5-0-0
12	Stabilization	Favorable Action 13-1-0	Favorable Action 5-0-0
13	OPEB	Favorable Action 10-4-0	Favorable Action 5-0-0
14	Prior Year's Unpaid Bills	No Action 14-0-0	No Action 3-0-0
15	Cable Fund Transfer	Favorable Action 14-0-0	Favorable Action 4-0-1
16	General Bylaws single use plastic bags	Favorable Action 10-4-0	Favorable Action 4-1-0
17	Zoning By-laws Stadium Parking	Recom @ Town Meeting 14-0-0	Recom @ Town Meeting
18	Zoning By-laws Solar Overlay	Favorable Action 13-1-0	Favorable 5-0-0
19	Solar PILOT Agreement	Favorable Action 13-1-0	Favorable 5-0-0
20	Transfer funds out of Norfolk County Retirement	No Action 14-0-0	No Action 5-0-0

Town Moderator
Daniel F. Bruce



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Walpole, MA 02081
(508) 668-6887
dfb2737@comcast.net

**Town of Walpole
Commonwealth of
Massachusetts**

2021 Spring Town Meeting Consent Agenda

As noted in Town Meeting Rules, the purpose of the consent agenda is to identify like Articles which would generate no apparent controversy and could be properly voted on as one unit without debate..

The below Consent Agenda will be our first order of business after Town Meeting opens. As per our usual rules, If you wish to have a particular Article removed, call out "Hold" and I will remove the Article for separate action.

Article 4 – Personnel Board Monies
Finance Committee vote – No Action (14-0-0)
Article 7 – FY21 Water Enterprise Fund Transfer
Finance Committee vote – No Action (12-0-1)
Article 11 – FY21 Snow and Ice Deficit
Finance Committee vote – No Action (14-0-0)
Article 14 – Prior Year's Unpaid Bills
Finance Committee vote – No Action (14-0-0)



TOWN OF WALPOLE
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Walpole Town Hall
135 School Street
Walpole, MA 02081
Phone (508) 660-7289
Fax (508) 660-7303
Email: JJohnson@walpole-ma.gov

April 15, 2021

Dear Representative Town Meeting Member,

Enclosed you will find materials to help you prepare for the 2021 Annual Spring Town Meeting that is set to be held on Saturday May 1, 2021 at 10:00 AM on Turco Field at the Walpole High School. This Warrant will address a wide range of Town matters. Some Articles of note that I would like to bring to your attention include:

Article 5 – This article relates to the current fiscal year budget. At this time there is a deficit projected in the Fire Department Budget. The Fire Chief has advised the Finance Committee that there is a need for additional funds for the remainder of FY 21. The Finance Committee recommended that \$170,000 be transferred into the Fire Department personnel line. Reasons for the shortfall include; fully staffing the East Walpole Fire Station over the last year which required an increase in the minimum manning requirements and the retirement of two long time Walpole firefighters. The funding sources for this request which can be found below include a combination of completed capital items and Free Cash.

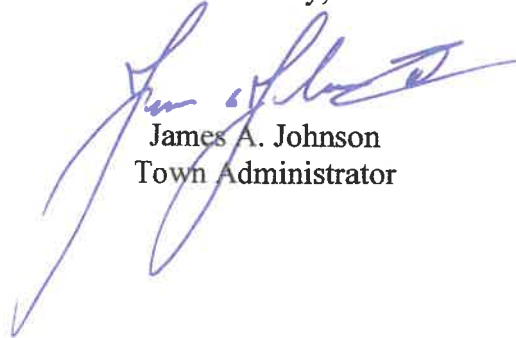
➤ ASSESSORS NETWORK	FATM 19	\$251.68
➤ MEMORIAL POND STUDY	FATM 12	\$4,700.00
➤ BIRD SCHOOL SECURITY	SATM 14	\$565.23
➤ LADDER TRUCK	FATM 17	\$600.00
➤ AMBULANCE REPLACEMENT	FATM 19	\$591.37
➤ PORT BATTERIES & C	FATM 20	\$1,530.44
➤ SECURITY	FATM 19	\$2,467.00
➤ PROJECTORS	FATM 20	\$11.00
➤ UNMARKED CRUISER	FATM20	\$52.64
➤ PONDS O&M MANUALS	SATM 10	\$2,813.83
➤ DAM INSP/STORMWATER	SATM 11	\$3,075.00
➤ MEMORIALPOND DAM MAINT	SATM 12	\$4,800.00
➤ CHAIN LINK FENCE REPAIRS	SATM 17	\$382.06
➤ DUMP TRUCK #255	SATM 18	\$1,900.00
➤ FORD F-350 TRUCK W/PLOW	FATM 19	\$7,673.00
➤ FORD F-350 VAN	FATM 19	\$12,227.42
Total completed Capital projects		\$43,640.67
Free Cash		\$126,359.33

Article 12 – This article requests that \$175,000 be transferred from Free Cash to the Stabilization Account. The current market balance in the Stabilization account is \$8,328,795.

Article 13 – This article requests that \$287,000 be transferred from Free Cash to the Other Post Employment Benefits Account. It is important to note that the funds that are set to be considered for this article are in addition to the \$100,000 that is included in the annual budget appropriation which is included as part of article 6. The current market balance in the OPEB account is \$5,564,124.

Please take a look at the Town's website for additional information relating to the Spring Annual Town Meeting and as always feel free to email me directly at jjohnson@walpole-ma.gov if you any questions or concerns relating to Town Meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James A. Johnson", written over a faint circular stamp.

James A. Johnson
Town Administrator



Town of Walpole

Middle School Project

Project Information Summary

APRIL 2021



BUDGET & FUNDING

- Total project costs are estimated at \$116M.
 - Construction costs are estimated at \$88M.
- MSBA will reimburse Walpole 48-52% of eligible project costs.
 - Per MSBA guidelines, not all project costs are deemed eligible for reimbursement. This is typical on all MSBA projects.
 - Based upon recent MSBA projections, Walpole should anticipate an actual MSBA reimbursement of 30-35% of total project costs.
 - MSBA reimbursement will be \$35M. Town share \$81M (both approximates).
- The Town will need to approve a debt-exclusion override to pay for the project.
- MSBA will require Walpole approve the total project cost at the end of Schematic Design. The Town will not have bids in hand. This is standard for MSBA projects.
- This approval will be voted on at the Fall 2021 Town Meeting and Ballot Vote.

SCHEDULE

Schematic Design submitted to the MSBA	July 7, 2021
Finalize scope/budget/reimbursement % with MSBA	August 25, 2021
Community forums; info sessions, etc	Sept-Oct 2021
Present Project for approval at Town Meeting; full funding	October 18, 2021
Town Ballot Vote on project*	November 2021
If approved, design will be completed by	Late Fall 2022
Construction Start	Late 2022/Early 2023
Construction Duration (approximate)	24-30 mos.
Open new building (at the earliest)	Fall 2024

*If the project fails at Town Meeting/Vote, then MSBA will close the project. The Town must start the entire process over which would result in another 4-5 year commitment and another capital investment of at least \$1.5 million.

MORE INFORMATION

Visit the Middle School Building Project's website:

<https://sites.google.com/walpole.k12.ma.us/school-building-project/home>

Questions or comments? Send an email to: middleschoolproject@walpole.k12.ma.us

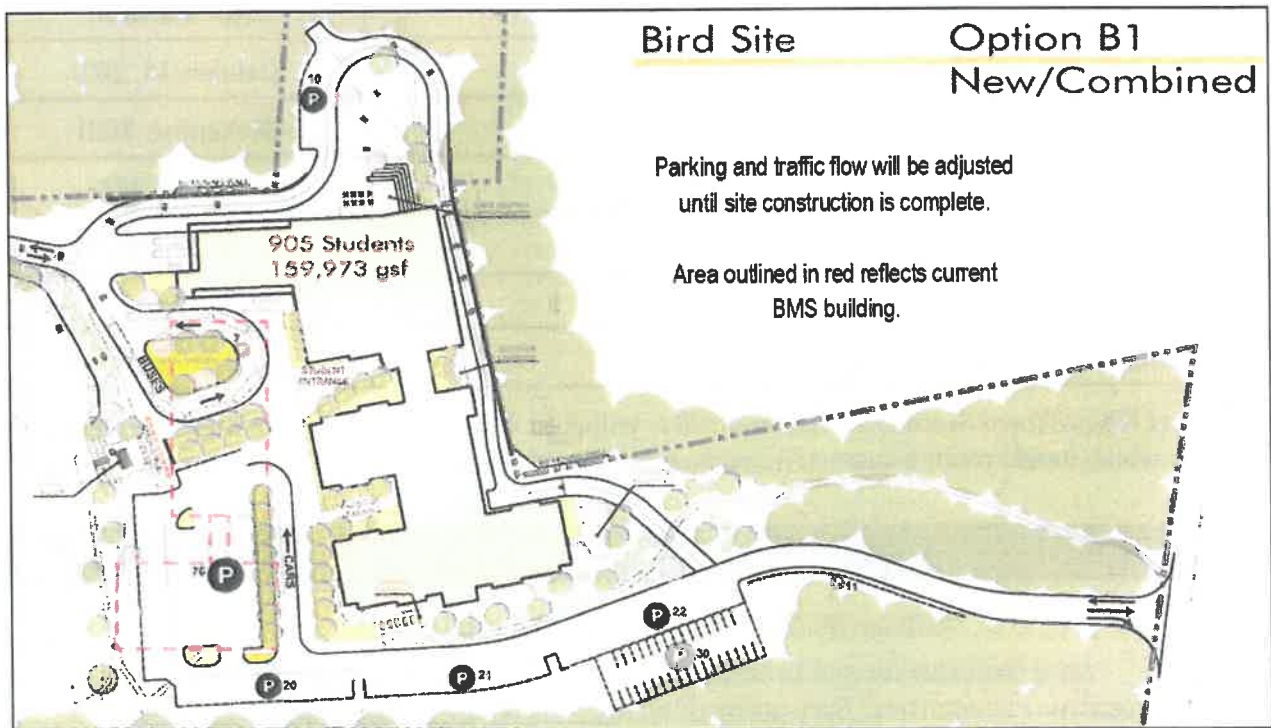


Town of Walpole
Middle School Project
Project Information Summary
APRIL 2021



PROJECT SCOPE

- 2016 and 2017: Walpole submitted Statements of Interest (SOI) that included plans for combining both middle schools at the high school and building a new high school at the Bird Middle School (BMS) site. Both were rejected by the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA).
- 2018: Walpole submitted SOI to MSBA for a project to improve BMS. MSBA accepted Walpole into their program in December 2018. Out of 70 applicants, Walpole was one of 12 Districts accepted into the Eligibility Period.
- 2019: Walpole was 1 of 4 districts accepted into the Feasibility Period.
- Although SOI was for BMS, MSBA recognized the need at both middle schools and allowed Walpole to consider building a combined Middle School. MSBA did not support any work at high school.
- Town determined that the existing Bird and Johnson sites were the only viable sites for a combined school. Walpole School Building Committee (WSBC) investigated 7 possible solution scenarios and 19 conceptual options.
- The School Committee and WSBC voted to move forward with a new combined middle school as the most cost effective and educationally preferred option. BMS will remain in operation during construction.
- The District and Project Team believed this option best aligned with the District's Strategic Vision and the Educational Program for a new combined middle school.





Articles 2 and 3 Supplemental Information

ARTICLE 2: *To see if the Town will vote to approve the amendments to the Personnel Bylaws as recommended by the Personnel Board, as on file in the office of the Town Clerk, or do or act anything in relation thereto.*

The Personnel Board voted (4-0-0) to recommend a revision to the Personnel Bylaw by adding “Juneteenth Independence Day” to the list of holidays, as outlined in Article 502. Earlier this year, the state Legislature enacted legislation, which established Juneteenth Independence Day as an annual holiday on June 19th every year in Massachusetts. Juneteenth Independence Day is further defined in M.G.L. Chapter 6, Section 15BBBBB, which establishes the holiday “*in recognition of June 19, 1865 when Union General Gordon Granger announced freedom for all slaves in the Southwestern United States and in recognition of the end of slavery in the United States as well as the significant contributions individuals of African descent have made to the Commonwealth and to the United States and recommending.*”

By establishing Juneteenth Independence Day as an annual holiday, it joins eleven other official state holidays in Massachusetts which require all state and municipal offices to close, including New Year’s Day, Martin Luther King Day, Presidents Day, Patriots Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas Day. Although state and municipal offices being closed are defined by statute, the issue of pay, as opposed to having a day off, is defined by the Personnel Bylaw.

ARTICLE 3: *To see if the Town will vote to approve the new salary schedule as recommended by the Personnel Board, as on file in the office of the Town Clerk, or do or act anything in relation thereto.*

The Personnel Board voted (3-1-0) to recommend a 1.75% general increase adjustment for non-union staff for Fiscal Year 2022. The general wage increase is the Personnel Board’s annual recommendation to Town Meeting as part of its responsibility of maintaining a fair and equitable pay level for non-union personnel. The general wage increase allows salaries and wages to keep pace with the rising cost of inflation and maintains a fair and equitable pay scale, and this adjustment has traditionally been a factor of market indicators, increases in the union position wages in Walpole, and anticipated wage / salary increases for non-union positions in other towns.

Copies of the new salary and wage schedule and the new personnel bylaw language for Juneteenth Independence Day can be found on file with the Town Clerk.

ARTICLE 8

Summary of Proposed FY 2022 Water Department Budget

168 Miles of Main Line Piping, 8,175 Connections, 1,425 Hydrants, 1,540 Valves, 18 Wells, 4 Booster Stations, 6 Water Storage Tanks, 2 Water Treatment Facilities, 8 Pressure Regulator Valves.

Personnel Services:

This section of the budget includes salaries of 10 Public Works and 3 Clerical employees that are assigned to the Water Department. Salaries of the Assistant Superintendent, as well as one-half of the salaries for the Board of Sewer & Water Commission's secretary, Department Superintendent, and a portion of a part-time principle clerk's position, are also accounted for in this budget.

Total Personnel Services: \$1,023,862

Expenses:

This section of the budget includes all of the expenses that are necessary and required to operate and maintain the water system. It also includes expenses that are necessary to maintain compliance with Federal and State Drinking Water Regulations. This year's budget is proposed to increase by \$25,570 or 1.5% over the FY 2021 budgeted amount of \$1,628,060. Some of the lines have been adjusted to reflect the needs of the department, most notably is the increase to Professional and Technical services. This directly related to mandated monitoring of per/polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).

Total Expenses: \$1,653,630

Debt Services: \$1,801,777

Total Budget Request: \$4,479,269

ARTICLE 9

This request, if favorably acted upon will allow for the Board of Sewer and Water Commissioners to use a portion of the Sewer retained earnings as an additional source of revenue to fund the Fiscal Year 2021 Sewer Budget.

This revenue would be supplemental to revenue raised through rates and other miscellaneous revenues such as connection fees and testing fees. (Current SRE Balance: \$2,171,644)

TOTAL REQUEST: \$200,000

ARTICLE 10

Summary of Proposed FY 2022 Sewer Department Budget

93 Miles of Main Line Piping; 5,750 Connections; 8 Pump Stations;
Septage Receiving Facility

Personnel Services:

This section of the budget includes the salaries of 3 Public Works employees and 1 Clerical employee that are assigned to the Sewer Department. Also included is one-half of the salary for the Board of Sewer & Water Commission's secretary, and Department Superintendent. It also includes a portion of the salary of a part-time principle clerk.

Total Personnel Services: \$308,182

Expenses:

This section of the budget includes all expenses that are necessary and required to operate and maintain the sanitary sewer system of the town. This year's requested budget is proposed to increase by \$176,109 or 4.04% over the FY 2021 amount of \$4,350,601. As in the past, the most significant factor of this budget are the costs associated with the MWRA.

MWRA	\$4,394,500
Septage Facility Operational Maintenance	\$26,550
Sewer System Operational Expenses	\$105,660
Total Expenses:	\$4,526,710

Debt Service: \$43,700

Total Budget Request: \$4,878,592

Article 15

Walpole Media Corporation's FY 22 total operating budget is \$430,923.60. and our capital budget is \$169,671.53.

Our revenue comes from the number of basic cable subscribers in Walpole. We are not funded by tax payers and we have zero impact on the town's budget.

We carry programming over three channels. The public channel airs on Comcast channel 8 and Verizon channel 31; the education channel airs programming over Comcast channel 12 and Verizon channel 29; and the government channel airs on Comcast channel 22 and Verizon channel 30.

We are underspending compared to last year's budget, but that's mostly due to COVID.

We made a conscious effort to spread our capital dollars across town. \$115,000 of the capital will be used to pay for infrastructure connectivity to both Jarvis Farm and the Route 1A fields. We are establishing what we are calling a School Technology/Cable Leadership Grant to help teachers with innovative programs that may need funding. We will also be paying for two podcasting and video production rooms at the high school Media Center, where students can create videos and podcasts and we plan to purchase a fire retardant curtain for the Murphy Room at the Senior Center, which will also filter out the sun for our broadcasts. The remainder is allocated to our capital plan, which includes equipment for the studio that the students will use during classes and projects.

Our goal this past year was to increase the number of first run, original programs over all three channels. In 2019, we produced **423 original programs** and in 2020 we **increased that number to 617**.

- We increased our municipal meeting coverage to include the Board of Health, Personnel Board and the Economic Development Commission meetings. These are in addition to the other boards and commissions we already cover.
- We've strengthened our relationship with the Council on Aging and remain dedicated to creating content for Walpole's seniors. Every week, we record their morning exercise programs so seniors can remain physically active during COVID. We have started live-streaming the classes to make our programming more accessible.
- Throughout COVID, we **continue to tape community events** such as virtual League of Women Voter's Candidate Forums, Memorial Day, Veterans Day, Martin Luther King Jr. Observances and more.
- **We created short stories** spotlighting events and people in town and **began airing church services** from United Church in Walpole, Union Congregational Church and Epiphany Parish.
- **We expanded our sports coverage** to include boys and girls Freshman and JV basketball games, in addition to varsity basketball and hockey. All of the basketball games were live streamed. We also started covering Rec league basketball games.
- **We hired** Katherine Mooney as a full time production coordinator and just recently hired Jess Kergo as a part time digital media specialist. Both will help us create more programming and help with outreach in the town.

Summary Walpole Media Corp.

Requests - FY 2022

for 2021 Spring Town Meeting

FY22

Summary	
Total Operating Budget:	\$ 430,923.60
Total Capital Request:	\$ 169,671.53
Total Budget FY2021:	\$ 600,595.13
One time FY21 Adjustment - Less Funds on Hand:	
Total Request:	

Capital Budget

FY22 Capital Plan	\$ 29,671.53
School Technology/Cable Leadership Grants	\$ 15,000.00
COA - Sun Block Curtain for Video Filming	\$ 2,500.00
WHS Media Center - Create and Shoot Pod Casts	\$ 7,500.00
Cable Programming - Infrastructure Connectivity Jarvis & RT1a fields	\$ <u>115,000.00</u>
	\$ 169,671.53



380 billion

Americans use more than 380 billion plastic bags a year, which requires 12 million barrels of oil to manufacture.

AFTER SINGLE USE

99%

PLASTIC BAGS END IN TRASH (LANDFILL OR BURNED)

1%

PLASTIC BAGS ARE RECYCLED

90% of recycled bags are sent to trash because they are too contaminated to be used or are not a pure enough material to be repurposed.

Disposing plastics releases **TOXIC** byproducts into the environment.

which negatively impact the liver, kidneys, heart, nervous system (including the brain) and reproductive system

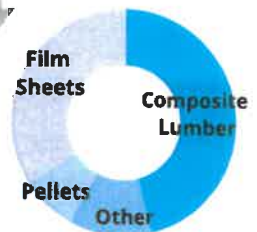
DIOXINS
FURANS
Other TOXIC CHEMICALS



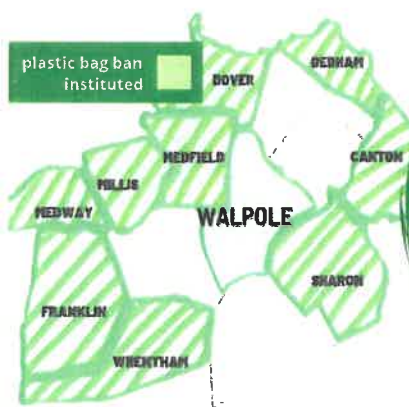
MICROPLASTICS



Recycling is not the solution.
Only 0.1% of all plastic bags distributed are repurposed.



TIME TO BAN PLASTIC BAGS



AS OF OCTOBER 2020

141

CITIES AND TOWNS IN MA REGULATE PLASTIC BAGS

90%

OF WALPOLE RETAIL BUSINESSES SURVEYED WOULD NOT HAVE A PROBLEM WITH THE BAN

We surveyed 60 Walpole retail & restaurant businesses. 64% businesses do not distribute or rarely distribute plastic bags. Another 26% are not concerned since they are corporately owned and/or already use both paper & plastic bags (so eliminating plastic would not be a hassle). Most businesses seem to agree that we must eliminate the use of plastic bags due to their negative environmental impact.

BANNING PLASTIC BAGS IS LOW COST

- Enforcement through existing bi-annual inspections or on a as-reported basis, so no significant additional cost and no additional personnel required (according to neighboring towns)
- In the long term - encouraging reusable bags and eliminating plastic bags save retailers money (retailers purchase less bags as people bring their own bags and can charge for bags they distribute)
- No impact to the local economy
- Recycling plastic bags is expensive (more so than making new bags) and plastic bags damage and clog recycling machinery.

REUSABLE BAGS ARE GREAT!

- Reusable bags do not create litter or end up in landfills
- Natural fiber reusable bags are common and do not release toxic byproducts into our environment at the end of their life
- Reusable bags can cost as little as \$1, are FREE at bag drives, and often serve as promotional material

Sources

1. EPA 2018 *Advancing Sustainable Materials Management: Facts and Figures Report* (Note: The EPA has an interest in protecting the environment)
2. ACC's 2018 *National Post-Consumer Plastic Bag & Film Recycling Report* (Note: the ACC, American Chemistry Council, has an interest in protecting the plastics manufacturing industry)
3. *A Detailed Review Study on Potential Effects of Microplastics and Additives of Concern on Human Health* (International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health)
4. *Economic Impact Analysis: Proposed Ban on Plastic Carryout Bags in Los Angeles County* (AFCOM, 2010)
5. <https://www.sierraclub.org/massachusetts/plastic-bags-0>

Summary

Everyone has at one point probably heard about the detrimental effects of using plastic as a society. But why is plastic so bad for us? The answer is that we currently do not have a way to get rid of plastic (at the end of its life) in a manner that is environmentally safe and non-toxic. To get rid of plastic we either burn it (typically in an incinerator with our other trash) or it degrades over time in our environment. Burning plastic releases toxic fumes and plastic degrades into toxic microplastics. Toxic fumes and microplastics which end up in our environment eventually find their way into our homes, food, and our bodies (where they can cause severe health problems).

The plastic bag ban is yet another step forward on our society's journey down the inevitable and necessary path to reduce our plastic consumption and preserve our environment.

(See FAQs about the plastic bag ban at the end)

The Problem

Humans need to start reducing the amount of plastic we use in order to reduce the amount of toxic plastic byproduct in our environment. **There are two main ways we, as a society, get rid of plastic.** Either we **burn it** (in an incinerator) or **it degrades** over time in the environment.

Note: In Walpole, most trash goes to a waste to energy facility in Millbury¹, where the trash is burned to produce electricity, and bags that do not make their way to a trash facility, often end up caught in our environment (in branches or on the side of the road), where they degrade over 5-10 years.

Burning Plastic^{2 3}

When plastic burns it releases toxic gases such as dioxins, furans, mercury, and polychlorinated biphenyls (also known as BCPs) into the atmosphere, which pose a threat to vegetation, human, and animal health. The compounds in these gases eventually settle in our waterways, crops, and environment and eventually enter our bodies. Dioxins are known to be potentially lethal persistent organic pollutants (i.e. we do not know how to get rid of them) that can cause a number of health issues including cancer, thyroid disease, and respiratory illnesses. Several of the fundamental chemicals contained in all plastics have similar health risks. Phthalates, for example, which give plastic the desirable qualities of flexibility and softness, are known to cause fertility issues, allergies, asthma, and disrupt the body's endocrine system.

All waste-to-energy plants are required to limit their emissions⁴ but as plants age, it becomes increasingly difficult to afford the required upgrades to ensure high quality filtration and data-collection. Furthermore, there's a limit on emissions, but that limit is not 0. In other words, such plants are allowed to emit some amount of toxic fumes.

¹ The Wheelabrator Millbury Waste to Energy plant is great for the fact that it powers thousands of homes and in general is much better than throwing the trash in a landfill. That said, it does need to [improve in some ways – see this](#)

² [Particulates Generated from Combustion of Polymers \(Plastics\)](#)

³ [Toxic Pollutants from Plastic Waste - A Review](#)

⁴ See [Hazardous Waste Combustors: National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants \(NESHAP\)](#) and [Toxic Substances Control Act](#)

Plastic Degradation and Decomposition⁵

The plastic that does not end up in the trash usually ends up in the environment where it photo-degrades (i.e degrades in sunlight). Unfortunately plastic does not break down completely, but instead, breaks into microplastics that absorb toxins and then continue to pollute the environment. The estimated half-life of plastic bags in particular is around 5 years (though depending on where the plastic degrades, this figure can be slightly more or slightly less). Microplastics are extremely dangerous as they find their way into our food and homes very easily⁶. Bags release microplastics into the environment quickly since they degrade faster than other plastic products.

⁵ [Degradation Rates of Plastics in the Environment](#) by the American Chemical Society

⁶ In one [famous study](#), nearly 90% of homes tested contained toxic chemicals in their house dust, of which phthalates (essential ingredient in plastics) was the most commonly seen chemical group.

FAQs

How will the ban be enforced? What are the personnel requirements? What are the anticipated costs of enforcing the ban (if any)?

The "enforcement" phrase of the by-law⁷ was adopted from several other towns in the area who have adopted a ban. We tried to choose the wording that would provide the most flexibility (hence having a "designee" also be a valid enforcer). The hope was that one of the entities listed (BOH or Board of Selectmen) would have a better sense of which personnel would have the bandwidth to enforce the by-law. The by-law also has a clause in Section 5 that states the timeline for the actual implementation of a ban may be subject to change based on COVID-19, so it is also possible to begin enforcement of the ban later when (hopefully) the worst of the pandemic has passed.

As for the costs associated with enforcing the ban, according to calls with neighboring towns, enforcing a plastic bag ban does not seem to have any significant costs and if anything, seems to reduce costs associated with litter-clean up and recycling.

Other towns check for plastic bag ban compliance either during regular annual inspections or if a complaint is received. There has been no need to hire additional personnel.

I'm concerned that a plastic bag ban will result in increased paper bag usage. Isn't that worse for the environment considering a paper bag requires much more energy to create than plastic bags?

There are life-cycle studies^{8 9} that show that the overall carbon footprint of a single-use plastic bag is less than that of a single paper bag or a single reusable bag unless paper bags or reusable bags are used multiple times. These studies, however, often do not account for the environmental effect of toxic plastic byproducts or the effects of litter, instead only looking at the CO2 emissions of the product's lifecycle. While we have technologies that are able to reduce the carbon footprint of the energy used to develop reusable and paper bags, we do not yet have a solution to remove toxic plastic byproducts from the environment. That said, it is true that as a town we should push for reusable bags as the alternative to paper bags since reusable bags can be used significantly more often than paper bags.

⁷ "The Town of Walpole Board of Health, the Director of the Walpole Board of Health or the Director's designee, or the Board of Selectmen's designee shall have the authority to administer and enforce this bylaw."

⁸ [2006 UK Study about Plastic Bags](#)

⁹ [2014 Progressive Bag Alliance](#)

Will the plastic bag ban have a negative impact on our local economy and the small businesses in our town?

In short – No. Several studies^{10 11 12} conducted both before and after plastic bag ban law passage show that laws to reduce bag waste have large positive environmental impacts and no negative economic impacts. Typically, however, there is a short transition period where retailer costs may go up as they switch from plastic to paper, but this ends quickly once consumers are accustomed to bringing reusable bags. Also, allowing retailers to charge a small fee for standard-compliant bags can significantly reduce additional costs to retailers without alienating customers.

Regarding the effect on Walpole businesses in particular, we have a spreadsheet of about 60 local restaurants and retailers that we called to ask about their usage of plastic bags and to gather any concerns or feedback they have. We came up with the list of 60 businesses by looking at the Chamber of Commerce website's business directory and choosing businesses under retail and food categories. We then merged this list with the list of restaurants/food establishments in Walpole found via a quick Google Maps search.

Regarding the response to the plastic bag ban, of those we have heard back from 64% do not distribute or rarely distribute plastic bags (i.e. they are already using paper). An additional 26% of businesses did use plastic bags and did not foresee any issues in transitioning to paper. This was often due to the fact that these businesses were corporately owned (and therefore would just have to notify headquarters of the switch to paper) or are already using a mix of paper and plastic (and therefore have no problems switching to all paper). The 10% of businesses who do use plastic bags and expressed concerns were worried about either the cost or the nature of items you can put in a plastic bag vs a paper bag. From a cost perspective, under the by-law, businesses are allowed to charge customers for paper/reusable bags to cover any additional expense switching to paper bags may entail. In the long run, plastic bag bans, therefore, can save businesses money (since they no longer must purchase bulk plastic bags and can charge extra for the paper/reusable bags they distribute). The other concern was the convenience of using plastic bags for small orders, soups, and other items that could spill. According to managers we spoke to, having the option to use a smaller plastic bag

¹⁰[Economic Impact Analysis: Proposed Ban on Plastic Carryout Bags in Los Angeles County \(AECOM, 2010\)](#)

¹¹[Master Environmental Assessment on Single-Use and Reusable Bags \(Green Cities California, 2010\)](#)

¹²[Retail Bag Report for Florida \(Florida DEP, 2010\)](#)

Walpole Plastic Bag Ban Information Sheet

without handles (which is allowed under the ban), would be helpful when putting in individual spill-prone items.

In summary, 90% of the businesses we spoke to would not have a problem with the ban and the by-law addresses the main concerns of the remaining 10%.

Additionally, the by-law includes a ramp up period of a year for small businesses and 6 months for large businesses after attorney general approval (so if approved, this ban would not go into effect until late 2022 perhaps even 2023). This is to allow for businesses to use up their existing supply of plastic bags and make any necessary supplier adjustments. Furthermore, if switching to paper bags would cause undue hardships on a business, the business is allowed to request a waiver for a period of up to 6 months. Approval of this waiver can be left up to the discretion of the enforcer.

Article 17 – Stadium Event Parking Overlay District

Here is a little background.....

For nearly 50 years (the stadium opened in 1971) the people in Walpole and particularly South Walpole have been subjected to STADIUM AFFECTS including traffic jams from football games and concerts and loud noise from concerts which sometimes can be heard in the center of Town.

Most residents of South Walpole are aware of the traffic issues during the hours before stadium events and avoid using Washington Street. However for some who may be coming home from work (particularly night games) or just caught out at the wrong time of day, it is possible to be waiting up to an hour to make the journey down Washington Street from Common Street. This traffic causes a major safety concern for the residents.

Some frustrated residents and some enterprising residents decided to take advantage of the slow moving traffic and offer their property for parking to friends and others for a fee. This allowed those residents, particularly those living on or near the most heavily traveled roads, an opportunity to make a few dollars during these stadium events. It has been noted that with local residents offering parking on their property that traffic in South Walpole is eased to some extent.

Under the current Town By-law it is illegal to allow parking for a fee on residentially zoned property. The Town has notified the South Walpole residents of this.

The stadium event parking overlay district is ½ mile radius from the midline of Water Street at the Walpole/Foxboro town line.

Applications would be under the jurisdiction of the Building Commissioner and a permit would be based on the number of parking spaces appropriate for the property.

The proposed change in the Town By-law would allow residents within the proposed stadium event overlay district to submit annually an application through the Building Commissioner to the Select Board for the permit with the appropriate fee based on the number of approved parking spaces. There would be no fires or tailgating permitted. The applicant could be fined or the license revoked at any time.

This Article would require a 2/3 favorable vote at Town Meeting.



TOWN OF WALPOLE STADIUM EVENT PRIVATE PARKING OVERLAY HALF MILE RADIUS

1 inch = 500 feet
Date: 3/23/2021



BY ROBERT F. KRISTEN L.
Walpole, NH



April 13, 2021

Articles 18 & 19 Supplemental Information

Representative Town Meeting Members
Town of Walpole
135 School Street
Walpole, MA 02081

RE: Amendment: Photovoltaic Overlay District

Dear Members,

We wanted to provide you with an introduction to our proposed ground-mounted photovoltaic energy project being considered in Walpole and a background on the solar programs in Massachusetts that are facilitating these developments. Ironwood Renewables (Ironwood) is proposing the development and Boyle Associates (Boyle) is the environmental consultant supporting Ironwood's project goals. This letter is meant to serve as a primer specifically for the Town to begin a discussion and help you learn more about our proposed project.

Our goal is to include this solar energy project within the SMART (Solar Massachusetts Renewable Target) program which is serving as a primary mechanism for meeting the state's renewable energy goals. SMART is a tariff-based program under which incentive payments are made to the owners of eligible solar energy systems over time.

Our company, Boyle Associates, is supporting Ironwood Renewables (Ironwood) with environmental due diligence and the development of a proposed solar project in Walpole. To date, we have performed multiple site visits including a formal wetland delineation (Attachment B: Natural Resource Map).

The proposed project is located on a portion of land currently owned by Harwood Engineering (Harwood) (Attachment A: Project Location Map). This site is located at 455 South Street in Walpole and is currently zoned Industrial on the Town of Walpole's Zoning Map dated May 13th, 2013 (Attachment D: Zoning Map). The project would have a capacity of 2 MW and would occupy approximately 13.5 acres (Attachment C: Site Plan). Tree clearing will be necessary to construct the project and existing roads will be utilized for access to the parcel. Based on our natural resources data, we anticipate there will be no wetland fill necessary to access, construct, or operate the project.

We look forward to the Spring Town meeting on May 1st and hope that this letter and the attached documents provide helpful information on our proposed project prior to that date. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Dale F. Knapp, CSS, LSE, PWS, CEP
Principal
Boyle Associates
dknapp@boyleassociates.net
207-631-9134

Hamilton Carrier
Project Developer
Ironwood Renewables
hcarrier@ironwoodenergy.com
337-344-7381

CC: Select Board

Neponset Solar Project - Walpole, MA

- Parcel 41-71 located at 455 South Street
- Parcel Has Been Significantly Disturbed By Previous Gravel Mining Operations. Parcel to be Repurposed to Generate Solar Power. No Mature Tree Clearing Required.
- Approx. 13.5 acres (2MW Capacity)
- Harwood Engineering to Remain Onsite
- SMART Program Bid Participant
- Anticipated Construction Start - Q1 2022
- Existing Interconnection Queue Position with Eversource – Roadside/Three Phase
- Mutually Beneficial PILOT Agreement with Town of Walpole

RED ZONING LIGHT
MANUFACTURING

NO COLOR ZONING
RESIDENTIAL

BLUE ZONING
PARK, SCHOOL,
RECREATION, &
CONSERVATION

YELLOW ZONING
INDUSTRIAL

NOTES:
1) PARCEL DATA SHOWN WAS
DOWNLOADED FROM THE TOWN
OF WALPOLE WEBSITE ON 12-29-20
2) PROJECT PARCEL LIMITS DEPICTED
ARE FROM THE PLAN ENTITLED
"SUBDIVISION OF LAND COURT
PLAN 284168 & C WALPOLE
MASSACHUSETTS" BY GLM
ENGINEERING CONSULTANTS, INC.,
DATED OCTOBER 15, 2007

BOSTON
EDISON CO
41-75

TOWN OF
WALPOLE
41-63-1

BOSTON
EDISON CO
41-66

NO COLOR ZONING
RESIDENTIAL

S M LORUSSO
& SONS INC
41-74

DANNYBOY
JAMES LLC
41-71-1

YELLOW ZONING
INDUSTRIAL

YELLOW ZONING
INDUSTRIAL
SITE

LAT: N42° 07' 29.9"
LONG: W71° 15' 27.7"

S M LORUSSO
& SONS INC
41-72

RAGGY
HAYES LLC
40-325

HARWOOD
ENGINEERING
COMPANY, INC.
41-71

SOUTHSIDE
LLC
47-114-1

SOUTH STREET

TOWN OF
WALPOLE
47-2

BLUE ZONING
PARK, SCHOOL,
RECREATION, &
CONSERVATION

300' PROPERTY
LINE OFFSET

S M LORUSSO
& SONS INC
47-115

S M LORUSSO
& SONS INC
47-114

SOUTHSIDE
NEPONSET
LLC
47-112

TOWN OF
WALPOLE
47-111

BLUE ZONING
PARK, SCHOOL,
RECREATION, &
CONSERVATION

TOWN OF
WALPOLE
46-35

YELLOW
ZONING
INDUSTRIAL

TOWN OF
WALPOLE
47-111

NO COLOR
ZONING
RESIDENTIAL

TOWN OF
WALPOLE
47-116

TOWN OF
WALPOLE
47-117

ABUTTERS 300'

ASSESSOR'S PARCEL

Raggy Hayes, LLC

40-325; 41-71-2;
40-325-1; 40-325-2

SM Lorusso & Sons

41-72; 41-73; 41-74;
47-114; 47-115

Town of Walpole

41-70; 47-1; 47-112-1

Southside LLC

47-112; 47-114-1

Danny Boy James LLC

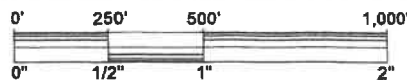
47-71-1



LOCATION
MAP

NEPONSET
SOLAR

South Street
Walpole, Massachusetts



GRAPHIC SCALE 1" = 500'

Drawn by: GTD
Date: February 26, 2021
Project #: 20227
Scale: 1" = 500'

Reconsidering Walpole's Town Employee Pension Investment Options

Norfolk County Retirement System vs. MA PRIT Fund

Presented By: Richard Pilla and Richard Zaccaro

THE ISSUE:

"The Public Employee Retirement System of Massachusetts consists of 106 separate retirement systems. Each of these systems is governed by Chapter 32 of the MGL...The two largest systems cover state employees and teachers and account for \$35B of the \$50B in pension funds for public employees. The other 104 systems hold \$15B on behalf of a variety of municipal, county, district, and public authority employee groups...While local control may be warranted for rulings on eligibility, it is less obvious whether local control of investment decisions is justified. Local independence comes at great cost. A review of 10-year and 20-year return histories demonstrates that the vast majority of local boards underperform PRIT by significant margins, imposing a significant burden on the municipalities that must make up the shortfall. Only six of the 104 local systems have earned an annual return as high as PRIT. The estimated cumulative loss from the lower returns that local retirement funds earned by controlling their own investments over the last ten years was \$1.6 billion. Massachusetts' taxpayers are in the process of paying an additional \$3 billion in taxes to make up for the poor investment performance since 1995."

"There are several possible explanations for this underperformance – higher costs, a lack of access to high quality investment managers, a dearth of investment expertise, or poor oversight of board activities."

Source: Pioneer Institute, White Paper – *"Leaving Money on the Table"* - May 2006

The Town of Walpole is a participant in the Norfolk County Retirement System, one of the 104 underperforming local systems.

As a result of an underperforming NCRS compared to the Massachusetts PRIT Fund, significant dollars have been left on the table.

How much?

The Funding of Walpole's Current and Future Retirees' Pension Fund comes from three sources:

- 1. Employer Contributions*
- 2. Employee Contributions*
- 3. Investment Income*

**Performance of
County vs. State System
Investment Return History:**

	State	Norfolk County
35 Years 2019	9.40%	8.59%
10 Years 2019	9.15%	8.59%
5 Years 2019	8.14%	7.08%

Source: PERAC, see Exhibit A attached

Performance of County System vs. State System

Year	Norfolk County Assessment (Walpole Contribution)	Walpole Employee Contribution	Total Assets, Norfolk County	Town of Walpole %	Walpole's Assets	State Annual Outperform ance (10-Yr Avg. .56%)
2012	2,851,200	1,594,172	645,753,870	7.08	45,719,374	256,028
2013	2,981,339	1,675,597	752,852,919	7.08	53,301,987	298,491
2014	3,106,054	1,777,699	781,947,029	7.39	57,785,885	323,601
2015	3,576,785	1,791,872	767,348,723	7.46	57,244,215	320,568
2016	3,972,135	1,846,354	836,027,536	7.47	62,451,257	349,727
2017	4,374,064	1,952,493	963,078,838	7.10	68,378,598	382,920
2018	4,550,407	2,026,707	911,848,561	7.11	64,832,433	363,062
2019	5,089,078	2,107,851	1,070,461,310	6.79	72,684,323	407,032
* 2020	5,447,572	2,198,346	1,190,164,254	6.00	71,409,855	399,895
						3,101,324

* 2020 investment return provided by NCRS is an estimate

** 1986 Pension Reform Bill adopted by MA Legislature requires all pensions to be fully-funded by 2028

*** Difference between the two systems since 1986 is .81%

Since the pension reform bill went into effect in 1986, the earnings were even greater because the difference in performance over that period was 81 Basis Points higher for the State system than the Norfolk County system.

Assets:

State: \$29.7B

County: \$1.1B

The difference in these numbers means that the PRIT Fund is run less expensively than the County system. In addition, the PRIT Fund staff has significantly greater expertise in multiple sectors, not to mention a team of outside consultants, whereas the County has one outside consultant.

Advantages:

- More Diversified
- Less Expensive
- Better Managed

Operational Expense Ratio:

- State: **51** Basis Points - County: **78** Basis Points
- Asset Value Volume Discount*

What does this represent in Dollars?

\$3,101,324

In just the last 10 years. And this # does not include the compounding interest factor which would make this number significantly higher.

These savings would pay for the complete refurbishing of Old Town Hall without requiring any taxpayer funding.

Of the 104 MASS Contributory Retirement Systems, 39 are Full Participants in PRIT

Amesbury Retirement Board - Barnstable County Retirement System - Berkshire County Retirement System
Blue Hills Regional Retirement Board - Chelsea Retirement Board - Dedham Retirement Board - Easthampton Retirement Board - Everett Retirement Board - Fairhaven Retirement Board
Fall River Retirement Board - Fitchburg Retirement Board - Gardner Retirement Board
Gloucester Retirement Board - Lawrence Retirement Board - Lowell Retirement Board - Lynn Retirement Board
Mass State College Building Authority - Mass Turnpike Authority Retirement Board - Melrose Retirement Board
Methuen Retirement Board - Middlesex County Retirement Board - Milton Retirement Board
Minuteman Regional School District Retirement Board - Montague Retirement Board
Needham Retirement Board - Northbridge Retirement Board - Peabody Retirement Board
Pittsfield Retirement Board - Reading Retirement Board - Salem Retirement Board - Saugus Retirement Board
Southbridge Retirement Board - Springfield Retirement Board - State-Boston Retirement System/Teachers State Employees' Retirement Board - State Teachers' Retirement Board - Wakefield Retirement Board
Winthrop Retirement Board - Worcester Regional Retirement Board

When investment earnings underperform, the money left on the table leaves a shortfall which becomes an added burden on you,

The Taxpayers and The Town

Why?

Lower investment returns = increased funding required.

The purpose of government is for one reason and one reason only, **to serve the Citizenry.**

By being in the Norfolk County Retirement System, Walpole is not being well-served.

The time to move to the State PRIT Fund is NOW!

Exhibit

PERAC REPORT

- **Executive Director Letter**
- **State / County Comparison Table**
- **Investment Expense Analysis: *All Retirement Systems***

(See attached three items)



Letter From the Executive Director

“I first want to acknowledge and commend the dedication, resilience, and performance of retirement board members, board administrators, staff, other members of the retirement community, and of course the PERAC staff in the face of unprecedented crisis.”

The Commission and staff are pleased to release this Annual Report on the Massachusetts Public Retirement Systems for 2019.

As we release our calendar year 2019 report, it would be impossible to ignore the happenings of the first half of 2020. I first want to acknowledge and commend the dedication, resilience, and performance of retirement board members, board administrators, staff, other members of the retirement community, and of course the PERAC staff in the face of unprecedented crisis. The members of the state's 104 retirement systems have been well served by your rising to the cause, ensuring that pension checks are received, investment funds are safeguarded, and member services are carried out.

While Retirement Board investment performance bounced back significantly in 2019 from 2018, as general market conditions improved, early 2020 saw

steep declines due to the pandemic. While some of those losses were rapidly regained, there is still a way to go. These fluctuations in performance underscore the importance of a steady and consistent approach to investment of assets and system funding. Over the course of the last 20 years, we have experienced two major market downturns followed by a steady recovery over several years. These past experiences underscore the wisdom of PERAC's measured approach to investment return assumptions used in actuarial valuations as well as the balanced approach to asset allocation adopted by the PRIM Board and local retirement systems.

Investment returns in 2019 reached levels that have not been seen in many years. In general, the correlation between asset class performance and investment return is largely a product of general market conditions. The steady trend of tempering expectations by

lowering the investment assumption recognizes the changing nature of market conditions and the need to anticipate the impact of the present and future market environment on pension fund fiscal stability. The steady reduction in the investment return assumption is the centerpiece of this proactive approach. As recently as 2003, the investment return assumption for 30 of our plans was 8.50%. Today, no plan is using that assumption. In 2003, all assumptions were 7.50% or greater with only 3 between that level and 7.90%; 52 at 8.00%; 20 between 8.10% and 8.25% and, as noted, 30 used an assumption of 8.50%. Today, 46 plans use an assumption of 7.25% or below and 86 use an assumption of 7.50% or below. All plans use an assumption less than 8.00%, however 13 plans use an assumption of 7.75% or above. PERAC established a return assumption of 7.15% for the State Employees' and Teachers' Retirement Systems for calendar year 2020.

Investment Returns

As disclosed in PERAC's 2019 Investment Report, board returns for the year averaged a stellar 16.9%, with a range of 11.2% to 24.5%.

Based on analysis of system-funded status and investment performance in accordance with Chapter 68 of the Acts of 2007, PERAC determined that no retirement board will be ordered to transfer its assets to the Pension Reserves Investment Trust Fund (PRIT) based on 2019 results.

While the pandemic caused steep declines in the markets in late winter and early spring, they had regained much of their losses as of this writing. The PRIM Board reported that for the first six months of calendar year 2020, the PRIT Fund was down 3.4%, which in context of the market crash shows both resiliency and hope that investment returns for the full year could be better than initially feared at the outset of the pandemic.

Commission/Staff Update

We are pleased to note that Commissioners Jim Machado and Kate Fitzpatrick have both been appointed to another term on the Commission. Governor Charlie Baker reappointed Jim to the Public Safety Position and State Auditor Suzanne Bump reappointed Kate to the MMA position. On behalf of all PERAC staff we look forward to working with Jim and Kate in the years ahead.

Bill Keefe has joined PERAC as Assistant Deputy Director of Research, Planning and Public Affairs. Bill's focus will be external affairs, legislation and internal processes. Prior to coming to PERAC he served as Director of Planning in the Office of the State Auditor Suzanne Bump.

Changes in the Audit Unit include Walter Kloc moving on from PERAC and the addition of Michelle Lastra, Alice Munafo, and Ernie Calavritinos as Auditors. It is anticipated that with this staffing we will be able to fully implement our new audit protocols and expedite the completion and processing of audit reports.

Fee Report

In 2019, PERAC again published a compilation of the fees paid by the pension systems to investment vendors. The report is based on the Schedule 7 filed by each Board as part of its Annual Statement of Financial Condition. Studies such as this provide retirement board members, public officials, and taxpayers with a critical tool with which to assess investment performance. With the fee report, board members are able to gauge their costs against those of their peers, public officials are able to analyze the management of the pension funds, and taxpayers can gain insight into the level of expenditure involved in this task. PERAC's effort in this area reflects its commitment to bring transparency to all aspects of retirement system management.

Retirement boards paid a total of \$469.8 million to investment service providers in 2018. For the State and Teachers' funds, which are invested by the Pension Reserves Investment Management Board (PRIM), \$295.5 million in fees were incurred. Local retirement boards paid \$174.3 million to money managers, banks and investment consultants, as well as PRIM. In 2018 the Expense Ratio for systems ranged from a high of .99% to .29%. The level of cost in and of itself is neither a positive or negative but must be assessed in the context of returns as performance may justify cost.

It should also be emphasized that retirement boards must conduct their own analysis of the fees paid or expected to be paid in connection with investment activities. Over the last few years our analysis has found that service providers often are unclear about not only the costs to the system but also the manner in which payment is assessed.



Board Administrator
 Kathleen Kelly-Jacchetti
 Board Meeting
 Last Wednesday of every month at 8:30 am

Board Members
 James Triffitt, Paul Connor,
 Edwin Little, Josephine Sko,
 Karen Jellie
 *Indicates Chairperson

480 Hopedale Street, 8th Fl
 Canton, MA 02021
 Phone 781-821-0664
 Fax 781-821-0581

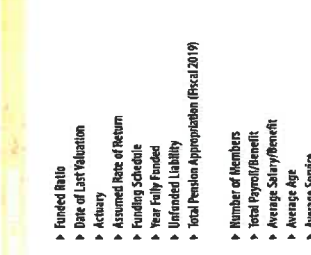
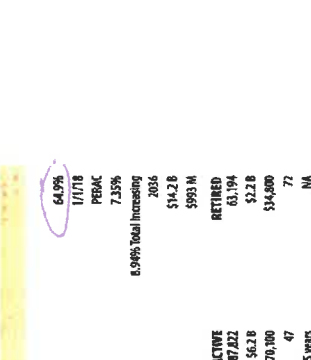
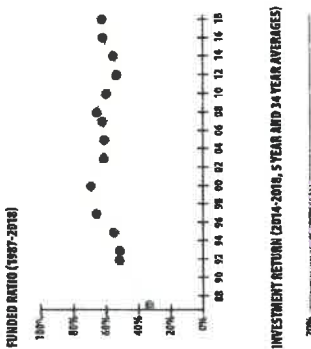
Board Administrator
 Nicola Fioravito
 Board Meeting
 Last Thursday of the month at 10:00 am

Board Members
 State Treasurer Deborah B. Goldberg*,
 Patricia Deak, Frank Yelari,
 Theresa McGoldrick, Annie Gormley
 *Indicates Chairperson

One Winter Street, 8th floor
 Boston, MA 02108
 Phone 617-367-7770
 Fax 617-725-1438

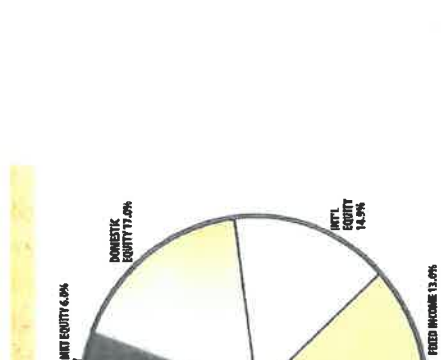
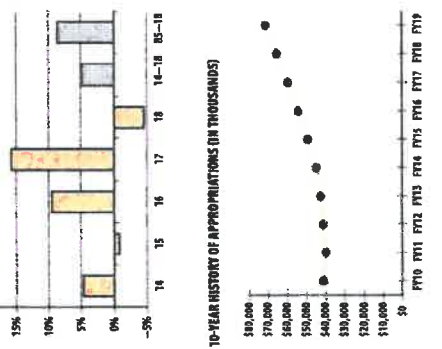
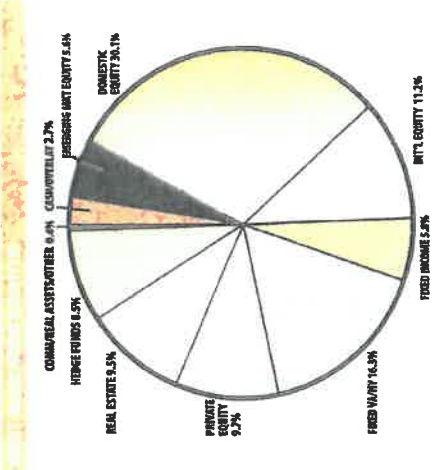
Funded Ratio 62.4%
 Date of Last Valuation 1/1/18
 Actuary Sherman
 Assumed Rate of Return 7.75%
 Funding Schedule 4.0% Increasing Phase-In 2029
 Year Fully Funded 2029
 Unfunded Liability \$570.5 M
 Total Pension Appropriation (Fiscal 2019) \$71.2 M

ACTIVE 5,406
 RETIRED 3,129
 Total Payroll/Benefit \$285.1 M
 \$55,500
 Average Age 73
 Average Service 18 years



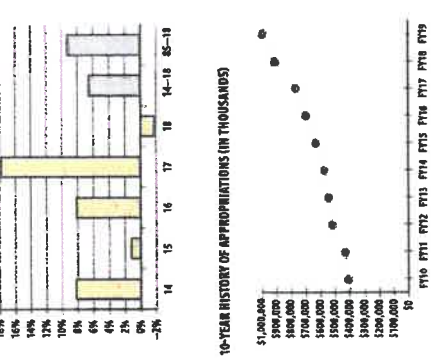
INVESTMENT RETURN HISTORY

24 years 2018	8.35%	28 years 2017	8.55%
10 years 2018	8.86%	10 years 2017	5.18%
5 years 2018	4.81%	5 years 2017	8.82%



INVESTMENT RETURN HISTORY

24 years 2018	9.16%	33 years 2017	9.36%
10 years 2018	9.25%	10 years 2017	5.15%
5 years 2018	6.52%	5 years 2017	9.26%



Number of Disability Retirees 289
 Number Who Reported Earnings 92
 Number of Excess Earnings 1
 Total Amount of Refund Due \$5,537.57

Number of Disability Retirees 3318
 Number Who Reported Earnings 91
 Number of Excess Earnings 18
 Total Amount of Refund Due \$25,674.25

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Number of Disability Retirees 3318
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RETIREMENT SYSTEM	MARKET VALUE (12/31/18)	5-Year RETURN	10-Year RETURN	34-Year RETURN	2018 INVESTMENT RELATED FEES	2018 EXPENSE RATIO (%)	2018 EXPENSE RATIO (%)
GREATER LAWRENCE	\$17,916,950	6.20%	9.81%	7.54%	\$75,868	0.36%	0.42%
GREENFIELD	\$67,505,517	6.55%	9.35%	8.27%	\$365,928	0.52%	0.54%
HAMPDEN COUNTY	\$356,792,414	6.45%	8.80%	8.45%	\$1,926,974	0.52%	0.54%
HAMPSHIRE COUNTY	\$308,607,330	5.53%	8.71%	8.11%	\$1,939,320	0.61%	0.63%
HAVERHILL	\$192,531,160	5.91%	9.14%	9.68%	\$1,538,572	0.86%	0.82%
HINGHAM	\$115,083,148	6.70%	8.63%	8.92%	\$651,277	0.44%	0.57%
HOLYOKE	\$270,857,947	6.24%	10.93%	9.14%	\$1,938,509	0.80%	0.72%
HULL	\$47,463,868	6.53%	9.14%	7.82%	\$254,851	0.51%	0.54%
LAWRENCE	\$721,926,167	6.46%	9.15%	7.70%	\$1,198,339	0.51%	0.54%
LEOMINSTER	\$196,813,645	5.99%	9.59%	8.41%	\$1,717,491	0.62%	0.62%
LEXINGTON	\$157,854,265	5.77%	8.86%	8.55%	\$1,345,774	0.82%	0.85%
LOWELL	\$367,981,433	6.26%	8.88%	8.90%	\$1,999,737	0.57%	0.54%
LYNN	\$349,406,465	6.51%	8.51%	7.90%	\$1,879,625	0.57%	0.54%
MAIDEN	\$758,265,604	6.84%	9.41%	9.53%	\$742,247	0.30%	0.29%
MARBLEHEAD	\$95,013,701	6.49%	9.70%	9.04%	\$524,059	0.53%	0.55%
MARLBOROUGH	\$162,112,826	4.47%	7.78%	8.08%	\$630,160	0.41%	0.38%
MA HOUSING FINANCE (MHFA)	\$146,209,683	4.58%	7.86%	7.26%	\$807,454	0.87%	0.55%
MASSPORT	\$606,474,045	5.22%	6.95%	6.72%	\$2,303,807	0.39%	0.38%
MASS. TEACHERS (MTRS)	\$2,090,334,578	6.51%	9.25%	9.77%	\$150,343,865	0.55%	0.55%
MWRA**	\$508,781,941	4.91%	9.07%	7.95%	\$4,523,118	0.78%	0.69%
MAYNARD	\$42,110,930	6.51%	8.74%	7.67%	\$258,680	0.56%	0.61%
MEDFORD	\$183,851,733	4.40%	8.04%	8.47%	\$1,311,218	0.58%	0.71%
MELROSE	\$83,952,105	6.12%	8.50%	8.23%	\$432,270	0.53%	0.51%
METHUEN	\$199,831,557	6.90%	9.10%	7.91%	\$824,824	0.51%	0.55%
MIDDLESEX COUNTY	\$1,344,181,897	6.14%	8.43%	8.24%	\$7,059,397	0.50%	0.53%
MILFORD	\$62,815,489	6.17%	8.90%	8.09%	\$489,260	0.52%	0.53%
MILTON	\$11,827,703	6.45%	9.19%	9.18%	\$705,620	0.51%	0.54%
MINUTEMAN REGIONAL	\$13,358,287	6.27%	9.00%	9.24%	\$72,155	0.51%	0.54%
MONTAGUE	\$41,320,127	6.41%	9.12%	8.94%	\$224,321	0.52%	0.54%
NATICK	\$137,728,939	5.96%	9.47%	7.94%	\$966,572	0.67%	0.70%
NEEDHAM	\$158,658,981	6.44%	9.02%	9.43%	\$846,786	0.52%	0.53%
NEW BEDFORD	\$81,070,310	5.78%	9.03%	7.91%	\$2,417,160	0.73%	0.78%
NEWBURYPORT	\$80,576,598	6.27%	9.01%	8.08%	\$432,945	0.50%	0.54%
NEWTON	\$341,722,946	6.48%	8.93%	8.47%	\$1,791,804	0.51%	0.52%
NORFOLK COUNTY	\$13,801,549	4.52%	8.86%	8.35%	\$713,657	0.83%	0.76%

** Base 1 on a 100% basis

RETIREMENT SYSTEM	MARKET VALUE (12/31/18)	5-Year RETURN	10-Year RETURN	34-Year RETURN	2018 INVESTMENT RELATED FEES	2015 EXPENSE RATIO (%)	2018 EXPENSE RATIO (%)
NORTH DAKOTA	\$65,935,364	7.12%	10.01%	9.00%	\$275,215	0.41%	0.42%
NORTH CAROLINA	\$111,413,396	5.90%	9.57%	8.41%	\$629,584	0.67%	0.57%
NORTH HAMPTON	\$126,395,059	7.35%	9.67%	9.32%	\$421,890	0.39%	0.33%
NORTH BEND	\$34,785,812	6.52%	9.24%	9.16%	\$196,081	0.52%	0.55%
NORTHWICH	\$154,115,072	5.90%	9.10%	8.69%	\$1,011,762	0.64%	0.71%
PEABODY	\$144,850,313	6.47%	9.20%	8.48%	\$795,004	0.52%	0.55%
PEPPERHILL	\$136,284,218	6.41%	8.86%	8.07%	\$713,356	0.53%	0.52%
PLYMOUTH	\$159,361,243	5.99%	9.71%	8.19%	\$1,265,332	0.83%	0.75%
PLYMOUTH COUNTY	\$939,559,694	4.49%	8.70%	8.71%	\$7,937,967	0.73%	0.90%
QUINN	\$319,007,835	4.99%	8.00%	7.98%	\$1,241,236	0.62%	0.67%
READING	\$136,202,939	6.57%	9.26%	9.10%	\$694,683	0.52%	0.51%
REVERE	\$117,674,641	6.55%	8.92%	8.24%	\$844,907	0.51%	0.54%
SALEM	\$129,705,542	6.28%	9.63%	7.09%	\$933,314	0.51%	0.53%
SAUGUEE	\$104,122,688	6.49%	9.20%	9.03%	\$585,440	0.53%	0.54%
SEBASTOPOLIS	\$121,891,006	6.39%	9.81%	8.79%	\$525,898	0.49%	0.43%
SEASIDE	\$272,832,008	5.22%	9.89%	8.70%	\$1,285,128	0.51%	0.46%
SOUTH PLUM	\$52,215,414	6.51%	8.47%	7.85%	\$284,315	0.51%	0.51%
SPRINGFIELD	\$345,985,289	6.70%	8.97%	8.29%	\$1,786,075	0.52%	0.53%
STATE	\$26,223,284,352	5.32%	9.25%	9.26%	\$185,125,507	0.74%	0.55%
STONEHAM	\$81,104,358	6.07%	8.99%	8.59%	\$502,253	0.54%	0.51%
SWAMPSCOTT	\$58,595,263	5.22%	8.42%	8.87%	\$314,850	0.68%	0.56%
TAUNTON	\$295,983,293	5.47%	9.27%	9.28%	\$1,644,382	0.72%	0.56%
WAKEFIELD	\$118,311,185	6.50%	9.24%	9.45%	\$645,115	0.53%	0.55%
WALTON	\$235,101,181	5.85%	8.27%	8.11%	\$973,695	0.47%	0.54%
WATERBURY	\$182,581,323	5.47%	8.55%	8.66%	\$1,285,171	0.76%	0.71%
WENDELL	\$17,495,301	5.05%	9.29%	7.84%	\$304,463	0.85%	0.51%
WILLIAMSBURY	\$38,848,667	6.49%	9.22%	9.21%	\$1,012,271	0.51%	0.54%
WEST FREDERICKSHAM	\$121,713,765	6.81%	9.41%	8.51%	\$704,937	0.47%	0.32%
WESTFIELD	\$2,499,728	6.40%	9.96%	8.51%	\$1,561,390	0.68%	0.71%
WENDELL	\$18,769,516	5.14%	9.12%	9.49%	\$1,371,107	0.74%	0.72%
WINDHAM	\$1,064,006	6.46%	7.51%	8.18%	\$58,131	0.71%	0.40%
WINTHROP	\$6,957,122	6.49%	8.87%	8.18%	\$39,133	0.49%	0.40%
WYOMING	\$116,471,108	5.28%	9.41%	9.08%	\$1,106,109	0.66%	0.81%
WORCESTER	\$264,411,446	5.01%	8.44%	8.66%	\$1,059,165	0.85%	0.56%
WYREDALE PRODUCE	\$2,911,105	6.33%	8.38%	8.75%	\$1,111,111	0.58%	0.58%