



Town of Great Barrington Massachusetts

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Monday, May 9, 2016

The Process

Summer 2015:

Welcome new members
Set strategy and plan.

Fall 2015:

Develop policy proposals. Town Manager and Financial Coordinator prepare budget with Town Departments.

Winter 2016:

Selectboard and Finance Committee Budget Review Meetings.

Spring 2016:

Public Budget Hearing,
Mini Town meeting,
Annual Town Meeting
Town Elections.

Town Meeting Articles

Financial	Articles 1 - 11
Community Preservation	Articles 12 - 13
Senior Exemption	Article 14
Land Easement, Acquisition	Article 15 - 16
Zoning By Laws	Articles 17 - 24
Other By Laws	Article 25 - 29
Resolutions	Article 31 - 33
Citizen Petition	Article 34

Financial Articles

Revolving Funds	Articles 1
Elected Officials	Article 2
Town Capital	Articles 3, 4, 5, 6
BHRSD Operating & Capital	Articles 7
Town Operating	Article 8
Town Wastewater	Article 9
Reauthorize Library Funds	Article 10
Fund Transfers	Articles 11

Town Budget

Town Budget	Expenditure	Warrant Articles
Town Capital Budget	\$5,566,450	Articles 3, 4, 5, 6
<div>Less capital funded by grants</div> <div>Less capital funded by bonds (<i>article 4</i>)</div> <div>Less capital funded by available funds</div> <div>Net Capital \$57,000</div>	<div>(\$2,860,000)</div> <div>(\$2,628,250)</div> <div>(\$21,200)</div>	
BHRSD Assessment	\$14,463,399	Article 7
Town Operating Budget	\$10,890,642	Article 8
State Charges and Overlay	\$242,000	No article needed
TOTAL Appropriations	\$25,653,041	

Town Funding

Assumed Revenue FY17

Tax Levy	\$20,872,273
State Receipts	\$1,104,150
Local Receipts	\$1,525,000
Reserves / Transfers	\$91,618
Free cash from FY16	\$2,150,000
<i>Total Revenue (Assumed)</i>	25,653,014

What are the Town's funding programs?

Town Revolving Funds

- *Article 1: Cost of services offset by fees*

Capital Improvement Program

- *Articles 3, 4, 5, 6: Taxes, bonds and grants*

Regional School District Assessment

- *Article 7: Town school assessment.*

Town Operations

- *Article 8: Taxes, state funds, grants and user fees*

Wastewater Treatment Plant

- *Article 9: Enterprise program, fully funded by sewer users*

Article I: Revolving Funds

Authorize use of revolving funds for the following:

- Plumbing Inspector (\$15,000)
- Wire Inspector (\$50,000)
- Gas Inspector (\$15,000)
- Town Code Printing (\$10,000)
- Parks Commission (\$5,000)
- Recycling / Green Product Sales (\$5,000)
- Cemetery (\$5,000)
- Fire Inspectors (\$5,000)

Article 2: Elected Officials

- Fix the annual salaries of Selectboard members to \$1,500 per year.
- 5 members x \$1,500 each = \$7,500 total

The Town's Capital Program

Streets and Sidewalks

Buildings

Vehicles

Parks

Bridges

Town's Capital Budget

Borrowing	\$2,628,250
Tax Levy	\$57,000
Grants, State Funds	\$2,860,000
Available Funds	\$21,200
TOTAL Expenditures	\$5,566,450

Article 3, 4, 5 and 6

Town's Capital Budget

Article 3 – Chapter 90	\$420,000
Article 4 – Borrowing or available funds	\$2,638,250
Article 5 – General Funds	\$78,200
Article 6 – Fire Truck, grant for \$450,000	\$600,000
Capital grants (article not needed)	\$2,440,000
TOTAL Authorization	\$6,176,450
Total Expenditures (minus fire truck and air pack grants)	\$5,566,450

How does this year's CIP compare to prior years?

FY17 Capital Program \$5,566,450

➤ FY17 annual debt payment: \$1,566,785

FY16 Capital Program \$2,672,790

➤ FY16 annual debt payment \$1,693,785

FY15 Capital Program \$1,484,280

➤ FY15 annual debt payment \$1,767,380

Article 3: Chapter 90 Funds

- Chapter 90 funds are provided by Mass DOT annually to municipalities to pay for maintenance, repair and construction of Town ways and bridges.
- Town Meeting is asked to vote to accept any or all funds provided by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts DOT under Chapter 90.
- The Town uses Chapter 90 funds to pay for eligible public works capital projects.

Article 4: Capital Program

Article 4: Appropriate \$2,638,250 for:

- 5 voting machines
- 1 Police cruiser
- Fire equipment (air packs)
- Police equipment (computer / phone system)
- Police equipment (radio consoles)
- Pick up truck
- Dump truck
- Building Improvements
- Road / Street Sidewalk Improvements (Monument Valley, Benton, Brainard, Lake, Oak, and Pothul.)
- Bridge repair and painting

Above work to be paid for by borrowing, taxation or available funds.

Article 5: General Fund Capital Items

Article 5: Appropriate \$78,200 from General Funds.

- Police license plate reader (\$19,200)
- Cemetery- mower (\$14,000)
- Park Improvements (\$45,000)

Article 6: Fire Truck

Appropriate \$600,000 for fire truck.

- Applied for FEMA grant which may cover \$450,000 of the costs.
- Purchase of fire truck, will allow department to retire Engine 4 and Engine 6.

Article 7 – School Budget

	FY16	FY17
Gross Operating	24,611,728	25,475,059
<i>School choice tuition</i>	(1,350,000)	(1,243,160)
<i>Regular tuition</i>	(963,000)	(941,429)
Net Operating	\$22,298,729	\$23,290,470
Gross capital (annual debt service)	\$1,840,000	\$1,929,875
Total Budget	\$24,138,728	\$25,220,345

Article 7 – School Funding

	FY16	FY17
Chapter 70	\$2,776,233	\$2,801,923
Chap 71 Transportation	\$557,460	\$579,045
Medicaid Reimbursement	\$65,000	\$65,000
Transfer E&D	\$350,000	\$125,000
Interest Income	\$10,000	\$7,500
MSBA Reimbursement	\$1,120,934	\$1,120,934
Total Non-Town Funding	\$4,913,627	\$4,714,402
Total Local Funding	\$19,225,101	\$20,505,943

Article 7 – GB Assessment

	FY17
Minimum Local Contribution –Mass General Law	\$6,756,779
Above MLC – Regional Agreement (69.98%)	\$7,706,620
Net Assessment for GB	\$14,463,399

Article 8 – Operating Budget

	Expenditures
General Government	\$1,373,344
Public Safety	\$2,181,538
Public Works	\$2,061,077
Public Health	\$82,332
Community Services	\$375,960
Cultural Recreation	\$590,353
Insurance	\$1,825,369
Debt	\$1,566,785
Retirement	\$793,451
Celebrations / Seasonal	\$10,433
Fund Transfers	\$30,000
TOTAL PROPOSED OPERATING	\$10,890,642

How does this year's Operating budget compare to prior years?

FY17 Operating Budget \$10,890,642

FY16 Operating Budget \$10,879,922

FY15 Operating Budget \$10,711,487

Article 9: Wastewater Treatment Plant

Authorize the WWTP to operate as an Enterprise Fund and utilize sewer fees to pay for full cost of the system.

Wastewater Treatment Plant

Total Operating Budget: \$1,662,229

Highlights

- Salaries: \$420,368
- Insurance: \$146,206
- Debt Service: \$400,000
- Supplies: \$122,000
- Hauling: \$120,000

WWTP Capital Program

All funds for current and future phases have been authorized by prior Town Meetings.

No dollars are proposed for the capital program for the WWTP.

Phase II WWTP awarded. Interest free loan, saves about \$1M.

Article 10 – Reallocation of Library Construction funds

- ✓ Appropriate and transfer \$155,919 of unexpended funds from the completed Mason Library project to be used for any repairs, construction, remodeling for any Town Library that meets capital borrowing criteria.
- ✓ Remaining dollars may not be used unless Town Meeting approves the reallocation.

Article 11 – Allocation of “free cash”

Article 11: Requests authorization to use free cash to reduce the tax levy.

Free cash balance:	\$2,696,949
Reduce the rate by:	\$2,150,000
Remaining:	\$546,949

- ✓ Use 80% annually to reduce the tax levy.
- ✓ Remaining free-cash balance is held as contingency, but may only be used with authorization of a Special Town Meeting.
- ✓ Free cash dollars: revenue collected in one fiscal year which are saved for future allocation in the following year. They are then used to offset that year's tax levy.
- ✓ Any budget savings which occur during the year are added to “free cash balance” and could be allocated in the following year to reduce the tax levy.

Additional Presentations

Community Preservation	Articles 12 - 13
Senior Exemption	Article 14
Easement	Article 15
Acquisition	Article 16
Zoning	Articles 17-24
Release Agreement	Article 25

Additional Presentations

Local Gas Tax	Articles 26
Solar Facility Tax	Article 27
Demolition Delay	Article 28
Tree Management	Article 29
Pollinator Friendly	Articles 30
Consumer Gas Costs	Article 31
Utilities Gas Leak Repairs	Article 32
Housatonic River Cleanup	Article 33
Citizen Petition	Article 34