

Finance Committee Report



Photo by: Jim Zisson

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING - MAY 6, 2024
MARBLEHEAD VETERANS MIDDLE SCHOOL
PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
MARBLEHEAD, MASSACHUSETTS

TO THE RESIDENTS OF MARBLEHEAD

The Finance Committee once again respectfully welcomes the opportunity to present this report and to make its recommendations regarding the Town of Marblehead's Fiscal Year 2025 ("FY25") general fund operating budget and other financial matters to be voted on at the 2024 Annual Town Meeting.

The Finance Committee makes its recommendations to Town Meeting based upon our own review of all available information. While the Committee hopes that our insight is a benefit to Town Meeting, and while we further believe that our recommendations are both thoughtful and thorough, it is ultimately up to Town Meeting to review what the proponents of the articles have presented, to weigh the arguments for and against each article, and to vote the most beneficial course of action for our Town.

The FY25 budget cycle began in October with the completion and delivery of the revenue forecast by the Town Administrator and Finance Director. This forecast detailed the expected revenues available to cover all general fund operating expenses. The revenue forecast showed a \$1.5 million increase compared to the FY24 forecasted revenues, indicating a roughly 1.5% rise in available revenues year-over-year. The \$1.5 million increase was divided, with \$0.5 million allocated to the town-side general fund budget and \$1.0 million to the school general fund budget. As a result, the town-side general fund budget will see an overall increase of around 1.0% year-over-year, while the school general fund budget will increase by approximately 2.0% year-over-year.¹

The following assumptions were made in the development of the FY25 revenue forecast.

- The tax levy will increase in accordance with the allowed 2.5%, which, when coupled with an increase for projected new growth, will yield around 3% additional property tax revenues to support municipal services.
- Forecasted local receipts in the upcoming fiscal year include an additional \$400k in proceeds from a local Marblehead meals and room tax, as presented in Articles 24 and 25. If approved at Town Meeting, these two articles would grant the Town the authority to levy local meals and room taxes starting in FY25. Based on state data analyzed by Town Finance, this new tax is expected to generate between \$800k and \$1 million in revenue on a full-year basis. The \$400k of revenue assumed in FY25 under Article 26 is a conservative estimate that takes into account the timing of cash receipts as funds are collected by the state and then remitted to Marblehead. In the event that Articles 24 and/or 25 are not approved, adjustments will need to be made to both the town-side and school budgets outlined in Article 26 in order to address the reduced projection.
- Net State Aid assumes the Governor's preliminary proposal, which represents a small increase as compared to the previous year.
- The amount of free cash utilized to offset the operating budget has been reduced by \$2.5 million compared to last year. This reduction can be attributed to two main reasons. First, a lower amount of certified free cash is available this year in comparison to the previous year. Second, the Town is actively striving to achieve its objective of setting aside 5% of the operating budget in reserves each year. As of the beginning of FY25, the reserves will constitute around 2.5% of the operating budget. It is imperative for the Town to uphold its AAA bond rating annually by maintaining an adequate level of reserves.

¹ It is important to highlight that the school department general fund budget, as presented in the Article 26 general fund budget summary, reflects a year-over-year increase of approximately 4%. This exceeds the 2% increase mentioned in this report. The variation in percentages can be attributed to the reallocation of specific school-related expenses and reserves from the town-side general government budget in FY24 to the school budget in FY25. These adjustments account for the difference in budgetary figures.

Once the revenue projections were finalized, the Town Administrator and Finance Director worked closely with department heads to develop and finalize the balanced general fund operating budget as outlined in Article 26. As has been the case in recent years, the cost of providing level services has continued to outpace recurring revenues, resulting in a challenging budgetary situation for all departments. In light of this challenge, department heads were assigned the task of identifying cost savings where necessary, and in some instances, individual department-level revolving funds were reviewed to assist in funding recurring expenses. Following a thorough examination, it was determined that certain revolving funds have the ability to alleviate some of the pressure on the general fund budget on an annual basis. However, it should be noted that the utilization of certain revolving fund balances to cover recurring costs in FY25, for both the town-side and school departments, represents a depletion of reserves that will not be sustainable on an ongoing basis.

Below is a summary of the main factors causing an increase in operating expenses for the general fund, resulting in expenditures increasing at a higher rate than the available revenue for the year.

- Salaries and Wages are estimated to increase by around 3.0% – 4.0%, encompassing a 2.0% adjustment for cost-of-living and 1.0% – 2.0% attributed to step and lane contractual increases.
- Benefits, including health insurance expenses, are projected to increase by approximately 8.0% – 10.0%.
- Trash Collection costs are increasing by approximately 20%.
- Energy and Utilities costs are increasing by approximately 10% – 20%.
- Pension assessment increased by approximately 8.6%.
- The impact of general inflation on the costs of other recurring goods and services remains significant.

Over the past few years, we have consistently highlighted the fact that Marblehead faces a structural deficit where recurring expenses are outpacing recurring revenues. The Town's primary source of revenue, property taxes, is restricted by state laws in terms of annual increase.

The Finance Committee believes there are limited options available to address the structural deficit as follows.

1. Increase revenues without resorting to a proposition 2.5 override request (e.g., increase local receipts, increase local fees, etc.).
Note: There are several articles being voted on at the 2024 Annual Town Meeting which aim to increase recurring revenues through methods other than a proposition 2.5 override request.
2. Use available free cash reserves and/or other one-time funds to fund recurring expenses.
Note: The Town continues to use a significant portion of available Free Cash to balance the budget while upholding reserves equivalent to only 2.5% of the operating budget. This amount falls short of the state's recommended range of 5% – 10%.
3. Cut recurring costs.
Note: The Town has reduced level-service budget requests in each of the last three years, including this year.

4. Increase revenue with a proposition 2.5 override request.

Note: Last year, for the first time since 2005, the Town requested a proposition 2 ½ override to supplement the Town's general fund operating budget. Although the request was approved at Town Meeting, it faced defeat at the polls by a margin of around 400 votes. While there is no override request included in this year's Warrant, the Finance Committee anticipates the possibility of such a request being deliberated in the near future.

Town leaders are currently working on a comprehensive financial plan that will be further developed in the upcoming months. It is not practical to continue reducing level-service budgets year after year to achieve balance. A detailed and reasonable long-term plan must be finalized before next year's budget season. From our perspective, it is important to establish reasonable budget growth rates for both the town-side and school department general fund operating budgets. Once these growth rates are determined, town leaders will need to present citizens with an acceptable funding solution for a projected town-wide multi-year budget. If funding is successfully secured, both the town-side and school departments must commit to maintaining budgets within their respective budget growth rates.

We would like to provide our perspective on the progress that has been made this year with regards to the development of a comprehensive long-term plan.

1. The Town has made significant improvements to its financial budgeting and reporting tools. ClearGov, a cloud-based budget cycle management software, was implemented this budget season and has had a tremendous impact on the budget process. The ability to easily access and download 5 – 10 years of prior data with just a click of a button is a major improvement from previous years. The upcoming integration of ClearGov with the Town's planned upgrade to its accounting software will further enhance the process of finalizing a longer-term financial plan. These software upgrades will continue to increase transparency and provide better data to tackle financial challenges effectively.
2. The Town is making efforts to increase its revenues through alternative means with the proposed hotels and meals tax articles, rather than immediately resorting to an override request. This demonstrates town leadership's comprehension of the underlying difficulties and their approach to finding solutions to address them.
3. The Town is reviewing its processes in place to capture new growth revenues appropriately. By better aligning the building, assessor, and finance departments, the hope is that the Town will be able to more accurately capture annual new growth revenues. New growth plays a critical role in the fiscal well-being of all municipalities.
4. The Town has officially adopted a Free Cash financial policy to strive toward an annual Free Cash level of 5% or greater of annual General Fund revenues.
5. Department leaders are reassessing the utilization of their department level revolving funds. Given the complex structural landscape we find ourselves in, it is imperative to view all revenue streams as potential avenues for funding departmental costs.
6. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, we have received a commitment from both town-side leaders and school leaders that they are prepared to move forward and finalize a longer-term plan in the forthcoming year ahead of next year's Town Meeting.

The Finance Committee anticipates extending our assistance as advisers in the development of a long-term strategy immediately following Town Meeting. The time is now for a detailed and reasonable long-term plan to be finalized.

We would like to thank the members of our current Finance Committee for all their contributions to another successful budget process. We'd also like to thank and commend the Select Board, all department heads, municipal employees, appointed and elected boards, and involved citizens for their collaboration. We specifically wish to express our thanks to Finance Director Aleesha Benjamin and the Town and School finance teams for the significant time, resources, and guidance that they dedicated to this budget process. Finally, we would like to thank Town Administrator, Thatcher Kezer for his counsel, support, and leadership.

Respectfully submitted,

Alec Goolsby
Chair, Marblehead Finance Committee

Pat Franklin
Vice Chair, Marblehead Finance Committee

Molly Teets
Vice Chair, Marblehead Finance Committee

Fiscal 2023 RESERVE FUND

The following is an accounting of funds entrusted to the Finance Committee for Fiscal 2023 Reserve Fund use.

Reserve Funds – Fiscal 2023 ending June 30, 2023.....\$144,000.00

DEPARTMENTS FUNDS TRANSFERRED TO:

Finance IT Expense.....\$28,433.33

Library R&M Building and Grounds Expense..... \$8,770.00

Total Transferred.....\$37,203.33

Returned to Treasury.....\$106,796.67

Fiscal 2024 RESERVE FUND

The following detail represents funds voted to various departments by the Finance Committee from the Reserve Fund covering the period July 1, 2023, through April 29, 2024.

Annual Town Meeting Appropriation June 30, 2024, \$144,000.00

DEPARTMENTS FUNDS TRANSFERRED TO:

COA Transportation Coordinator Expense.....\$31,319.00

Police Assessment Center Expense.....\$12,520.00

BOA Patriot Abatement Consult Expense.....\$15,000.00

BOA Assessor Consultant Expense.....\$5,000.00

Fire Ladder Truck Emissions Expense.....\$16,000.00

Total Transferred.....\$79,839.00

Balance Remaining.....\$64,161.00

Respectfully Submitted,

MARBLEHEAD FINANCE COMMITTEE

Alec Goolsby, Chair
Pat Franklin, Vice Chair
Molly Teets, Vice Chair
Timothy Shotmeyer
Terra Samuels
Michael O'Neil
Eric Knight
Michael Janko
Linday Dube

Article 1 Articles in Numerical Order

To see if the Town will vote to adopt an order requiring articles in the Warrant to be taken up in their numerical order or take any other action relative thereto. Sponsored by the Select Board.

Recommendation: No recommendation under this article.

Article 2 Reports of Town Officers and Committees

To receive the report of the Town Accountant, the reports of the Town Officers, and special committees, or take any other action relative thereto. Sponsored by the Select Board.

Recommendation: No recommendation under this article.

Article 3 Consent Articles

a. Assume Liability

To see if the Town will assume liability in the manner provided by Section 29 of Chapter 91 of the General Laws, for all damages that may be incurred by work to be performed by the Massachusetts Highway Department for the improvement, development, maintenance, and protection of tidal and non-tidal rivers and streams, harbors, tidewaters, foreshores and shores along a public beach in accordance with Section 11 of Chapter 91 of the General Laws and authorize the Selectmen to execute and deliver a bond of indemnity therefore to the Commonwealth, or take any other action relative thereto. Sponsored by the Select Board.

b. Accept Trust Property

To see if the Town will vote to accept certain trust property, gifts, or grants to be administered by the Town or modify the terms thereof or take any other action relative thereto. Sponsored by Town Counsel.

c. Lease Town Property

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the appropriate Town Officers to let or lease such land, buildings or structures owned by the Town on such terms as they may determine or take any other action relative thereto. Sponsored by the Select Board.

d. Contracts in Excess of Three Years

To see if the Town will authorize the Select Board, pursuant to G. L. c. 30B § 12, to enter into contracts in the best interest of the Town in excess of three (3) years but not more than ten (10) years. Sponsored by the Select Board.

e. Financial Assistance for Conservation

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Conservation Commission and other proper officers of the Town to apply for financial assistance from public and private sources to be expended by the Conservation Commission for the purchase of vacant land and any other purpose, authorized by Section 8C of Chapter 40 of the General Laws as amended, or to reimburse the Town for sums of money expended for such purposes, or both, or take any other action relative thereto. Sponsored by the Conservation Commission.

Recommendation: That this article be adopted.

Comment: There is no trust property to be accepted at this time.

Article 4 Unpaid Accounts

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money to provide for the payment of any unpaid accounts brought forward from previous years, or take any other action relative thereto. Sponsored by the Finance Director.

Recommendation: That the sum of \$23,633.49 be appropriated as follows:

Department	Fiscal Year	Invoice #	Amount
School			
Quadrant	FY23	80302	90.00
Sankey Law Offices	FY23	Multiple	2,250.00
Baystate Interpreters	FY23	344862	5,363.24
Pyramid Educational Consultants	FY23	00148200	82.50
Total School			7,785.74
Finance			
EPlus	FY23	V2716193	1,250.00
City Hall Systems	FY22	Multiple	4,706.50
City Hall Systems	FY21	Multiple	6,091.25
CivicPlus	FY22	222342	1,900.00
CivicPlus	FY22	2506	1,900.00
Total Finance			15,847.75
Total Unpaid Bills			\$23,633.49

Comment: This Article allows payment of bills of the previous fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, at ATM by 4/5 vote to be approved for payment in fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, per MGL c. 44 § 64 (Payment of bills incurred in excess of appropriations).

Article 5 Departmental Revolving Funds

To see if the Town will vote to:

- To fix the maximum amount that may be spent during FY 2025 beginning July 1, 2024, for the revolving funds established in the town bylaws for certain departments, boards, committees, agencies, or officers in accordance with G.L. c. 44 § 53E 1/2, and
- Amend section 63-9(E)(10)(c) of the general bylaws as follows (**bold and underline** new ~~strike-out~~ removed):
- During each fiscal year, the Director of Public Works may incur liabilities against and spend monies from the Street Opening Revolving Fund for expenses related to opening various public ways for the purposes of utility work **and making repairs to public ways and sidewalks.**

Recommendation: That the amendment proposed in (b) be adopted and that the maximum amounts to be spent from department revolving funds during FY25 be as follows:

MGL C44 s 53E1/2		Actual	Voted	Request
Description	Project #	2023	2024	2025
Park Revolving Fund	470	\$918,336	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000
Historic Comm Gift Shop	471	\$5,868	\$25,000	\$25,000
Council on Aging	473	\$72,670	\$150,000	\$250,000
Animal Control	474	\$17,804	\$12,000	\$20,000
Street Opening	475	\$2,503	\$150,000	\$150,000
Commercial Waste Coll	478	\$956,364	\$1,488,200	\$1,362,069
Conservation Fines	479	\$913	\$75,000	\$75,000
Hobbs Memorial Building	480	\$0	\$3,744	\$11,232
Vaccine Revolving	481	\$8,250	\$10,000	\$10,000
Special Education	486	\$129,000	\$500,000	\$500,000
School Transportation	832	\$0	\$25,000	\$25,000
Sump Pump Revolving	495	\$0	\$10,300	\$10,000
Storm Water Bylaw	494	\$0	\$0	\$0
TOTAL		\$2,111,708	\$3,949,244	\$3,983,301

Article 6 Purchase of Equipment of Several Departments

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate any sums of money for the purchase and/or lease of equipment for several departments of the Town, and to determine whether this appropriation shall be raised by borrowing or otherwise or take any other action relative thereto. Sponsored by the Select Board.

Recommendation: That the sum of \$176,784 be appropriated, and to meet this appropriation, \$176,784 is to be appropriated from Free Cash. To include the following:

Department	Description	Amount
Fire Department	Fire Department Records Management Software	\$33,134
Fire Department	Public safety Boat Replacement of two outboard motors	\$39,880
Police Department	Crosswalk Rapid Flashing Beacons	\$18,770
Building Department	4 Head Mini-split A/C - Heat Unit	\$26,000
Building Department	Ford Escape	\$30,000
Health Department	Ford Escape (Inspections)	\$29,000
TOTAL		\$176,784

Article 7 Lease Purchase

To see if the Town will vote pursuant to G.L. c. 44 §21C, to authorize the Select Board to enter into lease purchase agreements for the lease and purchase of vehicles and certain capital for a period of time not in excess of the useful life of the property to be procured on such terms and conditions as the Select Board deem in the best interest of the Town; and to authorize the Select Board to take all actions necessary to administer and implement such agreement and to fund said lease purchase through an annual appropriation in the Capital Budget or take any action relative thereto. Sponsored by the Select Board.

Recommendation: That the sum of \$447,354 be appropriated, and to meet this appropriation; \$26,079 is to be transferred from the Waste Revolving Fund and \$421,275 is to be appropriated from Free Cash. To include the following:

Department	Description	Amount
Waste Department	John Deere Wheel Loader Lease	\$26,079
Waste Department	Backhoe Lease	\$22,824
Police Department	2 Ford Explorer AWD 4DR and Upfitting Lease	\$39,597
Police Department	Police Ford Interceptor Hybrids Lease	\$45,000
Police Department	Cruiser Replacement Lease	\$22,000
Fire Department	Training Vehicle Lease	\$18,000
DPW	Plow Truck Lease	\$67,105
DPW	Tree Chipper Truck Lease	\$30,409
DPW	F550 Dump Truck with Plow & Salter Lease	\$30,000
School Department	Pick Up Truck with Plow (School Dept)	\$10,000
School Department	Pickup Truck Lease	\$19,920
School Department	Blue Bird 65 Passenger School Bus/Lift equipped Lease	\$24,605
School Department	Large School Bus Lease	\$32,207
Recreation & Parks	Ford F-450 Dump Truck	\$21,303
Recreation & Parks	Wide Area Mower Lease	\$38,305
TOTAL		\$447,354

Article 8 Capital Improvements for Public Buildings

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money for remodeling, reconstructing, and making extraordinary repairs to existing Town or School buildings, infrastructure, and the purchase of necessary equipment including computer hardware and software to determine whether this appropriation shall be raised by borrowing or otherwise or take any other action relative thereto. Sponsored by the Select Board.

Recommendation: That the sum of \$401,941 be appropriated, and to meet this appropriation, \$401,941 is to be appropriated from Free Cash. To include the following:

Department	Description	Amount
School Department	Village School Fire Panel Upgrade	\$30,000
School Department	Glover HVAC System	\$218,000
School Department	Veterans Support Beam Structural Repair	\$100,000
Building Department	Public Buildings Entries and Exits	\$53,941
TOTAL		\$401,941

Article 9 Walls and Fences

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money for the construction and reconstruction of walls and fences for the protection of highways and property, including engineering services in connection therewith; to authorize the appropriate Town Officers to acquire by purchase, eminent domain or otherwise, any land or easements necessary therefore; to determine whether this appropriation shall be raised by borrowing or otherwise, or take any other action relative thereto. Sponsored by the Select Board.

Recommendation: That the sum of \$50,000 be appropriated, to be raised by taxation.

Article 10 Storm Sewer Construction

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate, borrow, or otherwise fund a sum of money for the construction, reconstruction, permitting, and maintenance of storm sewers for surface drainage, including engineering services in connection therewith, and for general Drain Department purposes, including the purchase or lease of equipment, and to authorize the appropriate Town Officers to acquire by purchase, eminent domain or otherwise, any land or easements necessary therefore, and to raise the money for such purposes by the issue of bonds or notes or in any other manner, to be expended by the Department of Public Works; or to take any other action relative thereto. Sponsored by the Select Board.

Recommendation: That the sum of \$400,000 be appropriated, to be raised by taxation.

Article 11 Consent Articles, Water and Sewer

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the following consent articles:

a. Water Department Construction

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money to be expended by the Water and Sewer Commission for the construction, reconstruction, and extending of water mains, replacement of water meters, appurtenances, engineering, consultants, surveys including revenue studies and other general Water Department purposes, and to authorize the Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners to acquire by purchase, eminent domain or otherwise any lands or easements necessary, or take any other action relative thereto. Sponsored by the Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners.

Recommendation: That the sum of \$2,600,000 be appropriated, to be appropriated from Water Retained Earnings.

b. Sewer Department Construction

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money to be expended by the Water and Sewer Commission for the construction or reconstruction of sewers for sanitary purposes and for sewerage disposal, pump stations, original pumping equipment, metering equipment, safety equipment, replacement of said equipment, engineering, consultants, surveys, including revenue studies and other general Sewer Department purposes, and to authorize the Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners to acquire by purchase, eminent domain or otherwise any lands or easements necessary, or take any other action relative thereto. Sponsored by the Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners.

Recommendation: That the sum of \$2,850,000 be appropriated, to be appropriated from Sewer Retained Earnings.

c. Water and Sewer Commission Claims

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Water and Sewer Commission and the Select Board acting jointly to compromise any claims for damages or suits pending against the Town of

Marblehead on account of acts which may have occurred during the construction of the water or sewer systems or take any other action relative thereto. Sponsored by the Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners.

Recommendation: That this article be adopted.

Article 12 Proposed Reclassification and Pay Schedule (Administrative)

To see if the Town will vote to amend Chapter 121 of the Bylaws, Classification, and Wage Salary Plan, by changing certain job titles where indicated and reclassify certain positions in the Administrative Pay Schedule; to strike out the pay schedule as it relates to Administrative personnel, substitute in place thereof the new pay schedules and to transfer from available funds and/or appropriate a sum of money to make said new pay schedules effective, or take any other action relative thereto. Sponsored by the Select Board.

Recommendation: That this article be adopted with a 2% cost of living increase effective July 1, 2024.

Comment: The Cost-of-Living adjustment of 2% for non-union administrative positions is equal to that provided for in the union contract. The adjustment is reflected in the Article 26 General Fund Operating Budget departmental salaries.

Article 13 Proposed Pay Schedule and Reclassification (Traffic Supervisors)

To see if the Town will vote to amend Chapter 121 of the Bylaws, Classification and Wage Salary Plan, by changing certain job titles where indicated and reclassify certain positions in the Traffic Supervisors Pay Schedule; to waive the pay schedule as it relates to Traffic Supervisor personnel, substitute in place thereof the new pay schedules and to transfer from available funds and/or appropriate a sum of money to make said new pay schedules effective, or take any other action relative thereto. Sponsored by the Select Board.

Recommendation: That this article be adopted with a 2% cost of living increase effective July 1, 2024.

Comment: The Cost-of-Living adjustment of 2% for non-union traffic supervisor (crossing guard) positions is equal to that provided for in the union contract. The adjustment is reflected in the Article 26 General Fund Operating Budget departmental salaries.

Article 14 Proposed Reclassification and Pay Schedule (Seasonal and Temporary Personnel)

To see if the Town will vote to amend Chapter 121 of the Bylaws, Classification and Wage Salary Plan, by changing certain job titles where indicated and reclassify certain positions in the Seasonal and Temporary Personnel Pay Schedules; strike out the pay schedules as they relate to seasonal and temporary personnel, substitute in place thereof the new pay schedules and to transfer from available funds and/or appropriate a sum of money to make said new pay schedules effective, or take any other action relative thereto. Sponsored by the Select Board.

Recommendation: That this article be adopted with a 2% cost of living increase effective July 1, 2024.

Comment: The Cost-of-Living adjustment of 2% for seasonal and temporary personnel positions is equal to that provided for in the union contract. The adjustment is reflected in the Article 26 General Fund Operating Budget departmental salaries.

Article 15 Compensation - Town Officers

To see if the Town will vote to revise the compensation of the Town Clerk as the Town by vote may determine and to transfer from available funds and/or appropriate a sum of money to make said revision effective or take any other action relative thereto. Sponsored by the Select Board.

Recommendation: That the yearly compensation for the Town Clerk be established at \$90,337.

Article 16 Ratification of Salary Bylaw

To see if the Town will vote to ratify certain actions taken by the Compensation Committee under Chapter 43 Section 3(e) as last amended and amend the classification table by reclassifying certain positions or take any other action relative thereto. Sponsored by the Compensation Committee.

Recommendation: That the Town ratify certain actions taken by the Compensation Committee.

Comment: If passed, the following positions on the Administrative Pay Scale will be reclassified as previously approved by the Compensation Committee:

- **Grant Coordinator (Select Board)**
- **Head of Public Service (Library)**
- **Specialized Heavy Equipment Operator (Public Works)**
- **Crew Leader Heavy Equipment Operator (Public Works)**
- **Fort Ranger (Seasonal GR23)**
- **Lead Heavy Equipment Officer (Public Works)**
- **IT Support Specialist (Finance)**
- **Head of Technical Services (Library)**
- **Senior Library Assistant (Library)**
- **Office Assistant (Water & Sewer)**
- **Transportation Coordinator (Council on Aging)**
- **Transfer Station Operator (Waste)**
- **Local Inspector (Inspectional Services)**
- **Part-Time Reference Librarian (Library)**
- **Technology Resource Specialist (Library)**
- **Adult Services Librarian (Library)**
- **Media Specialist (Library)**
- **Senior Clerk (Treasurer/Collector)**
- **Town Engineer (Public Works)**
- **Staff Engineer (Public Works)**

Article 17 Essex North Shore Agricultural and Technical School District

To see if the Town will vote to approve the gross operating and maintenance budget of the Essex North Shore Agricultural and Technical School District for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2024, and appropriate a sum of money for the Town's assessment of the same or take any other action relative thereto. Sponsored by the Select Board.

Recommendation: That the sum of \$468,057 be appropriated, to be raised by taxation.

Article 18 Transfer Funds to the Special Education Stabilization Account

To see if the Town will vote to raise, appropriate or otherwise transfer funds to the Special Education Reserve Fund; or take any other action relative thereto. Sponsored by the Finance Director.

Recommendation: That this article be indefinitely postponed.

Comment: This article is not being brought forward by the sponsor.

Article 19 Available Funds Appropriate to Reduce Tax Rate

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate free cash balance in the hands of the Town Treasurer, including any surplus or part of surplus in the Electric Light Department for use of the Assessors in making the tax rate, or take any other action relative thereto. Sponsored by the Finance Director.

Recommendation: That the sum of \$5,830,000 be appropriated from the following sources for the use of the Assessors in making the Tax Rate:

From Free Cash	\$5,500,000
<u>From Electric Surplus</u>	<u>330,000</u>
TOTAL	\$5,830,000

Comment: Certified free cash available before appropriation is approximately \$8,700,000. \$1,000,000 is being requested to be used to fund Capital needs previously listed in Articles 6, 7, and 8. \$5,500,000 is being used to balance the operating budget in Article 26. \$2,200,000 is not being appropriated and, therefore, represents reserve funds. Additionally, the town has a balance of \$500,000 in its stabilization account, which also represents reserve funds.

Article 20 Collective Bargaining (Police)

To see if the Town will, pursuant to G.L. c. 150E §7, vote to appropriate the sums of money sufficient to fund the collective bargaining agreement for fiscal year 2025 with MASS C.O.P., AFL-CIO, Local 437, or take any action relative thereto. Sponsored by the Select Board.

Recommendation: Recommendation to be made at Town Meeting

Comment: As of the date of printing of this report, collective bargaining negotiations have not been finalized.

Article 21 Collective Bargaining (IUE/CWA- Local 1776)

To see if the Town will, pursuant to G.L. c. 150E §7, vote to appropriate the sums of money sufficient to fund the collective bargaining agreement for fiscal year 2025 with Local 1776 of the IUE/CWA, AFL-CIO, or take any action relative thereto. Sponsored by the Select Board.

Recommendation: Recommendation to be made at Town Meeting

Comment: As of the date of printing of this report, collective bargaining negotiations have not been finalized.

Article 22 CPI Increase For Qualified Seniors

To see if the Town will vote to accept G. L. c. 59, sec. 5, cl. 41D, which authorizes an annual increase in the income (gross receipts) and asset (whole estate) limits for exemptions granted to senior citizens under G. L. c. 59, sec. 5, cl. 41C by the percentage increase in the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Price Index for the previous year as determined by the Commissioner of Revenue, to be effective for exemptions granted for any fiscal year beginning on or after July 1, 2024, or to take any other action related thereto. Sponsored by the Finance Director.

Recommendation: That this article be adopted.

Comment: This article is requesting to change the 41C Senior Exemptions (65 before 7/1) income limits by increasing the income and asset limits automatically each year by cost of

living adjustment (“COLA”) determined by the Department of Revenue (“DOR”) beginning in Fiscal Year 2025.

Currently the asset and income limits are as follows:

Whole estate (assets), excluding assessed value of domicile: \$40,000 if single, \$50,000 for a married couple.

Gross receipts (income) from all sources, including social security, cannot exceed \$20,000 if single or \$30,000 for a married couple.

If adopted, adjustments to the asset and income limits will be made as follows:

The COLA CPI per the MA DOR for FY23 was 7.0%. FY23 Whole estate (assets) of \$40,000 for a single taxpayer and \$50,000 for married taxpayers would change to \$42,800 ($\$40,000 * 1.07$) for a single taxpayer and \$53,500 ($\$50,000 * 1.07$) for married taxpayers. FY23 Gross Receipts (income) of \$20,000 for a single taxpayer and \$30,000 for married taxpayers would change to \$21,400 ($\$20,000 * 1.07$) for a single taxpayer and \$32,100 ($\$30,000 * 1.07$) for married taxpayers. If adopted, the COLA will apply to new higher limits each year.

In speaking with the Assessor’s Office, approximately 30 residents currently qualify for the \$1,000 in tax relief and, if adopted, this will be a minimal impact to the Assessors Reserves for Abatements and Exemptions (also known as Overlay). The State reimburses the Town at the rate of \$500 for each 41C exemption granted.

Article 23 Senior Tax Work Off Program

To see if the Town will adjust the exemption under G.L. c. 59 sec. S(K) and (1) allow an approved representative, for persons physically unable, to provide such services to the town; and (2) allowing the maximum reduction of the real property tax bill to be adjusted up to \$2,000, or take any other action related thereto. Sponsored by the Finance Director.

Recommendation: That this article be adopted.

Comment: To provide additional tax relief to seniors by raising the tax exemption from \$750 to \$2,000 beginning in Fiscal Year 2025. The State adjusted the amount to \$2,000 in January 2024. This change has been accounted for by increasing the Assessors Reserve for Abatements and Exemptions (also known as Overlay).

Article 24 Adopt Local Meals Tax

To see if the Town of Marblehead will accept G.L. c. 64L, § 2(a) to impose a local meals excise tax, or take any action relative thereto. Sponsored by the Finance Director.

Recommendation: That the Town adopt the local meals excise tax as a new recurring revenue source.

Comment: The Local Meals Excise Tax is 0.75%. A meal costing \$100 would collect \$0.75. The new local meals tax is estimated to generate between \$258,500 to \$430,900 per year according to data provided by the Department of Revenue (DOR). The Town conservatively estimated \$200,000 for FY25 and included this estimate in the Article 26 balanced budget. If the local meals tax is not accepted by Town Meeting, the Town and Schools will each need to cut \$100,000 from their budgets presented in Article 26.

Article 25 Adopt Local Room Tax

To see if the Town will vote to accept G. L. c. 64G, § 3A, authorizing the imposition of a local excise upon the transfer of occupancy of a room in a bed and breakfast establishment, hotel, lodging house, short-term rental, or motel located within the Town of Marblehead at a rate of up to 6% of the total amount of rent for each such occupancy; Or take any other action relative to. Sponsored by the Finance Director.

Recommendation: That the Town adopt the local rooms excise tax at 6% as a new recurring revenue source.

Comment: The Local Rooms Excise Tax is up to 6%. Per the DOR, in FY2023 the total taxable rentals in Marblehead were approximately \$8.1 million. If the Town applied a single percentage point to this figure, the town could receive approximately \$80,000 to \$82,000 per year. If the town adopted the local option at the full 6%, the Town could expect around \$480,000 to \$492,000 per year. The Town conservatively estimated \$200,000 for FY25 and included this estimate in the Article 26 balanced budget. If the local rooms tax is not accepted by Town Meeting, the Town and Schools will each need to cut \$100,000 from their budgets presented in Article 26.

Article 26 Expenses of Several Departments

To see what sums of money the Town will raise and appropriate, including appropriations from Federal Revenue Sharing moneys, to defray the necessary and usual expenses of the several departments of the Town for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, or take any other action relative thereto. Sponsored by the Finance Director.

Recommendation: That the sum of \$115,368,206 be appropriated. \$102,585,111 is to be raised from taxation and other available funds and \$12,783,095 is to be appropriated from available Enterprise Funds.

TABLE OF ESTIMATED APPROPRIATIONS
(Required by Mass. General Laws, Chapter 41, Section 60)

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	FY2023 EXPENDED	FY2024 APPROVED	FY2025 PROPOSED
Moderator				
1	Officials Expense	-	100	100
		-	100	100
Select Board				
2	Officials Expense	5,500	-	-
3	Salaries	438,770	671,726	544,005
4	Expense	129,339	137,213	137,213
		573,609	808,939	681,218
Finance Committee				
7	Salaries	-	-	-
8	Expense	2,805	3,210	3,210
		2,805	3,210	3,210
Reserve Fund				
10	Reserves	-	144,000	144,000
Finance Department				
12	Salaries	723,946	881,954	814,438
13	Expense	460,199	851,105	822,490
		1,184,144	1,733,059	1,636,928

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	FY2023 EXPENDED	FY2024 APPROVED	FY2025 PROPOSED
	Assessor			
17	Officials Expense	300.00	300	300
18	Salaries	185,204	231,291	239,890
19	Expense	54,998	52,300	59,250
		240,502	283,891	299,440
	Town Counsel			
29	Salaries	2,000	2,000	2,000
30	Expense	90,079	110,000	110,000
		92,079	112,000	112,000
	Human Resources			
241	Salaries	-	-	267,460
242	Expense	-	-	15,000
		-	-	282,460
	Parking Clerk			
35	Expense	25,339	12,650	12,650
	Town Clerk			
39	Salaries	208,611	212,069	224,945
40	Expense	20,696	11,887	13,787
		229,307	223,956	238,732
	Election and Registration Department			
43	Salaries	22,712	28,415	36,150
44	Expense	48,431	33,365	55,265
		71,143	61,780	91,415

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	FY2023 EXPENDED	FY2024 APPROVED	FY2025 PROPOSED
	Planning Board			
50	Expense	3,175	1,675	1,675
	Public Buildings Department			
55	Salaries	124,160	126,252	131,000
56	Expense	118,445	121,549	142,945
		242,606	247,801	273,945
VOTE	TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT	2,642,044	3,633,061	3,777,773
	Police Department			
62	Salaries	4,627,646	4,516,504	4,644,044
63	Expense	241,533	206,053	235,909
		4,869,179	4,722,556	4,879,953
	Fire Department			
68	Salaries	4,515,271	4,967,323	5,202,528
69	Expense	218,406	235,919	281,951
		4,733,678	5,203,241	5,484,479
	Building Inspection Department			
73	Salaries	541,796	551,682	548,045
74	Expense	51,054	55,993	120,693
		592,850	607,675	668,738

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	FY2023 EXPENDED	FY2024 APPROVED	FY2025 PROPOSED
	Sealer of Weights and Measures			
80	Expense	-	250	250
	Animal Inspector			
86	Salaries	2,400	2,400	2,400
VOTE	TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY	10,198,106	10,536,123	11,035,820
	School Department			
101	Schools	42,676,176	44,837,273	46,759,111
VOTE	TOTAL SCHOOLS	42,676,176	44,837,273	46,759,111
	Engineer			
105	Salaries	180,526	193,685	199,914
106	Expense	9,130	10,645	10,645
		189,657	204,330	210,559
	Public Works (Highway, Tree, Drains)			
112	Salaries	1,376,613	1,514,951	1,606,217
113	Expense	214,354	203,955	275,045
116	Maintain Streets and Sidewalks	26,845	98,141	15,726
		1,617,812	1,817,047	1,896,988
117	Snow Removal	194,858	105,000	105,000

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	FY2023 EXPENDED	FY2024 APPROVED	FY2025 PROPOSED
	Waste Collection			
126	Salaries	439,916	475,175	503,274
127	Expense	1,958,320	2,036,030	2,222,164
128	Landfill Monitoring Expense	114,600	114,600	114,600
		2,512,836	2,625,804	2,840,038
	Cemetery Department			
141	Officials Expense	300	300	300
142	Salaries	410,289	441,909	456,448
143	Expense	26,310	30,621	35,793
		436,899	472,830	492,541
VOTE	TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS AND FACILITIES	4,952,062	5,225,012	5,545,126
	Health Department			
153	Officials Expense	400	400	400
154	Salaries	220,818	228,739	236,477
155	Expense	75,396	83,952	87,313
		296,613	313,091	324,190
	Council on Aging			
164	Salaries	328,006	375,563	392,649
165	Expense	11,990	14,050	14,050
		339,996	389,613	406,699

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	FY2023 EXPENDED	FY2024 APPROVED	FY2025 PROPOSED
	Veterans Benefits			
175	Salaries	74,587	76,576	62,258
176	Expense	1,783	2,343	2,543
178	Benefits	46,328	45,000	45,000
		122,698	123,919	109,801
VOTE	TOTAL HUMAN SERVICES	759,307	826,623	840,690
	Abbot Public Library			
186	Salaries	980,750	1,054,390	1,088,496
187	Expense	274,661	269,066	295,626
		1,255,412	1,323,456	1,384,122
	Recreation and Park Department			
190	Salaries	654,766	698,169	724,387
191	Expense	205,174	243,629	253,950
		859,940	941,798	978,337
	Memorial & Veterans Day			
210	Expense	6,840	7,550	7,550
VOTE	TOTAL CULTURE AND RECREATION	2,122,192	2,272,804	2,370,009

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	FY2023 EXPENDED	FY2024 APPROVED	FY2025 PROPOSED
	Maturing Bonds and Interest			
214	Maturing Debt	6,465,000	6,980,000	7,540,000
215a	Long-term Interest	3,641,619	4,021,616	3,453,075
215b	Short-term Interest			65,000
VOTE	TOTAL DEBT SERVICE	10,106,619	11,001,616	11,058,075

	Other General Government			
118	Street Lighting	98,299	128,820	128,820
216	Utility Reserve	84,683	100,000	50,000
217	Contributory Retirement Fund	4,151,398	4,493,049	4,879,451
218	Medicare	1,354,076	1,508,730	1,039,000
219	Workers Compensation/111F	397,169	397,169	398,000
220	Training	11,882	15,000	15,000
221	Group Insurance	11,033,716	13,916,513	13,698,018
222	Other Insurance	671,535	776,405	800,218
223	Salary Reserve	42,695	50,000	50,000
224	Noncontributory Retirement	-	-	-
225	Energy Reserve	463,811	428,544	140,000
226	Other Post Employment Benefits	250,000	250,000	-
229	Stabilization Fund	250,000	-	-
VOTE	TOTAL OTHER GENERAL GOVERNMENT	18,809,264	22,064,230	21,198,507

TOTAL GENERAL FUND ACCOUNTS	92,265,770	100,396,742	102,585,111
------------------------------------	-------------------	--------------------	--------------------

(Enterprise Funds Required by Mass. General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 53F½)

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	FY2023 EXPENDED	FY2024 APPROVED	FY2025 PROPOSED
Sewer				
227	Salaries	862,626	1,023,759	1,127,582
228	Expense	947,566	971,396	1,116,422
230	South Essex Sewer District	3,190,903	3,229,500	3,150,539
VOTE	TOTAL SEWER ENTERPRISE FUND	5,001,095	5,224,655	5,394,543
Water				
231	Salaries	813,671	1,015,712	1,102,313
232	Expense	856,403	948,661	1,162,980
235	Mass Water Resource Authority	3,467,312	3,854,340	3,942,140
VOTE	TOTAL WATER ENTERPRISE FUND	5,137,386	5,818,713	6,207,433
Light				
236	Operating Expenditures			
ITEM	DESCRIPTION	FY2023 EXPENDED	FY2024 APPROVED	FY2025 PROPOSED
Harbor				
238	Salaries	376,692	473,213	475,153
239	Expense	467,186	495,299	525,966
240	Outlays	167,251	116,000	180,000
VOTE	TOTAL HARBOR ENTERPRISE FUND	1,011,128	1,084,512	1,181,119
TOTAL ENTERPRISES		11,149,609	12,127,880	12,783,095
TOTAL BUDGETS		103,415,379	112,524,622	115,368,206

FY 2025 General Fund Revenue:

Property Tax Levy	73,202,404
New Growth	300,000
Debt Exclusions	<u>10,993,076</u>
Total Property Taxes	84,495,480
Less: Overlay/Amts to be raised	<u>-422,068</u>
Total Property Taxes Available	84,073,412
State Aid	8,231,403
Less State Assessments	<u>-2,118,680</u>
Net State Aid	6,112,723
Local Receipts	7,092,340
Perpetual Care Fund Transfer	26,000
ConCom Fund Transfer	<u>9,000</u>
Total Other Available Funds	35,000
Water, Sewer, Harbor Gen Govt	359,693
Free Cash	5,500,000
Municipal Light Surplus	<u>330,000</u>
Total Funds voted to reduce tax rate	5,830,000
<u>Total General Fund Revenue</u>	<u>103,503,168</u>
General Fund Operating Budget	102,585,111*
Tax Levy Funded Warrant Articles	918,057
<u>Total General Fund Expenses</u>	<u>103,503,168</u>

FY 2025 Enterprise Funds Revenues:

Water User Charges	6,175,433
Water Retained Earnings	<u>32,000</u>
Total Water Revenue	6,207,433
Sewer User Charges	5,369,543
Sewer Retained Earnings	<u>25,000</u>
Total Sewer Revenue	5,394,543
Harbor User Charges	1,001,119
Harbor Retained Earnings	<u>180,000</u>
Total Harbor Revenue	1,181,119
<u>Total Enterprise Revenue</u>	<u>12,783,095</u>
Water Enterprise Budget	6,207,433
Sewer Enterprise Budget	5,394,543
Harbor Enterprise Budget	1,181,119
<u>Total Enterprise Budgets</u>	<u>12,783,095*</u>

***Total General Fund and Enterprise Revenue for Budget \$115,368,206**

FY2025 WARRANT ARTICLES	TOTAL	TAX LEVY	SEWER RETAINED	WATER RETAINED	FREE CASH	WASTE REVOLVING
Article 4 Unpaid Accounts (<i>Paid in FY24 not in FY25 Levy</i>)	23,633.49	-				
Article 6 Purchase of Equipment of Several Departments	176,784				176,784	
Article 7 Lease Purchase	447,354				421,275	26,079
Article 8 Capital Improvements for Public Buildings	401,941				401,941	
Article 9 Walls and Fences	50,000	50,000				
Article 10 Storm Sewer Construction	400,000	400,000				
Article 11a Water Department Construction	2,600,000			2,600,000		
Article 11b Sewer Department Construction	2,850,000		2,850,000			
Article 17 Essex North Shore Agricultural and Technical School	468,057	468,057				
Total FY2025 Warrant Articles	7,417,769.49	918,057	2,850,000	2,600,000	1,000,000	26,079

Article 27 Supplemental Appropriation and Expenses of Several Departments

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money to supplement the Town's General Government operating budget beginning in FY2025, contingent upon the passage of a Proposition 2½, so called, ballot question, or take any action relative thereto. Sponsored by the Finance Director.

Recommendation: That this article be indefinitely postponed.

Comment: This article is not being brought forward by the sponsor.

Article 28 Supplemental Appropriation and Expenses for the Schools

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money to supplement the School Department's operating budget beginning in FY2025, contingent upon the passage of a Proposition 2½, so called, ballot question, or take any action relative thereto. Sponsored by the School Committee.

Recommendation: That this article be indefinitely postponed.

Comment: This article is not being brought forward by the sponsor.

Article 29 Debt Exclusion Premium:

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Debt Exclusion Premium Receipts Reserved for Appropriation Fund to Excluded Debt Service for the purpose of reducing the amount of existing debt service and/or the amount of debt needed to be placed with final bonding, both have been exempted from the provisions of Proposition 2½, an amount of up to \$171,643.60 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, or take any other action related thereto. Sponsored by the Finance Director.

Recommendation: That this article be approved to transfer \$171,643.60 from Debt Exclusion Premium Receipts Reserved for Appropriation Fund to Excluded Debt Service for the purpose of reducing the FY25 excluded debt service as required by Massachusetts General Law and to accept the bond premium amortization table for existing excluded debt service.

Comment: This article is to inform the Town that \$171,643.60 in bond premium and excess MSBA reimbursement is to be applied against the FY25 excluded debt service. Per MGL c. 44, § 20, the remaining bond premium, after being applied against bond issuance costs, must reduce the annual excluded debt amount to the true cost incurred to finance the excluded project.

Article 30 Capital Transfers:

To see if the Town will vote to Transfer \$353,876.54, or any other sum or sums of money, from the following unspent capital appropriations, which will thereby exhaust all of the available funds from the original appropriation, for the purpose of funding: (1) Road, Sidewalk, Public Ways, and Garage Improvements in the amount of \$142,569.21, including any costs related and incidental thereto; (2) Community Center Boiler Replacement in the amount of \$42,000, including any costs related and incidental thereto; (3) Fire Headquarters painting and repairs in the amount of \$12,750, including any costs related and incidental thereto; (4) DPW Electric Panel Upgrade in the amount of \$8,211.47, including any costs related and incidental thereto; (5) 4 Head Mini-split A/C - Heat Unit in the amount of \$25,000, including any costs related and incidental thereto; (6) Mary Alley Building Fire Alarm System in the amount of \$26,000, including any costs related and incidental thereto; (7) Police Department Stairwells Treads and Flooring in the amount of \$5,557.33; (8) Veterans School Support Beam Repair \$38,000; (9) DPW Traffic Lights \$6,000; (10) Building Department Copper Crimp Tool and supplies \$4,792.23; (11) School Bus partial lease funding \$2,875.66; Fire Department Air Conditioning to Headquarters \$19,000; DPW Complex ADA Transition Plan \$18,833.94, as follows:

Town Meeting	Transfer From: Capital Project	Transfer Out	Transfer To
ATM 2017	Art. 10 - Building Improvements	\$52,388.27	Rec & Park Community Center Boiler Replacement \$40k & Fire HQ painting and repairs \$10,388.27
ATM 2018	Art. 9 - Building Improvements	\$35,573.20	Fire HQ painting and repairs \$2,361.73, Building Dept. 4 Head Mini-Split A/C heat unit \$25k, DPW Electrical Panel Upgrade \$8,211.47
ATM 2018	Art. 11 - Building Improvements	\$71,259.61	Veterans School Support Beam Repair \$38k, Mary Alley Fire Alarm System \$26k, Police Stairwells Treads and Flooring \$5,843, DPW Traffic Lights \$1,416.61
ATM 2019	Art. 10 - Purchase of Equipment	\$9,376.65	DPW Traffic Lights \$4,583.39, Building Dept Copper Crimp tool and supplies 4,793.23
ATM 2020	Art. 9 - Lease Purchase of Equipment	\$2,875.66	School partial funding of school bus lease \$2,875.66
ATM 2020	Art. 10 - Building Improvements	\$39,833.94	Rec & Park Center Boiler \$2,000, Fire Dept Air Conditioning to HQ \$19k, DPW Complex ADA Transition Plan \$18,833.94
ATM 2020	Art. 19 - Road Improvements	\$142,569.21	DPW – Road, Sidewalks, Public Way, and Garage Improvements Project.

or to take any other action relative thereto. Sponsored by the Finance Director.

Amendment to Article: When developing the transfers, the Town Administrator and Finance Director were not aware that \$25,000 was from the Cemetery Trust Fund and, therefore, must amend the article to the following:

To see if the Town will vote to Transfer \$353,876.54, or any other sum or sums of money from the following unspent capital appropriations, which will thereby exhaust all of the available funds from the original appropriation, for the purpose of Transferring \$353,876.54 to fund FY25 capital projects, as follows:

TOWN MEETING	TRANSFER FROM:	AMOUNT:
ATM 2017	ART. 10 – BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS	\$52,388.27
ATM 2018	ART. 9 – BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS	\$35,573.20
ATM 2018	ART. 11- BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS	\$71,259.61
ATM 2019	ART.10 – PURCHASE OF EQUIPMENT	\$9,376.65
ATM 2020	ART. 9 – LEASE PURCHASE OF EQUIPMENT	\$2,875.66
ATM 2020	ART. 10 – BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS	\$39,833.94
ATM 2020	ART. 19 – ROAD IMPROVEMENTS	\$142,569.21

GRAND TOTAL: \$353,876.54

TRANSFER TO:	PURPOSE AND DEPARTMENT	AMOUNT:
ART. 30 -BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS	COMMUNITY CENTER BOILER REPLACEMENT - RECREATION & PARKS DEPARTMENT	\$42,000.00
ART. 30 -BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS	HQ STATION PAINTING AND REPAIRS - FIRE DEPARTMENT	\$12,750.00
ART. 30 -BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS	ELECTRIC PANEL UPGRADE - DPW	\$80,000.00
ART. 30 -BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS	CEMETERY IMPROVEMENTS - CEMETERY DEPARTMENT	\$25,000.00
ART. 30 -BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS	MARY ALLEY BUILDING FIRE ALARM SYSTEM - PUBLIC BUILDINGS	\$26,000.00
ART. 30 -BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS	STATION STAIRWELLS TREADS AND FLOORING - POLICE DEPARTMENT	\$5,557.33
ART. 30 -BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS	ROAD, SIDEWALKS, PUBLIC WAY AND GARAGE IMPROVEMENTS - DPW	\$142,569.21
ART. 30 - PURCHASE OF EQUIPMENT	CROSSWALK RAPID FLASHING BEACONS - POLICE DEPARTMENT	\$20,000.00

GRAND TOTAL: \$353,876.54

or to take any other action relative thereto. Sponsored by the Finance Director.

Recommendation: That this article be approved to transfer \$353,876.54 from the identified unspent capital appropriations, which will thereby exhaust all of the available funds from the original appropriations, for the purpose of Transferring \$353,876.54 to fund the identified FY25 capital projects.

Comment: The Town Administrator and Finance Director reviewed old capital articles with remaining balances that have been completed. The Town Administrator and Finance Director re-programmed the funds for current capital project needs. The Town will continue to review capital articles older than 3 years annually to see if funds can be re-programmed for annual capital needs at Town Meeting.

Article 31 Amend Bylaw to Increase Building Construction Permit Fees

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Marblehead General Bylaws, Article III Permits, Section 30-15 and 30-16 as follows (**underline and bold** is new language and ~~cross-through~~ is omitted language):

Section 30-15 Fees.

B. The amount of such fees shall be \$15 per \$1,000 of the total cost of the work to be done under such permits, as estimated by the Building Commissioner, with the minimum fee for each permit issued of ~~\$30~~ **\$50**. This fee will include the cost of the wiring permit and plumbing permit.

- E.
- (1) Re-inspection fee: ~~\$50~~ **\$70**
 - (2) Lost permit card fee: ~~\$100~~ **\$120**
 - (3) Certificate of inspection fee: ~~\$100~~ **\$120**
 - (4) Certificate of occupancy fee: ~~\$100~~ **\$120**

Section 30-16 Plumbing and gas permit fees

(1) Plumbing

(a) Residential and commercial

[1] Remodel kitchen or bath: ~~\$30~~ **\$50** plus \$5 per fixture.

[2] Replacing pipes: ~~\$30~~ **\$50**

[3] Hot water tank: ~~\$30~~ **\$50**

[4] Any other miscellaneous: ~~\$30~~ **\$50**

[5] Return inspection: ~~\$40~~ **\$60**

[6] Failure to obtain required permit prior to commencement of work: three times applicable fee.

(2) Gas:

(a) Residential and commercial:

[1] Remodel: ~~\$30~~ **\$50**

[2] Hot water tank: ~~\$30~~ **\$50**

[3] Boilers: ~~\$50~~ **\$70**

[4] Any other miscellaneous: ~~\$30~~ **\$50**

[5] Return inspection: ~~\$40~~ **\$60**

[6] Failure to obtain required permit to commencement of work: three times applicable fee.

Or take any other action relative to. Sponsored by the Building Commissioner.

Recommendation: That this article be approved to increase building construction permit fees.

Article 32 Amend Bylaw to Increase Electrical Installations Permit Fees

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Marblehead General Bylaws Permits, Section 52-6 as follows (**underline and bold** is new language and ~~cross through~~ is omitted language):

52-6. Fees

- (1) Additions, alterations and new construction. Where a building permit is required, the fee is \$15 per \$1,000 of the total cost of the work to be done under such permits, as estimated by the Building Commissioner. This fee will include the cost of the building permit, wiring permit and the plumbing permit.
- (2) If no building permit is required, the following fees shall apply:
 - (a) Minimum charge: ~~\$30~~ **\$50**
 - (b) New service: ~~\$30~~ **\$50**
 - (c) Temporary service: ~~\$30~~ **\$50**
 - (d) Boiler: ~~\$30~~ **\$50**
 - (e) Motors (each): ~~\$15~~ **\$35**
 - (f) Repairs: ~~\$30~~ **\$50**
 - (g) Swimming pools: \$30 **\$50**
 - (h) Standard current consuming outlets:
 - [1] One to 25: ~~\$30~~ **\$50**
 - [2] Twenty-six to 50: ~~\$50~~ **\$70**
 - [3] Fifty-one to 100: ~~\$40~~ **\$60**
 - (i) Return inspection: ~~\$40~~ **\$60**
- (3) Fire alarm:
 - (a) Interior fire alarm system: ~~\$30~~ **\$50**
 - (b) Initial timing and connection of a privately owned fire alarm master box: ~~\$300~~ **\$320**

Or take any other action relative to. Sponsored by the Building Commissioner.

Recommendation: That this article be approved to increase electrical installations permit fees.

Article 33 To Amend Town Bylaw 13-10 Licensing and Registration of Dogs

To see if the Town will amend the second sentence of the Town of Marblehead Bylaw Article III Section 13-10 (A)License and registration required, as follows (**underline and bold** new and ~~strikethrough~~ removed).

- A. License and registration required. All dogs kept, harbored, or maintained by their owner or keepers in the Town of Marblehead shall be licensed and registered if over six months of age. Dog licenses shall be issued by the Town Clerk upon the payment of a license fee of ~~\$15~~ **\$20** for a spayed or neutered dog or upon the payment of a license fee of ~~\$20~~ **\$25** for an intact dog. Or take any action relative thereto. Sponsored by the Town Clerk.

Recommendation: That this article be approved to increase licensing and registration of dog fees.

Article 34 Community Development and Planning Department

To see if the Town will vote to amend Chapter 106 of the General Bylaws by adding a new Article XI entitled “Community Development and Planning Department” as follows:

Article XI Community Development and Planning Department

Section 106-26 Appointment

The Select Board shall appoint a Director of Community Development and Planning for a period of three (3) years. The Director shall have the authority to appoint such employees as the Director’s work requires, subject to number and compensation only to the approval of the Select Board.

Section 106-27 Duties

The Director of Community Development and Planning shall manage the operations of and be responsible for a wide range of activities and duties, including but not limited to land use planning, housing policy, transportation projects, historic preservation, community development, sustainability efforts, open space conservation programs, administration of regulatory boards and neighborhood improvement efforts; or take any action relative thereto. Sponsored by the Select Board.

Recommendation: No Recommendation under this article.

Article 35 Assessing Department Under Chief Financial Officer

To see if the Town will vote to move the Assessing Department and the Town Assessor under the supervision of the Finance Director; or take any other action relative thereto. Sponsored by the Select Board.

Recommendation: No Recommendation under this article.

Article 36 To see if the Town will vote to amend the Zoning Bylaw and map to adopt an 3A MULTI FAMILY OVERLAY DISTRICT

1) By adding a new provision which reads as follows:

ARTICLE 200-43.

A. Purpose. The purposes of 3A Multi-family Overlay District (3A) are:

- (1) To lower the permitting barrier for multi-family housing and to ensure compliance with the MBTA Communities Act, MGL c. 40A § 3A;
- (2) To allow as of right multi-family housing types in a variety of overlay zoning districts; and
- (3) To ensure high-quality site planning, architecture and landscape design that is consistent with the visual character and identity of the Town of Marblehead.

B. Scope and authority. 3A Districts, pursuant to MGL Ch. 40A sec 3A, shall be deemed to overlay the parcels as shown on the Zoning Map of the Town of Marblehead, as amended. At the option of the owner, development of land within a 3A District may be undertaken by means of a plan approval pursuant to the zoning controls set forth in this § 200-43 or by complying with all applicable zoning controls set forth in the Zoning Bylaw of the Town of Marblehead (underlying zoning). Development projects proposed pursuant to §200-43 shall be subject to all other applicable local, state, and federal regulations.

C. Establishment and delineation of Multifamily Overlay Districts (3A). There are three districts identified as 3A Overlay Districts: Pleasant Street District, Broughton Road District and Tioga Way District. The boundaries of the three districts are delineated as 3A Pleasant Street District, 3A Broughton Road District and 3A Tioga Way District on the Zoning Map.

D. Definitions. All definitions are as they appear in §200-7 and §20-44D of the Marblehead Zoning Bylaw in effect as of the date of the adoption of this bylaw. To the extent that there is any conflict between §200-44 and MGL section 3A the latter shall control.

E. Permitted uses. The following uses shall be permitted in the following districts as-of-right upon plan approval, and at residential densities specified in Table G, Table of Dimensional and Density Requirements:

TABLE H
Permitted Uses

Residence Uses	3A Broughton Road District	3A Tioga Way District	3A Pleasant Street District
Multifamily project	Yes	Yes	Yes
Mixed-use project	No	Yes	Yes

(1) Nonresidential uses permitted as-of-right pursuant to the underlying zoning are permitted pursuant to this Bylaw as part of a mixed-use development project.

F. Prohibited uses or activities in the 3A.

(1) Any use prohibited by the underlying zoning in effect as of the date of adoption of this Bylaw.

(2) Any use not listed in § 200-43E of this Bylaw is expressly prohibited.

(3) Age restricted housing.

(4) Any unit smaller than 1000 square feet in size

G. Dimensional and other requirements.

(1) New buildings within the 3A shall be subject to the bulk, dimensional and density requirements in Table G, Table of Dimensional and Density Requirements:

Table G
Dimensional and Density Requirements

District	Min. Lot Area (sq. ft.)	Max. Residential Density (units/acre)	Min. Frontage (Linear ft.)	Min. Front Setback (Linear ft.)	Min. Side Setback (Linear ft.)	Min. Rear Setback (linear ft.)	Min. Open Area (%)	Max. Height (ft.)
3A Broughton Rd	7500	20	35	6	(1)	(1)	(2)	35
3A Tioga Way	6000	20	35	6	(1)	(1)	(2)	35
3A Pleasant Street	5400	20	35	N	(1)	(1)	(2)	35
NOTES: N — None (1) — Except as to any boundary abutting any other business district, six feet; as to any boundary abutting any residential district, nine feet. May be reduced at the discretion of the approving authority. (2) — One square foot of open land area (in addition to the areas of required parking spaces for such lot) for each two square feet of gross floor area.								

(2) Building renovation. Renovation of existing buildings may maintain existing building footprints and may only expand such footprints insofar as such expansion is in compliance with the required dimensional requirements for new buildings.

(3) Fractional units. When the application of the allowable densities specified in Table G, Table of Dimensional and Density Requirements, results in a number that includes a fraction, the fraction shall be rounded up to the next whole number if the fraction is 0.5 or more. If the result includes a fraction below 0.5, the fraction shall be rounded down to the next whole number.

(4) Signage. Commercial signage proposed within a mixed-use development project shall be subject to the procedures and requirements of the Marblehead Sign Bylaw, Chapter 148 of the Marblehead General Bylaws, in effect as of the date of adoption of this Bylaw.

H. Off-Street parking.(1) Off-street parking in the districts shall be provided to meet or exceed the following minimum requirements:

Table H
Off Street Parking Requirements

Use	Pleasant 3A	Broughton	Tioga
Dwelling unit (2 bedrooms)	2.0 spaces	2.0	2.0
Dwelling unit (3 or more bedrooms)	2.0 spaces	2.0	2.0
Nonresidential use	1.0 space/500 square feet	n/a	1.0 space/300 square feet

(2) Fractional spaces. When the application of the minimum required parking standards in this § 200-44H results in a number that includes a fraction, the fraction shall be rounded up to the next whole number if the fraction is 0.5 or more. If the result includes a fraction below 0.5, the fraction shall be rounded down to the next whole number.

(3) Location of parking. Any surface parking lot shall be located at the side or rear of a building, relative to any public right-of-way or public open space. Subsurface parking that requires blasting may be disallowed if the approving authority finds, based on the results of a geotechnical analysis, that it is not possible to mitigate any extraordinary adverse impact of blasting on nearby properties.

(4) The approving authority may grant a plan approval making such modifications in the parking standards or prescribe safeguards and conditions as it shall warrant appropriate, provided that it finds that it is impractical to meet the standards and that such modifications are appropriate by reason of the proposed use and will not result in or worsen parking or traffic problems in or in proximity to the 3A. The approving authority may impose conditions of use or occupancy appropriate to such modifications.

(5) The approving authority may require additional visitor parking beyond the maximum required spaces per unit if deemed appropriate given the design, layout, use and/or density of the proposed development project.

(6) Construction standards. Each parking space shall be at least nine feet wide and 18 feet long and shall be designed with appropriate means of vehicular access to a street as well as maneuvering areas. Access and maneuvering areas shall not be obstructed or used for the parking of motor vehicles. Parking shall be designed and constructed to comply with all applicable disability access requirements including but not limited to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Massachusetts Architectural Access Board (AAB).

I. Design standards. To ensure that new development shall be of high quality, all applications shall comply with the Town of Marblehead Smart Growth Overlay District design standards as approved by DHCD on May 1, 2009. The design standards shall govern the issuance of plan approvals for development projects within the 3A Districts. All applicants shall file an application with the plan approval authority for development projects within 3A Districts. The physical character of development within the 3A Districts shall comply with such design standards. In the event of any conflict between this Bylaw and the design standards, this Bylaw shall govern and prevail.

J. Affordable housing. Affordable Housing Requirements shall apply to any development under 200-43 of this Bylaw. The affordability requirements are those allowed in the Compliance Guidelines for Chapter 40A, Section 3A: For all developments of more than six units, a minimum of ten percent (10%) of the dwelling units shall be affordable, and the cap on the income of families or individuals who are eligible to occupy the affordable units is not less than 80 percent of area median income, or such other applicable Guidelines as EOHLC shall issue.

K. Administration. The Planning Board shall act as the approving authority and shall adopt and file

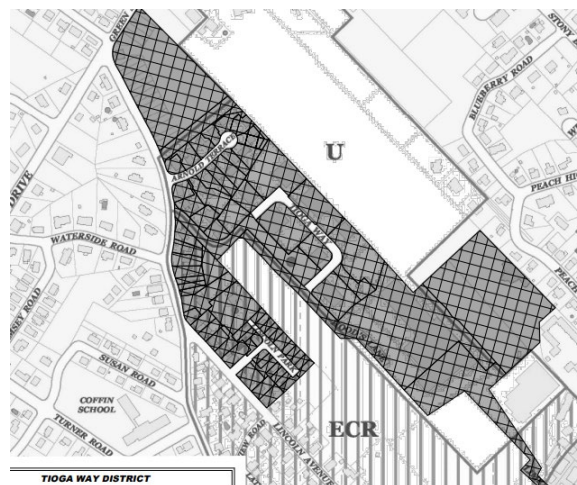
with the Town Clerk administrative rules relative to the application requirements and contents for plan review. The plan review process encompasses the following, as may be supplemented by the administrative rules in paragraph K Administration 200-44 Smart Growth of this zoning bylaw.

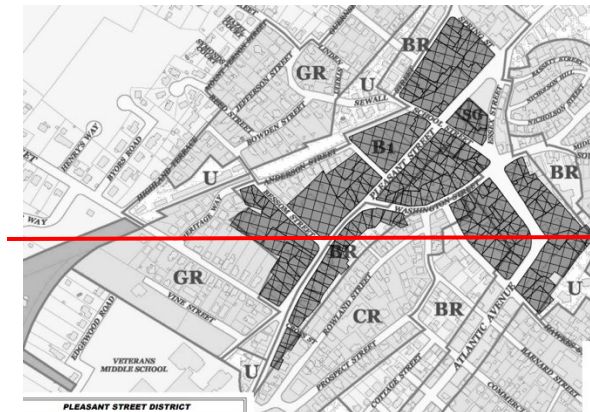
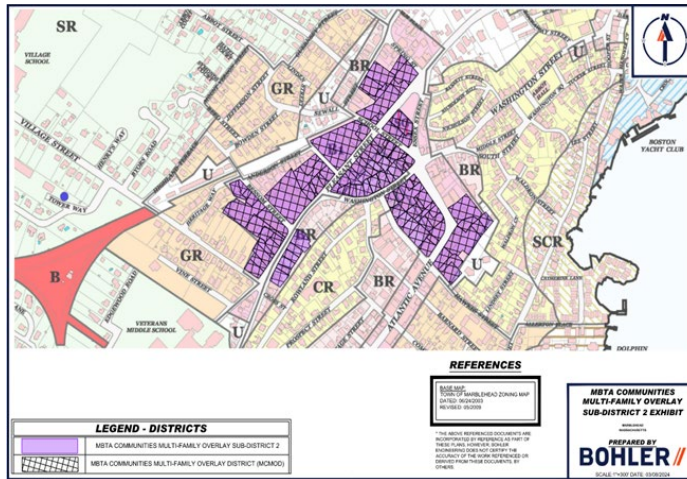
L. Date of effect. The effective date of this Bylaw shall be the date on which such adoption is voted upon by Town Meeting pursuant to the requirements of MGL c. 40A § 3A provided, however, that an applicant may not proceed with construction pursuant to this Bylaw prior to the receipt of final approval of this Bylaw and accompanying Zoning Map by the Office of the Massachusetts Attorney General.

M. Severability. The provisions of this section are severable. If any provision of this section is held invalid, the other provisions shall not be affected but shall remain in full force.

And

- 2) To amend the Marblehead zoning map by adding three Multifamily Overlay Districts (3A). There are three districts identified as 3A; Pleasant Street District; Broughton Road District and Tioga Way District. The boundaries of the three districts are delineated as 3A Pleasant Street District, 3A Broughton Road District and 3A Tioga Way District as show below:





Or take any other action relative to. Sponsored by the Planning Board.

Recommendation: That this article be adopted.

Comment: Per the Finance Director, this article has significant financial implications to the Town if it does not pass. These financial implications include loss of grant revenues and increased litigation costs.

Article 37 Board of Health – Increase membership/Home Rule Petition

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to seek special legislation to amend or supplant Chapter 43, Acts of 1801, An Act to empower the Town of Marblehead to choose a Board of Health, such that, post-amendment, the Marblehead Board of Health shall consist of five (5) members, each elected for a term of three (3) years. Said change to take effect at the first annual town election to occur following the effective date of this act, 3 members shall be elected. The candidate receiving the highest number of votes in that election shall serve a 3-year term. The candidate receiving the second highest number of votes shall serve a 2-year term. The candidate receiving the third highest number of votes shall serve a 1-year term. Thereafter, as the terms of the members expire, successors shall be elected for terms of 3 years. And further that the Selectboard shall be permitted to make changes hereto consistent with this Article, or take any other actions related thereto. Sponsored by the Board of Health.

Recommendation: No Recommendation under this article.

Article 38 Approve MGL 41b Change Assessors from Elected to Appointed Positions

To see if the town will vote to change the currently elected position of the Board of Assessors into Select Board appointed positions pursuant to its authority under G.L. c. 41, § 1B, and contingent on the acceptance of G.L. c.41 § 25 by the voters of the following question on the 2024 Annual Town Election Ballot:

"Shall the Town vote to have its elected Board of Assessors become an appointed Board of Assessors of the Town? Yes. No.”;

or take any other action relative thereto. Sponsored by the Select Board.

Recommendation: No Recommendation under this article.

Article 39 Amend Bylaw, Capital Planning Committee, Membership

To see if the Town will vote to amend Chapter 24, Article VII, section § 24-16 Purpose; membership; appointment (**underline and bold** new and ~~cross-out~~ removed).

The Capital Planning Committee shall consider and report on the influence of capital projects upon the present and future well-being of the Town. The Committee shall be composed of a total of ~~five~~ **nine** members, **three residents to be appointed by the Select Board for a three year term.** **In addition there shall be six members appointed by the Select Board as follows: the Chair of the Finance Committee, Public Works Director, Community Development Director, Superintendent of Schools, Superintendent of Buildings and Town Administrator who shall be the chair.** The Select Board may determine that the foregoing positions shall be changed if they determine a different staff person should serve instead. ~~to be appointed by the Board of Selectmen for three year terms. No member of the Committee shall be a regular Town employee, a Town officer, or a member of a Town board, commission or committee responsible for the expenditure of Town funds.~~ A member who ceases to reside in the Town or accepts regular employment by the Town or is elected or appointed to a Town board, commission or committee responsible for the expenditure of Town funds shall cease to serve on the Committee and a successor shall be appointed by the ~~Board of Selectmen~~ **Select Board** to serve the unexpired portion of the term, or take any other action relative to. Sponsored by the Select Board.

Recommendation: No Recommendation under this article.

Article 40 Amend Article, Ballot order and time of Random drawing of names for the Annual Town Election

To see if the Town will vote to change Article 39 of the 2022 Annual Town Meeting as follows (underline **and bold** new, ~~cross-out~~ removed).

The drawing shall be conducted by the Town Clerk or the Assistant Town Clerk, beginning not earlier than ~~6 o'clock in the afternoon of the day following the last day for candidates~~ **5:01 o'clock on the last day for candidates** to withdraw their nomination papers and continuing until such time as all ballot positions have been determined, or take any other action related thereto. Sponsored by the Town Clerk.

Recommendation: No Recommendation under this article.

Article 41 Easement Fishing Point Lane / 297 Ocean Ave.

To see if the Town will purchase, take or otherwise acquire a twenty (20) foot wide easement in a portion of the property located at 297 Ocean Ave. (Assessor's Map 912 Lots 24 and 24A) including 6,710 square ft more or less as shown on a plan by Haley and Ward dated January 31, 2024 and on file in the Town Clerk's office for the purpose of storm water conveyance and outlets and construction and maintenance work associated therewith and to pay for said acquisition the Town appropriate a sum of money to pay for same and further that the Select Board be permitted to enter into any and all agreements to effectuate the purpose of this article, or take any action related thereto. Sponsored by the Department of Public Works.

Recommendation: That this article be indefinitely postponed.

Comment: The Finance Committee would like to see the Town explore alternative options to address this situation and to provide a better summary of the potential financial implications of all options before bringing this request to Town Meeting.

Article 42 Amend Transfer Station Fees

To see if the Town will vote to discontinue personal beach and transfer station annual sticker fees for all Honorably Discharged Veterans who are legal residents of Marblehead or take any other action relative to. Sponsored by Charles Nordstrom and others.

Recommendation: That this article be indefinitely postponed.

Comment: Beach and transfer station annual sticker fees represent a revenue source used to fund the general operating budget. The Finance Committee recommends the Board of Health consider a comprehensive pricing and discount policy before this request is brought to Town Meeting.

Article 43 Amend General Bylaws Chapter 75-1 Leaf Blowers

To see if the Town will vote to amend Chapter 75-1 in the General Bylaws to modify the seasonal ban on gas leaf blowers to a year-round ban. Sponsored by Sabrina Velandry and others.

Recommendation: No Recommendation under this article.

Article 44 Amend General Bylaws Chapter 75-2, Leaf Blowers

To see if the Town will vote to omit Chapter 75-2, citing gas leaf blower exceptions. Sponsored by Sabrina Velandry and others.

Recommendation: No Recommendation under this article.

Article 45 Amend General Bylaws Chapter 75-3 Leaf Blowers

To see if the Town will vote to amend Chapter 75-3 concerning the leaf blower ban enforcement as follows:

- A. The Marblehead Police Department and the Marblehead Health Department and their respective designees, hereby referred to as “Enforcing Authority” shall have the authority to administer and enforce any violations of this bylaw.
- B. Any person who violates the proposed ban, by using Gas Powered Leaf Blower, herein also referred to as “GPLB” shall be subject to a penalty in the amount of \$300 for each violation; provided, however, that the first offense may be the subject of a warning in the officer’s discretion.

Sponsored by Sabrina Velandry and others.

Recommendation: No Recommendation under this article.

Article 46 Amend Bylaws §174-6(C) and §174-11 and §174-13

To see if the Town will vote to improve the operation of, and to encourage the fullest participation in, Town Meeting by making certain changes to the Town of Marblehead Bylaws §174-6(C) “seating of strangers”; §174-11 Motions precedent; §174-13 Motion to Reconsider.

Minor edits to §174-6(C) will make the meeting more welcoming to young people and visitors. Clarification of §174-11 will ensure adherence to parliamentary rules that require an article be presented and moved before it can be indefinitely postponed. The changes to §174-13 will make it easier for the Town Moderator to reach a determination on a Motion to Reconsider. Sponsored by Daniel Albert and others.

Recommendation: No Recommendation under this article.

Article 47 Amend Bylaws, Traffic Safety Advisory Committee

To see if the Town will vote to amend “Article X; Traffic Safety Advisory Committee” (5.1.2023 ATM, Art. 49) as follows (additions in **bold**)

24-25...The Select Board shall appoint by public vote three residents who are not employees of the town of Marblehead. The Select Board shall appoint additional members from town departments responsible for public **safety**....

24-26 MEETINGS The Traffic Safety Advisory Committee will meet at least monthly. One or more members will appear before the Select Board in a timely fashion but at least quarterly **for** the purposes of reporting date and activities and making recommendations. Sponsored by Daniel Albert and others.

Recommendation: No Recommendation under this article.

Article 48 Improve Road Safety Indicators

To see if the Town will vote to paint the road safety shoulders as required by the “General Conditions Section 4 “Traffic”, subsection i of the Site Plan Approval Decision and Land Disturbance Permit issued by the Town of Marblehead Planning Board on February 2, 2012 on or before June 1, 2024. Section 4(i) requires, “Restripe Maple Street between Lafayette Street and Humphrey Street to provide 6’-0” wide bike friendly shoulders and to create signed, live parking along the east curb from Cypress Street to the proposed service entry drive.” This vote is not a request for additional work but for road safety features that have been missing for 12 years. Sponsored by Daniel M. Albert and others.

Recommendation: That this article be indefinitely postponed.

Comment: Per the highway department, The Town is currently working towards improving road safety. The Town has multiple road safety plans complete. The bike plan is in progress. The Finance Committee recommends that the Town be given more time to implement its own road safety plans before the specific requirements set forth in Article 48 are forced upon it.

Article 49 Bylaw Select Board Terms, rescind

To see if the Town will vote to rescind the approved motion, which was made under Article 44 of the May 2, 2023 Annual Town Meeting, or to vote to change any subsequent Bylaw created as a result of that vote to make the elected term of the Select Board to be one year elected terms and, if necessary, to submit a home rule petition to the legislature to change the term from a staggered 3 year term to 1 year terms, or take any other action relative thereto. Sponsored by Dwight Grader and others.

Recommendation: No Recommendation under this article.

Article 50 Amend Bylaw, Recall provision for Elected Official(s)

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town Bylaws by adding recall provisions for any elected official(s) in the Town of Marblehead and to authorize the Select Board to submit a home rule petition to the legislature for the acceptance of said recall provisions; or take any other action relative thereto. Sponsored by Daniel Donato and others.

Recommendation: No Recommendation under this article.

Article 51 Amend General Bylaws, State Street Restrooms

To see if the Town will vote to amend the General Bylaws to maintain and keep open the State Street restrooms on a year-round basis and to approve a sum of money necessary to do so, or take any other action relative thereto. Sponsored by Philip Blaisdell and others.

Recommendation: That this article be adopted.

Comment: The Finance Committee voted 5 in favor and 4 opposed.

Article 52 Appropriate funds for Website Design and Development

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money to be expended by the Financial Services Department under the supervision of the Finance director for the purpose of purchasing services to design, develop, and update the Town Website or to take any other action relative thereto. Sponsored by Jim Zisson and others.

Recommendation: That this article be indefinitely postponed.

Comment: This article is not being brought forward by the sponsor.

Article 53 Amend Zoning Bylaw, shed size

To see if the Town will vote to increase the size of sheds requiring just a building permit from 81 square feet to 121 square feet, or take any other action relative thereto. Sponsored by Kenneth Grant and others.

Recommendation: That this article be indefinitely postponed.

Comment: This article is not being brought forward by the Sponsor.