

**Town of Georgetown  
Annual Town Meeting  
Monday, May 5, 2008**

A quorum being present, the Annual Town Meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M.

The return of the warrant was properly served.

Lonnie Brennan, Board of Selectmen, led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Father Carroll from St. Mary's Church gave the invocation

The non-voting members in the audience were recognized by the Moderator along with the voting and non voting members on the stage.

The Moderator called for a motion to adopt a 5 minute speech limit.  
Harry LaCortiglia moved and it was seconded by Arthur Greenberg.

By a show of hands, the motion carried by a 2/3 vote.

The Moderator declared we have one article on a special town meeting to tend to before we start the Annual Town Meeting and would entertain a motion to adjourn the annual town meeting.

Steve Epstein made a motion to adjourn the Annual Town Meeting to be reconvened immediately after we take care of business from the special town meeting and it was seconded by Sandy Gerraughty.

By a show of hands the vote was unanimous.

The Moderator called the Special Town Meeting to order.

**Article 1: Adjustments to the Fiscal Year 2008 operating budget:**

To see if the Town will vote to amend the vote taken under Article 3 of the 2007 Annual Town Meeting warrant for the purpose of adjusting line items in the FY07 budget, and, a necessary,, to raise and appropriate or transfer and appropriate from available funds a sum of money for the purpose of supplementing departmental expenses, or take any other action relative thereto.

MOTION: Sandy Gerraughty moved and it was seconded by Robin O'Malley to amend the vote taken under Article 3 of the 2007 Annual Town Meeting warrant by appropriating from free cash the sum of \$50,000 and to transfer said funds to the Reserve Fund Expense (budget line 11321)

EXPLANATION: Sandy Gerraughty explained that we would be moving line item amounts for either overages or unexpected issues. This would be done at the May 21<sup>st</sup> Finance Committee meeting.

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion.

ACTION: The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

The Moderator called for a motion to dissolve the Special Town Meeting and reconvene with the Annual Town Meeting.

MOTION: Robin O'Malley moved and it was seconded by Harry LaCortiglia.

The motion passed by a majority .

**Article 1: Annual Town Election**

**To vote by ballot for the following officers: one Selectman, one Assessor, two Library Trustees, one Light Commissioner, one Water Commissioner, and two School Committee members each for three years; one Planning Board Member and one member of the Georgetown Housing Authority each for five years, and to vote on the following questions:**

**Ballot Questions**

**QUESTION 1**

Shall the Town of Georgetown be allowed to assess an additional \$45,000 in real estate and personal property taxes for the purposes of purchasing and equipping two vans for the use of the School Department, including all costs incidental and related thereto, for the fiscal year beginning July first two thousand and eight?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes      \_\_\_\_\_ No

**QUESTION 2**

Shall the Town of Georgetown be allowed to assess an additional \$43,000 in real estate and personal property taxes for the purposes of purchasing two heavy duty copiers, for the School Department, including all costs incidental and related thereto, for the fiscal year beginning July first two thousand and eight?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes      \_\_\_\_\_ No

**QUESTION 3**

Shall the Town of Georgetown be allowed to assess an additional \$60,000 in real estate and personal property taxes for the purposes of purchasing security upgrades at the Middle-High School, including all costs incidental and related thereto, for the fiscal year beginning July first two thousand and eight?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes      \_\_\_\_\_ No

**QUESTION 4**

Shall the Town of Georgetown be allowed to assess an additional \$91,000 in real estate and personal property taxes for the purposes of funding the operating budget of the Fire Department for the fiscal year beginning July first two thousand and eight?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes      \_\_\_\_\_ No

**QUESTION 5**

Shall the Town of Georgetown be allowed to assess an additional \$125,000 in real estate and personal property taxes for the purposes of repair/replacement of the roof at the Public Safety Building, including all costs incidental and related thereto, for the fiscal year beginning July first two thousand and eight?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes      \_\_\_\_\_ No

**QUESTION 6**

Shall the Town of Georgetown be allowed to assess an additional \$50,000 in real estate and personal property taxes for the purposes of repair/replacement of the roof at the Old Highway Garage, including all costs incidental and related thereto, for the fiscal year beginning July first two thousand and eight?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes      \_\_\_\_\_ No

#### QUESTION 7

Shall an act passed by the General Court in the year 2008 entitled "An Act Providing for an Increase in the Georgetown Board of Selectmen from Three to Five Members," be accepted?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes      \_\_\_\_\_ No

No motion is needed for Article 1. It is just an announcement that we will be going to the polls next Monday for the Annual Town election. The questions which will appear on the ballot will be voted on in separate articles later this evening.

(After Article 1, we went on to the consent calendar which were articles 6-12. They will remain in order in these minutes)

#### **Article 2: Town Officers and Committee Reports**

To hear and act on the reports of the Town Officers and Committees.

Sandy Gerraughty recognized Mike Sweat for his service to the Finance Committee. She gave an explanation of the series of meetings held by the Finance Committee prior to Town meeting.

Matt Vincent, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, asked us to remember the passing of Richie Clough, former member of the Board of Selectmen. He also mentioned the 5K race in Mike Donohoe's name. He was a former employee of the school department. 1324 runners and walkers participated in this first annual event. He mentioned the opening of the newly renovated Library which opened in November. A special thanks was given to Lonnie Brennan for his service to the Board of Selectmen and Rob Hoover for his service on the Planning Board.

Anne Donahue gave a special thanks to Daryl Barta for her 6 years on the School Committee.

#### **Article 3: General Operating Budget/Reserve Fund**

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate, or appropriate by transfer from available funds, a sum of money to defray charges and expenses of the Town, including debt and interest and including support of the schools, to fix salaries of the several elected offices of the Town, as provided by section 108, Chapter 41, General Laws, as amended, and to provide for a reserve fund for the ensuing year, as set forth in the Finance and Advisory Board Proposed Budget and Town Meeting Warrant for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2008, or take any other action in relation thereto.

MOTION: Sandy Gerraughty moved and it was seconded by Robin O'Malley that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,912,779, appropriate by transfer from the Water Enterprise Fund the sum of \$212,387, and transfer from Septic Betterment the sum of \$21,086, for a total appropriation of \$21,146,252, to defray charges and expenses of the Town for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2008, including support of the Town's public schools and Whittier Regional Vocational Technical High School, to fix salaries of the several elected offices of the Town, and to provide for a reserve fund for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2008, in accordance with the line items and Finance Committee and Advisory Board's report to the May 5, 2008, Annual Town Meeting.

MOTION TO AMEND: Jim Lacey moved and it was seconded by Sandy Gerraughty to appropriate from the Stabilization Fund the sum of \$50,000 and to add said funds to the Reserve Fund Expense (budget line 11321), which would make the total appropriation for this line \$125,000.

Fin Com voted 6-2 in favor of this amendment.

EXPLANATION: Jim Lacey explained that the increase was in case any department ran into trouble due to utility increases. This now makes the total appropriation \$21,196.252

DISCUSSION: Steve Epstein asked if this required a 2/3 vote.

The Moderator stated no.

ACTION: By a show of hands the Moderator declared this amendment passed by a majority.

Back to the main motion.

There was no discussion on the main motion.

ACTION: By a show of hands the Moderator declared this passed by a 2/3 vote.

#### **Article 4: Stabilization Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money to be added to the Stabilization Fund, or take any other action in relation thereto.

There was no motion for this article. It is being passed over.

Article 5: Water Department Operating Budget

**To see if the Town will appropriate the receipts and available funds of the Water Department Enterprise Fund for the operation of the Water Department under the direction of the Water Commissioners for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2008, or take any other action in relation thereto.**

MOTION: William Ricker moved and it was seconded by Peter Durkee to appropriate Water Department Enterprise Revenues for the operation of the Water Department under the direction and control of the Water Commissioners in accordance with the Water Department Budget as shown in the Finance & Advisory Board's Report to the May 5, 2008 Annual Town Meeting for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2008, such that a total of \$947,296.00 is appropriated for direct operating cost and a total of \$212,387 is appropriated to the Town to pay indirect costs expected to be appropriated in the General Budget of the Town.

Fin Com approved 8-0

Glenn Smith, Water Superintendent stated these numbers were based on what they expect their expenses to be for the next fiscal year.

Jack L'Hommedieu has concerns of scheduling of overtime for employees 52 weeks per year. He doesn't feel there is enough attention paid to their budget as we had 2 cost increases over the last year.

Arthur Greenberg stated that the water is not drinkable in Georgetown. What are we using to clean pipes with and what is being used at the treatment plant.

Glenn Smith stated flow velocity is used to clean the pipes and Potassium permanganate, lyme and a chlorine solution is used at the water treatment plant.

Arthur Greenberg asked if there was arsenic in the chemicals and Glenn's response was no.

ACTION: By a show of hands the Moderator declared the motion carried by a majority.

BEGIN CONSENT CALENDAR. ARTICLES 6-12 – Majority vote on all articles in consent calendar

**Article 6: Municipal Light Department Continuation of Operation**

To see if the Town will appropriate receipts of the Municipal Light Department for the operation of said Department under the direction and control of the Municipal Light Board, as defined in Section 34, Chapter 164, General Laws, for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2008, or take any other action in relation thereto.

**Article 7: Zoning Board of Appeals Revolving Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to continue the Zoning Board of Appeals Revolving Fund as authorized by Chapter 44, Section 53E ½ of Massachusetts General Laws. This fund shall be funded by applicants' fees to be expended without further appropriation for the purpose of application review including, but not limited to review services, clerical, legal expenses, equipment and office supplies. The Zoning Board of Appeals may expend from this account an amount not to exceed \$ 20,000 for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2008; or take any other action in relation thereto.

**Article 8: Road Machinery Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to continue the Road Machinery Fund as authorized by Chapter 44, Section 53E ½ of the Massachusetts General Laws. This fund shall be funded by payments for rental of Highway machinery and shall be expended without further appropriation for the purpose of purchasing highway equipment. The Highway Surveyor, with approval of the Board of Selectmen, may expend from this account an amount not to exceed \$25,000, or the balance in the account, whichever is lesser, for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2008 or take any other action in relation thereto.

**Article 9: Conservation Commission Revolving Fund for Camp Denison**

To see if the Town will vote to continue a Conservation Commission Revolving Fund for Camp Denison as authorized by Chapter 44, Section 53E ½ of Massachusetts General Laws. This fund shall be funded by program fees, facility use charges and outside vendor charges to be expended without further appropriation for the purpose of maintaining the support of the land and facilities including, but not limited to utilities, seasonal staff, legal expenses, equipment and office supplies. The Conservation Commission may expend from this account an amount not to exceed \$9,000 for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2008; or take any other action in relation thereto.

**Article 10: Local Access Programming**

To see if the Town will vote to continue a Cable Television Revolving Fund as authorized by Chapter 44, Section 53E ½ of Massachusetts General Laws. This fund shall be funded by the Annual License Fee and the PEG Capital Funding (Section 7.4 of the contract) paid by Comcast and Verizon to the Town to be expended without further appropriation for the purpose of Local Access Programming, including but not limited to, utilities, salaries, equipment, maintenance and office supplies. The Cable

Advisory Committee, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, may expend from this account an amount not to exceed \$80,000 for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2008; or take any other action in relation thereto.

**Article 11: Chapter 90 Reimbursement, Transportation Bond**

To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$222,538, or any other sum to be reimbursed by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts under the Transportation Bond issue, to be spent by the Highway Surveyor, with approval of the Board of Selectmen, under the provisions of Chapter 90 of the General Laws, or take any other action in relation thereto.

**Article 12: Fire Department, Fire Alarm Revolving Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to continue a Georgetown Fire Department Revolving Fund as authorized by Chapter 44, Section 53E ½ of the Massachusetts General Laws. This fund shall be funded by the annual fees charged for connection to the Municipal Fire Alarm system to be expended without further appropriation for the purpose of maintaining the Municipal Fire Alarm System. The Fire Department may expend from the account an amount not to exceed \$10,000 for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2008; or take any other action in relation thereto.

Beverly Enos, Moderator, read the motions as printed in the warrant. Steve Epstein moved and it was seconded by Harry LaCortiglia.

No Finance Committee report

There was no discussion.

ACTION: By a show of hands, the Moderator declared the consent calendar (articles 5-12) carried by a majority.

END CONSENT CALENDAR

**Article 13: School Department Appropriation, Transportation Vans**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds \$45,000 to purchase and equip two vans for the use of the School Department, including all costs incidental and related thereto; provided, however, that the amount authorized herein shall be contingent upon the vote at the Town election to approve a capital expenditure exclusion to assess additional real estate and personal property taxes for a single year in accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59, § 21 C (i ½), Proposition 2 ½ so called, or take any other action in relation thereto.

MOTION: George Moker moved and it was seconded by David Bjork to raise and appropriate \$45,000 to purchase and equip two vans for the use of the School Department, including all costs incidental and related thereto; provided, however, that the amount authorized herein shall be contingent upon the vote at the Town election to approve a capital expenditure exclusion to assess additional real estate and personal property taxes for a single year in accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59, § 21 C (i ½), Proposition 2 ½ so called.

The Finance Committee voted 7-1 in favor

DISCUSSION: Debra Jackson 446 North Street asked why is the School Dept. getting involved in vehicle maintenance instead of using services we already have. Why the change?

George Moker explained that we could be saving money by buying our own vehicles. The cost changes year to year and we don't know what that cost will be.

Robert Moore 2 PineNeedle Ln wanted to know if these were new vehicles and why don't we purchase used vehicles? Just purchase extended warranties and save about \$20,000 buying used.

George Moker stated that these are new vehicles.

Debra Jackson asked about rising costs of fuel & maintenance. Are these simply for special ed students?

George Moker: It will be included in the yearly budget. We're weighing the option of leasing out seats to other school districts.

Rachel Croteau asked how many students will be serviced by vans. Why are we getting 2 vans when there are 8 seats per van?

George Moker: 2-4 students per van. The vans have different schedules and go in different directions.

ACTION: By a show of hands, the Moderator declared the motion carried by a majority

#### **Article 14: School Department Appropriation, Heavy Duty Copiers**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds \$43,000 for the purchase of two heavy duty copiers for the purpose of establishing a centralized copy center for the School Department, including all costs incidental and related thereto; provided, however, that the amount authorized herein shall be contingent upon the vote at the Town election to approve a capital expenditure exclusion to assess additional real estate and personal property taxes for a single year in accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59, § 21 C (i ½), Proposition 2 ½ so called, or take any other action in relation thereto.

MOTION: George Moker moved and it was seconded by Anne Donahue to raise and appropriate \$43,000 for the purchase of two heavy duty copiers for the purpose of establishing a centralized copy center for the School Department, including all costs incidental and related thereto; provided, however, that the amount authorized herein shall be contingent upon the vote at the Town election to approve a capital expenditure exclusion to assess additional real estate and personal property taxes for a single year in accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59, § 21 C (i ½), Proposition 2 ½ so called.

Fin Com voted 6-1 in favor

Sharon Freeman asked why 2 copiers? Why lease vs. purchase? Can other Town departments use these for heavy duty printing such as town meeting warrants?

George Moker stated that it's more effective and less expensive to purchase and there has been some talk about printer sharing. We now presently use 14 copiers and we would retire 4-6 copiers. These would be in a copy center for better copy control. This will save \$20,000 per year.

Scott Paganelli asked if the current printers we have are leased or owned.

George said they are leased.

ACTION: By a show of hands the motion carried by a majority.

**Article 15: School Department Appropriation, Middle/High School Security Improvements**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds \$60,000 for the purchase security upgrades at the Middle-High School, including all costs incidental and related thereto; provided, however, that the amount authorized herein shall be contingent upon the vote at the Town election to approve a capital expenditure exclusion to assess additional real estate and personal property taxes for a single year in accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59, § 21 C (i ½), Proposition 2 ½ so called, or take any other action in relation thereto.

MOTION: David Bjork moved and it was seconded by George Moker to raise and appropriate \$60,000 for security upgrades at the Middle-High School, including all costs incidental and related thereto; provided, however, that the amount authorized herein shall be contingent upon the vote at the Town election to approve a capital expenditure exclusion to assess additional real estate and personal property taxes for a single year in accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59, § 21 C (i ½), Proposition 2 ½ so called.

Fin Com: Approved this article 7 – 1.

EXPLANATION: David Bjork explained there was ongoing risk to the security of the school, i.e. no night vision, exterior cameras have no access to the roof and interior cameras are not significant in the cafeteria and some parts of the hallways.

DISC: None

ACTION: By a show of hands this article passed by a majority vote.

**Article 16: Fire Department Override, Wages**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds an additional amount of \$91,000 in real estate and personal property taxes for the purposes of funding the operation of the Fire Department for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2008, provided that the amount authorized herein shall be contingent upon the vote at the Town election to assess additional real estate and personal property taxes in accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59, § 21 C (g), Proposition 2 ½ so called, or take any other action in relation thereto.

MOTION: Mike Anderson moved and it was seconded by Don Cudmore to raise and appropriate an additional amount of \$91,000 in real estate and personal property taxes for the purposes of funding the operation of the Fire Department for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2008, provided that the amount authorized herein shall be contingent upon the vote at the Town election to assess additional real estate and personal property taxes in accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59, § 21 C (g), Proposition 2 ½ so called.

Fin Com voted 7-1 in favor

EXPLANATION: Mike explained that this was for a part time chief and 3 part time fire fighters/emt's to man the station during day time hours when most volunteers are out of town.

Steve Epstein asked if they were per diem or part time fire fighters.



Mike Anderson responded per diem.

Steve Epstein also asked what the job requirements for the fire chief.

Steve Delaney responded that there are 2 drafts under discussion and it is not yet finalized. They're before the Personnel Board

ACTION: By a show of hands the Moderator declared the motion carried by a majority.

**Article 17: Public Safety, Roof Replacement**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$125,000 for the repair/replacement of the roof at the public safety building, including all costs incidental and related thereto; provided, however, that the amount authorized herein shall be contingent upon the vote at the Town election to approve a capital expenditure exclusion to assess additional real estate and personal property taxes for a single year in accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59, § 21 C (i ½), Proposition 2 ½ so called, or take any other action in relation thereto.

MOTION: Don Cudmore moved and it was seconded by Mike Anderson to raise and appropriate \$125,000 for the repair/replacement of the roof at the public safety building, including all costs incidental and related thereto; provided, however, that the amount authorized herein shall be contingent upon the vote at the Town election to approve a capital expenditure exclusion to assess additional real estate and personal property taxes for a single year in accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59, § 21 C (i ½), Proposition 2 ½ so called.

Fin Com voted 5-2 in favor

EXPLANATION: Don Cudmore explained that the public safety building was built in 1988. The fire dept. moved in 1989 and the police moved in 1993. The building started leaking about 8 years ago. There are ice dams in the attic which is causing the leaking. The roof would be done in 3 phases: estimates are as follows: insulation (\$5,000) venting (\$8-10,000) and then the gutters (\$6,000). The roof estimates have come in between \$55,000 & \$90,000. This is a prevailing wage job.

DISCUSSION: Robert Moore asked why there was no warranty 8 years ago when the building was only 12 years old. There should be a warranty for 25-30 years and we should litigate if necessary.

Don responded that the roofing company is blaming it on the insulation, who is blaming it on the venting. Everyone is blaming the problem on one another.

ACTION: By a show of hands the motion carried by a majority.

**Article 18: Old Highway Garage, Roof Replacement**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$50,000 for the repair/replacement of the roof at the old highway garage, including all costs incidental and related thereto; provided, however, that the amount authorized herein shall be contingent upon the vote at the Town election to approve a capital expenditure exclusion to assess additional real estate and personal property taxes for a single year in accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59, § 21 C (i ½), Proposition 2 ½ so called, or take any other action in relation thereto.

MOTION: Peter Durkee moved and it was seconded by Mike Anderson to raise and appropriate \$50,000 for the repair/replacement of the roof at the old highway garage, including all costs incidental and related thereto; provided, however, that the amount authorized herein shall be contingent upon the vote at the Town election to approve a capital expenditure exclusion to assess additional real estate and personal property taxes for a single year in accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59, § 21 C (i ½), Proposition 2 ½ so called.

FIN COM: Approved this by 7 – 0

EXPL: Peter Durkee explained this roof is 36 yrs old, leaks and has rusted through. Someone came to look at the roof to give an estimate and his foot fell through.

DISC: None

ACTION: By a show of hands this article passed by a majority vote.

**Article 19: Public Safety, Incident & Report Generation System**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$115,000, for the purpose of replacing the incident and report generation system in the police/public safety dispatch area, or take any other action thereon.

MOTION: Don Cudmore moved and it was seconded by David Bjork to appropriate from the Stabilization Fund the sum of \$115,000, for the purpose of replacing the incident and report generation system in the police/public safety dispatch area.

FINCOM: Approved this 5 for, 2 against and 1 abstained.

EXPL: Chief Mulligan explained that the present system was purchased in 1997 and operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and 365 days a year and is no longer serviceable.

DISC: Red Kelley, 20 Cedar Ln said the 11 yr old system runs on Microsoft Access and is totally outdated.

ACTION: By a show of hands this article passed by a 2/3<sup>rd</sup> vote.

**Article 20: Energy Conservation Improvements**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money for the purpose of engineering, purchase, and installation of energy conservation related equipment to be installed at various town buildings, or take any other action thereon.

MOTION: There is no motion. This article is being passed over.

**Article 21: Highway Department, lease of brush machine**

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into an agreement to purchase, lease or lease/purchase a brush cutting machine, for a period up to or exceeding three years, and to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money for such purchase or lease, or take any other action related thereto.

MOTION: Peter Durkee moved and it was seconded by Daryl Barta to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into an agreement to lease or lease/purchase a brush cutting machine, for a period up to or exceeding three years, and to appropriate from the Road Machinery Fund the sum of \$9,701.13 for the first year's payment of said lease.

FINCOM: Approved 7 – 0

EXPL: Peter Durkee explained this brush machine would be used for roadside cutting and was needed for the safety of the workers. Right now we use chain saws. It would be paid for by the Light Dept.

ACTION: By a show of hands this article passed by a majority vote.

**Article 22: Ladder Truck Payment**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$77,000 for the Fiscal Year 2009 lease payment for the Fire Department ladder truck, or take any other action thereon.

MOTION: Mike Anderson moved and it was seconded by Matt Vincent to appropriate from the Stabilization Fund the sum of \$77,000 for the Fiscal Year 2009 lease payment for the Fire Department ladder truck.

FINCOM: Approved 6 – 1

EXPL: This is the second payment.

ACTION: By a show of hands this article passed by a 2/3<sup>rd</sup> vote.

**Article 23: Union Cemetery Maintenance**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$10,000 for the purpose of maintenance and repair of the Union Cemetery, East Main Street, or take any other action thereon.

MOTION: Lonnie Brennan moved and it was seconded by Harry LaCortiglia to appropriate from the Stabilization Fund the sum of \$10,000 for the purpose of maintenance and repair of the Union Cemetery, East Main Street.

Fin Com voted 6-1 in favor

EXPLANATION: Joe Knapp explained that last year the Town took over the cemetery and we now need the Town to maintain it.

DISCUSSION: Steve Epstein asked if this money was sufficient for lawn cutting and is this at prevailing wages.

Joe Knapp said yes: It will get mowed 13 times during the season at \$450.00 per mowing.

Sharon Freeman recognized Dick Elliott for his many years of volunteering to mow and keep up this cemetery.

ACTION: By a show of hands, the Moderator declared the motion carried by a 2/3 vote.

#### **Article 24: Cultural Council**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$875 for the support of the function/operations of the Georgetown Cultural Council, or take any other action thereon.

**MOTION:** Susan Madigan moved and it was seconded by Sandy Gerraughty to appropriate from available funds (Free Cash) the sum of \$875 for the support of the function/operations of the Georgetown Cultural Council.

FINCOM: Approved 7 – 0

DISC: Susan Madigan explained that after 15 yrs of concerts they cannot count on businesses for financial support any longer and need help.

Steve Epstein – 55 West St, asked what is the balance in Free Cash and the Stabilization Fund. Sandy Gerraughty answered \$181,078. in Free Cash and \$1,065,330 in Stabilization Fund.

ACTION: By a show of hands this article passed by a majority vote.

#### **Article 25: Citizens Petition**

To see if the Town will vote to repeal Chapter 161, Wetlands Protection, of the Town Code

**MOTION:** Phil Cannon moved and it was seconded by Ken Kumph to repeal Chapter 161, Wetlands Protection, of the Town Code.

**EXPLANATION:** Phil Cannon explained that land owners rights are being taken away from them. Our bylaws are double what the state guidelines are. Old homes are being effected by having to play by a new set of rules written for new development. These rules are costing the homeowner money. We have had \$23,000 in legal fees over the last 5 months.

**DISCUSSION:** Joe Hull, Pat Ratay, Carl Shreder, Tom Howland, Jim Hehir, Paul Nelson, Michael Whittaker, Reidar Bomengen, Graham Noll, Harry LaCortiglia, Dan Cameron, Peter Burns, George Comiskey & Laura Repplier spoke against repealing the wetland bylaws for the following reasons: flood control, habitat, the need for stricter regulations than the state, protection of water supply, wetlands are filters from pollution.

Jim Hehir asked if the town was tying up the Penn Brook School building project.

Carl Shreder responded no.

Phil Cannon stated that the school wanted to rearrange the ingress and regress to the school and that the Georgetown Conservation Commission never met with them. An engineer told them that it wasn't a good idea. These bylaws only benefit politicians and not the residents as a whole.

Meredith Collins thinks that the state guidelines are strict enough. She lost a building lot due to the stricter regulation put in place by town bylaws.

Ken Kumph thinks the regulations need to change. Landowner's rights are being taken away. Our regs are 4-500 times the state regs.

Bob Morehouse spoke in favor of this article. He believes that this is bad government as there is no appeal process. You can only appeal to Superior Court and if procedures are followed then they rule in favor of Conservation Commission. Regs are not science based. We're due for a change.

Steve Epstein says we should reject bylaw and bring it to Special Town Meeting when the Con Comm can come up with something new. They are given too much power.

Tim Gerraughty would like to move the question. Seconded by Rachel Crateau. The Moderator declared we have a 2/3 vote to move the question.

ACTION: By a show of hands the Moderator declared that the motion did not pass to repeal.

**Article 26: Citizens Petition Affordable Housing Trust Fund (no bylaw or ordinance)**

To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of G.L. c. 44, § 55C, establishing a trust to be known as the Georgetown Affordable Housing Trust Fund whose purpose shall be to provide for the creation and preservation of affordable housing in the Town for the benefit of low and moderate income households; appointment of the Board of Trustees and the authority of said Board shall all be as set forth in G.L. c.44, §55C, provided, however, that any member of the Board of Trustees may be removed for cause after the opportunity for a hearing; and further, that the Board of Trustees shall provide for an independent annual audit of the books and records of the Trust, and upon receipt of the audit by the Board of Trustees, a copy shall be provided forthwith to the Board of Selectmen, *and further, to authorize the Board of Selectmen to execute a Declaration of Trust and Certificate of Trust consistent with the provisions above and with the provisions of G.L. c. 44, §55C, or take any other action relative thereto.*

MOTION: There is no motion. This article is being passed over.

**Article 27: Community Preservation Committee**

**Community Preservation General Budget**

To see if the Town will vote to hear and act on the report of the Community Preservation Committee on the Fiscal Year 2009 Community Preservation budget and to appropriate, pursuant to G.L. Ch. 44B §6 from the Community Preservation Fund a sum of money to meet the administrative expenses and all other necessary and proper expenses of the Community Preservation Committee for Fiscal Year 2009; and further to reserve for future appropriation a sum of money from the Community Preservation Fund estimated annual revenues for open space, historic resources, and community housing purposes, as well as a sum of money to be placed in the 2009 Budgeted Reserve for general Community Preservation Act purposes; and further to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund a sum or sums of money for Community Preservation projects or purposes as recommended by the Community Preservation Committee, or take any other action in relation thereto,

	<b>Project</b>	<b>Total Appropriation</b>	<b>Source of Appropriation</b>
	<b>Appropriations:</b>		
A	To fund, for historic resources purposes, the restoration and preservation of the Samuel Brocklebank Museum and to authorize the Board of Selectmen, in consultation with the Community Preservation Committee, to enter into a grant agreement with the Georgetown Historical Society setting the terms for such grant, including a requirement that the owners of	\$47,000	\$47,000 from Community Preservation Fund Historic Resources Reserve

	the Samuel Brocklebank Museum grant to the Town a historic preservation restriction in said museum, and further, to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept such restriction; provided, however, that any funds from this appropriation remaining unspent after a period of three years from the date of approval hereof shall be returned to the Historic Resources Reserve Fund only after a vote by the Community Preservation Committee determining that it is unlikely the such expenditures the remaining appropriated funds will need to be spent to this effect;		
B	To fund, for historic resources purposes, a survey to document historic structures as proposed by the Georgetown Master Plan to be included in the Massachusetts Historical Commission Inventory, such funds to be expended under the direction of the Georgetown Historical Commission; provided, however, that any funds from this appropriation remaining unspent after a period of 3 years from the date of the approval of this article will be returned to the Community Preservation Historic Reserve fund only after a vote by the Community Preservation Committee determining that it is unlikely the remaining appropriated funds will need to be spent to this effect;	\$20,000	\$20,000 from Community Preservation Fund Historic Resources Reserve
C	To fund, for historic preservation purposes, the historic restoration and preservation of Harry Murch Park through the undertaking of the site preparation work necessary therefor, and further, to relocate memorials currently located a said park to the Historic Veterans Memorial Green at Jackman and Warren Streets and to properly provide for their preservation, such funds to be expended under the direction of the Georgetown Historical Commission and the Town Highway Department; provided, however, that any funds from this appropriation remaining unspent after a period of 3 years from the date of the approval of this article will be returned to the Community Preservation fund only after a vote by the Community Preservation Committee determining that it is unlikely the remaining appropriated funds will need to be spent to this effect;	\$150,000	\$115,000 from Community Preservation Undesignated Account; \$35,000 from Community Preservation Historic Reserve
D	<p>To fund, for open space and land for recreational use, the acquisition and related appraisal, survey and legal costs associated with the purchase of two parcels of land as follows: the first parcel of approximately 4.51 acres, identified as Assessors Map 16, Lot 11F, and as described in Essex South District Registry of Deeds in Book 11034, page 0597; and a second parcel of approximately 10 acres, identified as Assessors Map 16, Lot 12, and as described in Essex South District Registry of Deeds in Book 07328, page 0507; such parcels to be managed and controlled by the Parks and Recreation Commission of the Town of Georgetown;</p> <p>and further to provide for the costs of the engineering, permitting, development and legal expenses necessary to create an Active Recreational Municipal Utility on said parcels;</p> <p>and further, that the Board of Selectmen, Community Preservation Committee and the Parks and Recreation Commission, as appropriate, be authorized to enter into all agreements and execute any and all instruments, and apply for and accept any grants to defer the costs associated with the purchase and development of the parcels necessary to effectuate</p>	\$315,000	\$315,000 from Community Preservation Fund Undesignated Account

	<p>this vote;</p> <p>and further, to authorize the Board of Selectmen to convey a perpetual conservation restriction in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 184 § 31, as required by Section 12(a) of Chapter 44B as amended, to any organization qualified and willing to hold such a restriction in accordance with M.G.L.c. 44B; any funds from this appropriation remaining unspent after a period of 3 years from the date of the approval of this article will be returned to the Community Preservation fund only after a vote by the Community Preservation Committee determining that it is unlikely the remaining appropriated funds will need to be spent to this effect;</p>		
E	To fund, for historic restoration and rehabilitation purposes, the four historic cabins at Camp Denison to provide ADA access and use of these facilities; any funds from this appropriation remaining unspent after a period of 3 years from the date of the approval of this article will be returned to the Community Preservation fund only after a vote by the Community Preservation Committee determining that it is unlikely the remaining appropriated funds will need to be spent to this effect; or take any other action in relation thereto;	\$5,000	\$5,000 from Community Preservation Fund Undesignated Account
F	To fund, for open space and land for recreational use purposes, the creation of a recreational path, to be expended under the direction of The Recreational Path Committee,, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to execute any instruments and apply for and accept any grants that may be available for this project; provided, however, that any funds from this appropriation remaining unspent after a period of 3 years from the date of the approval of this article will be returned to the Community Preservation fund only after a vote by the Community Preservation Committee determining that it is unlikely the remaining appropriated funds will need to be spent to this effect;	\$250,000	\$250,000 from Community Preservation Fund Undesignated Account
	<b>Project Appropriation Subtotal</b>	<b>\$787,000</b>	
G	Administrative Expenses of CPC	\$25,000	\$25,000 from CPA FY09 Estimated Revenue
	<b>Administrative Expenses Appropriation Subtotal</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>	
H	Open Space Reserve	\$65,000	\$65,000 from CPA FY09 Estimated Revenue
I	Historic Resources Reserve	\$65,000	\$65,000 from CPA FY09 Estimated Revenue
J	Community Housing Reserve	\$65,000	\$65,000 from CPA FY09 Estimated Revenue
	<b>Reserves Subtotal</b>	<b>\$195,000</b>	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,007,000</b>	

## Explanation:

This article proposes projects recommended by the Community Preservation Committee under the Community Preservation Act (CPA). The descriptions of the proposed projects/actions are contained below:

- **Samuel Brocklebank Museum** – The Captain Samuel Brocklebank Museum, home of the Georgetown Historical Society, believed to have been built in the 1660's, displays Georgetown's early artifacts and furnishings. Early portions of the house represent one of the oldest structures in Georgetown today. The red cedar roof shingles have deteriorated over the years, and water damage is now staining and destroying the inside walls. The roof replacement is now required, in order to preserve the structure. Some of the exterior clapboards on the main house, as well as the attached ell need replacement, in addition to sealing and painting the building.
- **Historic Resources Survey** – This item provides for the necessary funding for the research of historic properties, creating reports of these properties and their inclusion in the MA Historical Commission Inventory. Identification, evaluation and protection of historic properties are the primary goals of the Historical Commission and the creation of the survey is the required first step in the preservation process. The inclusion of properties in the MA Historical Commission Inventory serves as the basis for National Register Nominations and the establishment of Historic Districts which are necessary to qualify for grants from the MA Historical Commission. The Georgetown Master Plan includes the creation of Historic Districts and the Historical Commission is seeking to comply with these recommendations.
- **Harry Murch Park** - This item provides the funding for the construction activities required in the preliminary phase of site preparation for Harry Murch Park. For the purposes of this project, we define the preliminary construction phase as the removal of the existing bituminous walk, bench pads, benches and adjacent trees, the salvaging of the monuments and flagpole, raising the existing concrete cover in lawn, all aspects of grading including filling the site to an appropriate grade and stabilizing the site by establishing a lawn and installing an irrigation system. This item also provides funding to allow the Highway Department to move the Veterans' Monuments currently located at Harry Murch Park to the Veterans' Memorial Green at the intersection of Warren and Jackman Streets. This will allow for a secure location where the Veterans' Monuments can be appropriately and prominently displayed, since Harry Murch Park will be inaccessible during the site preparation phase of the construction sequence. The safe relocation of those Memorials, as well as additional steps necessary to provide for the preservation of the Memorials and the Veterans' Green are also provided for.
- **Acquisition of Land for Development of Active Recreational Use** - This item proposes acquisition of two parcels of land and development thereof for active recreation purposes. The 2007 Master Plan for the Town of Georgetown identified the need for 40 acres of additional Active Recreational Lands that would be required to serve the town's existing and ever growing population. The acquisition of these proposed parcels is the first step towards satisfying that need.
- **ADA Upgrades for Camp Denison Cabins** – The Camping Cabins at Camp Denison are not currently ADA accessible. This article will provide funding to allow the volunteers at the camp to make 4 of them comply with ADA standards.
- **Creation of Recreational Path** –
  - Mass Highway has formally notified the Georgetown Board of Selectmen of a \$960,000 commitment towards the preliminary (25%) design of the entire Border to Boston Multi-use trail from Salisbury to Danvers.
  - The bidding process for the preliminary (25%) design is currently in process and is expected to be awarded before the end of 2008.
  - The 25% preliminary design is expected to be completed by the end of 2009.
  - Each town is responsible for acquiring the rights to the former RR right-of-way and must be formalized pending the results of the 25% design.(This work is underway as part of Phase II of the project)
  - Should the project qualify for final design and construction with Federal funds, it is possible that Georgetown may be responsible for approximately 10% of the project costs.



- The current estimates for Georgetown based on the Fay, Spofford, and Thorndike Study are: Construction \$4.4; Final Design - \$330K; & Preliminary (25%) Design \$220K.
- Therefore to be financially prepared for this obligation, \$250,000 is requested for a FY2009 appropriation. The obligation balance will be requested at the next town meeting for a FY2010 appropriation.
- The funds will be spent on satisfying the local match and outstanding acquisition expenses. If a local match is not required, funds will be placed back into the CPC account.
- **Administrative Expenses** – The CPA authorizes the appropriation of up to 5% of the FY09 estimated annual revenues to be appropriated for the expenses of the Community Preservation Committee.
- **Open Space Reserve** – The CPA requires that a minimum of 10% of FY09 estimated annual revenues be spent or set aside for Open Space purposes.
- **Historic Resources Reserve** – The CPA requires that a minimum of 10% of FY09 estimated annual revenues be spent or set aside for Historic Resources purposes.
- **Community Housing Reserve** – The CPA requires that a minimum of 10% of FY09 estimated annual revenues be spent or set aside for Community Housing purposes.

Beverly Enos, Moderator read the article as written in the warrant. There was a hold for debate for items C & F.

	<b>Project</b>	<b>Total Appropriation</b>	<b>Source of Appropriation</b>
	<b>Appropriations:</b>		
A	To fund, for historic resources purposes, the restoration and preservation of the Samuel Brocklebank Museum and to authorize the Board of Selectmen, in consultation with the Community Preservation Committee, to enter into a grant agreement with the Georgetown Historical Society setting the terms for such grant, including a requirement that the owners of the Samuel Brocklebank Museum grant to the Town a historic preservation restriction in said museum, and further, to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept such restriction; provided, however, that any funds from this appropriation remaining unspent after a period of three years from the date of approval hereof shall be returned to the Historic Resources Reserve Fund only after a vote by the Community Preservation Committee determining that it is unlikely the such expenditures the remaining appropriated funds will need to be spent to this effect;	\$47,000	\$47,000 from Community Preservation Fund Historic Resources Reserve
B	To fund, for historic resources purposes, a survey to document historic structures as proposed by the Georgetown Master Plan to be included in the Massachusetts Historical Commission Inventory, such funds to be expended under the direction of the Georgetown Historical Commission; provided, however, that any funds from this appropriation remaining unspent after a period of 3 years from the date of the approval of this article will be returned to the Community Preservation Historic Reserve fund only after a vote by the Community Preservation Committee determining that it is unlikely the remaining appropriated funds will need to be spent to this effect;	\$20,000	\$20,000 from Community Preservation Fund Historic Resources Reserve
C	To fund, for historic preservation purposes, the historic	\$150,000	\$115,000 from Community

	restoration and preservation of Harry Murch Park through the undertaking of the site preparation work necessary therefor, and further, to relocate memorials currently located a said park to the Historic Veterans Memorial Green at Jackman and Warren Streets and to properly provide for their preservation, such funds to be expended under the direction of the Georgetown Historical Commission and the Town Highway Department; provided, however, that any funds from this appropriation remaining unspent after a period of 3 years from the date of the approval of this article will be returned to the Community Preservation fund only after a vote by the Community Preservation Committee determining that it is unlikely the remaining appropriated funds will need to be spent to this effect;		Preservation Undesignated Account; \$35,000 from Community Preservation Historic Reserve
D	<p>To fund, for open space and land for recreational use, the acquisition and related appraisal, survey and legal costs associated with the purchase of two parcels of land as follows: the first parcel of approximately 4.51 acres, identified as Assessors Map 16, Lot 11F, and as described in Essex South District Registry of Deeds in Book 11034, page 0597; and a second parcel of approximately 10 acres, identified as Assessors Map 16, Lot 12, and as described in Essex South District Registry of Deeds in Book 07328, page 0507; such parcels to be managed and controlled by the Parks and Recreation Commission of the Town of Georgetown;</p> <p>and further to provide for the costs of the engineering, permitting, development and legal expenses necessary to create an Active Recreational Municipal Utility on said parcels;</p> <p>and further, that the Board of Selectmen, Community Preservation Committee and the Parks and Recreation Commission, as appropriate, be authorized to enter into all agreements and execute any and all instruments, and apply for and accept any grants to defer the costs associated with the purchase and development of the parcels necessary to effectuate this vote;</p> <p>and further, to authorize the Board of Selectmen to convey a perpetual conservation restriction in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 184 § 31, as required by Section 12(a) of Chapter 44B as amended, to any organization qualified and willing to hold such a restriction in accordance with M.G.L.c. 44B; any funds from this appropriation remaining unspent after a period of 3 years from the date of the approval of this article will be returned to the Community Preservation fund only after a vote by the Community Preservation Committee determining that it is unlikely the remaining appropriated funds will need to be spent to this effect;</p>	\$315,000	\$315,000 from Community Preservation Fund Undesignated Account
E	To fund, for historic restoration and rehabilitation purposes, the four historic cabins at Camp Denison to provide ADA access and use of these facilities; any funds from this appropriation remaining unspent after a period of 3 years from the date of the approval of this article will be returned to the Community Preservation fund only after a vote by the Community Preservation Committee determining that it is unlikely the remaining appropriated funds will need to be spent to this effect; or take any other action in relation thereto;	\$5,000	\$5,000 from Community Preservation Fund Undesignated Account
F	To fund, for open space and land for recreational use purposes, the creation of a recreational path, to be expended under the direction of The Recreational Path Committee,, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to execute any instruments and apply	\$250,000	\$250,000 from Community Preservation Fund Undesignated Account

	for and accept any grants that may be available for this project; provided, however, that any funds from this appropriation remaining unspent after a period of 3 years from the date of the approval of this article will be returned to the Community Preservation fund only after a vote by the Community Preservation Committee determining that it is unlikely the remaining appropriated funds will need to be spent to this effect;		
	<b>Project Appropriation Subtotal</b>	<b>\$787,000</b>	
G	Administrative Expenses of CPC	\$25,000	\$25,000 from CPA FY09 Estimated Revenue
	<b>Administrative Expenses Appropriation Subtotal</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>	
H	Open Space Reserve	\$65,000	\$65,000 from CPA FY09 Estimated Revenue
I	Historic Resources Reserve	\$65,000	\$65,000 from CPA FY09 Estimated Revenue
J	Community Housing Reserve	\$65,000	\$65,000 from CPA FY09 Estimated Revenue
	<b>Reserves Subtotal</b>	<b>\$195,000</b>	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,007,000</b>	

MOTION: Harry LaCortiglia moved and it was seconded by Steve Epstein that the Town hear a report from the Community Preservation Committee and that the amounts identified in items A, B, D, E, G, H, I & J under Article 27 of the warrant be appropriated or reserved from Fiscal Year 2009 Community Preservation Fund Revenues, or transferred from prior year's revenues for Community Preservation purposes, all as specified under Article 27 of the warrant.

ACTION: By a show of hands, the Moderator declared items A, B, D, E, G H, I & J passed by a majority.

MOTION (SECTION C): Harry LaCortiglia moved and it was seconded by Dick Spencer to fund for historic preservation purposes, the historic restoration and preservation of Harry Murch Park as specified in Article 27 of the warrant.

	<b>Project</b>	<b>Total Appropriation</b>	<b>Source of Appropriation</b>
C	Move to fund, for historic preservation purposes, the historic restoration and preservation of Harry Murch Park through the undertaking of the site preparation work necessary therefor, and further, to relocate memorials currently located a said park to the Historic Veterans Memorial Green at Jackman and Warren Streets and to properly provide for their preservation, such funds to be expended under the direction of the Georgetown Historical Commission and the Town Highway Department; provided, however, that any funds from this appropriation remaining unspent after a period of 3 years from the date of the approval of this article will be returned to the Community Preservation fund only after a vote by the Community Preservation Committee determining that it is unlikely the remaining appropriated funds will need to be spent to this effect;	\$150,000	\$115,000 from Community Preservation Undesignated Account; \$35,000 from Community Preservation Historic Reserve

AMENDMENT TO MOTION: Sandy Gerraughty made a motion and it was seconded by Jim Lacey to delete the words "site preparation" and further to add "temporarily" between the words to relocate.

DISCUSSION ON THE AMENDMENT: Sandy explained that this amount of money is excessive for site work. This amount should cover the entire work to be done at Harry Murch Park.

EXPLANATION: Ed Desjardins stated that this \$150,000 should cover most of the work to be done.

Fin Com voted 7-4 in favor if \$150,000 was for the entire work to be done.

ACTION ON THE AMENDMENT: By a show of hands this carries by a majority.

MAIN MOTION DISCUSSION: Harry LaCortiglia states that he thinks we should approve this article based on what the CPC voted on as does Joe Soucy.

ACTION ON AMENDED MOTION: By a show of hands this passes by a majority.

MOTION ON SECTION F: Harry LaCortiglia moved and it was seconded by Ida Wye to fund open space and land for recreational use purposes, the creation of a recreational path as written in Article 27 of the warrant.

Fin Com voted 6-1 in favor

	<b>Project</b>	<b>Total Appropriation</b>	<b>Source of Appropriation</b>
<b>F</b>	<b>Move to fund, for open space and land for recreational use purposes, the creation of a recreational path, to be expended under the direction of The Recreational Path Committee,, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to execute any instruments and apply for and accept any grants that may be available for this project; provided, however, that any funds from this appropriation remaining unspent after a period of 3 years from the date of the approval of this article will be returned to the Community Preservation fund only after a vote by the Community Preservation Committee determining that it is unlikely the remaining appropriated funds will need to be spent to this effect;</b>	<b>\$250,000</b>	<b>\$250,000 from Community Preservation Fund Undesignated Account</b>

**DISCUSSION:** Eric Waybright asked if we have any agreement with National Grid and homeowners for right of ways. Have any traffic studies been done? Will it require signals?

Jeff Wade stated we need the 25% design before the right of ways can be done. MHD is involved. RFP's are out right now for the 25% design. Then we do the final design and construction. There will be two signals in the downtown area, warning lights on 133 (near town hall) and one on West Main Street. However, there has been no full traffic study done at this point.

Tony Saia asked if we're not even sure of this project yet, why we are spending 5 million dollars.

Dave Pasquale stated that this will cost 1 million per mile to pave the woods. He has spoken to Fish & Wildlife personnel who said they are against this. This could be Georgetown's big dig.

John Flaherty, Alana Schmitt Burns and Jim Dimento all spoke in favor of the rec trail.

Jeff Wade stated that of the 5 million dollars, 80% would be funded by the federal government, 10% by the state and 10% by our community.

**ACTION:** By a show of hands, the Moderator declared this passed by a majority.

#### **Article 28: Senior Citizen Tax Exemption**

To see if the Town will vote pursuant to the provision of G.L. c.59, section 5, clause 41C to adjust the eligibility limits for exemptions granted under MGL Chapter 59 Section 5 Clause 41C by reducing the qualifying age from 70 to 65, and/or by increasing the "Whole Estate" limits from \$28,000 to \$40,000 if single, and from \$30,000 to \$55,000 if married, to be effective in the Fiscal Year commencing on July 1, 2008, or take any other action in relation thereto.

MOTION: Matt Vincent moved and it was seconded by Harry LaCortiglia to adjust the eligibility limits for exemptions granted under MGL Chapter 59 Section 5 Clause 41C by reducing the qualifying age from 70 to 65, and by increasing the "Whole Estate" limits from \$28,000 to \$40,000 if single, and from \$30,000 to \$55,000 if married, to be effective in the Fiscal Year commencing on July 1, 2008.

FINCOM: Approved 8 – 0

EXPL: Matt Vincent explained they are decreasing the age and increasing asset limits.

DISC: None

ACTION: By a show of hands this article passed by a majority vote.

**Article 29: Senior Citizen Property Tax Abatement**

To see if the Town will vote to increase the sum of money included in the overlay account from \$5,000 to \$10,000 for the purpose of providing Senior Citizen Property Tax Work-Off abatements for Fiscal Year 2009, which work-off abatement program was authorized by the Town's acceptance of G.L. c.59, §5K, thereby increasing the size of the program from 10 to 20 participants, or take any other action in relation thereto.

MOTION: Tom Berube moved and it was seconded by Matt Vincent to increase the sum of money included in the overlay account from \$5,000 to \$10,000 for the purpose of providing Senior Citizen Property Tax Work-Off abatements for Fiscal Year 2009, which work-off abatement program was authorized by the Town's acceptance of G.L. c.59, §5K, thereby increasing the size of the program from 10 to 20 participants.

Fin Com voted 4-4 on this article because they couldn't decide how to fund it.

EXPLANATION: This would be funded from the Assessors overlay. Money is put aside automatically.

DISCUSSION: Sandy Gerraughty stated that this could come up again at the Special Town Meeting when they have a better understanding of the finances. We should wait.

ACTION: By a show of hands the motion passes by a majority.

**Article 30: Fire Department Establish, "Strong Fire Chief"**

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to request the General Court to not take action on and withdraw Senate Bill 2343 "An Act Providing for the Establishment of a Strong Fire Chief In the Town of Georgetown", and further that the Town accept G.L. c.48, §§42, 43, and 44, the so-called "Strong Fire Chief" statute, which establishes a fire department under the control of an officer to be known as the Chief of the Fire Department, or take any other action related thereto.

There was no motion made for this Article. It is being passed over.

MOTION: Joe Soucy moved to adjourn at 10:23 PM and it was seconded by Ken Kumph

ACTION: By a show of hands, the Moderator declared the Town Meeting adjourned at 10:23 PM.