

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS  
FOR THE  
TOWN OF FOXBOROUGH'S  
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING**

**October 16, 2023**

## Foxborough Advisory Committee

### Mission Statement

The Foxborough Advisory Committee is responsible for providing recommendations to the Town residents on department budgets and Town Warrant articles as part of the Town Meeting process. In preparation for Town Meeting, the Advisory Committee reviews each department's budget and researches all Warrant Articles. This is done by meeting with each department head, holding public meetings for discussion and question opportunities, and thoroughly researching each of the topics. Following this process, the committee then takes a vote and collectively puts forth a recommendation to the town residents at the Town Meeting.

Members	Term Expires
Mike Brown (Chair)	June 2024
Marlowe Farrar (Vice Chair)	June 2024
Michael Chaisson	June 2026
Raffaella Zizza-Feinstein	June 2024
Paul Hainsworth	June 2025
Shelby Kornbluth	June 2026
Kevin Mack	June 2025
Daniel Peterson	June 2025

**SUMMARY OF TOWN WARRANT RECOMMENDATIONS for the SPECIAL TOWN MEETING on October 16, 2023**

<b><u>Article No.</u></b>	<b><u>Article (Advisory Committee Presenter)</u></b>	<b><u>Recommendation</u></b>
<b>Article 1</b>	<b>DPW Building Repair and Maintenance Project (Brown)</b>	<b>Approval</b>
<b>Article 2</b>	<b>Revolving Fund By-Law Amendment (Farrar)</b>	<b>Approval</b>
<b>Article 3</b>	<b>Personal Property Exemption Threshold Amendment (Hainsworth)</b>	<b>Approval</b>
<b>Article 4</b>	<b>Acceptance of Souza Avenue as a Public Way (Mack)</b>	<b>Approval</b>
<b>Article 5</b>	<b>Acceptance of Barros Lane as a Public Way (Mack)</b>	<b>Approval</b>

## **Article 1: DPW Building Repair and Maintenance Project**

THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS APPROVAL OF ARTICLE 1 BY A VOTE OF 7-0-1

### **Background:**

Article 1 seeks the town's approval to borrow, transfer from available funds, or raise and appropriate, funds to pay for repairs and upgrades to the existing DPW facility.

During the January 2023 Special Town Meeting, the Town approved the expenditure of funds to develop plans for the needed expansion of the Department of Public Works (DPW) facility on Elm St. The proposal in this October 2023 article is entirely separate from that project and is targeted specifically at repairing and upgrading the DPW's existing facility.

Recently, the town completed the Burrell School project without expending all the funds that were raised for such purpose. The remaining funds approximate \$500,000 and must be used for building improvements. The town is proposing to use these funds for the necessary upgrades to the DPW facility.

The current facility has several components that require repair including the roof, boiler system, windows and doors, and the exterior block and gutters. The roof and boiler were said to be of the most concern to town management.

### **Advisory Committee Recommendation and Rationale:**

The Advisory Committee, after discussions with the appropriate town management, felt the noted repairs and upgrades needed attention. Further, given there were existing funds (from the Burrell project) for the project and those funds could only be spent on building improvements, the Committee supported the proposed article.

## **Article 2 Revolving Fund By-Law Amendment**

THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS APPROVAL OF ARTICLE 2 BY A VOTE OF 8-0-0

### **Background:**

The Town of Foxborough COA/HS division of the Human Services Department (COA) consists of seven full-time staff and 3 part-time staff. The COA ran over 200 unique programs in 2022, primarily for Foxborough residents aged 60+. Programs vary in interest ranging from exercise classes, history lectures, meal programs, and healthy living initiatives. The salary and wages of full-time staff and COA operating expenses are included in the town budget however all programs offered are self-funded with program expenses paid from user fees collected for programs. The **Town of Foxborough By-Laws, Chapter 20, Section 33 (Authorize Revolving Funds By-Law)** states 'COA Senior Trips and Programs' are funded by 'Fees, Charges or Other Receipts Credited to the Fund' and 'Program or Activity Expenses are Payable from the Fund'.

**Current Restriction:**

The current By-Law states the ‘Council on Aging salaries or wages cannot be paid from this account’.

**Proposed Change:**

The COA would like to use part-time staff to expand the availability of some of the programs, for example opening buildings on weekends. The expenses to pay the part-time staff would come from the fees collected from programs. The current By-Law and proposed change are shown below:

**Current By-Law – note restriction in column E**

<b>A Revolving Fund</b>	<b>B Department, Board, Committee, Agency or Officer Authorized to Spend from Fund</b>	<b>C Fees, Charges or Other Receipts Credited to Fund</b>	<b>D Program or Activity Expenses Payable from Fund</b>	<b>E Restrictions or Conditions on Expenses Payable from Fund</b>	<b>F Fiscal Years</b>
Council on Aging Community Events	Council on Aging Department	Funds from commu- nity events and programs	Community event- related expenses	Council on Aging salaries or wages cannot be paid from this account	Fiscal Year 2021 and subsequent years

**Proposed Revises By-Law – remove restriction in column E**

<b>A Revolving Fund</b>	<b>B Department, Board, Committee, Agency or Officer Authorized to Spend from Fund</b>	<b>C Fees, Charges or Other Receipts Credited to Fund</b>	<b>D Program or Activity Expenses Payable from Fund</b>	<b>E Restrictions or Conditions on Expenses Payable from Fund</b>	<b>F Fiscal Years</b>
Council on Aging Community Events	Council on Aging Department	Funds from commu- nity events and programs	Community event- related expenses		Fiscal Year 2021 and subsequent years

**Advisory Committee Recommendation and Rationale:**

Removing the restriction will expand and/or increase the availability of programs with no additional cost to tax payers as the cost of part-time staff will be covered and constrained by program participation fees.

### **Article 3: Personal Property Exemption Threshold Amendment**

THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS APPROVAL OF ARTICLE 3 BY A VOTE OF 8-0-0

#### **Background:**

This article proposes to increase the exemption for “Personal Property” that applies to businesses in Foxboro. The term “Personal Property” is used here to refer only to assets owned by a business, which is a bit confusing; the article does not affect residential taxes or vehicle excise tax bills.

By increasing the exemption for businesses from \$750 to \$5000, an additional 200 businesses will benefit by being exempt from the Personal Property tax (currently only 60 businesses out of 689 are exempt). The proposed exemption also benefits the town by eliminating the need to monitor and collect some relatively small tax bills. The total amount of newly-exempt tax revenue (about \$10,000) will be spread across the entire commercial class, so this proposal does not result in any lost tax revenue for the town.

#### **Advisory Committee Recommendation and Rationale:**

Based on the above determinations, the Advisory Committee recommends approval of this article.

### **Article 4: Acceptance of Souza Avenue as a Public Way**

THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS APPROVAL OF ARTICLE 4 BY A VOTE OF 7-0-1

This proposal requests the town’s approval to accept Souza Avenue as a public way. Souza Avenue is part of a new subdivision off East Belcher Street. This development was permitted by the Planning Board under the Subdivision Control Law and inspected by the Department of Public Works. The project has been constructed in compliance with the approved design plans and undergone the required evaluation period.

### **Article 5: Acceptance of Barros Lane as a Public Way**

THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS APPROVAL OF ARTICLE 5 BY A VOTE OF 7-0-1

This proposal requests the town’s approval to accept Barros Lane as a public way. Barros Lane is part of a new subdivision off East Belcher Street. This development was permitted by the Planning Board under the Subdivision Control Law and inspected by the Department of Public Works. The project has been constructed in compliance with the approved design plans and undergone the required evaluation period.