

This report to voters contains the recommendations of the Finance Committee on all Town and School District warrant articles that have a financial impact. The product before you is the result of effective collaboration between the Finance Committee and all Boards which resulted in a series of articles that reflect the needs of the community balanced against the financial impact shared by all.

The Finance Committee adopted the following objective at the start of the budgeting period:

“It is the Finance Committee’s position that it would be prudent for the Town and School Districts to propose budgets that do not include increased expenses. Any proposed increases, especially for new or expanded programs or services, should be set forth in separate warrant articles. We will also look carefully at the effects of decreased revenues on the tax rate.”

The Finance Committee has been meeting with Town and School officials over the past five months discussing the financial and operational impact of the proposed warrant articles included in this mailer. Some of the articles before you have been changed based on collaboration between the Finance Committee and the various Boards. The 9 members of the Finance Committee represent a cross section from our community, and although we may all have different views on the various articles, we were able to work together with the various boards to reach a consensus on the warrant articles.

If the voters accept our recommendations the impact on the anticipated tax rate would be \$17.91 for the town and school portion ONLY, compared to \$17.16 in 2011. This would result in a tax increase of \$187.50 based on a home assessed at \$250,000.