

TOWN OF LINCOLN, MASSACHUSETTS
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING: Saturday, March 24, 2007 - 9:30 a.m.
ANNUAL ELECTION: Monday, March 26, 2007 - 7:30 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

WARRANT



TOWN OF LINCOLN

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

MIDDLESEX, Ss

To either of the Constables of the Town of Lincoln in said County:

GREETINGS:

In the name of the Commonwealth you are hereby required to notify the legal voters of said Town of Lincoln qualified to vote at Town Meeting for the transaction of Town Affairs to meet for the annual election at the Smith School Gymnasium on Monday, the twenty sixth day of March, 2007 next, starting at 7:30 a.m., then and there to act on the following Article 1, **and also to meet for the annual town meeting in the Donaldson Auditorium in said Lincoln on Saturday, the twenty fourth day of March, 2007 at 9:30 a.m., then and there to act on the following articles, except Article 1**, by posting a copy of this Warrant, by you attested, in said Town, seven days at least before the 24th day of March next."

The polls for voting the ballot on Monday, March 26th will be opened at 7:30 a.m. and will be closed at 8:00 p.m.

Any person requiring this warrant in a larger print format, or anyone requiring handicap related assistance at the town meeting, please contact the Selectmen's Office at 781-259-2600 prior to Monday, March 19, 2007. Every reasonable attempt will be made to provide the necessary assistance.

Note: Town meeting shall be continued to Tuesday, March 27, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. if needed.

ARTICLE 1

To bring in their votes for one or more members for each of the following offices;

- Town Clerk for one year
- Selectman for three years
- Treasurer for one year
- Collector of Taxes for three years
- Assessor for three years
- School Committee member for three years
- School Committee member for three years
- Water Commissioner for three years
- Board of Health member for three years
- Cemetery Commissioner for three years
- Planning Board member for five years
- Commissioner of Trust Funds for three years
- Trustee of Bemis Fund for three years
- Trustee of Lincoln Library for three years
- DeCordova & Dana Museum and Park Trustee for four years
- Housing Commission member for three years
- Recreation Committee member for three years
- Regional School Committee member (2) for three years

And further, to answer the following questions:

1. Shall the Town of Lincoln be allowed to assess an additional \$350,000 in real estate and personal property taxes for the purposes of supplementing the operating budget for the fiscal year beginning July first, 2007?

YES NO

2. Shall the Town of Lincoln be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so-called, the amounts required to pay for the bond issued in order to purchase a new fire truck and associated equipment, including all costs incidental and related thereto?

YES NO

3. Shall the Town vote to have its elected Treasurer become an appointed Treasurer of the Town?

YES NO

4. Shall the Town vote to have its elected Collector of Taxes become an appointed Collector of Taxes of the Town?

YES NO

5. Shall the licensing authority in the Town of Lincoln be authorized to grant 1 license for the sale of wine and malt beverages to be drunk on the premises?

YES NO

This question proposes acceptance of a special act adopted by the General Court, the text of which was approved by the March 25, 2006, Annual Town Meeting. If accepted by the voters of the Town, the special act will authorize the Board of Selectmen, as licensing authority, to issue a single license for the sale of wine and malt beverages to be consumed on the premises where beverages are sold to consumers. State liquor license laws, which require, among other things, that the Board of Selectmen provide notice to abutters, hold a hearing, and determine that the applicant is of good character and has premises suitable for such purposes, will apply to the issuance of the license. Acceptance of this act will not authorize the Board of Selectmen to issue any liquor licenses other than the single license for the sale of wine and malt beverages to be consumed on the premises.

ARTICLE 2

To bring in their votes for any Committees, Commissioners, Trustees, and other officers required by law to be elected by ballot or otherwise.

Selectmen

ARTICLE 3

To hear and act upon the reports of the Town Officers, Committees, Commissioners and Trustees.

Selectmen

ARTICLE 4

To fix the salaries and compensation of the several elective officers of the Town and to determine whether any Department, Board or Committee shall be authorized to employ for additional compensation any of its members and to fix additional compensation of such members; or take any other action relative thereto.

Selectmen

ARTICLE 5

To see if the Town will vote to accept Chapter 73, Section 4 of the Act of 1986 as amended by Chapter 126 of the Acts of 1988, for the purpose of increasing the real estate tax

exemptions by 100 percent to all persons who qualify for property tax exemptions under Clauses 17, 17C, 17C1/2, 17D, 22, 22A, 22B, 22C, 22D, 22E, 37, 37A, 41, 41B and 41C under Chapter 59, Section 5 of the Massachusetts General Laws; or take any other action relative thereto.

Assessors

ARTICLE 6

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money by taxation, by transfer from available funds, by borrowing or any combination thereof, to fund the Town's Senior Tax Work-off Program, established pursuant to Massachusetts General Law Chapter 59, Section 5K, and by vote of the Town under Article 6 of the 2003 Annual Town Meeting; or take any other action relative thereto.

Selectmen

ARTICLE 7

To raise and appropriate money for the necessary and expedient purposes of the Town; or take any other action relative thereto.

Finance Committee

ARTICLE 8

To see if the Town will vote to accept a gift of land from the estate of Florence S. Hollingsworth, shown as Assessors Map 120, Block 5, Lot 0 and located at 18 Twin Pond Lane, Lincoln, Massachusetts, for general municipal purposes and the purpose of conveyance, and further, to authorize the Board of Selectmen to convey said property, upon such terms and conditions as the Board of Selectmen deem appropriate, including, but not limited to, conveyance of the property to the Board of Directors of the Town of Lincoln Municipal Affordable Housing Trust Fund for purposes consistent with G.L. c.44, §55C for the creation and preservation of affordable housing in municipalities for the benefit of low and moderate income households, or take any other action relative thereto.

Selectmen

ARTICLE 9

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money by taxation, by transfer from available funds, by borrowing or any combination thereof, to purchase a new slide-in sander for the DPW, and to see if the Town will authorize the disposal by sale or otherwise of any related excess equipment; or take any other action relative thereto.

Selectmen

ARTICLE 10

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money by taxation, by transfer from available funds, by borrowing or any combination thereof, to purchase a new one ton pickup truck with plow for the DPW, and to see if the Town will authorize the disposal by sale or otherwise of excess vehicles and equipment; or take any other action relative thereto.

Selectmen

ARTICLE 11

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money by taxation, by transfer from available funds, by borrowing or any combination thereof, to purchase a Bobcat broom attachment for the DPW; or take any other action relative thereto.

Selectmen

ARTICLE 12

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money by taxation, by transfer from available funds, by borrowing or any combination thereof, to purchase three cruisers and related equipment for the Lincoln Police Department, and to see if the Town will authorize the disposal by sale or otherwise of excess vehicles and equipment; or take any other action relative thereto.

Selectmen

ARTICLE 13

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money by taxation, by transfer from available funds, by borrowing or any combination thereof, to purchase necessary emergency radio system fiber network components for the Town Public Safety departments including fiber, installation, and other related costs; or take any other action relative thereto.

Selectmen

ARTICLE 14

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money by taxation, by transfer from available funds, by borrowing or any combination thereof, to purchase new computer equipment for Town departments including hardware, software, licenses, installation, training, maintenance and other related costs; or take any other action relative thereto.

Selectmen

ARTICLE 15

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money by taxation, by transfer from available funds, by borrowing or any combination thereof to purchase computer technology including hardware, software, licenses, installation, training, maintenance and other related costs for the Lincoln schools; or take any other action relative thereto.

School Committee

ARTICLE 16

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money by taxation, by transfer from available funds, by borrowing or any combination thereof to purchase replacement hardware for various Lincoln School doors; or take any other action relative thereto.

School Committee

ARTICLE 17

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money by taxation, by transfer from available funds, by borrowing or any combination thereof to complete Lincoln school classroom maintenance; or take any other action relative thereto.

School Committee

ARTICLE 18

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money by taxation, by transfer from available funds, by borrowing or any combination thereof to purchase and install a new field house curtain at the Brooks School; or take any other action relative thereto.

School Committee

ARTICLE 19

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money by taxation, by transfer from available funds, by borrowing or any combination thereof to repair and replace the joint seals in the Brooks Field House walls; or take any other action relative thereto.

School Committee

ARTICLE 20

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money by taxation, by transfer from available funds, by borrowing or any combination thereof to replace the deck,

conduct asbestos abatement and replace certain windows at the Hartwell School; or take any other action relative thereto.

School Committee

ARTICLE 21

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money by taxation, by transfer from available funds, by borrowing or any combination thereof to replace an equipment and vehicle storage shed at the DPW site; or take any other action relative thereto.

Selectmen

ARTICLE 22

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money by taxation, by transfer from available funds, by borrowing or any combination thereof to install a vent in the elevator at the Library; or take any other action relative thereto.

Library Trustees

ARTICLE 23

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation, by transfer from available funds, by borrowing or any combination thereof the sum of \$450,000 more or less, for the costs of purchasing and equipping a new fire truck; including all costs incidental and related thereto; and that to meet said appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectmen, is authorized to borrow the full amount of such appropriation under General Laws Chapter 44 or any other general or special law, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town in connection therewith; provided, however, that the vote taken hereunder shall be expressly contingent upon approval by the voters of a ballot question to exclude the amounts required to pay for the bonds or notes from the provisions of Proposition 2-1/2, so-called, or take any other action relative thereto.

Selectmen

ARTICLE 24

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money by taxation, by transfer from available funds, by borrowing or any combination thereof, to be used for the construction, reconstruction, and/or repair of roads and bridges and related costs pursuant to the State's Chapter 90 and/or other state roadway reimbursement programs, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept and expend any funds received from the Commonwealth for such purposes; or take any other action relative thereto.

Selectmen

ARTICLE 25

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money by taxation, by transfer from available funds, by borrowing or any combination thereof, to be used for the repair and maintenance of certain Town buildings; or take any other action relative thereto.

Selectmen

ARTICLE 26

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money by taxation, by transfer from available funds, by borrowing or any combination thereof, for the repair and maintenance of the Lincoln Library; or take any other action relative thereto.

Library Trustees

ARTICLE 27

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money by taxation, by transfer from available funds, by borrowing or any combination thereof, to be used for the purchase of necessary consulting and technical services required in the comprehensive long term planning process; or take any other action relative thereto.

Planning Board

ARTICLE 28

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money by taxation, by transfer from available funds, by borrowing or any combination thereof, to be used for the funding of necessary salary adjustments associated with the reclassification of several staff positions; or take any other action relative thereto.

Personnel Board

ARTICLE 29

To receive and act on a recommendation from the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee with regard to the presentation of the annual Bright Light Award, and to raise and appropriate the necessary funds to support this award; or take any other action relative thereto.

Selectmen

ARTICLE 30

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from free cash or any other source of funds a sum of money to reduce the total amount to be raised by taxation pursuant to the votes previously taken under Article 7 of this Warrant; or any other article of this Warrant authorizing the appropriation of funds; or take any other action relative thereto.

Finance Committee

ARTICLE 31

To hear a report from the Community Preservation Committee on the Fiscal Year 2008 Community Preservation Budget, and to appropriate or reserve for later appropriation monies for the administrative expenses of the Community Preservation Committee, the payment of debt service, the undertaking of Community Preservation projects and all other necessary and proper expenses for the year, and to determine whether such sums shall be raised from Community Preservation Fund, transferred from available funds, borrowed, or any combination of these methods; or take any other action relative thereto.

Community Preservation Committee

ARTICLE 32

To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to G.L. c.41, §1B, to make the elected position of Treasurer an appointed Treasurer of the Town, such appointment to be made by the Board of Selectmen for a term not to exceed three years; provided, however that before such change may take effect, the change must be approved by the voters of the Town at the 2007 Annual Town Election, and further, that any individual elected to the position of Treasurer at the 2007 Annual Town Election shall hold said office and perform the duties thereof only until such time as the appointment to said office is otherwise made, or take any other action relative thereto.

Selectmen

ARTICLE 33

To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to G.L. c.41, §1B, to make the elected position of Collector of Taxes an appointed Collector of Taxes of the Town, such appointment to be made by the Board of Selectmen for a term not to exceed three years; provided, however that before such change may take effect, the change must be approved by the voters of the Town at the 2007 Annual Town Election, and further, that any individual elected to the position of Collector of Taxes at the 2007 Annual Town Election shall hold said office and perform the duties thereof only until such time as the appointment to said office is otherwise made, or take any other action relative thereto.

Selectmen

ARTICLE 34

To see if the Town will accept for Board of Selectmen, the Planning Board, the Zoning Board of Appeals, and the Conservation Commission holding adjudicatory hearings in the Town, the provisions of G.L. c.39, §23D, which provide that a member of a board, committee, or commission holding an adjudicatory hearing shall not be disqualified from voting in the matter solely due to the member's absence from one session of such hearing, provided that certain conditions are met, such as when a board member is disqualified from voting solely due to that member's absence; or when the board member is absent from a single session of an adjudicatory hearing; and when there is an available recording or transcription of the hearing at which a member is absent; and the absent member review the evidence submitted at the missed hearing and file a certification to said effect; and the member certifies that he or she has examined all evidence received at the missed session and provided further that such acceptance shall be applicable to all adjudicatory hearings opened on or after the effective date of the vote taken hereunder, or take any other action relative thereto.

Planning Board

ARTICLE 35

To see if the Town will amend the Zoning Bylaw to require site plan review for religious and educational uses listed under Section 3 G.L. c. 40A, or take any other action relative thereto: (note: additions are shown in bold italicized type and deletions are crossed out)

- 6.1 (g) religious or educational uses governed by G.L. c. 40A, s. 3. **(subject to Section 19.1.e)**
- 9.1 (h) religious or educational uses governed by G.L. c. 40A, s. 3. ~~(which are permitted without the requirement of a site plan).~~ **(subject to Section 19.1.e)**
- 19.1 (e) In conjunction with any application for a building permit involving land or structures devoted to religious or educational uses governed by G.L. c. 40A, s. 3, the applicant may also submit a written request for exemption from any one or more, or all, of the development regulations relating to the bulk and height of structures, yard sizes, lot area, setbacks, frontage, open space, width of lot, signage, parking and building coverage for the district in which the applicant's land lies. Such request shall be accompanied by appropriate information **in the form of a site plan pursuant to Section 17.1-17.6 for the above listed development regulations, and other information that** may include financial information concerning costs, which demonstrates that the regulations(s) from which an exemption is requested would be unreasonable as applied to such land or structures. Upon receipt of such an exemption request, the following procedure shall apply:

- (1) The Building Inspector shall promptly transmit a copy of the building permit application, together with **the site plan and** all additional information submitted by the applicant, to the Planning Board for its review.

(2) The Planning Board shall consider and determine **at a public hearing** whether the applicant has adequately demonstrated that compliance with the development regulations from which exemption is sought would substantially diminish or detract from the usefulness of the proposed structure, or impair the character of the applicant's setting or campus, without appreciably advancing the purposes of this By-law, and if the Planning Board determines that such an effect has been so demonstrated, which one or more of such development regulations shall be deemed not to apply to such religious or educational land or structures. The Planning Board shall report its determination in writing to the Building Inspector within ~~(twenty-eight (28) days of its receipt of the exemption request and appropriate supporting information)~~ **thirty (30) days of the close of the public hearing.**

Planning Board

ARTICLE 36

To see if the Town will amend the Zoning Bylaw Section 12.6 to require all cell tower applicants to submit correspondence between the FAA and applicants to the Planning Board for review, or take any other action relative thereto: (note: additions are shown in bold italicized type and deletions are crossed out)

Add a new Section 12.6.4 (i): ***Copies of all written or electronic communications that occurred prior to the pre-application conference between the applicant and the FAA concerning the proposed site.***

Add a new Section 12.6.4.2: ***Unless waived by the Planning Board, the applicant shall electronically transmit to the Planning Board or its representative a copy of all written and electronic communications to be submitted by the applicant to the FAA at least 14 days prior to such submission. The applicant shall electronically transmit to the Planning Board or its representative a copy of all written and electronic communications received from the FAA within three days of receipt by the applicant.***

Insert a new sentence in Section 12.6.6 (f) before the final sentence: ***The Planning Board may require installation of a cutoff fixture to limit the projection of stray light below the horizon.***

Add a new Section 12.6.6 (q): ***Acoustic emissions shall be inaudible on neighboring parcels in residential zoning districts.***

Add a new Section 12.6.6 (r): ***In the event the FAA requires aviation safety lighting, the applicant shall file an application with the FAA to waive such requirement. Communications to and from the FAA shall comply with Section 12.6.4.2.***

Planning Board

ARTICLE 37

To see if the Town will amend the Zoning Bylaw with various housekeeping corrections as follows, or take any other action relative thereto: (note: additions are shown in bold italicized type and deletions are crossed out)

- 1) Amend the Table of Contents and Section 12 to replace the words "~~**North Lincoln Planning District**~~" with the words "**North Lincoln Overlay District**".
- 2) Amend Section 6.3 (a) by replacing the word "~~**cellar**~~" with the word "**basement**".
- 3) Amend Section 6.5.1.b to add at the end of the paragraph "**(See figure 5 at the end of the bylaw)**"
- 4) Amend Section 12.7.2 in the first sentence by replacing the words "~~**votes to approve**~~" with the words "**approves by majority vote**".
- 5) Amend Section 16.2 (b) and (c) by adding the word "**unlit**" before the words "accessory sign".
- 6) Amend Section 16.2 (d) by adding the words "**Bedford Road and Morningside Lane,**" after the words South Great Road.
- 7) Amend Section 16.5 as follows:
 - a) **All other signs require a special permit from the Planning Board and a permit from the Building Inspector.**
 - b) In granting a special permit for a sign, the Planning Board may impose such conditions, safeguards, limitations, and restrictions as it deems appropriate and which are not inconsistent with any of the provisions of the Zoning Bylaw. The Board may grant a special permit if in its sole judgment the sign will not be detrimental to the public safety and welfare and will be in harmony with the general purpose and intent of the Zoning Bylaw. Special Permits shall only be issued following a public hearing in accordance with Chapter 40A of the General Laws. Special permits for signs shall be granted for a period not to exceed ~~**three (3) 3**~~ years and shall only be renewable upon application to the Planning Board
 - c) In B-1, B-2, or B-3 districts, one wall-mounted or parapet-mounted accessory sign will be permitted for each separate and distinct place of business located on the ground level of a building, provided the design (colors, font, size and style, method of lighting , and form of sign) has been approved by the Planning Board. The area of such sign shall not exceed 1 square foot for every linear foot of ground level storefront, such linear footage to be measured on the longest wall of storefront and not to exceed 30 square feet in any event.
- 8) Amend Section 23 definition Gross Floor Area, Calculated by deleting the words "~~**the portion of**~~" before the words "any attic space".

Planning Board

ARTICLE 38

To see if the Town will vote to require a permanent conservation restriction on open space land within new cluster subdivisions by amending the zoning bylaw Section 6.6.2 (h) iii as follows, or take any other action relative thereto: (note: additions are shown in bold italicized type and deletions are crossed out)

(h) provision shall be made so that Open Land shall be owned:

- i. by the Town of Lincoln
- ii. by the Lincoln Land Conservation Trust; or
- iii. an association of the **land owners** ~~owners of the land that may be~~ approved by the Planning Board, **that grants a permanent conservation restriction to either the Town or the Lincoln Land Conservation Trust. The conservation restriction shall include with provisions for limited** easements for recreational use by the residents of the Town, **and provide sufficient rights to the town provided that the town shall have sufficient rights to enable it** to enforce compliance with the restrictions imposed by the Planning Board as conditions of its special permit;

Planning Board

ARTICLE 39

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town Bylaws by inserting a new bylaw, Article 23, Solicitors, Peddlers, and Transient Vendors, a comprehensive general bylaw governing solicitors, peddlers, and transient vendors; a copy of which bylaw is available at the Town Clerks office, or take any other action relative thereto.

Selectmen

ARTICLE 40

To see if the Town will vote to delete the text of Article XXI of the Town Bylaws, Demolition of Significant Buildings or Structures, in its entirety, and replace it with a new bylaw, a copy of which is on file with the Town Clerk, for the purpose of streamlining and clarifying the existing process for demolishing significant buildings or structures, or take any other action relative thereto.

Historic Commission

ARTICLE 41

To see if the Town will vote to amend the General Bylaws, Article XVIII, Wetlands Protection, for the purpose of further protecting the wetlands resources in the Town, a copy of such proposed General By-law amendment or amendments is on file at the Town Clerk, or take any other action relative thereto.

Conservation Commission

ARTICLE 42

To see if the Town will vote to expand the Historic District to include certain additional properties located on Conant Road; or take any other action relative thereto.

Historic District Commission

ARTICLE 43

To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of Section 1 of Chapter 137 of the Acts of 2003, as amended by Chapter 77 of the Acts of 2005, which authorizes the Town of Lincoln to pay to Town employees who are called to military service the difference between their military base pay and the amount they would have received as a Town employee, or take any other action relative thereto.

Veterans Agent

ARTICLE 44

To see if the Town will vote to accept the recommendation of the Town Flag Committee to create a town flag; or take any other action relative thereto.

Selectmen

ARTICLE 45 Report from Green Energy Committee

To see if the Town will vote to hear a report from the Green Energy Committee; or take any other action relative thereto.

Selectmen

ARTICLE 46


To see if the Town will vote to reauthorize revolving accounts previously established by vote of the Town under Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 44, Section 53E ½, for the following purposes: school bus fees, pre-school tuitions, fire alarm maintenance fees, firearms licenses fees and housing rental income, said fees to be expended by the authorized entity without further appropriation; or take any other action relative thereto.

Selectmen

Hereof fail not and make return of this Warrant with your doings, thereon to the Town Clerk, at or before the time for the meeting aforesaid. Given under our hands this the 20TH day of February in the year of our Lord two thousand and seven.


Sarah Cannon Holden, Chair


Sara A. Mattes


Gary/A. Taylor

SELECTMEN OF LINCOLN

Glossary

Debt Exclusion and Capital Exclusion: Proposition 2½ allows a town to raise monies for capital projects or for the payment of debt service costs using either a **capital** or **debt exclusion**, respectively. Unlike the override, which results in a permanent increase in the town's levy limit, a **capital exclusion** is added to the levy limit or ceiling only for the year in which the project is being undertaken. Likewise, **debt exclusion** is added to the levy limit or levy ceiling for the life of the debt only. Both of these exclusions require a 2/3 vote of the Selectmen in order to be placed on a ballot, with a majority of the electorate needed for authorization.

Free Cash: This is money that had been appropriated but not spent for various budget line items together with unforeseen revenues. These monies are certified annually by the Department of Revenue as the town's **free cash**.

Levy (Tax), Levy Ceiling, and Levy Limit: The property **tax levy** is revenue raised through real and personal property taxes. Municipal revenues are raised through the tax levy, State Aid, and local receipts. The tax levy is the largest source of revenue.

Proposition 2½ places constraints on the magnitude of the levy imposed by a town as well as the amount by which the levy can be increased from one year to the next. The two limits on property taxes imposed by Proposition 2½ are:

- **levy ceiling** - This establishes an overall cap on the levy. Ordinarily a town cannot levy more than 2.5% of the total full and fair cash value of all taxable real and personal property.
- **levy limit** - The maximum levy allowed in a given year is the **levy limit**. This will always be equal to or less than the **levy ceiling**. The levy limit for any fiscal year amounts to the previous year's levy limit (less excluded debt) increased by 2.5% plus new growth, exclusions, and any override authorized by the electorate.

Levy Increase: The difference in the levy between one year and the next is the **levy increase**. This number is often represented as a percent. The town may set its levy at any amount up to its levy limit. It is important to recognize that the actual levy may increase more than 2.5% in a given year. This is allowable under Proposition 2½.

Local Revenue (Receipts): **Local revenue** or **local receipts** include excise taxes, rental fees, license and permit fees, investment income, cell tower income, and other “pay for service” fee income, such as recreation and ambulance fees.

New Growth: Proposition 2½ allows the town to increase its **levy limit** annually by an amount based on the value of new construction and other growth in the tax base that is not the result of revaluation. This provision allows the town to respond to **new growth** that may result in additional municipal costs; for example, the construction of new housing may result in increased school enrollments and therefore higher education costs. **New growth** becomes part of the levy limit base.

Override: Proposition 2½ allows a town to assess taxes in excess of the annual 2.5% increase plus **new growth** by passing an **override**. When an **override** is passed, the **levy limit** for the year is increased by the amount of the **override**. This results in a permanent increase in the town's **levy**

limit. An **override** requires a majority vote of the Selectmen to be placed on a ballot. A majority vote of the electorate is needed for approval.

Reserve Fund: This fund, established by the annual Town Meeting, is under the control of the Finance Committee. Transfers may be made from it for unforeseen expenditures. The limit on the size of this fund is 5% of the **tax levy** of the current fiscal year.

SBAB: This refers to State Aid available to the Town or the Regional School District through the **State Building Assistance Board (SBAB)** as partial reimbursement for the capital and interest costs of our school construction projects.

Stabilization Fund: The **stabilization fund** is a reserve account that allows the Town to put aside money in anticipation of future expenses.

Tax Rate: The **tax rate** is the amount of tax charged by the Town expressed in terms of a unit of the tax base: for example, \$9.35 per \$1000 of the assessed valuation of taxable property.