

## **November 2023 Town Meeting – Article 6, recommendation and explanation**

**ARTICLE 6:** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money to fund the engineering, design and permitting of the wastewater collection system for the northeastern part of the Maravista peninsula and the Teaticket Path peninsula, the booster pump station and force main to convey the wastewater to the Town's Main Wastewater Treatment Facility, and the expansion of the Town's existing northernmost open sand beds for discharge of treated wastewater, and, to the extent any funds remain unexpended for such projects, such unexpended funds may be applied to the payment of a portion of the costs of construction of the designed projects, including without limitation, all costs incidental or related thereto, and to determine how the same shall be raised and by whom expended. Or do or take any other action on the matter. On request of the Select Board.

**RECOMMENDATION (Finance Committee):** That the sum of \$3,800,000 is appropriated to fund the engineering, design and permitting of the wastewater collection system for the northeastern part of the Maravista peninsula and the Teaticket Path peninsula, the booster pump station and force main to convey the wastewater to the Town's Main Wastewater Treatment Facility, and the expansion of the Town's existing northernmost open sand beds for discharge of treated wastewater, and, to the extent any funds remain unexpended for such projects, such unexpended funds may be applied to the payment of a portion of the costs of construction of the designed projects, including without limitation, all other costs incidental or related thereto; that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer with the approval of the Select Board is authorized to borrow \$3,800,000 and issue bonds or notes therefor under Chapter 44 of the General Laws and/or Chapter 29C of the General Laws; that the Treasurer with the approval of the Select Board is authorized to borrow all or a portion of such amount from the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust established pursuant to Chapter 29C and in connection therewith to enter into a financing agreement and/or security agreement with the Trust and otherwise to contract with the Trust and the Department of Environmental Protection with respect to such loan and for any federal or state aid available for the projects or for the financing thereof; that the Select Board or other appropriate local body or official is authorized to enter into a project regulatory agreement with the Department of Environmental Protection, to expend all funds available for the projects and to take any other action necessary or convenient to carry out the projects; and that the Select Board is authorized to contract for and expend any federal or state aid or other funds available for the projects, provided that the amount of the authorized

borrowing shall be reduced by the amount of such aid received prior to the issuance of bonds or notes under this vote.

Approval of this Article requires a 2/3 Town Meeting vote.

**EXPLANATION:** This funding is required to design and permit Phase 1 of the wastewater project outlined in the Town's Targeted Watershed Management Plan for Great Pond, approved by the state in January of 2023. Phase 1 includes the wastewater collection system for the northeastern part of Maravista and the Teaticket Path peninsula, the booster pump station and force main to convey the wastewater to the Town's Main Wastewater Treatment Facility, and the expansion of the Town's existing northernmost open sand beds for discharge of treated wastewater. The Water Quality Management Committee and Town staff have been thorough and methodical in evaluating potential locations for discharge of treated wastewater. The expansion of existing sand beds at the Wastewater Treatment Facility was studied by the same UMass Dartmouth research team that prepared all of the estuary reports on which the state based its nitrogen limits for all estuaries in Falmouth. This study concluded Herring Brook salt marsh would be able to assimilate the nitrogen from the planned increase in flow from this project. Permitting an expansion of the existing discharge site (sand beds number 14 and 15) is estimated to take place in about one year as compared to an estimated 4-7 years to permit an outfall pipe. The estimated permitting timelines for both of these discharge options could increase by several years if appealed. The Town is moving forward with preliminary studies to permit an outfall pipe. In the interim, using the existing sand beds is the quickest and most cost effective means to improve water quality for Great Pond without compromising water quality in West Falmouth Harbor. The funds for this project will be borrowed within the levy limit – i.e. without debt exemption – and as such there is no tax increase required for this article.