



Town of Concord
Finance Committee
22 Monument Square
P.O. Box 535
Concord, Massachusetts 01742

REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
February 4, 2016

The Finance Committee recommendations with respect to the two articles on the Warrant for the Special Town Meeting to be held February 4, 2016 are as follows:

Article 1: AMENDMENTS TO THE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT AGREEMENT OF THE MINUTEMAN REGIONAL VOCATIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Finance Committee recommends affirmative action on Article 1.

Statement in support of recommendation: The Finance Committee voted unanimously to recommend affirmative action on Article 1. Concord is one of the 16 founding members of the Minuteman regional school district. This vote makes significant changes to the Regional Agreement originally established in 1970. It amends issues of governance and the methodology for apportionment of operating and capital costs. Critical to the future of the regional district, it establishes new rules for the admission and withdrawal of member communities.

We recognize that these amendments introduce uncertainties surrounding the withdrawal of some current member towns, the sharing of future capital costs with non-member towns and the ultimate impact on Concord's cost share. However, we have concluded that the amendments to the Minuteman regional agreement are in Concord's best long-term interest in strengthening and sustaining this valuable educational resource.

Article 2: AUTHORIZE LONG-TERM LEASE FOR NAGOG POND GROUND-MOUNTED AND ROOFTOP SOLAR PANELS

The Finance Committee recommends affirmative action on Article 2

Statement in support of recommendation: Nagog Pond is located on the Acton-Littleton border. Concord owns the pond pursuant to an 1884 act of the Massachusetts legislature. The Nagog Pond surface water supply is a vital component of the Town of Concord's long-term needs for a high-quality water system. As part of a major capital investment in a new water filtration plant to replace the existing ozone treatment plant (1996) and to replace the 100-year old water intake pipe, the Town plans to have a ground and rooftop-mounted solar array installed at its Nagog Pond Water Filtration Plant. This facility is being sized to generate 349,000 kW, which would be about 25% of the energy requirements of the Water Treatment Plant. The Town would seek to connect this solar power to Eversource, the electric utility serving Acton, and use all of the power supply at the Treatment Plant site. At current prices, the expected cost savings is \$50,000 per year, and at projected future prices the annual savings would grow significantly.

Beyond the obvious and significant cost savings, the project advances several town goals, including:

1. The Towns' Sustainable Municipal Practices Policy;
2. Criteria specified in Concord's designation as a Green Community in the Commonwealth's *Green Communities* program;
3. Criteria specified in the Envision® public works infrastructure sustainability rating system which will be employed in the design and operation of this facility.