

ARTICLE 34: Pre School Voucher Program for 3 year old children To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds the sum of **\$100,000**, or any other sum, for the purpose of partially paying the cost of preschool for three year old children of Wellfleet residents, provided, however that no sums shall be expended hereunder unless and until the Town shall have voted to assess an additional **\$100,000** in real estate and personal property taxes pursuant to the provisions of G. L. c. 59, §21C (Proposition 2½), or do or act anything thereon.

Majority vote required

Board of Selectmen: Recommends 5-0.

Finance Committee: Recommends 7-0.

SUMMARY: This article would create a fund to be administered by the Human Services Committee to provide vouchers to Wellfleet residents in an amount not to exceed **\$7,000** per child to partially fund the cost of preschool for three-year-olds.

Effect on Property Taxes: The cost of \$100,000 would add 4.6 cents to the tax rate in the first year and would cost the owner of a median priced (\$538,524) single-family home \$24.55.

ARTICLE 35: Shellfish Revolving Fund To see if the Town will vote to establish a Revolving Fund for Shellfish Propagation in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53E½, which will be kept separate and apart from all other monies by the Treasurer, and in which shall be deposited seventy-five percent (75%) of the receipts that are collected into the existing Shellfish Fund by said Town from the issuance of Commercial and Recreational Shellfish and Eel Permits, Aquaculture License Fees, and any other fees relating to the management, oversight and propagation of shellfish under the shellfish department's purview that may be established in the future. The principal of this fund shall be spent under the direction of the Shellfish Constable with the advice of the Shellfish Advisory Board subject to final approval of the Board of Selectmen, for the propagation, cultivation, protection and study of shellfish, including all or part of municipal salaries and fringe benefits of propagation employees. Interest earned on any revolving fund balance shall be treated as general fund revenue of the Town.
Or take any action in relation thereto.

Board of Selectmen: Recommends 5-0

Finance Committee: Recommends 5-0-1.

Shellfish Advisory Board: Recommends 7-0

SUMMARY: The purpose of this article is to create revolving fund for shellfish propagation in order to provide a sustainable shellfish resource, through propagation, for the benefit of commercial and recreational harvesters. The Shellfish Department's propagation efforts include the seeding of quahogs and oysters in all Wellfleet waterways which also contributes to improving water quality and natural oyster set in our harbor to benefit growers and spat collectors. The creation of this revolving fund takes the responsibility for funding the shellfish department's budget line 180 out of the taxpayer's pockets and puts it in the hands

of those who make their living in the shellfish industry and those who harvest shellfish recreationally. The Shellfish Propagation Revolving Fund revenues will be derived from shellfish grant revenue and permit fees. The Revolving Fund expenditures may be used for the propagation, cultivation, protection and study of shellfish only.

ARTICLE 36: Municipal Water System and Wastewater Funding: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from any available sources of funds the sum of \$120,000 for costs to 1.) review the municipal water system's operations and refine the Water Enterprise Fund's financial model and 2.) initiate implementation of the 208 Wastewater plan upon granting of the Watershed Permit by the Department of Environmental Protection; provided, however that no sums shall be expended hereunder unless and until the Town shall have voted to assess an additional \$120,000 in real estate and personal property taxes pursuant to the provisions of G. L. c. 59, §21C (Proposition 2 ½), or do or act anything thereon.

Majority vote required

Board of Selectmen: Recommends 5-0.

Finance Committee: Recommends 5-2.

Shellfish Advisory Board: Recommends 6-1

Board of Water Commissioners: 4-1

Comprehensive Wastewater Management Planning Committee: Recommends 3-0.

Board of Health: Reserve recommendation until town meeting.

SUMMARY:

The Water Commissioners, who are in charge of the Town's municipal water system, need to analyze their operations and refine their financial model. They currently have support from a Water System Clerk who is also a Town Committee Secretary, and a contractor who helps them with the management and monitoring of the technical operation of the System's infrastructure. There are no other staff members dedicated to the water system. More help will be needed to analyze and help with operations to meet their ongoing practical needs.

The Town is in the final stages of submitting a plan to the Department of Environmental Protection and the Cape Cod Commission for achieving consistent mitigation of the pollution of our watersheds, going forward. The Town has less capacity than needed to implement a State and Federally required wastewater plan and is required to do so under the State and EPA approved "208 Plan".

It is crucial for the Town to have financial resources readily available in the near future, for the use of consultants or other resources, in this time of transition, until it is no longer cost effective to do so. At that point the Town may look at hiring an employee to serve one, or both, of the departments and committees which have jurisdiction over our most precious resource.

Effect on Property Taxes: The cost of \$120,000 would add 5.5 cents to the tax rate in the first year and would cost the owner of a median priced (\$538,524) single-family home \$29.46.