

What was Fall Town Meeting Article 10?

- Article # 10 is a budget amendment article that increases the FY2018 budget by the amount of \$269,856
- Line item Budget amendments are routinely done as one article - not just in Billerica but in municipalities across the Commonwealth.



What was Fall Town Meeting Article 10?

- Towns often adjust their budgets in mid-year town meetings
- This budget amendment represents a .18% adjustment to the budget.
- It addresses paying for Medicare expenses, contract agreements, a special election (however not this one) **and adding staff and capital to the Cemetery, Parks and Trees Department.**



What was Article 10

	Original Budget	Amendment	Final Amended Budget
FY 2018 Town Budget	\$ 141,340,354	\$ 269,856	\$ 141,610,210

Detail of Motion

Account Number	Account Name	Amount
123-7060	Town Manager Contract Retro	\$ 15,000
162-7042	Elections Dept. Permanent PT	25,000
491-5110	Cemetery Personnel	\$ 29,856
491-5800	Cemetery Capital Outlay	100,000
91700-7042	Medicare	100,000

This is a simplified table presentation of the detail of the line items impacted by article 10



December 2nd, 2017 Special Election Information

This is how it was actually presented to Town Meeting:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$269,856 to amend various Fiscal Year 2018 budget line items; or act in relation thereto.

From: 491 Cemetery Parks/Trees			To: 491 Cemetery Parks/Trees			Difference
5110	Personnel	\$469,238.00	5110	Personnel	\$499,094.00	\$29,856.00
5800	Capital Outlay	\$0.00	5800	Capital Outlay	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00
From: 162 Elections Department			To: 162 Elections Department			
7042	Perm Part Time	\$17,780.00	7042	Perm Part Time	\$42,780.00	\$25,000.00
From: 91070 Town/School Shared Costs			To: 91070 Town/School Shared Costs			
7042	Medicare	\$1,033,240.00	7042	Medicare	\$1,133,240.00	\$100,000.00
From: 123 Town Manager			To: 123 Town Manager			
7060	123 Town Manager Contract Retro	\$0.00	7060	123 Town Manager Contract Retro	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
Total Budget Amendment:						\$269,856.00
Spring Approved FY2018 Budget						\$141,340,354.
Plus Article 10 Budget Amendment						\$269,856.
Amended FY2018 Budget						\$141,610,210

Budget Changes highlighted in yellow.



Was Article 10 unusual in the course of Town Meeting Business?

Billerica has routinely passed Budget Amendments at Fall Town Meeting.

The last three Fall Town Meeting Amendments demonstrate what typical budget amendments are:



December 2nd, 2017 Special Election Information

Examples from past Budgets Budget Amendment From FY2017

ARTICLE 12 – FISCAL YEAR 2017 BUDGET AMENDMENT

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$947,300 to amend the Fiscal Year 2017 Town and School Operating Budget as listed below; or act in relation thereto.

	Original		Final Amended	
	Appropriation	Amendment	Appropriation	
General Government	\$ 4,785,702	\$ 37,300	\$ 4,823,002	
Public Safety	18,319,190	25,000	18,344,190	
Public Works	7,502,847		7,502,847	
Public Schools	59,643,860		59,643,860	
Shawsheen	10,122,691		10,122,691	
Library and Recreation	1,924,980		1,924,980	
Human Services	1,025,810		1,025,810	
Shared Costs	31,614,184	885,000	32,499,184	
Total Budget	\$ 134,939,264	\$ 947,300	\$ 135,886,564	

Example
1



Submitted by the Town Manager; authorized by the Board of Selectmen

Examples from past Budgets Budget Amendment From FY2017

Example
1

91070-7020	Workers' Compensation	\$	150,000
210-5400	Police Supplies and Expenses		25,000
123-5110	Town Manager Personel		17,300
123-5190	Town Manager Contractual Obligations		20,000
91700-5966	Debt Stabilization Appropriation		735,000
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		\$	947,300
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This is the detail of last years budget amendment. It was 3 ½ times greater than this year. These amendments are similar to past and present budget amendments. It involves personnel and contract amendments like the other Fiscal Years.



December 2nd, 2017 Special Election Information

Examples from past Budgets Budget Amendment From FY2016

Example
2

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$75,000 to amend the Fiscal Year 2016 Town and School Operating Budget as listed below; or act in relation thereto.

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Account Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
19270-7058	Building Maintenance	\$25,000
91070-7042	Shared Cost – Medicare	\$50,000
TOTAL APPROPRIATION:		<u>\$75,000</u>

Submitted by the Town Manager; authorized by the Board of Selectmen

This is the detail of the FY2016 Budget Amendment where building maintenance and Medicare are in the same article similar to Article 10 of this year.



December 2nd, 2017 Special Election Information

Examples from past Budgets Budget Amendment From FY2015

Example
3

Fall Budget Amendments FY 2015

Raise and Appropriate:

123-5200	TM Contract Services	(45,000)
123-5110	TM Personnel	67,176
91070-7042	Medicare	150,000
210-5110	Police Personnel	130,000
220-5110	Fire Personnel	-
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		302,176

Free Cash Appropriation:

123-xxxx	Organizational Benchmark Study	45,000
510-xxxx	Compost Capital Expenditure	100,000
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		145,000

Budget Increase \$ 447,176

Original FY2015 Budget \$ 136,796,569

Amended FY2015 Budget \$ 137,243,745

The FY2015 Budget amendment, like Article 10 and the FY2016 amendment, contains a Medicare adjustment as well as personnel changes.



Examples from past Budgets What do they show?

- The types of amendments made in Article 10 are similar in nature to those made in the past three years.
- They also show that these are always done together in one article as a matter of routine and efficiency of the meeting.
- If there is a need to consider a particular line item separately a motion can be made to do so.



In Fact, An Attempt was made to vote the Cemetery Parks and Trees Line Items Separately.

- A motion was made to separate the Cemetery Parks and Trees line item from the rest of Article 10 by Town Meeting Member George Simolaris.
- The amendment failed, with fifty-five (55) in favor and one hundred eighteen (118) opposed, the motion LOST.



What does it mean to reverse Fall Town Meeting Article 10

Reversing Article 10 will put the Town in a deficit spending position which is viewed unfavorably by credit rating agencies at a time when the Town is borrowing significant funds for capital projects.



What does it mean to reverse Fall Town Meeting Article 10

**Defaulting on Union Contract
Obligations could result in
legal action against the Town
and legal costs for the Town.**



What does it mean to reverse Fall Town Meeting Article 10

**Reversing capital and
personnel costs for Cemetery
Parks and Trees will stop the
commitment of additional
resources to the Cemetery,
Parks and Trees Department**



Has the Town involved stakeholders in this discussion?

- The Town has been continually meeting with the School Department since October of 2014 to develop this plan.
- The Town Manager attended a Presidents meeting in March to open dialogue with Youth Organizations.
- The Town met with the Custodians Union in September to discuss transitional issues and hear their concerns.
- The Town is continuing dialogue by attending the upcoming Presidents Meeting November 9th.



What outreach has taken place to date?

- The Town met with Brian Roberts and Rich Glennon on October 20th and 26th to discuss how they maintain the fields and what resources they need.
- The Town met with Rick DeRosa and Gil Moreira of Billerica Soccer on October 17th
- The Town met with Ron Diorio of Girls Softball on October 31st to continue an open dialogue.
- The Town Met with Soccer, Girls Softball, Pop Warner and Little league in May to start the discussion on how they maintain the fields.



What critical planning elements have been agreed upon?

- Staffing added to Cemetery, Parks and Trees Department for the end of FY2018 budget to improve maintenance of exclusively Town Fields and Commons.
- Cemetery , Parks and Trees will be split up in the FY2019 Budget to create a Parks and Trees Department and a Cemetery Department.
- The Cemetery Department will have exclusive responsibility for the 67 acres of cemetery land in town.
- The Parks and Trees will have exclusive responsibility for All Town and Schools Fields and Town Commons and Tree care and maintenance (188 acres).



What critical planning elements have been agreed upon?

- The School Committee will be requested to act on transfer of all care and custody of school playing fields with the exception of the two new turf fields at the new high school site as of January 1, 2019.
- The fields are not being turned over on July 1st of 2018 because this would be in the middle of that playing season.
- This request will need to be committed to before Town Meeting votes on the FY2019 Budget in May of 2018.
- The School Committee took a unanimous vote to endorse these concepts on October 30th.



What critical planning elements have been agreed upon?

- As a planning tool it is understood in concept that there would be a revenue neutral transfer of funds from the School budget to the Town Budget Appropriation for Parks and Trees.
- This amount for planning purposes is estimated at \$156,000. It is also understood that this transfer may happen over the span of a couple of years through attrition and reorganizational initiatives brought on by the future of the new high school and Vining Schools.



What critical planning elements have been agreed upon?

- The permitting structure and process will be assessed and restructured by the Recreation Department over the next year and a half.
- A new permitting and fee structure will be implemented in FY2020.
- This will give the new Parks and Trees Department the opportunity to be in existence for one full year before any fees for youth organizations are implemented.



What critical planning elements have been agreed upon?

- The philosophy behind this plan is to implement fees that replace the cost previously borne by youth organizations for field maintenance.
- The ultimate goal being not to pass on any of this expense directly to Billerica Youth Participants.



How is it possible not to pass on fees to Billerica Families?

- This is possible because any additional costs would be absorbed by the tax levy.
- The worst case scenario projects a tax impact on the median household at 9 to 10 dollars annually.
- However this could be offset by fees generated by more robust recreation programs precipitated by greater field opportunities.
- This would reduce or possibly eliminate any tax impact.



How is the new Parks and Trees Department structured?

The new Parks and Trees Department will consist of 7 employees exclusively dedicated to Parks and Trees.

- 1 Superintendent
- 1 Foreman
- 3 Heavy Equipment Operators
- 2 Laborers
- Part Time Seasonal Help (help out with weekend activities).



Town/School Grounds Plan Update

How is the new Parks and Trees Department structured?

The new Parks and Trees Department will have a robust capital budget to acquire and maintain the necessary equipment portfolio through lease purchase: \$100,000.

- 2 Wing Bat Mowers (16 ft decks capable of 65 acres a week)
- 3 60 inch mowers.
- Pick Up Trucks
- Trailers
- Infield rakes
- Tree equipment



Who will be responsible for what with What?

- In the first year the Town will work alongside youth organizations and they will continue to line the fields.
- The Parks and Trees Department will be responsible for maintenance of 188 acres of Town and School Fields and Commons.
- It is understood that the demarcation of the school grounds and custodial responsibility documented by the school department will delineate what portion of school grounds care and custody is transferred to the town.



Who will be responsible for what with What?

- The School Department will be responsible for the two new turf fields.
- The Middlesex Sheriffs Office will continue to cut the lower VVP fields for the near future.
- Trash Pick-Up will be plan reevaluated with youth organizations and new trash pick up plan implemented .
- The Town will maintain areas around all accessory structures and fences and pathways.



Town/School Grounds Plan Update

Who will be responsible for what with What?

A Turf management program will be implemented based on the needs outlined by School Athletics, Recreation and Billerica Youth Organizations - Some elements are as follows:

- Cutting grass at regulation fields several times a week during season play.
- Maintaining grass at regulation fields at 1 inch.
- Spring and fall treatment programs.
- Irrigation of all regulation fields.
- Spring restorations of 13 infields as well as seasonal maintenance of infields.



Town/School Grounds Plan Update

Who will be responsible for what with What?

Early Spring, Late Fall Winter

- Installation, upgrade and maintenance of irrigation systems.
- Capital improvements to accessory structures – repairing fences, painting benches, dugouts and other small capital jobs.
- Maintenance of equipment.
- Training.
- Winter assignments as dictated by DPW Director (plowing, etc.)



Town/School Grounds Plan Update

What will Youth Organizations be responsible?

- In the first year they will still be responsible for lining fields.
- Small cap projects that they are willing to take on year by year in partnership with the Town (not unlike current practice)
- Redirecting efforts toward providing first class youth sports activities for Billerica Families

