



## MEMORANDUM

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**TO:** Board of Selectmen

**FROM:** John C. Curran, Town Manager

**CC:** Sue Aker, Cathy O'Dea

**SUBJECT:** Town Manager's Report, January 6, 2020

**DATE:** January 6, 2020

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### **CLAUSE 41C1/2**

This clause would replace the current 41C which is a fixed abatement of \$1,000 based on income and limited assets. Under the current clause approximately 165 households are eligible for the exemption. 41 C1/2 expands the amount of people eligible for an exemption. It does this by lessening the restriction on income and a removal of restrictions on assets. While this does increase the amount of people eligible for this benefit there is a question as to whether these individuals are truly in need of this aid. Lifting asset restrictions opens this category up to a whole host of people that may not truly need assistance. Similarly the larger income qualifiers may not truly target the neediest candidates for exemptions. The true impact of this statute on the overlay cannot be projected very easily and this statute is unlikely to be repealed if adopted. This statute has been adopted by only 2 communities since 2006.

A better approach may be to reassess the exemption limit under 41C and determine if an increase to the limit would be beneficial. This statute already serves the neediest population in Town and expanding assistance to this group may be a more significant way of helping those that truly need it. I would be happy to review 41C with the Assessor and come back with a recommendation for the BOS.

### **Budget**

The Budget Letter was distributed at the Department Heat Meeting of December 18<sup>th</sup>. I have attached the letter to this report.

### **IUPE Clerical Contract**

This contract was settled for the period of July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2023. It included COLAs for 2.3% in the first year, 2.1% in the second year and 2.1% in the last year. It also included reclassifications of five positions based on the classification study done by Human Resources Services in March of 2019.