

TOWN OF IPSWICH

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

May 13, 2008

Warrant Article Synopses

Prepared by:
Robert T. Markel
Town Manager

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ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

May 13, 2008

WARRANT ARTICLE SYNOPSES

ARTICLE 1 Consent Calendar

SUMMARY:

The first two items set the salaries for all elected officials as presented in the Town operating budget and designate the positions to be filled at the Town elections. The polls for this Town election will open at 7:00 a.m. and close at 8:00 p.m. This article authorizes payment-in-lieu-of-taxes of **\$275,000** to the Town from available funds in the Electric Light Department. In accordance with Massachusetts General Laws, this article authorizes the Board of Selectmen to appoint an Acting Town Manager during vacation, leave and the absence of the Town Manager with an exemption from the state conflict-of-interest law. Lastly, there are rescissions of unexpended funds from the following bond authorizations: 1) \$96,000 in unissued debt from a sewer project approved in Article 20 of the April 7, 2003 Annual Town Meeting; 2) \$159,000 in unissued debt from an addition to the 2003 sewer project authorized at the October 10, 2006 Special Town Meeting; 3) \$710,000 in unissued debt authorized at the April 2, 2007 Annual Town Meeting for the High Street Sewer Extension; and 4) \$64,984 in unissued debt from Article 24 of the April 2, 2006 Annual Town Meeting (Library roof project).

FISCAL IMPACT:

The payment-in-lieu-of-taxes (PILOT) from the Electric Light Department is determined according to a formula established by the Board of Selectmen acting as the Electric Light Commission at one-fourth cent (**\$.025**) for each kilowatt hour of electricity sold. There is no financial impact for rescission of bonding authority; it is good practice to rescind any remaining borrowing authority after the project is completed or when the project does not go forward.

ARTICLE 2 Finance Committee Elections

SUMMARY:

The article calls for election of one Finance Committee member, to be elected by the Town Meeting. The Finance Committee recommends the election of _____ for a term of three years.

**FISCAL
IMPACT:**

There is no fiscal impact.

ARTICLE 3

FY 2008 Town Budget Amendments

SUMMARY:

The following is a list of financial transfers amending the Fiscal 2008 operating budget:

		<u>TRANSFERS:</u>		
			<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>
Town Mgr	11232-5308	Labor Relations	9,039.94	
Town Mgr	11231-5113	Salary (Judy)		9,039.94
Misc Exp	11931-5110	Mgmnt Transfer	1,177.84	
Town Mgr	11231-5112	Appt Salary		1,177.84
Animal Contrl	12922-5246	Radio Equip	200.00	
Animal Contrl	12922-5585	Boarding Dogs	300.00	
Animal Contrl	12922-5588	Other Supplies	670.00	
Animal Contrl	12922-5721	Out State Travel	150.00	
Animal Contrl	12923-5818	Vehicles	11.00	
Animal Contrl	12921-5121	Temp PT		800.00
Animal Contrl	12921-5123	Other Pay		531.00
Elections	11621-5123	Other Pay	346.24	
Elections	11622-5383	Oth Purch Svc		346.24
Misc Exp	11931-5110	Mgmnt Transfer	18,909.19	
Shellfish	12961-5112	Appt Salary		16,608.91
Purchasing	11361-5115	Perm Wages		2,300.28
Misc Exp	11931-5110	Mgmnt Transfer	12,583.35	
Reserve Fund	11322-5730	Reserve Fund	27,000.00	
Accounting	11341-5113	Salary	14,600.00	
Accounting	11341-5131	Overtime	900.00	
Assessor	11371-5115	Perm Wages	1,520.00	
MIS	11542-5511	Training	1,730.00	
Treasurer	11381-5141	Diff/Inc	400.00	
Treasurer	11382-5930	Debt Issue Exp	700.00	
Appeals Bd	11742-5422	Printed Forms	150.00	
Appeals Bd	11742-5304	Advertising	850.00	
Library	16101-5116	Perm PT	1,000.00	
Library	16102-5512	Books	8,000.00	
Misc Exp	11932-5311	Other Consultants	4,000.00	
Equip Maint	14221-5115	Perm Wages	2,000.00	
Equip Maint	14222-5215	Gasoline	9,000.00	
Equip Maint	14222-5216	Diesel Fuel	13,000.00	

Sanitation	14312-5385	Sanitary Collection	115,000.00	
Highway	14241-5115	Perm Wages	15,450.00	
Cemetery	14912-5354	Civic Observances	1,045.00	
Bldg Insp	12511-5123	Other Pay	12,000.00	
Bldg Insp	12512-5311	Other Consultants	1,000.00	
Health	15122-5304	Advertising	300.00	
Snow & Ice	14231-5131	Overtime		26,412.49
Snow & Ice	14232-5215	Gasoline		7,750.23
Snow & Ice	14232-5216	Diesel Fuel		6,128.96
Snow & Ice	14232-5272	Vehicle Rental		30,411.00
Snow & Ice	14232-5481	Oil & Lube	175.00	
Snow & Ice	14232-5484	Parts Snow Repair		54,649.92
Snow & Ice	14232-5539	Other PW Supplies		133,998.75
Snow & Ice	14232-5712	Meals/Lodging		3,052.00
Police	12102-5381	Ambulance	20,000.00	
Police	12102-5381	Ambulance	70,000.00	
Police	12101-5131	Overtime		70,000.00
Equip Maint	14221-5115	Perm Wages	3,000.00	
Consol Bldg	14721-5115	Perm Wages		3,000.00
Harbormaster	12951-5123	Other Pay	4,154.00	
Harbormaster	12952-5383	Other Purch. Svcs.		4,154.00
<u>APPROPRIATE</u>				
Town Ins. Recovery	D6110-48407	Insurance Proceeds	30,674.00	
Police	12103-5818	Vehicles		30,674.00

FISCAL
IMPACT:

These are transfers within the FY'08 budget; there is no impact on the tax rate.

ARTICLE 4 Prior Year Unpaid Bills

SUMMARY:

This is a stock article to pay any unpaid bills incurred in prior fiscal years and remaining unpaid. The following bills have been identified:

<u>UNPAID BILLS</u>		
DEPARTMENT	VENDOR	AMOUNT
Recreation	Boston & Maine	\$1.00
		\$1.00
Police	Ipswich Ford	\$73.18
		\$118.71
Fire Dept.	Brand Company	\$85.05
	Fire Tech & Safety	\$55.00
	Sideris Baer MD	\$55.97
	American Messaging	\$231.67
	TOTAL	\$621.58

**FISCAL
IMPACT:**

These unpaid bills will be paid from free cash; there is no impact on the tax rate. The \$2.00 transfer for the Recreation Department is very small but legally necessary to pay the bill.

ARTICLE 5

FY 2009 Municipal Operating Budget

SUMMARY:

The Fiscal 2009 Town operating budget, configured by the Board of Selectmen at the limits set on April 12, 2008 by the Finance Committee is **\$12,676,968** plus **\$1,030,479** in excluded debt service for the Library addition, new Town Hall and the open space bond, for a total **\$13,707,447**. This budget is offset by **\$291,301** in non-tax revenues, leaving **\$13,416,146** net to be raised and appropriated.

**FISCAL
IMPACT:**

The town budget of **\$13,707,447** represents an increase in spending of **2.7%** over Fiscal 2008. Additional revenue from property taxes and state aid account for **1.18%** of the increase; fee increases account for **1.52%** of the total. The Town budget represents **39.4%** of total General Fund spending.

ARTICLE 6

FY 2009 School Operating Budget

SUMMARY:

The Fiscal 2009 School Department operating budget totaling **\$18,489,995** is presented according to the guideline set by the Finance Committee at its April 12, 2008 meeting. The FY'08 School Budget is offset by **\$194,000** in non-tax revenues, leaving **\$18,295,995** net to be raised and appropriated.

Funding for the FY'09 budget includes **\$2,550,997** under the Massachusetts Chapter 70 school aid program. This is the amount recommended by the Governor and may change during legislative consideration of the state budget.

**FISCAL
IMPACT:**

The Ipswich School Department budget of **\$18,489,995** represents an increase in spending of **2.04%** over Fiscal 2008. The School budget represents **60.6%** of total General Fund spending.

ARTICLE 7

General Override

SUMMARY:

This article asks approval of a general override of the Proposition 2 ½ tax cap (GL Chapter 59, Sec. 21C) in the amount of **\$1,491,000** to fund the School Department operating budget. The School Committee seeks to restore the following programs, services and positions to the school budget in order to provide a quality educational experience for all Ipswich students. The total override request is **\$1,491,000**.

PROFESSIONAL STAFF - 11 professional staff positions (**\$595,000**)

- Maintain appropriate class size in elementary grades
- Keep teachers teaching in their content areas (teachers trained in Science – teaching Science, etc.) at the secondary level
- Restore library and technology education district wide
- Restore 4th grade elementary instrumental music and art instruction to FY08 level
- Provide appropriate counseling ratios
- Support special education programming and instruction

OTHER STAFF – 5.5 support staff positions (**\$151,000**)

- Continue to support library and technology services district wide
- Keeps the HS/MS open for the community to use during the weekends
- Supplement elementary reading instruction
- Retain School Resource Officer position

CO-CURRICULAR AND TUTORIAL (**\$190,000**)

- Restore K-12 extra-curricular clubs and programs
- Support inter-scholastic athletics currently funded by donations
- Provide essential MCAS support in order to achieve mandated progress requirements

TECHNOLOGY AND INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS (**\$250,000**)

- Replace non-functioning computers and other technology
- Upgrade instructional software
- Replace out of date textbooks and purchase needed instructional materials

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR STAFF (**\$100,000**)

- Support staff development for curriculum, instruction, coordination and implementation of K-12 programs
- Allows the district to meet all state and federal certification requirements for professional staff

TRANSPORTATION (**\$155,000**)

- Restore transportation services to FY04 level (1 ½ mile for secondary and ¾ mile for elementary)

BUILDING OPERATIONS (**\$50,000**)

- Replace ageing maintenance equipment
- Purchase necessary supplies and materials

The proposed **\$1,491,000** general override must be approved by a majority vote at Town Meeting and

by a majority vote of the electorate at the May 20 town election in order to take effect.

FISCAL
IMPACT:

The value of an average house in Ipswich in FY'08 is **\$515,732**. Total valuation of property in Fiscal 2008 is **\$2,694,169,183**. A general override of the tax cap of **\$1,491,000** will increase the average tax bill (**\$4,760**) by **\$285** and increase the tax rate by **\$0.55**.

ARTICLE 8

School Debt Project

SUMMARY:

This article appropriates **\$2,532,590** in scheduled debt service for the High School/Middle School project. Debt service for the High School/Middle School project was excluded from the Proposition 2 ½ tax limitation in a Town election in 1996. The Massachusetts School Building Authority will reimburse the Town for **\$1,389,800** of the debt service for this project in FY'09

FISCAL

IMPACT:

The net cost to the taxpayer in FY'09 for the High School/Middle School project will be **\$1,142,790**. The net cost represents **\$0.42** on the tax rate. It will account for **\$218** of the average tax bill of **\$4,760** on the average house valued at **\$515,732**.

ARTICLE 9

FY'08 School Budget Amendment

SUMMARY:

The School Department seeks to transfer of **\$47,619.98** from an incentive grant from Keyspan Corporation/National Grid deposited in the insurance recovery fund (D-5) into the Fiscal 2008 School Operating Budget. The grant from Keyspan came as part of a large scale energy conservation program initiated at the High School/Middle School in 2006.

**FISCAL
IMPACT:**

There is no impact on the tax rate.

ARTICLE 10

Capital Improvements Stabilization Fund Appropriation

SUMMARY:

The Town Meeting created the Capital Improvements Stabilization Fund in 2007. **\$300,000** from the sale of the old Town Hall was deposited into the fund, and the Selectmen stated that the first priority would be for improvements to public buildings.

The Facilities Management Department requests a total of **\$59,750** for maintenance and improvements to the Library and the Police and Fire Departments. The Facilities Department is also requesting **\$50,000** to fund the initial phase of a window replacement program at Town Hall. The existing windows are 74 years old and not energy efficient. The storm windows are also dysfunctional, resulting in significant heat loss and higher energy costs.

The DPW garage is in very poor condition, and this article includes a transfer of **\$25,000** to fund a feasibility study to replace the existing garage. An engineering firm will identify current and future needs of the DPW, evaluate building and site plan alternatives and provide cost estimates for a new garage and fleet maintenance facility.

The needs assessment for the Town's Geographic Information System is ten years old. The Selectmen have given priority to upgrading and expanding our GIS technology. The first step is to update the needs assessment at a cost of **\$8,500**. The Building Inspector and MIS Director request **\$36,818** to continue the five year program to upgrade desktop computers for all Town departments and to install permit tracking software to improve collaboration and coordination among regulatory and permitting boards and departments.

Lastly, there is a **\$17,000** Town match to **\$57,400** in state funds to undertake the planning and design phase of the North Green Improvements project. This project will receive an additional **\$663,165** in federal "enhancement" funds under the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act to install new curbing, sidewalks and period lighting. The project will be supplemented by replacement of the aging water main, street reclamation and resurfacing and a reduction of the paved area.

The total amount requested from the Capital Improvements Stabilization Fund would be **\$197,068**

**FISCAL
IMPACT:**

The Capital Improvements Stabilization Fund is not part of the General Fund, so there will be no impact on the tax rate. There is a current balance of **\$272,419** in the Fund. The proposed appropriations total **\$197,068**. If approved, there would be a remaining balance of **\$75,351**.

ARTICLE 11

FY'09 Whittier Regional Vocational Technical High School Budget

SUMMARY:

\$574,195 is appropriated for the Whittier RVT High School. This represents an increase of **\$29,449** over the FY '08 assessment. The FY'08 Whittier budget recommendation was approved by Regional School Committee on April 9. Total spending for the Whittier School will increase 1.77% to **\$18,880,995**.

Enrollment of students from Ipswich increased to **33** in 2008 to **32** in FY 2007. The Town's assessment constitutes **3.04%** of the total assessment for the Whittier School.

FISCAL
IMPACT:

The proposed Whittier budget for Fiscal 2009 represents a **5.4%** increase in the assessment for Ipswich over Fiscal 2008.

The Whittier administration advises that if the assessment is reduced from this estimate, the Town will be advised in a timely manner and can reduce the appropriation accordingly.

ARTICLE 12

FY'09 Water and Sewer Budgets

SUMMARY:

The total Water Division budget for FY'09 is set at **\$2,397,492**. The revenue estimates for the Water Division for FY'08 include **\$2,329,926** in gross sales; **\$2,066** from the water surplus account; **\$34,500** from water liens; **\$31,000** in application fees and other miscellaneous revenues for total net revenues of **\$2,397,492**.

Capital projects funded within the Water Division budget include: 1) **\$10,000** for services & mains; 2) **\$10,000** for leak detection; 3) **\$10,000** for SCADA installations; 4) **\$65,000** for meters; and 5) **\$28,000** for a new truck at the Water Plant for a total of **\$123,000**.

This article includes, as a second and separate portion, the FY'09 Sewer Division budget. The Sewer Division budget totals **\$1,692,737**. Capital projects funded within the Sewer Division budget include; 1) **\$15,000** for auto dialers for the treatment plant and pumping stations; 2) **\$5,000** for meters; 3) **\$250,000** for an Inflow and Infiltration study of the collection system; and 4) **\$50,000** for upgrades to the aerobic digester at the wastewater treatment plant for a total of **\$320,000**.

Revenue estimates for the Sewer Division for FY'09 include: 1) **\$23,000** from sewer liens; 2) **\$8,000** in sewer betterment payments; 3) **\$381,000** in septage treatment fees, Agresource royalties, application fees and other miscellaneous revenues; 4) **\$207,365** from the sewer surplus fund; and 5) **\$1,073,372** in sewer use fees, for a total of **\$1,692,737**.

**FISCAL
IMPACT:**

The Water and Sewer Division budgets are funded primarily through user charges. There is no impact on the tax levy. The average cost to the homeowner will be about **\$640** per year for water service and (if connected) about **\$583** for sewer treatment service. These calculations are based on an average 12,000 cubic feet of water (90,000 gallons) consumption per year.

ARTICLE 13

Equipment Bond

SUMMARY:

This article would authorize the Treasurer to borrow a sum of **\$600,000** for the following capital purchases:

<i>Dept #</i>	<i>Department</i>	<i>Object Code</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Amount</i>
424	Highways	5850	Vehicle Replacement PW46 – Snow Fighter	\$165,000
220	Fire	5850	Fire Truck Vehicle Overhaul	\$100,000
424	Highways	5842	Sidewalks Program	\$250,000
424	Highways	5850	Vehicle Replacement PW47a	\$25,000
424	Highways	5850	Vehicle Replacement PW42	<u>\$60,000</u>
				\$600,000

The Fire Department requests **\$100,000** to overhaul a 1990 KME pumper truck. The Department of Public Works requests **\$165,000** to replace a 1994 Ford L8000 dump truck which is used as a heavy snow plow during the winter. Also, the DPW wants to replace a 2000 F450 1 ton truck and a 1999 sander body.

Lastly, the Town Manager and Selectmen request borrowing authority of **\$250,000** to expand and upgrade the sidewalks program. Currently, sidewalk replacement and new sidewalks have low priority, but residents are asking the Selectmen to improve pedestrian amenities throughout Town.

**FISCAL
IMPACT:**

Assuming we borrow **\$600,000** for 5 years at 4.5% interest. In the first year, the cost would be **\$28.80** on the average tax bill of **\$4,760**. Each year the amount would decrease, until the last year when it would cost about **\$24.57** on the average tax bill.

ARTICLE 14 Appropriation for Chapter 90

SUMMARY:

Each year the state contributes funds to the cities and towns for street and road improvements under the “Chapter 90” program. The Patrick Administration announced that Ipswich will receive **\$327,214** under Chapter 90 for the current year. Article 13 will accept Chapter 90 funding at **\$327,214** on a contingent basis.

These monies were used primarily to fund sidewalks at Summer, Water, Green and County Streets and street resurfacing projects throughout the community.

FISCAL

IMPACT:

Chapter 90 monies are provided by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; the local fiscal impact will be zero.

ARTICLE 15

Revolving Funds: Council on Aging; Historical Commission; Health Department; Shellfish Department

SUMMARY:

The article will continue authorization of certain revolving funds under the terms of the Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 53 E ½. Fees collected by departments under this article are deposited into special, revolving accounts that are separate from the General Fund of the Town. Revolving fund monies must be expended for purposes directly related to the mission of their respective departments.

The Council on Aging seeks authorization to continue a **Council on Aging Revolving Fund** to finance fee-based, special trips and functions for senior citizens. There is a **\$100,000** limit on COA Revolving Fund expenditures during the fiscal year. The Council on Aging requests a **\$100,000** limit because the department is sponsoring more trips for seniors to ever more distant places.

In addition, Article 13 will continue: 1) **The Health Department Revolving Fund**. The source of this fund is Health Department inspection fees. The fund is used to underwrite additional, administrative help in the Health Department and to pay related expenditures. No more than **\$7,000** may be expended by the Health Department Revolving Fund in FY'09; and 2) **The Historical Commission Revolving Fund**. This fund will pay for preservation of town records and the purchase of expendable supplies. No more than **\$5,000** may be expended by the Historical Commission from monies transferred into this fund in FY'09. The source of funds is the sale of publications, such as replicas of the Declaration of Independence and other historical documents; and 3) **The Shellfish Department Revolving Fund**. In Fiscal 2005, the Town authorized a surcharge of **\$50** on shellfish licenses with an understanding that all such funds would be spent on improvements to the shellfish resources of the Town. At the Special Town Meeting in October 2005, the Town created a revolving fund where the **\$50** license surcharge fees are deposited. Before any funds are expended from the shellfish fund, a plan and budget must be submitted to and approved by the Town Manager. No more than **\$7,000** may be expended from the Shellfish Revolving Fund during Fiscal 2009.

**FISCAL
IMPACT:**

Revolving funds operate outside the General Fund of the Town, and as such, they do not impact the local tax rate.

ARTICLE 16

Committee Reports

SUMMARY:

Standing Committees of the Town report at the Annual Town Meeting on their activities during the past year. Sometimes laced with some humor, these reports provide a breather from action on the other business of the meeting.

The Standing Committees of the Town include the Historic District Study Committee; the Commuter Rail Committee; Ipswich Coalition on Youth; Hall-Haskell Committee; the Open Space & Recreation Committee and the *Ad Hoc* Committee examining the Feoffees of the Grammar School. These committees were established by the Town Meeting and are entitled to report.

Other committees have been established by the Board of Selectmen, the Town Manager and by citizen groups. Reports of Selectmen committees are carried in the Town Report, and the Moderator feels that this is sufficient. However, any committee not established by Town Meeting may offer a verbal report under this article with prior permission of the Moderator.

The list of functioning committees not established by Town Meeting includes: Affordable Housing Trust Fund Committee; the Agricultural Steering Committee; Council on Aging; The Athletic Playing Fields Study Committee; the Audit Committee; the Bridge Advisory Committee; the Commission on Energy Use and Climate Protection; the Cable TV Advisory Board; the Community Development Plan Implementation Task Force; the Coastal Pollution Control Committee; the Deer Management Committee; the *Ad Hoc* Committee on Three Tier Response; the Eight Towns and the Bay Committee; the Emergency Management Committee; the Fair Housing Committee; the Government Study Committee; the Ipswich Bay Circuit Trail Committee; the Mosquito Control Advisory Board;; the Parking Committee; the Recreation Committee; the Public Safety Facilities Committee; the Recycling Committee; the Sandy Point Advisory Committee; the Shellfish Advisory Board; the Shade Tree and Beautification Committee; the Storm Water Committee; the Wind Power Committee and the Waterways Advisory Board.

**FISCAL
IMPACT:**

The reports themselves have no fiscal impact. Committees established by the Town Meeting have a right to make a report. Other committees, established by the Selectmen or Town Manager require permission of the Moderator before making a report.

ARTICLE 17

Addition to Open Space Bond List

SUMMARY:

Pursuant to Article 18 of the April 2000 Town Meeting, the Selectmen are authorized to purchase property for open space purposes without Town Meeting approval, provided that the cost of acquisition is less than \$1.5 million. In September of 2007, the Selectmen entered into a Purchase and Sale agreement for the land owned by the Estate of Eugene Lynch at 209 & 215 Linebrook Road for **\$975,000**, on the assumption that the property, comprised of two separate lots (Map 29C Lot 3, consisting of approximately 5.4 acres, and Map 29C Lot 4A, consisting of approximately 13.6 acres) was on the Open Space list. It was subsequently discovered that the smaller of those parcels, (Map 29C Lot 3), was not on the original bond list. This article seeks to remedy this oversight by adding the lot to the Open Space list. This property is to be acquired by the Town later this spring for the purpose of public water supply protection and managed by the Ipswich Water Department. Funding to be used for the acquisition includes a **\$495,175** grant received from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection Drinking Water Supply Protection Grant with the remainder from the Open Space Bond.

FISCAL
IMPACT:

While the placement of Map 29C Lot 3 on the Open Space list has no direct fiscal impact it will enable the Town to purchase both Lots 3 and 4A. This assumes a borrowing of **\$479,825** (\$975,000 purchase price minus \$495,000 state grant) for 20 years at 4.5 % interest. In the first year, this bond issue would add **\$45,600** to the Town's debt service.

SUMMARY:

The April 2004 Annual Town Meeting authorized the appropriation of up to **\$75,000** in bonds to allow the Town to meet its funding obligation for a portion of the construction costs of the Downtown Riverwalk. Because the Town was able to obtain additional Public Works Economic Development funds from the Commonwealth, the **\$75,000** was not necessary for direct expenses related to the Riverwalk's construction. However, there are a number of indirect costs associated with the Riverwalk construction that relate to the integration of the Riverwalk into the South Main Street neighborhood and the central business district.

On the north side of the river, these improvements include the construction of a new crosswalk directly across from the Riverwalk entrance on South Main Street, an extension of the existing sidewalk on the north side of South Main Street so that it connects with the new crosswalk (sidewalk currently terminates at Hall Haskell House) and the existing sidewalk at the Heard House, the creation of a footpath network that extends from South Main Street through the Memorial Green to the parking lot, associated landscaping along South Main and within the Memorial Green, and the installation of signage that alerts visitors to the presence of the Riverwalk and directs users of the Riverwalk to the larger Riverwalk system.

On the south side of the river, the primary improvement would be the extension of the Riverwalk along the river so that it provides a more direct connection to the businesses along Market Street. The Riverwalk currently terminates at the edge of EBSCO Publishing's building at 6 Union Street. The Town has a permanent easement over EBSCO's land along the river behind their parking lot, which would allow for the construction of an additional 150 feet of Riverwalk.

By expanding the purpose of the 2004 authorization, this article would allow the Town to continue the development of the downtown Riverwalk system as originally envisioned by the Town's Master Plan Commission some twenty years ago. If the appropriation is re-authorized by Town Meeting, the intention is to undertake most or all of the South Main Street improvements in calendar year 2008. The improvements on the south side of the river would likely not occur for until 2009.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This assumes a borrowing of **\$75,000** for 5 years at 4.5 % interest. In the first year, this bond issue would add **\$18,375** to the Town's debt service and would add **\$3.69** to the average tax bill.

ARTICLE 19

Wind Turbine Project

SUMMARY:

This article will appropriate **\$4,242,000** to survey, design, purchase and undertake construction of a wind turbine electric generator and associated transmission equipment at the end of Town Farm Road on property owned by the Town. This project will be undertaken by the Ipswich Municipal Light Department. IMLD will draw part of the funding from a bond issue of **\$2,642,000** under Chapter 44 of the Massachusetts General Laws and part of the funding from a **\$1,600,000** Clean Energy Bond under Section 54 of the Internal Revenue Code. The Clean Energy Bond (CREBs) is a zero interest loan from the Federal Government secured by the Ipswich School Department.

If the borrowing for the wind turbine generator is approved by Town Meeting, there will be a ballot question at the May 20, 2008 Town election seeking voter approval for the bond issues to fund this project.

**FISCAL
IMPACT:**

This assumes a borrowing of **\$2,642,000** for 20 years at 4.5 % interest and a borrowing of **\$1,600,000** for 20 years at 0 % interest. In the first year, this bond issue would add **\$330,990** to the Electric Light Department's debt service. Debt service on the CREBs loan would total **\$80,000** per year.

ARTICLE 20 Personal Property Assessments

SUMMARY:

This article asks the Town Meeting to accept state enabling legislation, G.L. Chapter 59, Section 5 (54), which will allow the Ipswich Assessors to establish a minimum fair cash value not to exceed **\$10,000** for taxation of personal property, beginning in Fiscal 2009.

The Assessors urge adoption of the enabling legislation because the cost of assessing and processing tax bills for personal property with a value below \$10,000 is in excess of the revenue benefit.

**FISCAL
IMPACT:**

The impact on the tax rate is negligible.

ARTICLE 21 Inter-Municipal Agreements

SUMMARY:

This article will authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into agreements with other communities in the region to jointly purchase or lease municipal equipment or vehicles and to share all capital and operational costs.

**FISCAL
IMPACT:**

There will be no direct impact to the tax rate. However, joint arrangements with other towns could reduce the tax burden on Ipswich citizens.

ARTICLE 22

Reconsideration of Articles

SUMMARY:

This article will permit the Town Meeting to reconsider any and all previous articles raising and appropriating money which have a direct impact on the tax levy for the next fiscal year. The purpose is to finalize a budget which is balanced and in compliance with the levy limit provisions of Proposition 2½, so that certification of the FY 2009 tax rate can be completed successfully.

**FISCAL
IMPACT:**

The impact will not be known until all other money articles have been acted upon.