

WARRANT ARTICLE SUBMITTAL SHEET
(CPC articles are not required to use this form)

All warrant articles for the Annual Town Meeting are due on the first Tuesday in February. Language for the article must be finalized NO LATER than the third Tuesday in February at noon. Articles that are not final by the deadline will not appear on the warrant. Submittal dates for warrant articles for Special Town Meetings will be announced when the meeting is called.

Please type the proposed warrant article below: (if not enough space attach additional pages to submittal sheet)

To see if the Town will vote to request the Select Board, in consultation with the Building Inspector increase Building Department permit fees by July 1, 2022 such that the anticipated annual income from all fees levied by the Building Department reasonably covers the Department's expenses; and further to review such fees not less than every 2 years thereafter, and similarly adjust as necessary.

Is this the final language for the article? _____ yes **X** no

Please explain the article in sufficient detail so that it will be easily understood by anyone attending town meeting.

The Finance Committee has, for the past several years stated that those departments that levy User fees should adjust those fees periodically to more closely match the expenses associated with them. The Board of Health did so in 2018 at the FinCom's request and has committed to doing so periodically. The Select Board is the governing body for setting Building Department fees. It has adjusted inspection fees to match the cost of paying inspectors but has not adjusted permit fees (historically approximately 50% - 60% of revenue) despite multiple requests. The building department's income shortfall – see chart below –was historically about 25% of its total budget. That is higher than we believe is appropriate, and it has grown dramatically in the past few years, projected to be over 36% for FY2023.

FY 2019	\$46,652
FY 2020	\$42,970
FY 2021	\$39,343
FY 2022	\$80,000 (approximated)
FY 2023	\$100,000 (projected)

Please explain why this article is needed.

It is the Finance Committee's position that the building department's income shortfall should not be borne by those taxpayers not utilizing the Building Department's services.

Who is the contact person/sponsor for this article?:

Name: WT Finance Committee, Doug Ruskin Email: doug.ruskin@gmail.com
Phone: 508 687 9301

Please provide one copy to the Town Administrator (townadmin@westtisbury-ma.gov) and one copy to the Finance Committee (fincom@westtisbury-ma.gov). Hard copies can be delivered to town hall.