

Town of



AMHERST *Massachusetts*

Office of the Town Manager
Town Hall
4 Boltwood Avenue
Amherst, MA 01002

John P. Musante, Town Manager
Phone: (413) 259-3002
Fax: (413)-259-2405
Email: musantej@amherstma.gov

TO: John Musante, Town Manager
Select Board
Finance Committee

FROM: Sandy Pooler, Finance Director

DATE: April 29, 2011

SUBJECT: Article 10 – FY 11 Budget Amendments

It is necessary to request that Town Meeting approve the transfer of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) from the FY 11 Public Safety budget to the Community Services budget. The Comptroller, Sonia Aldrich, and I have reviewed the year-to-date spending of all the Town's departments. This transfer is necessary because the Veterans' Services Department has experienced ever increasing demands for services. This increase is consistent with a pattern that has developed over the past several years as more and more service members fighting in the two wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and other veterans require our support. We have recognized this development and have recommended an increase for the Veterans' Services Department in the FY 12 budget. The State will reimburse the Town 75% of what we spend on Veterans' benefits.

It is possible to transfer funds from the Public Safety budget, because earlier in the year there were vacancies in those departments. At present, both the Police and Fire Departments have hired their full complement of authorized personnel.

I recommend the following motion under Part A of Article 10:

I move to amend the action taken under Article 9 of the 2010 Annual Town Meeting – Fiscal Year 2011 Operating Budget by increasing the appropriations and the amounts to be raised by taxation for Community Services by \$100,000, and to meet such increased appropriation by decreasing the appropriation and the amount to be raised by taxation for Public Safety by \$100,000.

Part B of this article would allow a supplemental appropriation (in addition to the \$100,000 that was voted last spring) from free cash to the Finance Committee's Reserve Fund to pay for extraordinary or unforeseen expenses. I do not believe a supplemental appropriation is necessary and recommend the following motion for Part B of Article 10:

I move to dismiss Part B of the article.