

TOWN OF WILLIAMSBURG



DEBT-EXCLUSION OVERRIDE VOTE IS FAST APPROACHING!

Dear Williamsburg resident:

We want to remind you of the upcoming debt-exclusion override vote scheduled for Monday, September 8, 2008 from 10:00 AM to 7:00 PM at the Anne T. Dunphy School. We also want to provide you with information we felt would be helpful to you in making up your mind on this issue.

The vote is intended to see if the town will agree to borrow the funds needed to repair and expand the town's highway garage. This override would increase property taxes, but only for the time it takes to pay back this bond, about ten years.

To get a debt exclusion on the ballot a town must vote at its town meeting to approve the project; this was done in June 2008 by a vote of 149 to 5 in favor. The upcoming vote is the next step in a process begun several years ago when the town appropriated \$5,000 to draw up preliminary plans. Using those plans, an engineer estimated the final construction cost at \$250,000. This is the amount you are being asked to vote on.

The project will double the size of the current garage, adding four new bays to house highway and other town equipment, and make repairs to the existing structure. The current building is over 40 years old and lacks the space needed to store or properly service and maintain all of the Town's

Highway equipment. The Highway Superintendent has also said that some of the equipment is deteriorating faster than it should because it is being stored outdoors. The town's capital planning committee has also approved this project.

The Town Treasurer, charged with borrowing funds for the town, estimates that with current interest rates borrowing \$250,000 over ten years would require a payback of approximately \$32,250 per year. Based upon the town's current certified valuation, it is estimated that this borrowing would increase the current tax rate by \$0.11. This means that on a house valued at \$200,000, approval of this override will increase that house's property tax an additional \$22.00 per year for the duration of the borrowing.

State law specifies the wording to be used for this ballot question. Thus the ballot you will see on September 8, 2008 will read:

Shall the Town of Williamsburg be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so-called, the amounts required to pay for the bond issued in order to bring the Highway Garage up to code and to construct an addition to the said Highway Garage?

Yes _____ No _____

We hope you will take the time to vote and if you are unable to during the times given please contact the Town Clerk regarding voting absentee.

Williamsburg Board of Selectmen

Please be sure to vote on Monday September 8th from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Anne T. Dunphy School.

VETERANS' MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

The Williamsburg Veterans' Memorial Committee is asking for your help!! The committee, which includes Gordon Cranston, James LeBeau and Russell Warner, is actively searching for, and verifying the names of, veterans with the following qualifications to be added to the Memorial:

- The veteran must have originally entered military service with the Town of Williamsburg as the home of record at the time of entry into active service.

PLANNING FOR WINTER

While no one knows if this winter will be as cold as last, it is increasingly clear that the price of fuel to heat our homes will make this an extremely costly and difficult winter for many of us and our neighbors. There is concern that, in fact, some lives could be lost either because households run out of money for fuel or because they use fuels or stoves that may not be safe.

Some things we have no control over, but for others we are trying to plan and prepare. We are asking for your help.

**TOWN OF
WILLIAMSBURG**

Town Offices
141 Main Street
P.O. Box 447
Haydenville, MA 01039

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Permit No. 7
Haydenville, MA 01039

Resident/Boxholder
Haydenville, MA
01039

(Veterans cont.)

- The veteran must have served for a minimum of 90 days active duty, one (1) day of which was during “wartime” as defined below. Active duty as used in the previous sentence shall **not** include active duty for training in the Army or Air National Guard or active duty for training as a Reservist in the Armed Forces.
- The veteran must have received an HONORABLE discharge at the time of last separation or release from active duty.
- Data is to be obtained from the veteran’s form DD214 (Report of Separation from the Armed Forces) or other valid document.

Qualifying veterans or those seeking help getting their DD214 should contact a committee member, as should people who know of someone who might qualify.

CONFLICT	CONFLICT DATES
WWI	6-Apr-1917 through 11-Nov-1918
WWII	7-Dec-1941 through 31-Dec-1946
Korea	25-Jun-1950 through 31-Jan-1955
Vietnam	5-Aug-1964 through 7-May-1975
Lebanon Campaign	25-Aug-1982 through 26-Feb-1984 Naval and Marine DD214 must indicate Expeditionary Medal. All DD214’s must specify Lebanon Campaign.
Grenada Campaign	25-Oct-1983 through 15-Dec-1983 Naval and Marine DD214 must indicate Expeditionary Medal. All DD214’s must specify Granada Campaign.
Panama Campaign	20-Dec-1989 through 31-Jan-1990 Naval and Marine DD214 must indicate Expeditionary Medal. All DD214’s must specify Panama Campaign.
Persian Gulf	2-Aug-1990 through 30-Nov-1995
Afghanistan/ Iraq	11-Sep-2001 through present

(Winter cont.)

If you know of someone – a neighbor, friend or acquaintance – who might be at risk this winter, keep an eye out for changes in normal patterns of activity. Are the lights off, is the mail piling up, are they absent from church or other activities they normally attend? If you feel something **may** be wrong call the police or fire department and ask them to do a wellness check.

Other ways you can help:

- Volunteer to regularly telephone or physically check on a short list of people in the community who may be at risk during a particularly cold stretch.
- Provide emergency shelter – either in your own home or in vacant apartments you might own – to a household for a night or two until they can restore their heat or get help from the Red Cross.
- Identify other places that might be suitable for emergency housing, that can provide meals, or might serve as temporary warming centers.
- Assist with weatherization projects, either by volunteering your time to help others weatherize their homes or volunteering your home to help demonstrate weatherization techniques to others.

If you are able or willing to help, please contact Town Administrator Steve Herzberg, who will coordinate our efforts. He can be reached at 268-8418 or at townadmin@burgy.org

With your help, we can all come through this winter safely.