

# State of the Town Forum, January 24, 2004

## Guidelines for Discussion

**Our Goal:** To hear as many view points as possible and to better understand voter concerns and priorities.

**Our Role:** The Finance Committee, Board of Selectmen and School Committees will listen to comments and opinions from the audience. When necessary we will clarify points of information.

### Guidelines for speakers:

- Please limit your comments to two minutes.
- In an effort to ensure that everyone has a chance to voice their opinion, please do not duplicate comments from previous speakers. For instance, it is fine to agree with someone, but please try not to reiterate the details of what they have said.
- Everyone will get a chance to speak once before anyone is allowed to speak again.
- This is not a debate but a chance to share ideas, opinions and concerns. Please respect your neighbors. The moderator will intercede when necessary to keep the discussion moving.

## Town and School Services Survey

Please note that the presentations you've seen tonight and this survey are also available online at [www.boxboroughschool.org](http://www.boxboroughschool.org) and [www.town.boxborough.ma.us](http://www.town.boxborough.ma.us). This survey is intended to solicit community input and will provide the Board of Selectmen, the Finance Committee, and the School Committee valuable information as we make final budget decisions. We appreciate your input and will take it into consideration as we go forward with the budget process.

1. Did you attend the State of the Town Forum?         yes     no
2. Did you find the forum to be helpful?                 yes     no
3. Right now, could you support (you may choose more than one):
  - a.  A structural override of approximately \$800,000 which will allow the town and Blanchard to maintain most services as currently offered
  - b.  A restorative override of an additional \$XXX (undetermined) which would allow the town and Blanchard to add personnel and/or make purchases and complete infrastructure maintenance that have been put on hold, eliminated or cut over the past three years
  - c.  A tiered override with both structural and restorative options available
  - d.  No override
  - e.  I do not have enough information to make this decision

4. If a restorative or structural override is supported, **what services or programs would you like to see augmented or improved?**

**Town:** Please prioritize the list of town services from 1 (most important to you) to 7 (your lowest priority).

- Public Safety: police, fire and EMT services
- Cultural and Recreation Programs: town sponsored events, day camp, parades etc.
- Senior Citizen Services: staffing and programs
- Town Building Infrastructure Improvements: painting, roof repair, expansion
- Road Maintenance: tree work, mowing sides of road, plowing and snow removal
- Recreation Field and Conservation Land maintenance: mowing, clearing, etc.
- Library Hours of Operation and Services

**Blanchard School:** Please prioritize the list of Blanchard services from 1 (most important to you) to 6 (your lowest priority).

- Class size: move all Blanchard classrooms under suggested class size guidelines
- Instructional materials: support new text adoption and revision costs
- Facility Maintenance: reinstate update and replacement timeline (carpets etc.)
- Technology: reinstate technology 5 year replacement plan
- Support Staff: continue to provide general education aide support for classrooms
- Custodial staff: augment in order to keep building open during non-school hours

5. If the override is not supported, **what reductions/changes in services could you tolerate?**

**Town:** Please prioritize the list of town services from 1 (easiest change you could tolerate) to 8 (the most difficult).

- Reduce the number Public Safety Officers and hours of service: police, fire, EMT
- Eliminate or reduce cultural and recreation programs
- Postpone Infrastructure Maintenance: building and grounds, vehicles, etc.
- Postpone/Reduce Road Maintenance: paving, tree work, mowing, plowing etc.
- Reduce Library Services: hours of operation, services
- Reduce employee services and hours of operation at Town Hall
- Eliminate transfer station services, all residents hire private haulers
- Other suggestions \_\_\_\_\_

**Blanchard School:** Please prioritize the list of Blanchard services from 1 (easiest change you could tolerate) to 6 (the most difficult).

- Increase class sizes
- Maintain current instructional materials, delay purchase of updated/revised texts
- Minimize building maintenance needs and reduce non-school hours of operation
- Reject new capital purchases: furniture and equipment
- Apply transportation fees for buses
- Mandate that all classroom supplies be provided by Blanchard families
- Other suggestions \_\_\_\_\_

Please add any additional comments and return this survey to the boxes at the entrance to the gymnasium. If you have printed this from a website, please return it to:

Natalie Lashmit, Town Administrator  
Boxborough Town Hall  
29 Middle Road  
Boxborough, MA 01719

or Richard Bergeron, Superintendent  
Blanchard Memorial School  
493 Massachusetts Avenue  
Boxborough, MA 01719