

November 3, 2020

Information regarding local Question on the Ballot:

SHALL THE TOWN OF CANTON APPROPRIATE \$4,885,000 FOR RECONSTRUCTION OF WASHBURN ROAD BRIDGE OVER JIM BROOK, WEST ROAD BRIDGE OVER CHERRY BROOK, AND OLD CANTON ROAD BRIDGE OVER RATTLESNAKE BROOK; AND AUTHORIZE THE ISSUE OF BONDS AND NOTES TO FINANCE THE PORTION OF THE APPROPRIATION NOT FUNDED FROM GRANTS (ESTIMATED NET PROJECT COST OF APPROXIMATELY \$2,476,000)?

The Town is seeking to appropriate \$4,885,000 for the reconstruction of Washburn Road Bridge over Jim Brook, West Road Bridge over Cherry Brook, and Old Canton Road Bridge over Rattlesnake Brook, and additional costs related to the financing of the appropriation. The Town anticipates receiving grants in the approximate amount of \$2,409,000 for an estimated net project cost to the Town of \$2,476,000.

In 2018, the Department of Transportation requested that the Town perform inspections on several bridges including Washburn Road Bridge over Jim Brook and West Road Bridge over Cherry Brook. In 2018, the engineering firm WSP USA Inc. was selected through a competitive bid process to perform inspections on Washburn Road Bridge and West Road Bridge. In 2019, at the request of the Department of Public Works, WSP USA Inc. inspected Old Canton Road Bridge over Rattlesnake Brook. Later in 2019, WSP USA Inc. inspected 27 of Canton's 29 bridges.

As a result of these inspections, WSP USA Inc. recommended Washburn Road Bridge over Jim Brook, West Road Bridge over Cherry Brook, and Old Canton Road Bridge over Rattlesnake Brook be replaced in the next 3 to 5 years. In March 2020, West Road Bridge over Cherry Brook failed when one of the sides of the bridge collapsed. It is currently closed to traffic.

The Town applied for grants through the state's Local Bridge Program to partially fund the replacement of all three bridges. This grant program funds 50% of the cost of replacing a bridge. The remaining 50% must be paid by the Town. The Local Bridge Program grant for West Road Bridge has been approved while the other two grant applications are still pending. The total cost of replacing the three bridges is \$4,885,000. The Town anticipates receiving grants in the estimated amount of \$2,409,000 for an approximate net project cost of \$2,476,000 to be paid by the Town. The net project costs also include bonding expenses such as legal and bond consultant fees.