

Budget, Centre Farm, Library plan av

By Bill Laforme

Lynnfielders will settle the town's budget for the year and also decide some important local issues, including the future of Centre Farm and a potential step toward a new library. Town Meeting is Monday, April 25 at 7 p.m. at the Lynnfield Middle School.

For fiscal year 2017, voters will be presented with a recommended town budget with total expenditures of \$54,201,990, which includes capital budget items amounting to about \$2.5 million. Some of the budget highlights of the coming fiscal year include the new fire

department staffing plan, which aims to increase coverage at both Lynnfield stations, and the proposal for a new full-day kindergarten program.

Among the 32 warrant articles, residents this spring have been particularly interested in the new library plan, as well as the potential sale of Centre Farm. Article 20 would essentially authorize the library to apply for state grant funds that would be used for a new facility farther down Summer Street, on a parcel next to the Reedy Meadow Golf Course. Town voters will also be asked to approve a proposed schematic design

for the new library.

Centre Farm will be article 21; it seeks to grant selectmen approval to sell the historic property, following its acquisition by the town a couple of years ago. One town resident has expressed interest in purchasing the property and living there with his family, although the possibility may depend on what kind of accommodation can be reached on the historical preservation restrictions that go with the property. Town voters initially approved the purchase of Centre Farm with an eye on preserving the character of Lynnfield Center, since without



wait Town Meeting voters

preservation restrictions, the property could potentially be replaced by as many as three other properties.

For article 24, town meeting will be asked to approve \$170,000 for improvements at Glen Meadow Park. The Lynnfield Mom's Group and Townscape have been working to improve the town's various aging playgrounds in the months leading up to this warrant article.

After being asked to consider a number of small and specific language

changes to the town zoning bylaws, voters will take up article 32, which builds on last year's approval of the scenic roads bylaw, establishing Summer Street, Essex Street, Lowell Street, Main Street and Chestnut Street as the first roads to be covered. The law applies to stone walls, trees and other such items that can be found in the rights of way of a given street, with an eye on preserving the historical and aesthetic character of a given area.

