



# TOWN OF NEEDHAM

TOWN HALL  
Needham, MA 02492-2669

## Office of the Town Manager

### October 2024 Special Town Meeting

#### Article 7

### Appropriate for Public, Educational, and Government (PEG) Programming

#### **What are these funds and what are they appropriated to?**

Each of the three cable providers that do business in Needham (Verizon, Comcast, and Astound/RCN) have licenses to operate in Needham. These licenses, which are required by law, include provisions that provide the Needham Channel funds to support PEG programming. Prior to 2023, these funds were sent directly to the Needham Channel. However, changes in statute required that municipalities take receipt of these monies as opposed to the local PEG channel.

In order to meet provisions relative to MGL Chapter 44, Section 53F<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, the May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Special Town Meeting voted to establish the PEG Access and Cable Related Fund, a special revenue account to be used to hold and disburse PEG grants and licensing fees. Since these grants and fees are received into the General Fund, they must be appropriated into the PEG Access and Cable Related Fund. This article accomplishes this task.

#### **What determines the amount of the appropriation?**

Per the licensing agreements with each of the cable providers in Needham, each licensee provides the Town a fixed for PEG-related capital costs and a variable licensing fee tied to the licensee's revenues. Because the licensing fee is revenue-based, the amount changes annually for each provider.

#### **At what frequency does Town Meeting need to vote on this appropriation?**

Town Meeting will likely need to appropriate these funds at each meeting. Since there are three licensees that each pay variable, revenue-based licensing fees, the amount received by the Town semi-annually cannot be known until the Town is in receipt of these fees. By appropriating twice a year via Special Town Meeting votes, the Needham Channel is able to access funds they need to operate throughout the year with minimal delay.

Prior Town Meeting votes to appropriate for this purpose have been:

| Town Meeting                      | Article | Appropriation |
|-----------------------------------|---------|---------------|
| May 13, 2024 Special Town Meeting | 4       | \$471,675     |
| May 8, 2023 Special Town Meeting  | 11      | \$671,850     |