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Another override sought for Nahant school project

By Debra Glidden / The Daily Item
Saturday, January 7, 2006

NAHANT -- The Johnson School Renovation Committee is asking residents to approve another Proposition 21/2 override for the school, this time for up to \$1.2 million.

Selectman Michael Manning, who serves on the committee, said a special Town Meeting would be held on Saturday, Feb. 11.

Town Meeting already approved \$6.3 million for the renovation of the school, but based on the bids that were received more money is needed for the project.

JSRC Chairman Laura Michaud said the committee is asking voters to approve a debt exclusion override of up to \$1.2 million to cover the cost overruns.

"We were fairly shocked when the estimates came in 20 percent higher than we expected," Michaud said.

Michaud said some elements of the project were removed from the bid to cut costs, and listed as alternates, including the library, landscaping, paving and some windows.

"We didn't want to cut anything but we were trying to stay within budget. The cuts were not enough to keep us in budget and since we have to go back to the town for additional money we are including the alternates," Michaud said.

Manning said the town received seven bids, which ranged from \$6.5 million to \$7.5 million, which did not include any add-ons or extras. Manning said some of the \$6.3 million has already been spent on asbestos abatement and architect fees.




The town expects to receive \$1.88 million in reimbursement for the project. Manning said if the town receives the anticipated state reimbursement, the project would cost the owner of a \$522,100 home an average of \$251 a year for the 23 year life of the loan, but that figure does not include overrides that could be passed at the special Town Meeting next month.

Michaud said she does not know if the town would be eligible for additional reimbursement if it passes another override.






"It's something we will certainly explore," she said.

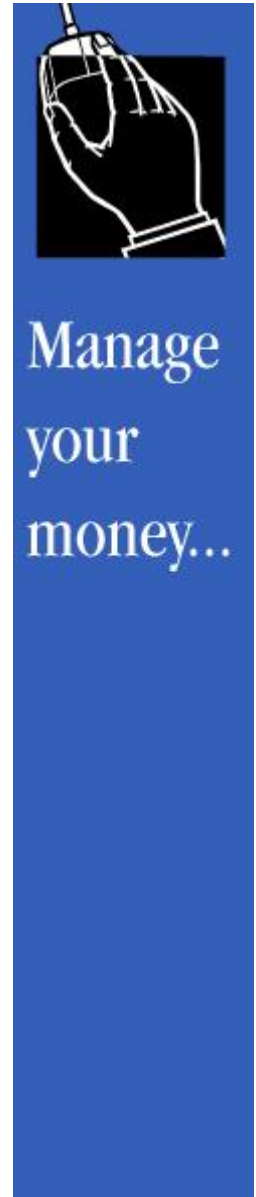
On Feb. 11 the polls will be open from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m. and the special Town Meeting is scheduled to start at 12:30 p.m.

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