

**May 14, 2022**

**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING  
WARRANT**



# TOWN WARRANT

## COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

### ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

### MAY 14, 2022

**ARTICLE 1.** To hear the reports of the Town Officers and any outstanding committees and act thereon.

Advisory Committee Opinion: APPROVES

**ARTICLE 2.** To see if the Town will vote under the provisions of Massachusetts General Law (M.G.L.), c. 41, §108, to fix the salaries of the following Town Officers for the ensuing year (FY23) or take any other action relative thereto.

	<u>FY 22</u>	<u>FY 23</u>
Moderator	\$ 25	\$ 25
Selectmen	\$ 3,600 (\$1,200 per member)	\$ 3,600 (\$1,200 per member)
Assessors	\$ 1,500 (\$500 per member)	\$ 1,500 (\$500 per member)

*This article establishes the salaries of paid elected officials.*

Advisory Committee Opinion: APPROVES

**ARTICLE 3.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money including debt and interest, and to provide for a reserve fund for the ensuing fiscal year (FY23) or take any other action relative thereto.

DEPARTMENT	FY22 BUDGET VOTED	FY23 PROPOSED BUDGET	FY23 Sub-Total To Be Voted On	FY22 AC RECOMMENDS (TBD)
<b>GENERAL GOVERNMENT:</b>				
<b>Moderator</b>				
Salary	25.00	25.00		
Expense	86.00	86.00		
Sub-Total	<b>111.00</b>		<b>111.00</b>	

DEPARTMENT	FY22 BUDGET VOTED	FY23 PROPOSED BUDGET	FY23 Sub-Total To Be Voted On	FY23 AC RECOMMENDS (TBD)
<b>Board of Selectmen</b>				
Salaries	3,600.00	3,600.00		
Expense	6,085.00	6,085.00		
Sub-Total	<b>9,685.00</b>		<b>9,685.00</b>	
<b>Town Administrator</b>				
Salary	104,040.00	<b>107,161.20</b>		
Special Projects Coordinator Salary	15,699.04	<b>16,013.02</b>		
Expense	3,700.00	<b>3,423.50</b>		
Sub-Total	<b>123,439.04</b>		<b>126,597.72</b>	
<b>Reserve Fund</b>				
Expense	<b>75,000.00</b>	<b>75,000.00</b>	<b>75,000.00</b>	
<b>Town Accountant</b>				
Salary	54,037.00	<b>55,117.74</b>		
Admin Asst Wages		<b>20,640.72</b>		
Accountant Certification	1,000.00	<b>1,000.00</b>		
Annual Audit Expense	14,500.00	<b>14,500.00</b>		
Expense	7,594.00	<b>8,843.00</b>		
Sub-Total	<b>77,131.00</b>		<b>100,101.46</b>	
<b>Board of Assessors</b>				
Board Salaries	1,500.00	<b>1,500.00</b>		
Department Salary	64,177.35	<b>65,490.90</b>		
Principal Assessor Certification	1,000.00	<b>1,000.00</b>		
Expense	22,556.39	<b>22,556.39</b>		
Sub-Total	<b>89,233.74</b>		<b>90,547.29</b>	
<b>Treasurer/Tax Collector</b>				
Department Salary	105,055.55	<b>107,156.66</b>		
Certification	2,000.00	<b>2,000.00</b>		
Expense	17,942.50	<b>18,193.00</b>		
Sub-Total	<b>124,998.05</b>		<b>127,349.66</b>	
<b>Town Counsel</b>				
Expense	<b>28,000.00</b>	<b>35,000.00</b>	<b>35,000.00</b>	
<b>Information Technology</b>				
Info. Tech. Salary	27,567.54	<b>28,118.89</b>		
Info Tech Expense	47,757.00	<b>36,557.00</b>		
Sub-Total	<b>75,324.54</b>		<b>64,675.89</b>	

DEPARTMENT	FY22 BUDGET VOTED	FY23 PROPOSED BUDGET	FY23 Sub-Total To Be Voted On	FY23 AC RECOMMENDS (TBD)
<b>Administrative Assistants</b>				
Salaries	26,337.60	<b>26,864.36</b>		
Expense	400.00	<b>400.00</b>		
Sub-Total	<b>26,737.60</b>		<b>27,264.36</b>	
<b>Town Clerk</b>				
Salary	50,290.16	<b>51,296.00</b>		
Certification				
Expenses	5,980.00	<b>5,130.00</b>		
Sub-Total	<b>56,270.16</b>		<b>56,426.00</b>	
<b>Elections &amp; Registration</b>				
Salaries	5,800.00	<b>6,200.00</b>		
Expense	5,805.00	<b>5,500.00</b>		
Sub-Total	<b>11,605.00</b>		<b>11,700.00</b>	
<b>Conservation Commission</b>				
Expense	<b>1,000.00</b>	<b>970.00</b>	<b>970.00</b>	
<b>Environmental Action Committee</b>				
Expense	<b>1,000.00</b>	<b>970.00</b>	<b>970.00</b>	
<b>Planning Board</b>				
Admin. Asst. Salary	21,416.57			
Expense	1,866.51	<b>1,810.51</b>		
Sub-Total	<b>23,283.08</b>		<b>1,810.51</b>	
<b>Board of Appeals</b>				
Expense	<b>500.00</b>	<b>500.00</b>	<b>500.00</b>	
<b>Open Space Committee</b>				
Expense	<b>1,000.00</b>	<b>950.00</b>	<b>950.00</b>	
<b>Agricultural Commission</b>				
Expense	<b>1,000.00</b>	<b>1,000.00</b>	<b>1,000.00</b>	
<b>Town Building Operations</b>				
Salaries	52,812.26	<b>52,812.26</b>		
Expense	72,242.00	<b>64,742.00</b>		
Sub-Total	<b>125,054.26</b>		<b>117,554.26</b>	
<b>TOTAL GENERAL GOV'T.</b>	<b>850,372.47</b>		<b>848,213.15</b>	

DEPARTMENT	FY22 BUDGET VOTED	FY23 PROPOSED BUDGET	FY23 Sub-Total To Be Voted On	FY23 AC RECOMMENDS (TBD)
<b>PUBLIC SAFETY:</b>				
<b>Police</b>				
Police non-union Salaries	167,373.00	180,105.00		
Police Union Salaries	585,130.00	631,255.00		
Expense	122,716.00	153,894.00		
Sub-Total	875,219.00		965,254.00	
<b>Fire Department</b>				
Salaries	148,984.00	151,891.68		
Expense	133,974.00	129,954.78		
Ambulance Readiness				
Sub-Total	282,958.00		281,846.46	
<b>Regional Services</b>				
Animal Inspector Salary	500.00	500.00		
Animal Control Expense	14,433.00	13,673.50		
Police Dispatch	68,686.00	87,043.00		
Sub-Total	83,619.00		101,216.50	
<b>Emergency Response</b>				
Emergency Mgt. Exp.	3,060.00	2,968.20		
Emergency Notification Sys	3,699.00	3,699.00		
COVID-19 Expenses	12,000.00			
Sub-Total	18,759.00		6,667.20	
<b>Tree Warden</b>				
Salary	1,665.00	1,665.00		
Expense	11,750.00	11,750.00		
Sub-Total	13,415.00		13,415.00	
<b>TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY:</b>	<b>1,273,970.00</b>		<b>1,368,399.16</b>	
<b>SCHOOLS</b>				
<b>Wachusett Regional School</b>				
Wachusett Min. Contribution	3,631,718.00	3,836,083.00		
Operations Assessment	1,217,827.00	1,116,534.00		
Transportation	291,783.00	342,212.00		
Long Term Debt	131,293.00	123,911.00		
Sub-total	5,272,621.00		5,418,740.00	
Montachusett Reg. Vocational	425,147.00	396,361.00	396,361.00	
Smith Vocational	61,200.00	61,200.00	61,200.00	
<b>TOTAL SCHOOLS</b>	<b>5,758,968.00</b>		<b>5,876,301.00</b>	

DEPARTMENT	FY22 BUDGET VOTED	FY22 PROPOSED BUDGET	FY23 Sub-Total To Be Voted On	FY23 AC RECOMMENDS (TBD)
<b>PUBLIC WORKS:</b>				
<b>Highway</b>				
Salaries	388,119.04	465,882.86		
Expense	256,031.79	309,227.28		
Road Reconstruction	350,000.00	250,000.00		
Sub-Total	994,150.83		1,025,110.14	
<b>Snow/Ice Removal</b>				
Expense	210,000.00	240,000.00	240,000.00	
<b>Street Lights</b>				
Expense	3,500.00	7,100.00	7,100.00	
<b>Wachusett Earthday</b>	1,849.00	2,220.41		
<b>Wachusett Greenway</b>	800.00	800.00	3,020.41	
<b>Environmental</b>				
Expense	26,530.00	65,545.00		
PFA's Monitoring/Testing	262,500.00	279,000.00		
PFA's Water/Filters	37,500.00	25,000.00		
Sub-Total	326,530.00		369,545.00	
<b>Cemeteries</b>				
Salaries	10,200.00			
Expense	33,959.28			
Sub-Total	44,159.28		0.00	
<b>TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS</b>	1,580,989.11		1,644,775.55	
<b>HUMAN SERVICES</b>				
<b>Council on Aging</b>				
Salary	34,507.00	39,338.00		
Expense	65,285.00	67,272.40		
Sub-Total	99,792.00		106,610.40	
<b>Veterans Services</b>				
Salary	3,600.00	6,600.00		
Expense	35,100.00	33,950.00		
Sub-Total	38,700.00		40,550.00	
<b>TOTAL HUMAN SERVICES</b>	138,492.00		147,160.40	

DEPARTMENT	FY22 BUDGET VOTED	FY23 PROPOSED BUDGET	FY23 Sub-Total To Be Voted On	FY23 AC RECOMMENDS (TBD)
<b>CULTURE &amp; RECREATION:</b>				
<b>Library</b>				
Salaries	126,028.69	<b>130,987.80</b>		
Expense	71,360.00	<b>66,390.00</b>		
Sub-Total	<b>197,388.69</b>		<b>197,377.80</b>	
<b>MISC/Band Concerts</b>	<b>2,000.00</b>	<b>1,940.00</b>	<b>1,940.00</b>	
<b>Parks &amp; Recreation</b>				
Salaries	11,096.80	<b>11,318.74</b>		
Expense	20,717.88	<b>20,096.34</b>		
Sub-Total	<b>31,814.68</b>		<b>31,415.08</b>	
<b>Historical Commission</b>				
Expense	<b>10,000.00</b>	<b>1,500.00</b>	<b>1,500.00</b>	
<b>Memorial Day</b>				
Expense	<b>1,800.00</b>	<b>1,746.00</b>	<b>1,746.00</b>	
<b>TOTAL CULTURE &amp; RECREATION</b>	<b>243,003.37</b>		<b>233,978.88</b>	
<b>DEBT &amp; INTEREST:</b>				
<b>Police Cruisers</b>	<b>17,000.00</b>	<b>40,947.00</b>	<b>40,947.00</b>	
<b>Thomas Prince/Green Repair</b>	<b>117,700.00</b>	<b>115,500.00</b>	<b>115,500.00</b>	
<b>PFAS Remediation</b>	<b>15,000.00</b>	<b>11,500.00</b>	<b>11,500.00</b>	
<b>Broadband Make Ready</b>	<b>118,300.00</b>	<b>115,300.00</b>	<b>115,300.00</b>	
<b>Fire Truck Debt/Int</b>	<b>126,300.00</b>	<b>122,100.00</b>	<b>122,100.00</b>	
<b>Bagg Hall Stab. Debt/Int</b>	<b>41,299.00</b>	<b>159,446.00</b>	<b>159,446.00</b>	
<b>Salt Shed Debt/Int</b>		<b>18,380.00</b>	<b>18,380.00</b>	
<b>General Interest/Borrowing Fees</b>	<b>25,000.00</b>	<b>25,000.00</b>	<b>25,000.00</b>	
<b>TOTAL DEBT</b>	<b>460,599.00</b>		<b>608,173.00</b>	

DEPARTMENT	FY22 BUDGET VOTED	FY23 PROPOSED BUDGET	FY23 Sub-Total To Be Voted On	FY23 AC RECOMMENDS (TBD)
<b>MISCELLANEOUS:</b>				
Retirement	291,513.00	323,950.00	323,950.00	
Town Insurance	140,000.00	125,000.00	125,000.00	
Health Insurance	347,785.22	381,501.18	381,501.18	
Life & Fringe	8,900.00	8,900.00	8,900.00	
FICA/Medicare	46,040.17	46,961.17	46,961.17	
Wage/Salary Reserve	25,000.00	25,000.00	25,000.00	
<b>TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS</b>	<b>859,238.39</b>		<b>911,312.35</b>	
<b>GRAND TOTAL:</b>	<b>11,165,632.34</b>		<b>11,638,313.49</b>	

*This article establishes the FY23 operating budget for town departments. The FY 23 recommended budget is \$11,638,313.49*

Advisory Committee Opinion: APPROVES

**ARTICLE 4. RECURRING BUSINESS**

- A. To see if the Town will vote to establish the FY23 ambulance operating budget by use of receipts for ambulance services received to date and if necessary, by raising and appropriating or by appropriating from available funds. Receipts for ambulance services received in FY23 and all subsequent fiscal years to be deposited into a receipt reserved for appropriation account established in FY01. Appropriations from said account to be made at either the annual or special town meetings for the purpose of maintaining and operating the Town’s ambulance service, i.e. salary for ambulance employees, vehicle maintenance, fuel, equipment and operating supplies, with any balance in said account to be carried forward to subsequent years or take any other action relative thereto.

*This establishes the FY23 receipts reserved for appropriation account from which ambulance operating expenses will be paid.*

Advisory Committee Opinion: APPROVES

- B. To see if the Town will vote to establish the FY23 trash operating budget. Receipts for trash disposal services received in FY23 and all subsequent fiscal years to be deposited into a trash enterprise fund account established in FY08. Appropriations from said account to be made at either the annual or special town meetings for the purpose of paying for the proper disposal of solid waste generated within the town. Any balance in said account to be carried forward to subsequent years, or take any other action relative thereto.



*The Town directly pays Wheelabrator Millbury, Inc. which operates the trash incinerator for solid waste disposal. This article allows the town to receive and deposit into this account offsetting payments from trash haulers. \$21, 000 is requested for the FY 23 trash-operating budget.*

Advisory Committee Opinion: APPROVES

- C. To see if the town will vote to transfer a sum of money from undesignated fund balance (free cash) account # 01-000-3591-000000 to be deposited in the Other Post-Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund in order to offset future health insurance costs for retirees, or to take any other action relative thereto.

*Approval of this will authorize a contribution to a trust fund established by the May 2011 Annual Town Meeting to fund future health insurance liabilities for retirees, similar to the way future pension obligations are funded. \$10, 000 is requested for FY 23.*

Advisory Committee Opinion: APPROVES

- D. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money to the Goodnow Book Expense Account for the purchase of books for the Library, as required by the terms of the Goodnow Deed of Gift, or take any other action thereto.

*The Deed of Gift requires an annual payment of \$50.*

Advisory Committee Opinion: APPROVES

- E. To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from undesignated fund balance (free cash) account # 01-000-3591-000000 to the School Septic System Stabilization Fund for the purpose of reserving funds for the replacement and/or repair of the septic system at the Thomas Prince School; or to take any other action relative thereto.

*The Town and the Wachusett Regional School District signed a Maintenance Agreement in FY19, which provides for an annual payment in the amount of \$2,047 in FY20, 21, and 22 to the Town of Princeton from the Wachusett Regional School District to be put toward the replacement or repair costs of the septic system at the school. The funds for FY22 have yet to be received by the town and by law are required to be deposited to miscellaneous revenue to become part of the FY22 free cash balance. Once received they can be transferred into this Stabilization Account*

Advisory Committee Opinion: APPROVES

- F. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to contract with and accept any grants from the Mass. Department of Transportation-Highway Division for the construction of any road or related work that may be allotted to the Town for the ensuing year or to take any other action relative thereto.

*This article authorizes the Selectmen to accept any grants or contracts with the state for road or road-related projects.*

Advisory Committee Opinion: APPROVES

**Article 5: DEPARTMENTAL REVOLVING FUNDS AUTHORIZATION**

<b>ARTICLE 5: DEPARTMENTAL REVOLVING FUNDS AUTHORIZATION</b>					
To see if the Town will vote to authorize revolving funds for certain town departments under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44 Section 53E 1/2 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022, or take any other action relative thereto.					
<b>Revolving Fund</b>	<b>Authorized to Spend Fund</b>	<b>Revenue Source</b>	<b>Use of Fund</b>	<b>FY 2022 Spending Limit</b>	<b>FY 2023 Spending Limit</b>
Building Department	Bldg. Inspector Town Admin.	Fees from Bldg, Wiring, and Plumbing Permits	To Pay Administrative & Inspector Salary & Expenses	\$55,000	\$55,000
Library	Library Director, Town Admin.	Copy Machine, Fax, Fines and Fees	Defray Operational Expenses	\$4,000	\$4,000
Parks and Recreation (P&R)	P&R Commission Chairman, P&R Director, and Town Admin.	Fees Collected from Recreational Programs	Provide Recreational Programs & Pay Salaries	\$20,000	\$20,000
Parks and Recreation (P&R)	P&R Commission Chairman, P&R Director, and Town Admin.	Fees Collected from Recreational Programs	Maintenance of Parks Pay Salaries	\$20,000	\$20,000
Board of Health	Board of Health Town Admin.	Permits & Inspections	Salary & Expense	\$21,000	\$21,000
Cemetery	Cemetery Comm. Chairman, Town Admin.	Burial Fees	Salary & Expense	\$10,000	\$10,000
Fire Department	Fire Chief, Deputy Chiefs, Town Admin.	Fees from Fire Permits	To Pay Administrative & Inspector Salary & Expenses	\$8,500	\$8,500
Conservation Commission	Conservation Commission Chair, Town Admin.	Lease Payments from Four Corners Hayfields	To Pay for the Upkeep of & Improvements to Conservation Property	\$3,500	\$3,500
<b>Maximum Spending</b>					\$142,000

*All departments having revolving accounts were asked to complete a FY23 budget request. The spending limits were adjusted for each account to match revenue anticipated and available for each fund, as well as budgets requested, with minor exceptions. Please note that the Municipal Modernization Act of 2016 changed the procedures for Revolving Funds, requiring that a By-Law be established for revolving funds. A By-Law was established at the May 2017 Annual Town Meeting.*

Advisory Committee Opinion: APPROVES

**ARTICLE 6.** To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from undesignated fund balance (free cash) account #01-000-3591-000000 to aid with archiving, sorting, and destroying documents in line with state mandates in Bagg Hall. This will help organize several departments and work towards future digitization; or take any other action relative thereto.

*Funds for this project will be used to archive, organize, file, and database multiple areas of Bagg Hall including the vault, second floor, and balcony. The estimated cost is \$27,296.00*

Advisory Committee Opinion: APPROVES

**ARTICLE 7.** To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from undesignated fund balance (free cash) account #01-000-3591-000000 for the purchase and installation of a driveway and asphalt apron at Station 2 in East Princeton; or take any other action relative thereto.

*Approval of the article will provide needed funding to purchase and install a driveway and asphalt apron at Station 2 in East Princeton. The estimated cost is \$117,242.50.*

Advisory Committee Opinion: APPROVES

**ARTICLE 8.** To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from undesignated fund balance (free cash) account #01-000-3591-000000 to evaluate the Princeton Police Department's operations in comparison to industry standards and best practices; or take any other action relative thereto.

*Approval of this article will provide funding to have an outside law enforcement auditor evaluate the operations of the Princeton Police Department in comparison to industry standards. The estimated cost is \$15,000*

Advisory Committee Opinion: APPROVES

**ARTICLE 9.** To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from undesignated fund balance (free cash) account #01-000-3591-000000 to assist the town with recruitment of a new Police Chief; or take any other action relative thereto.

*Approval of this article will provide funding to have an outside law enforcement entity aide the town in the recruitment and hiring of a new Police Chief. Chief Powers in set to retire in December 2022. The estimated cost is \$15,000*

Advisory Committee Opinion: APPROVES

**ARTICLE 10.** To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from undesignated fund balance (free cash) account #01-000-3591-000000 to purchase a six-wheel Dump Truck; or take any other action relative thereto.

*Approval of this article will provide funding to purchase a six-wheel dump truck for use by the Highway Department. The estimated cost is \$100,000, as the full cost would be offset by the trade of an older model dump truck.*

Advisory Committee Opinion: APPROVES

**ARTICLE 11.** To see if the Town will vote to transfer from undesignated fund balance (free cash) account #01-000-3591-000000 for security upgrades at the Thomas Prince Elementary School; or take any other action relative thereto.

*Approval of this article will provide additional funding to purchase and install security upgrades at Thomas Prince School. The estimated cost is \$60,000.*

Advisory Committee Opinion: APPROVES

**ARTICLE 12.** To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from undesignated fund balance (free cash) account #01-000-3591-000000 to supplement the installation of a generator at the Highway Department; or take any other action relative thereto.

*Approval of this article will provide additional funding to purchase and install an emergency generator at the Highway Department. Original funding of \$43,000 was approved in FY22. The estimated additional cost is \$7,800 due to unanticipated electrical code issues and inflation*

Advisory Committee Opinion: APPROVES

**ARTICLE 13.** To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from undesignated fund balance (free cash) account #01-000-3591-000000 to the Infrastructure Stabilization account #85-000-4970-000000; or take any other action relative thereto.

*Approval of this funding will transfer \$100,000 from Free Cash to the Infrastructure Stabilization Account.*

Advisory Committee Opinion: APPROVES

**ARTICLE 14.** To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from undesignated fund balance (free cash) account #01-000-3591-000000 to fund an Energy Contingency/Fuel Stability Account; or take any other action relative thereto.

*Approval of this article will provide \$25,000 for emergency energy costs such as oil, diesel, gasoline, propane, and electricity.*

**ARTICLE 15.** To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from the sale of town land account #20-000-5810-2010005 to fund the demolition and removal of an old well house on Thompson Road; or take any other action relative thereto.

*Approval of this article will provide funds for the removal of an old well-house on Thompson Road. The estimated cost is \$5,500.*

Advisory Committee Opinion: APPROVES

**ARTICLE 16.** To see if the Town will authorize, under General Laws Chapter 44, Section 21C, upon the recommendation of the Selectboard, the following lease purchase financing agreements for the acquisition of equipment that may be acquired through the issuance of debt under G.L. c. 44, the term of such agreement not to exceed the useful life of the equipment or improvement as determined by the Selectboard, and to authorize the departments below to enter into such agreements on behalf of the Town, subject to appropriation for the first year payments of the agreements as stated below, or take any other action relative thereto.

<b>Equipment / Capital Asset</b>	<b>Max Term</b>	<b>Authorized Department</b>	<b>Appropriation</b>
Fire Truck	7 years	FIRE	FY24
Police Cruiser	3 years	POLICE	FY 23

*Approval of this article will authorize lease purchasing of vehicles and equipment as outlined above. Funding for lease purchases will be included in the department budget beginning in the FY noted above. 2/3 majority to pass*

Advisory Committee Opinion: APPROVES

**ARTICLE 17.** To see if the Town will vote to amend the General Bylaws by replacing:

- a. the words “Board of Selectmen,” wherever they appear, with the words “Selectboard;”
- b. the words “Selectman” or “Selectmen,” wherever either appears, with the words “Selectboard Member” or “Selectboard Members,” respectively; and
- c. the word “Chairman,” wherever it appears, with the word “Chair;”

or to take any other action relative thereto.

*Approval of this article will formally change the name of the Board of Selectmen to Selectboard and change any gender specific roles to non-gender specific in the General Bylaws.*

Advisory Committee Opinion: APPROVES

**ARTICLE 18.** To see if the Town will vote to amend the Zoning Bylaws by replacing:

- a. the words “Board of Selectmen,” wherever they appear, with the words “Selectboard;”
- b. the words “Selectman” or “Selectmen,” wherever either appears, with the words “Selectboard Member” or “Selectboard Members,” respectively; and

c. the word “Chairman,” wherever it appears, with the word “Chair;”  
or to take any other action relative thereto.

*Approval of this article will formally change the name of the Board of Selectmen to Selectboard and change any gender specific roles to non-gender specific in the Zoning Bylaws.*

Advisory Committee Opinion: APPROVES

**ARTICLE 19.** To see if the Town will vote to amend SECTION III, RESIDENTIAL-AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT of the Zoning bylaws, by adding as Section III.1. (R) the following provision, or take any other action relative thereto:

Notwithstanding any other provisions in these by-laws, commercial cultivation, processing, and/or manufacturing of marijuana is not a permitted use in a Residential-Agricultural District.

*Approval of this article will ban the commercial cultivation, processing, and/or manufacturing of marijuana in a Residential-Agricultural District. 2/3 majority to pass.*

Advisory Committee Opinion: APPROVES

**ARTICLE 20.** To see if the Town will vote to amend SECTION IV, BUSINESS DISTRICT of the Zoning Bylaws, by adding as Section IV.1. (K) the following provision, or take any other action relative thereto:

Notwithstanding any other provisions in these by-laws, commercial cultivation, processing, and/or manufacturing of marijuana is not a permitted use in a Business District.

*Approval of this article will ban the commercial cultivation, processing, and/or manufacturing of marijuana in a Business District. 2/3 majority to pass.*

Advisory Committee Opinion: APPROVES

**ARTICLE 21.** To see if the Town will vote to amend SECTION V, BUSINESS-INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT of the Zoning Bylaws by adding as Section V.1.(D) the following provision, or take any other action relative thereto:

Section V.1(D) Marijuana

(i) Notwithstanding any other provisions in these by-laws, commercial cultivation, processing, and/or manufacturing of marijuana is not a permitted use in a Business-Industrial District except for marijuana for medical purposes as provided in subsection (ii).

(ii) Subject to permission by the Planning Board as provided in Section VIII of this by-law, indoor commercial cultivation of marijuana for medical purposes, and related processing and/or manufacturing of marijuana grown on the property, shall be allowed in Business-Industrial districts, provided that the

total canopy on the property does not exceed 5,000 square feet, and that the cultivation and related processing and/or manufacturing will not be offensive, injurious, or noxious because of noise, vibration, smoke, fumes, dust, odors, danger of explosion, light, or other characteristics detrimental to a dominantly residential town. The buildings used for cultivation, processing, and/or manufacturing shall meet the following setback requirements:

- a. All buildings shall be set back a minimum of one hundred (100) feet from the edge of the public right of way.
- b. All buildings shall be set back a minimum of one hundred (100) feet from the side and rear lot lines.
- c. All buildings shall be a minimum of five hundred (500) feet from adjacent residential buildings.

*Approval of this article will ban the commercial cultivation, processing, and/or manufacturing of recreational marijuana in a Business-Industrial District, and would allow the indoor medical cultivation, processing, and/or manufacturing of recreational marijuana in a Business-Industrial District with Planning Board Approval. 2/3 majority to pass.*

Advisory Committee Opinion: APPROVES

**Article 22.** To see if the Town will vote to approve the Wachusett Regional School District Committee’s proposed amendment to Section 1 of the Amended Wachusett Regional School District Agreement, in accordance with Massachusetts General Law Chapter 71, Section 14E, changing the language of Section 1 from the following:

Section 1 MEMBERS OF THE REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
 1.1.1 The Wachusett Regional District School Committee, hereinafter referred to as "the Committee", shall consist of members from each Member Town, each such member to be a registered voter of the town such member represents. The Member Town with the smallest population as determined in accordance with paragraph 1. shall be entitled to elect two members to the committee, and the other Member Towns shall be entitled to elect members to the Committee on the following basis:

Proportion of Town's Population Number of Committee to that of Smallest Town  
 Members

1.0 to 1,499	2
1.5 to 2.599	4
2.6 to 3.699	6
3.7 to 4.799	8
4.8 to 5.999	10
6.0 to 6.999	12
7.0 to 7.999	14

8.0 to 8.999	16
9.0 to 9.999	18

For every digit after 9.999, a Member Town shall be entitled to elect one additional member to the Committee. In 1994 and every year thereafter, members shall be elected to serve on the Committee at the annual town meeting of the Member Towns. The method of nomination and election of the members to the Committee from a particular Member Town, shall be the same as if they were candidates for an elective office in such Member Town.

- 1.1.2 All members elected thereafter, except as provided in paragraph 1.1.4, shall be elected for a three (3) year term.
- 1.1.3 The population of the Member Towns shall be determined every five (5) years in accordance with the towns' annual census with the next five (5) year review to be conducted in calendar 2021 and certified by the respective town clerks. Any increase in membership resulting from population changes shall be elected at the annual town meeting following the review year.
- 1.1.4 In the event of a population change in a Member Town resulting in an increase in the number of members to be elected to the Committee, such increase shall be effective at the annual town meeting following the certification of the census. Initial terms of office shall be established by the Committee so as to equalize the number of expirations for each Member Town per year and secondarily, to equalize the number of expirations each year on the Committee.
- 1.1.5 In the event of a population change in a Member Town resulting in a decrease in the number of members to be elected to the Committee from a Member Town, such decrease shall be effective upon the earliest expiration of the term of office of the Member Town's representation of the Committee.
- 1.1.6 If a vacancy occurs on the Committee, or if there is a failure to elect, the Selectboard of the Member Town to which the vacancy relates shall fill such vacancy by appointment. The person so appointed shall be a registered voter of such town and shall perform the duties of the office until such town's next annual meeting and a successor is qualified; at such annual meeting a successor shall be elected to fill the balance of the unexpired term.

To the following:

**Section 1. MEMBERS OF THE REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

- 1.1 The Wachusett Regional District School Committee, hereinafter referred to as "the Committee," shall consist of a total of sixteen (16) members, each member hereinafter referred to as a "Member." Each Member shall be elected at their respective Member Town elections as detailed in Section 1.1.1. below, and in accordance with M.G.L. c. 71, s. 14E (4). Six (6) Members of the Committee shall be residents of the Town of Holden, three (3) Members of the Committee shall be residents of the Town of Rutland, three (3) Members



of the Committee shall be residents of the Town of Sterling, two (2) Members of the Committee shall be residents of the Town of Paxton, and two (2) Members of the Committee shall be residents of the Town of Princeton. As used in this Agreement, a person shall be deemed to be a “resident” and/or to meet the “residency” requirement for a particular Member Town only if such person is properly registered to vote in the respective Member Town.

1.1.1 The decreasing of the size of the School Committee shall occur as follows, commencing at the 2023 town elections. Just one (1) Member from the town of Sterling whose term is to expire in 2023 shall have their seat abolished at the conclusion of their term in 2023. The two (2) Members from the town of Holden whose terms are to expire in 2023 and who have received the least, and second-to-least elective votes shall have their seats abolished at the conclusion of their terms in 2023. The two (2) Members from the town of Holden whose terms are to expire in 2024 and who have received the least, and second-to-least elective votes shall have their seats abolished at the conclusion of their terms in 2024. The Member from the town of Rutland whose term is to expire in 2024 and who received the least elective votes shall have their seat abolished at the conclusion of their term in 2024. The Committee shall recalculate the weight of each Member’s vote, pursuant to Section 1.2, every time the number of Members on the Committee changes at any time for any reason.

1.2 To ensure compliance with federal, state, and regulatory laws, the weighted vote of all Members shall be recalculated by the Committee every five (5) years, or recalculated every time the number of members on the Committee changes, based upon Member Town population data taken from most recent Member Town census data, as certified by the Member Town Clerks, and shall be, as nearly as possible, in direct proportion to the population of the member town compared to the population of all member towns combined so that the actual weighted vote of each individual member is as nearly equal to one (1) as possible.

1.3. Commencing at the Reorganizational Meeting occurring on or after May 2023, all individual Committee votes, including Subcommittee votes, shall be based upon the allocation of proportional (weighted) votes of individual Committee Members, as detailed in Section 1.7.

1.4 Each Member must reside in the Member Town which she or he represents, as described in Section 1.1. Each Member must be elected consistent with the process for the election of Member Town officials in said Member Town and will be elected to open seats during the annual election or a special election in said town. The term of each elected member will begin on the first business day after their election and after being sworn in by the respective Town Clerk. A member who has not otherwise vacated their seat will continue to serve until their successor is elected and sworn.

- 1.5 Except as otherwise stated in Section 1.1.1. in the year first following the acceptance of this Amended Regional Agreement by all Member Towns and the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education, hereinafter referred to as the “Commissioner,” each member will serve a three (3) year term after being duly elected to a three-year seat at the Member Town’s Annual Election.
- 1.6 If a vacancy on the Committee occurs for any reason, the Selectboard from the Member Town involved shall appoint a Member to serve until the next annual town election, at which election a successor shall be elected to serve the balance of the unexpired term, if any. This Section 1.6 shall apply to all Member seats, including those Member seats that are vacated prior to being abolished pursuant to Section 1.1.1.
- 1.7 Commencing at the Reorganizational Meeting occurring on or after May 2023, each Member’s vote shall be weighted, as nearly as possible, in direct proportion to the population of the member town compared to the population of all member towns combined so that the actual weighted vote of each individual member is as nearly equal to one (1) as possible. For example, and for illustrative purposes only, if the 2020 Town census figures were used in calculating weighted voting for the sixteen (16) Member Committee, this 2020 data would result in the following weighted voting factors:

<b>Individual Member Weighted Factor per Member Town</b>	<b>Census Population</b>	<b>Percentage of Combined Population</b>	<b>Committee Members</b>	<b>Total Voting Weight</b>
<b>Total 5 Towns</b>	<b>45,438</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>HOLDEN</b>	19,905	43.81%	6	7.01
1.16/Member				
<b>PAXTON</b>	5,004	11.01%	2	1.76
0.88/Member				
<b>PRINCETON</b>	3,495	7.69%	2	1.23
0.62/Member				
<b>RUTLAND</b>	9,049	19.92%	3	3.18
1.06/Member				
<b>STERLING</b>	7,985	17.57%	3	2.82
0.94/Member				

- 1.8 The quorum for the transaction of Committee business shall be a majority of the total vote value (i.e., 16.0) of all of the Committee Members as defined in Section 1.7 above. A weighted vote total less than a majority may adjourn but may take no other action.
- 1.9 The quorum for the transaction of each Subcommittee’s business shall be a majority of the total vote value of all of the appointed Members to the respective Subcommittee. A weighted vote less than a majority as defined in this Section may adjourn but may take no other action.
- 1.10 Except where otherwise provided by statute, regulation, or by the terms of this Agreement, actions by the Committee will be taken by the weighted vote pursuant to Roberts Rules of Order’s protocols that correspond to the particular type of vote being taken.
- 1.10.1 In order to approve the District’s annual budget, to approve the incurring of debt, or to apportion among the Member Towns the amounts necessary to be raised in order to support the budget, or any other vote requiring a two-third majority vote by statute or regulation, a combined total of weighted votes equal to or exceeding 66.67% of the weighted vote of the entire Committee (i.e., not merely two thirds of the weighted vote of those present) shall be required.
- 1.11 Except where otherwise provided by statute, regulation, or by the terms of this Agreement, actions by a Subcommittee will also be taken by weighted vote total pursuant to “Roberts Rules of Order’s” protocols that correspond to the particular type of vote being taken. For these purposes, a majority vote shall mean an affirmative vote by more than half of the weighted vote total of the Members present at a properly called meeting of the respective Subcommittee for which a quorum is present.

or to take any other action in relation thereto.

*Approval of this article will amend the Wachusett Regional School District Agreement pursuant to the weighted vote/attrition model.*

Advisory Committee Opinion: APPROVES

**Article 23.** To see if the Town will vote to approve the Wachusett Regional School District Committee’s proposed amendments to Sections 11.3 and 11.4 of the Amended Wachusett Regional School District Agreement, and its proposal to add a Section 11.5, as follows:

Changing the language of Section 11.3 from:

- 11.3 The Committee may determine by a majority vote to assign pre-kindergarten through grade eight (8) pupils to schools in other than their town of residence in case of an emergency that prevents use of a building in whole or part, for enrollment in special education classes or with parental approval.

To:

- 11.3 The Committee may determine by a majority vote to assign pre-kindergarten through grade eight (8) pupils to schools in other than their town of residence in case of an emergency that prevents use of a building in whole or in part.

Changing the language of Section 11.4 from:

- 11.4 Parents may request attendance in any of the Member Town schools, subject to approval of the Superintendent.

To:

- 11.4 Parents/Guardians may request attendance in any of the Member Town schools, subject to approval of the Superintendent or their designee, with the presumption the parents/guardians will be responsible for transportation of the pupil unless otherwise allowed by the Superintendent or their designee.

Adding a Section 11.5 immediately following Section 11.4 of the Amended Wachusett Regional School District Agreement, to state:

- 11.5 The Superintendent or their designee may assign pre-kindergarten through grade eight (8) pupils to schools in other than their town of residence for enrollment in special education classes, with parent/guardian approval, with transportation provided pursuant to Section 6. The Committee will yearly review special education programming and the choice of schools that host district-wide programs.

or to take any other action in relation thereto.

*Approval of this article will amend sections 11.3 and 11.4 of the Wachusett Regional School District Agreement, add a Section 11.5 regarding student attendance at out-of-town schools in the case of emergency need.*

Advisory Committee Opinion: APPROVES

**Article 24.** To see if the Town will vote to approve the Wachusett Regional School District Committee's proposed deletion of Section 16 of the Amended Wachusett Regional School District Agreement, which reads as follows:

Section 16. CAPITAL EXPENDITURES FROM SURPLUS

The Regional District School Committee may authorize capital expenditures from surplus funds for those purposes cited in General Laws, Chapter 71 Section 16, not to exceed \$250,000 in any fiscal year for any single project and provided two thirds of the members of the Committee voting on the question to authorize said expenditure.

and to renumber the remaining sections of the said agreement from Sections 17, 18 and 19 to 16, 17, and 18, or to take any other action in relation thereto.

*Approval of this article will delete section 16 of the Wachusett Regional School District Agreement, and re-number the following sections accordingly.*

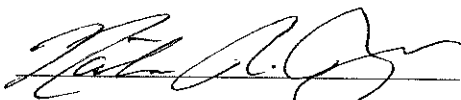
Advisory Committee Approves

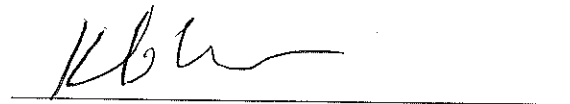
And you are directed to serve this Warrant by posting attested copies thereof seven days at least before time of said meeting at Bagg Hall, Princeton Public Library, and the Princeton Post Office.


Hereof fail not, and make return of this Warrant, with your doings thereon, to the Town Clerk, at the time and place of said meeting, as aforesaid.

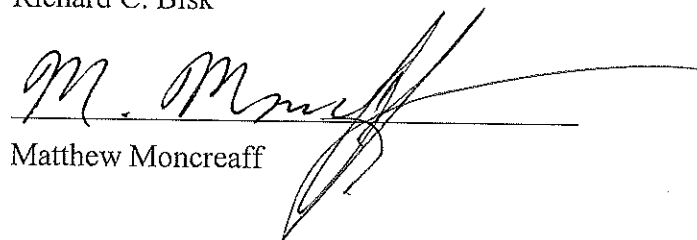
Given under our hands on this 3 day in MAY, 2022.

A true copy, ATTEST:

  
Nathan Boudreau, Town Clerk

  
Karen G. Cruise, Chair

  
Richard C. Bisk

  
Matthew Moncreaff  
Town of Princeton Selectboard

Seal

I have this day posted the above warrant at Bagg Hall, Princeton Public Library, and Princeton Post Office.

Date: 5/5/22

  
Constable