

June 20, 2023

**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
WARRANT**



DRAFT WARRANT FOR REVIEW AND DISCUSSION PURPOSES

TOWN WARRANT

TOWN OF PRINCETON

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

JUNE 20, 2023

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

Advisory Committee Opinion: To Be Determined

ARTICLE 2. To see if the Town will vote under the provisions of G.L. c. 41, §108, to fix the salaries of the following Town Officers for the ensuing year (FY24); or to take any other action relative thereto.

	<u>FY 23</u>	<u>FY 24</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: To Be Determined

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 (FY24); or to take any other action relative thereto.

DEPARTMENT	FY23 BUDGET VOTED	FY24 PROPOSED BUDGET	FY24 Sub-Total To Be Voted On	FY24 AC RECOMMENDS (TBD)
GENERAL GOVERNMENT:				
Moderator				
Salary	25.00	25.00		
Expense	86.00	86.00		
Sub-Total	111.00		111.00	

DEPARTMENT	FY23 BUDGET VOTED	FY24 PROPOSED BUDGET	FY24 Sub-Total To Be Voted On	FY24 AC RECOMMENDS (TBD)
Board of Selectmen				
Salaries	3,600.00	3,600.00		
Expense	6,085.00	6,185.00		
Sub-Total	9,685.00		9,785.00	
Town Administrator				
Salary	107,161.20	109,304.42		
Assistant To Town Administrator	16,013.02	24,700.00		
Expense	3,423.50	3,423.50		
Sub-Total	126,597.72		137,427.92	
Reserve Fund				
Expense	75,000.00	75,000.00	75,000.00	
Town Accountant				
Salary	55,117.74	49,200.00		
Admin Asst Wages	20,640.72	21,259.94		
Accountant Certification	1,000.00			
Annual Audit Expense	14,500.00	16,000.00		
Expense	8,843.00	5,953.00		
Sub-Total	100,101.46		92,412.94	
Board of Assessors				
Board Salaries	1,500.00	1,500.00		
Department Salary	65,490.90	48,558.09		
Principal Assessor Certification	1,000.00	1,000.00		
Expense	22,556.39	22,556.39		
Sub-Total	90,547.29		73,614.48	
Treasurer/Tax Collector				
Department Salary	107,156.66	117,318.01		
Certification	2,000.00	3,000.00		
Expense	18,193.00	20,793.00		
Sub-Total	127,349.66		141,111.01	
Town Counsel				
Expense	35,000.00	35,000.00	35,000.00	
Information Technology				
Info. Tech. Salary	28,118.89	28,962.46		
Info Tech Expense	36,557.00	36,557.00		
Sub-Total	64,675.89		65,519.46	

DEPARTMENT	FY23 BUDGET VOTED	FY24 PROPOSED BUDGET	FY24 Sub-Total To Be Voted On	FY24 AC RECOMMENDS (TBD)
Administrative Assistants				
Salaries	26,864.36	27,670.29		
Expense	400.00	500.00		
Sub-Total	27,264.36		28,170.29	
Town Clerk				
Salary	51,296.00	42,740.00		
Certification				
Expenses	5,130.00	9,340.73		
Sub-Total	56,426.00		52,080.73	
Elections & Registration				
Salaries	6,200.00	4,600.00		
Expense	5,500.00	6,000.00		
Sub-Total	11,700.00		10,600.00	
Conservation Commission				
Expense	970.00	970.00	970.00	
Environmental Action Committee				
Expense	970.00	970.00	970.00	
Planning Board				
Admin. Asst. Salary	-			
Expense	1,810.51	1,810.51		
Sub-Total	1,810.51		1,810.51	
Board of Appeals				
Expense	500.00	500.00	500.00	
Open Space Committee				
Expense	950.00	985.00	985.00	
Agricultural Commission				
Expense	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	
Town Building Operations				
Salaries	52,812.26	54,396.63		
Expense	64,742.00	69,451.00		
Sub-Total	117,554.26		123,847.63	
TOTAL GENERAL GOV'T.	848,213.15		850,915.97	

DEPARTMENT	FY23 BUDGET VOTED	FY24 PROPOSED BUDGET	FY24 Sub-Total To Be Voted On	FY24 AC RECOMMENDS (TBD)
PUBLIC SAFETY:				
Police				
Police non-union Salaries	180,105.00	229,674.10		
Police Union Salaries	631,255.00	757,174.08		
Expense	153,894.00	246,223.54		
Sub-Total	965,254.00		1,233,071.72	
Fire Department				
Salaries	151,891.68	177,631.68		
Expense	129,954.78	133,554.78		
Sub-Total	281,846.46		311,186.46	
Ambulance				
Salaries	-	255,600.00		
Expense	-	67,685.00		
Sub-Total	-		323,285.00	
Regional Services				
Animal Inspector Salary	500.00	500.00		
Animal Control Expense	13,673.50	13,673.50		
Police Dispatch	87,043.00	91,857.00		
Sub-Total	101,216.50		106,030.50	
Emergency Response				
Emergency Mgt. Exp.	2,968.20	4,918.20		
Emergency Notification Sys	3,699.00	4,349.00		
COVID-19 Expenses				
Sub-Total	6,667.20		9,267.20	
Tree Warden				
Salary	1,665.00	1,665.00		
Expense	11,750.00	11,750.00		
Sub-Total	13,415.00		13,415.00	
TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY:	1,368,399.16		1,996,255.88	
SCHOOLS				
Wachusett Regional School				
Wachusett Min. Contribution	3,836,083.00	4,009,651.00		
Operations Assessment	1,116,534.00	1,147,884.00		
Transportation	342,212.00	380,628.00		
Long Term Debt	123,911.00	103,356.00		
Sub-total	5,418,740.00		5,641,519.00	
Montachusett Reg. Vocational	396,361.00	415,820.00	415,820.00	
Smith Vocational	61,200.00	63,648.00	63,648.00	
TOTAL SCHOOLS	5,876,301.00		6,120,987.00	

DEPARTMENT	FY23 BUDGET VOTED	FY24 PROPOSED BUDGET	FY24 Sub-Total To Be Voted On	FY24 AC RECOMMENDS (TBD)
PUBLIC WORKS:				
Highway				
Salaries	465,882.86	479,859.35		
Expense	309,227.28	331,933.22		
Road Reconstruction	250,000.00	250,000.00		
Sub-Total	1,025,110.14		1,061,792.57	
Snow/Ice Removal				
Expense	240,000.00	261,335.00	261,335.00	
Street Lights				
Expense	7,100.00	7,100.00	7,100.00	
Wachusett Earthday	2,220.41	2,275.92		
Wachusett Greenway	800.00	832.00	3,107.92	
Environmental				
Expense	65,545.00	55,545.00		
PFA's Monitoring/Testing	279,000.00	318,800.00		
PFA's Water/Filters	25,000.00	15,000.00		
Sub-Total	369,545.00		389,345.00	
TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS	1,644,775.55		1,722,680.49	
HUMAN SERVICES				
Council on Aging				
Salary	39,338.00	47,810.88		
Expense	67,272.40	67,692.22		
Sub-Total	106,610.40		115,503.10	
Veterans Services				
Salary	6,600.00	7,000.00		
Expense	33,950.00	33,950.00		
Sub-Total	40,550.00		40,950.00	
TOTAL HUMAN SERVICES	147,160.40		156,453.10	

DEPARTMENT	FY23	FY24	FY24	FY24
	BUDGET	PROPOSED	Sub-Total	AC
	VOTED	BUDGET	To Be Voted On	RECOMMENDS
				(TBD)
CULTURE & RECREATION:				
Library				
Salaries	130,987.80	141,576.78		
Expense	66,390.00	66,388.00		
Sub-Total	197,377.80		207,964.78	
MISC/Band Concerts	1,940.00	2,440.00	2,440.00	
Parks & Recreation				
Salaries	11,318.74	20,997.60		
Expense	20,096.34	21,819.34		
Sub-Total	31,415.08		42,816.94	
Historical Commission				
Expense	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	
Memorial Day				
Expense	1,746.00	4,050.00	4,050.00	
TOTAL CULTURE & RECREATION	233,978.88		258,771.72	
DEBT & INTEREST:				
Police Cruisers	40,947.00	85,331.00	85,331.00	
Thomas Prince/Green Repair	115,500.00	113,300.00	113,300.00	
PFAS Remediation	11,500.00	163,172.00	163,172.00	
Broadband Make Ready	115,300.00	112,300.00	112,300.00	
Fire Truck Debt/Int	122,100.00	58,753.00	58,753.00	
Bagg Hall Stab. Debt/Int	159,446.00	155,071.00	155,071.00	
Salt Shed Debt/Int	18,380.00	17,855.00	17,855.00	
General Interest/Borrowing Fees	25,000.00	25,000.00	25,000.00	
TOTAL DEBT	608,173.00		730,782.00	

DEPARTMENT	FY23	FY24	FY24	FY24
	BUDGET	PROPOSED	Sub-Total	AC
	VOTED	BUDGET	To Be Voted On	RECOMMENDS
				(TBD)
MISCELLANEOUS:				
Retirement	323,950.00	340,439.00	340,439.00	
Town Insurance	125,000.00	125,000.00	125,000.00	
Health Insurance	381,501.18	328,454.85	328,454.85	
Life & Fringe	8,900.00	9,900.00	9,900.00	
FICA/Medicare	46,961.17	47,900.39	47,900.39	
Wage/Salary Reserve	25,000.00	25,000.00	25,000.00	
Energy Reserve	-	25,000.00	25,000.00	
TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS	911,312.35		901,694.24	
GRAND TOTAL:	11,638,313.49		12,738,540.40	

This article establishes the FY24 operating budget for town departments. The FY 24 recommended budget is XXX

Advisory Committee Opinion: To Be Determined

ARTICLE 4. RECURRING BUSINESS

- A. To see if the Town will vote to establish the FY24 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 to take any other action relative thereto.

This establishes the FY24 receipts reserved for appropriation account from which ambulance operating expenses will be paid.

Advisory Committee Opinion: To Be Determined

- B. To see if the Town will vote to establish the FY24 trash operating budget. Receipts for trash disposal services received in FY24 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 to 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 24 trash-operating budget.

Advisory Committee Opinion: To Be Determined

- C. To see if the town will vote to transfer a sum of money from free cash 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 24.

Advisory Committee Opinion: To Be Determined

- 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 to take any other action thereto.

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

Advisory Committee Opinion: To Be Determined

- E. To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from free cash 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, which provides for an annual payment in the amount of \$2,047 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 FY 23 have yet to be received by the town and by law are required to be deposited into miscellaneous revenue to become part of the FY 24 free cash balance. Once received they can be transferred into this Stabilization Account.

Advisory Committee Opinion: To Be Determined

- F. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board 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 Select Board to accept any grants or contracts with the state for road or road-related projects.

Advisory Committee Opinion: To Be Determined

Article 5: DEPARTMENTAL REVOLVING FUNDS AUTHORIZATION

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the following expenditure caps for revolving funds for certain town departments under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44 Section 53E ½ for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023; or to take any action relative thereto.

Revolving Fund	Authorized to Spend Fund	Revenue Source	Use of Fund	FY 2023 Spending Limit	FY 2024 Spending Limit
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
Maximum Spending					\$142,000

All departments having revolving accounts were asked to complete a FY 24 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: To Be Determined

ARTICLE 6. To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from free cash to pay unpaid bills from a prior fiscal year (FY 22); or to take any other action relative thereto.

Approval of this article will provide funds to pay unpaid bills from FY 22 as follows \$29,793.27 Fire Department, \$201.49, IT, and \$14.24 Highway Department. The total is \$30,009. This article requires a 4/5 vote under G.L. c. 44, § 64.

Advisory Committee Opinion: To Be Determined

ARTICLE 7. To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from free cash to purchase an ambulance; or to take any other action relative thereto.

Approval of the article will provide funding to replace the 2015 Ambulance #1. The estimated cost is \$395,300.

Advisory Committee Opinion: To Be Determined

ARTICLE 8. To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from free cash to purchase a generator to provide emergency backup power for the fuel system at the Highway Department; or to take any other action relative thereto.

Approval of this article will provide funding to purchase an emergency generator to power the fuel pump system at the Highway Department in the event of a power loss. These pumps fuel the Highway, Fire, Police and EMS Vehicles. The estimated cost is \$15,000

Advisory Committee Opinion: To Be Determined

ARTICLE 9. To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from free cash to purchase specialty plow blades and pavement temperature sensors to reduce salt usage for the Highway Department; or to take any other action relative thereto.

Approval of this article will provide funding to purchase specialty plow blades and pavement temperature sensors for the Highway Department. The Town will apply for funding through the DCR Salt Use Reduction Grant Program to obtain equipment that will reduce salt usage. The estimated cost is \$40,000. \$20,000 (50%) would be reimbursed if the grant was funded.

Advisory Committee Opinion: To Be Determined

ARTICLE 10. To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from the Sale of Town Owned Land Fund for final design and construction bid documents for a new Public Safety Building; or to take any other action relative thereto.

Approval of this article will provide funding (\$517,149.87) for final design and construction documents for a new Public Safety Building. The estimated cost for this project is \$990,000. There is currently \$472,850.13 in the Public Safety Building Account and \$655,000 in Sale of Town Owned Land.

Advisory Committee Opinion: To Be Determined

ARTICLE 11. To see if the Town will authorize, under G.L. c. 44, § 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 to take any other action relative thereto.

Equipment / Capital Asset	Max Term	Authorized Department	Appropriation
Police Cruiser	3 years	Police	FY 25
Backhoe	5 years	Highway	FY 25

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 FY 25 noted above. This article requires a 2/3 vote under G.L. c. 44, § 21C.

Advisory Committee Opinion: To Be Determined

ARTICLE 12. To see if the Town will vote to adopt as Chapter XX of the General Bylaws the following:

“Chapter XX. Security Posted in Connection With Licenses, Permits, Contracts & Approvals

“SECTION 1. Purpose and Authority. The purpose of this Bylaw is to provide a mechanism for the application by Town officers, boards, committees and commissions of security posted by applicants in connection with their obtaining licenses, permits, approvals, authorizations and contracts. This Bylaw is adopted pursuant to the home rule authority of the Town and the authority conferred by G.L. c. 44, § 53G1/2.

“SECTION 2. Scope. It is the intent of this Bylaw to govern as broad a range of situations as possible in which Town officers, boards, committees and commissions require some form of security from applicants, provided only that this Bylaw shall not apply to deposits or other financial surety received under G.L. c. 41, § 81U. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, this Bylaw shall apply to surety required by (a) the Board of Selectmen to secure performance under any contract which such board is authorized to execute by general or special law, by any of the General Bylaws or by any vote of Town Meeting; (b) the Board of Selectmen to secure performance of any condition for the issuance by such board of any license, permit or approval including, without limitation, a street opening permit or drain connection permit; and (c) the Conservation Commission to secure performance of any obligation undertaken by an applicant for an order of conditions or other approval granted by such commission.

“SECTION 3. Form and Handling of Surety. Subject to any restrictions set forth in any authorizing statute or Bylaw, Town officers, boards, committees and commissions may require, accept, hold and apply security in any reasonable form including, but not limited to, a deposit of

money or negotiable securities, a bond issued by a bonding company authorized to do business within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, a letter of credit, and a so-called ‘tri-partite’ agreement of the kind described in G.L. c. 41, § 81U(4).

“SECTION 4. Role of Treasurer. Any deposit of money hereunder shall be held by the Treasurer in a special account established specifically for such purpose, separate and apart from all other funds. Any negotiable securities, bonds, letters of credit and so-called ‘tri-partite’ agreements shall also be held by the Treasurer, and any funds generated from such surety shall likewise be deposited in such a special account. Any such account shall be an interest-bearing account with a Massachusetts bank. All interest accruing on each such account shall be added to the principal of such account for disposition as set forth herein.

“SECTION 5. Performance Standards. Any Town officer, board, committee or commission demanding surety from any applicant hereunder shall be responsible for determining, in the exercise of his or its reasonable discretion and in good faith, the extent, quality and adequacy of any work done by such applicant or performance by such applicant of the obligation for which such surety was given. Such officer, board, committee or commission may, but need not, reduce the amount of surety held upon proof of satisfactory partial work or performance by such applicant, provided that nothing herein shall require that such reduction be commensurate with the extent of such performance.

“SECTION 6. Release of Security. If and when such Town officer, board, committee or commission determines that such applicant has fully and satisfactorily completed all work and performed all obligations for which such surety was given, such surety shall be released and returned to the applicant, including any accrued interest.

“SECTION 7. Default. If any Town officer, board, committee or commission which has received surety for work or for the performance of any obligation hereunder determines at any time that the applicant who posted such security is in default of his, her or its obligations (whether because of a failure to complete such work or performance by a designated deadline, or the unsatisfactory quality of such applicant’s work or performance, or otherwise), such officer, board, committee or commission may declare such applicant in default.

“SECTION 8. Enforcement. Upon a declaration of default, such officer, board, committee or commission shall be entitled to apply any and all surety posted by such applicant (including any interest received thereon) to the completion of the work or the performance of the obligations for which such surety was posted. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, such officer, board, committee or commission may take any and all actions necessary or appropriate to enforce any bond, make demand on any issuer of a letter of credit, and demand payment under any so-called ‘tri-partite’ agreement, and any money received as a result thereof shall be deposited in an account held by the Treasurer under Section 4, above. Monies in such special account may be expended by such officer, board, committee or commission, without further appropriation, to complete the work or perform the obligations which such applicant was obliged to do or perform. Any monies remaining in such account after all work has been done and all obligations performed to the full satisfaction of such officer, board, committee or commission shall be returned to the applicant, including any accrued interest.

“SECTION 9. Procedure for Return of Surety. At any time, and from time to time, an applicant whose surety is being held by the Treasurer on behalf of a Town officer, board, committee or commission may give written notice to such officer, board, committee or commission that in such applicant’s opinion the work or performance that such surety was intended to secure has been fully and satisfactorily completed. Such notice shall contain a demand for the return of surety and the full name and address of the applicant. If such officer, board, committee or commission determines that such work or performance has been fully and satisfactorily completed, then he, she or it shall release the surety, or so much of it as may then remain, including any accrued interest. If such officer, board, committee or commission determines that such work or performance has not been fully and satisfactorily completed, then he, she or it shall specify in a written notice to the applicant the details wherein such work or performance remains incomplete or unsatisfactory within forty-five (45) days after the receipt by such officer, board, committee or commission of the said notice and demand from the applicant. In the event that such forty-five- (45-) day period expires without such specification, then the applicant shall be entitled to the return of all surety then remaining, including any accrued interest. Any notice under this Bylaw by an applicant to a Town officer, board, committee or commission shall be given by certified mail, return receipt requested, and shall not otherwise be effective.

“SECTION 10. Appeal. If any applicant appeals from an act or omission of any Town officer, board, committee or commission hereunder, whether by means of an action in the nature of mandamus or certiorari or otherwise, and such action results in a judgment in favor of such officer, board, committee or commission, then the latter’s reasonable attorneys’ fees and expenses incurred in defense against such action may be reimbursed from the surety posted by such applicant.

“SECTION 11. Severability. If any term, condition or provision set forth in this Bylaw should be found by a court of competent jurisdiction to be illegal, invalid or unenforceable as applied under particular circumstances, such term, condition or provision shall not be deemed stricken from this Bylaw but rather shall be, to the greatest extent possible, deemed applicable only to such circumstances as will not support a finding of such illegality, invalidity or unenforceability. The illegality, invalidity or unenforceability of any term, condition or provision of this Bylaw shall not affect the legality, validity or enforceability of any other term, condition or provision of this Bylaw.”

or to take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 13. To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to G.L. c. 40, §§ 15 and 15A, and all other applicable authority, to authorize the Select Board to convey to HF PROPCO, LLC, a Massachusetts limited liability company, an easement for the location, relocation, maintenance and use of a septic line under a portion of the public way located at 178 Westminster Road consisting of approximately 790.5 square feet, as shown on a plan entitled “Easement Plan 178 Westminster Road Princeton, Massachusetts” by Brennan Consulting dated August 8, 2022, a copy of which plan is on file with the Town Clerk, on such terms and for such consideration as the Select Board may determine, including, without limitation, an obligation on the part of the grantee to bear all costs of maintaining and repairing the said septic line, to resurface the way to the sole satisfaction of the Highway Superintendent

following any disturbance thereof for such maintenance or repair, to obtain any and all required approvals from the Town for a street opening or trench permit in connection with such maintenance or repair, and the posting of security in the amount of 125% of the anticipated costs to resurface the way in the form of a cash deposit to be held by the Treasurer in a separate account, and to replenish such security from time to time following, any application thereof, in such an amount that the Town will always hold 125% of the sum then anticipated by the Highway Superintendent to be needed to resurface the way; or to take any other action relative thereto.

This article will authorize the Selectboard to grant an easement to Harrington Farm for the location, relocation and maintenance of a septic line under a portion of Westminster Road. This article requires a 2/3 vote under G.L. c. 40, §§ 15 & 15A.

Advisory Committee Opinion: To Be Determined

ARTICLE 14. To see if the Town will vote to amend the Zoning By-Laws by replacing:

- a. The words “Board of Selectmen” wherever they appear with the word “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 gender specific roles to non-gender specific roles in the Zoning Bylaws. This article requires a 2/3 vote under G.L. c. 40A, § 5. This article was passed at the May 2022 Town Meeting, but it had been proposed by the Selectboard as a companion to an amendment to the general bylaws and had not gone through the public hearing process required for amendments to zoning bylaws.

Advisory Committee opinion to be determined after public hearing.

ARTICLE 15. To see if the Town will vote:

- (a) pursuant to G.L. c. 40, § 15A and any other applicable authority, to transfer the care, custody, management and control of the land shown as Lots 11-1-2, 11-1-3 and 11-1-4 off Hubbardston Road, which land was acquired by the Town for use as a landfill pursuant to an order of taking dated October 19, 1987 and recorded with the Worcester County Registry of Deeds at Book 10912, Page 210, to the Selectboard for the purpose of leasing the same to a lessee to construct and operate a solar energy generation facility under a long-term lease with the Town;
- (b) pursuant to G.L. c. 40, § 3, G.L. c. 30B, § 16, and any other applicable authority, to authorize the Selectboard to select such a lessee through a competitive request-for-proposals process, and thereafter to negotiate and execute with, and deliver to, such lessee, a lease agreement on such terms and subject to such conditions as the Selectboard may deem prudent, the term of such lease being not more than thirty (30) years; and

- (c) to authorize the Selectboard to take such other and further actions, and execute and deliver such other and further instruments, as may be necessary or appropriate to accomplish the foregoing purposes; or to take any other action in connection therewith.

Approval of this article will allow the Selectboard to lease land—the site of the former Town landfill—to a solar energy developer. This article requires a 2/3 vote under G.L. c. 40, § 15A.

Advisory Committee Opinion: To Be Determined

ARTICLE 16. To see if the Town will vote to amend the Zoning By-Laws by adding a new Section XXIII, or take any other action relative thereto:

Section XXIII. Solar Energy Systems

Purpose. The purposes of this by-law are to facilitate and encourage the use of solar energy to reduce dependence on fossil fuels; to reduce carbon emissions and greenhouse gases; and to address climate change in an unobtrusive way. The location and construction of solar energy systems are subject to the regulations in these zoning by-laws. The regulations are intended to conserve forested watershed lands that are instrumental in improving and protecting the water quality of the public and private drinking water reservoirs within and surrounding the town; to conserve forests to promote carbon sequestration; to contribute to the protection of healthy ecosystems; to prevent loss of wildlife habitat; to minimize any negative impact on neighboring properties; and to maintain the dominant rural, residential, and agricultural character and uses of the town.

1. Definitions.

- A. A large-scale solar energy system is a solar photovoltaic installation (i) that is primarily intended to generate electricity to be used off of the site on which the system is located, or (ii) that occupies more than 1,750 square feet of solar panel surface area and does not meet the definition of a small-scale solar energy system.
- B. A small-scale solar energy system is a solar photovoltaic installation that is primarily intended to generate electricity to be used on the site on which the system is located although incidental electricity may be transmitted offsite, and (i) is a solar photovoltaic installation that occupies no more than 1,750 square feet of solar panel surface area, or (ii) is a solar photovoltaic installation that occupies more than 1,750 square feet of solar panel surface area and is mounted on a legally-permitted building or buildings with the solar panels parallel to the plane of a roof or wall surface of the building. A site may have more than one small-scale solar photovoltaic installation provided that in such case all but one installation is placed on a legally-permitted building or buildings with solar panels parallel to the plane of a roof or wall surface of the building. For purposes of this Section XXIII, a car port or similar shelter with open sides shall be considered to be a building, provided that such building has a primary purpose other than serving as a structure for solar panel installation.
- C. A site is a lot or contiguous lots owned, controlled, or operated by the same individual(s) or entity (entities).

- D. This by-law is not intended to regulate individual solar-powered outdoor light fixtures, electric fencing, and similar applications with small dedicated solar panels.

2. General Requirements.

- A. All solar energy systems and their accessory structures shall comply with all applicable town, state, and federal laws, codes, and regulations.
- B. The connection of a solar energy system to the electric grid in Princeton requires approval by the Princeton Municipal Light Department.
- C. No building permit shall be issued and no construction or site preparation shall be started for any large-scale solar energy system, or for any small-scale solar energy system subject to paragraphs 4.B and 4.C, unless a site plan has been reviewed and approved by the Planning Board after notice to abutting landowners. In addition to the criteria set out in Section XII, the Planning Board may impose reasonable conditions not otherwise prohibited by statute as will effectuate the purposes of this Section XXIII, including appropriate screening.
- D. Except as may be specifically provided in this Section XXIII, a solar energy system and any accessory structures shall comply with all requirements of these zoning by-laws.

3. Large-Scale Solar Energy Systems

Notwithstanding any other provisions in these zoning by-laws, a large-scale solar energy system may be constructed in any zoning district subject to the following conditions:

- A. The site of any large-scale energy system that is ground-mounted or mounted on a structure other than a legally-permitted building or buildings shall have a minimum area of five (5) acres. No more than twenty-five (25) acres on any one site shall be occupied by solar energy systems and their accessory structures (excluding transmission lines and fences).
- B. The site need not have frontage on a public way provided that access to the site is over a deeded and recorded easement to a public way, and the access road is sufficient to allow the passage of Town fire trucks and other service vehicles. Any such easement must specifically allow use of the easement by the Town when the Town requires access to the site.
- C. Unless mounted on a legally-permitted building or buildings and parallel to the plane of a roof or wall surface of the building, large-scale solar energy systems (and all accessory structures and equipment including but not limited to inverters, transformers, and battery storage systems but excluding transmission lines and fences) shall be set back not less than one hundred (100) feet from public ways, and not less than fifty (50) feet from the property line on the side and rear lot lines.

- D. All large-scale solar energy systems not mounted on a legally-permitted building or buildings parallel to the plane of a roof or wall of the building and all accessory structures and equipment including but not limited to inverters, transformers, battery storage systems and fences (but excluding transmission lines) shall have screening determined by the Planning Board to be appropriate to implement the purposes of this Section XXIII and the purposes of Section XII.
- E. At least seventy (70) percent of the surface of the site of a ground-mounted large-scale solar energy system shall be permeable to allow natural water infiltration.
- F. A large-scale solar energy system constructed in a Residential-Agricultural District or in a Business District requires a special permit from the Planning Board pursuant to Section VIII of these zoning by-laws. In addition to the criteria set forth in Section VIII, the Planning Board shall specifically consider the purposes of this Section XXIII and may impose, as a condition of its decision, such reasonable conditions not otherwise prohibited by statute as will effectuate the purposes of this Section XXIII.
- G. The Town shall receive a non-cancellable bond reasonably acceptable to the Town, or a cash deposit to be held in escrow by the Town, sufficient to cover the cost of removal of the large-scale solar energy system (and all accessory structures and equipment including but not limited to inverters, transformers, battery storage systems, transmission lines and fences) upon decommissioning or abandonment. If the owner/operator of the large-scale solar energy system has not completed removal within one year of decommissioning or abandonment, the Town may remove or complete the removal of the large-scale solar energy system and apply the bond or deposit against the resulting costs incurred by the Town.

4. Small-Scale Solar Energy Systems.

Notwithstanding any other provisions in these zoning by-laws, a small-scale solar energy system may be constructed in any zoning district subject to the following conditions.

- A. A small-scale solar energy system that is mounted on a legally-permitted building or buildings and that is parallel to the plane of a roof or wall surface of the building requires only a building permit. If a legally-existing roof surface exceeds the height permitted by Section VI.2 of these zoning by-laws, a small-scale solar energy system may also exceed the height permitted by Section VI.2 but must be a minimum of three feet below the existing ridge line
- B. A small-scale solar energy system that is mounted on a legally-permitted building or buildings but that is not parallel to the plane of a roof or wall surface of the building requires site plan review under Section XII.

- C. A small-scale solar energy system that is not mounted on a legally-permitted building or buildings requires site plan review under Section XII and shall be subject to the following conditions:
- (i) Any such small-scale solar energy system shall be set back at least fifty (50) feet from the property line where the property borders a public way, and at least thirty (30) feet from the property line on the side and rear lot lines.
 - (ii) The site plan review for any such small-scale solar energy system shall include screening determined by the Planning Board to be appropriate to implement the purposes of this Section XXIII and the purposes of Section XII.

Approval of this article will regulate the siting and installation of residential and commercial solar energy systems in the Town. This article requires a 2/3 vote under G.L. c. 40A, § 5.

Advisory Committee Opinion: To Be Determined

ARTICLE 17. To see if the Town will vote to have Sam Cobb Lane paved.

This article was submitted as a Citizen's Petition by Robert Mua and certified with 15 signatures by the Town Clerk in accordance with G.L. c. 39, § 10.

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 ____ day in _____, 2023.

A true copy, ATTEST:

Alissa Horsung, Town Clerk

Karen G. Cruise, Chair

Robert Cumming

Philip Gott

Town of Princeton Selectboard

Seal

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

Date: _____

Constable

AVAILABLE FUNDS IN THE TREASURY

Free Cash	527,710	Majority Vote Required
Sale of Town Owned Land	655,000	Majority Vote Required
Public Safety Bldg.	472,850.13	No Vote Already Appropriated
Infrastructure Stabilization	441,382.25	2/3 Vote Required
Stabilization	713,080.11	2/3 Vote Required
ARPA	485,092.22	No Vote Selectboard Discretion