

May 14, 2022

**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
RESULTS**



Annual Town Meeting
Princeton, MA 01541
May 14, 2022

Warrant duly posted:	May 3, 2022
Inhabitants notified by website posting:	May 3, 2022
Advisory Board Hearing:	April 12, 2022
Quorum needed:	89
Voters Present:	113
Moderator:	Harry Pape
Checkers/Counters:	Frances Thomas, Barbara Gates, Carolyn Nelson, Linda Albright
Constable:	Michele Powers
Meeting called to order:	10:14AM
Meeting dissolved:	12:59PM

The Moderator opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made and seconded to dispense with the reading of the full warrant.

Moderator declared the vote was Unanimous at 10:16AM

Moderator read the charge to the Constable, and the Return of the Warrant.

The Moderator asked that all non-voters identify themselves for the tellers.

The Moderator read the results from the May 9, 2022, Annual Town Election.

Selectboard Chair Karen Cruise awarded the 2020 Annual Town of Princeton Outstanding Citizen Award to Frances Thomas.

Selectboard Vice Chair Richard Bisk awarded the 2021 Annual Town of Princeton Outstanding Citizen Award to Richard Gardner.

ARTICLE 1. Moved and seconded to hear the reports of the Town Officers and any outstanding committees and act thereon.

Moderator declared the vote unanimous at 10:33AM

ARTICLE 2. Moved and seconded that 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
Selectboard	\$3,600 (\$1,200 per member)	\$3,600 (\$1,200 per member)
Assessors	\$1,500 (\$500 per member)	\$1,500 (\$500 per member)

Moderator declared the vote unanimous at 10:35AM

ARTICLE 3. Moved and seconded to raise and appropriate **\$11,638,313.49** including debt and interest, and to provide for a reserve fund for the ensuing fiscal year (FY23) as set forth in Article 3

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

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

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

DEPARTMENT	FY22 BUDGET VOTED	FY23 PROPOSED BUDGET	FY23 Sub-Total To Be Voted On	FY23 AC RECOMMENDS (TBD)
PUBLIC SAFETY:				
Police				
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	
Fire Department				
Salaries	148,984.00	151,891.68		
Expense	133,974.00	129,954.78		
Ambulance Readiness				
Sub-Total	282,958.00		281,846.46	
Regional Services				
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	
Emergency Response				
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	
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:	1,273,970.00		1,368,399.16	
SCHOOLS				
Wachusett Regional School				
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	
TOTAL SCHOOLS	5,758,968.00		5,876,301.00	

DEPARTMENT	FY22 BUDGET VOTED	FY22 PROPOSED BUDGET	FY23 Sub-Total To Be Voted On	FY23 AC RECOMMENDS (TBD)
PUBLIC WORKS:				
Highway				
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	
Snow/Ice Removal				
Expense	210,000.00	240,000.00	240,000.00	
Street Lights				
Expense	3,500.00	7,100.00	7,100.00	
Wachusett Earthday	1,849.00	2,220.41		
Wachusett Greenway	800.00	800.00	3,020.41	
Environmental				
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	
Cemeteries				
Salaries	10,200.00			
Expense	33,959.28			
Sub-Total	44,159.28		0.00	
TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS	1,580,989.11		1,644,775.55	
HUMAN SERVICES				
Council on Aging				
Salary	34,507.00	39,338.00		
Expense	65,285.00	67,272.40		
Sub-Total	99,792.00		106,610.40	
Veterans Services				
Salary	3,600.00	6,600.00		
Expense	35,100.00	33,950.00		
Sub-Total	38,700.00		40,550.00	
TOTAL HUMAN SERVICES	138,492.00		147,160.40	

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

DEPARTMENT	FY22 BUDGET VOTED	FY23 PROPOSED BUDGET	FY23 Sub-Total To Be Voted On	FY23 AC RECOMMENDS (TBD)
MISCELLANEOUS:				
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	
TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS	859,238.39		911,312.35	
GRAND TOTAL:	11,165,632.34		11,638,313.49	

Moderator declared the vote for Article 3 Carried at 11:13 AM establishing the FY23 operating budget for town departments.

ARTICLE 4. RECURRING BUSINESS - Moved and seconded to approve Article 4 as proposed in subsections A through F. *Requires 2/3rd majority to pass.*

- A. **VOTED** to establish the FY23 ambulance operating budget by use of receipts for ambulance services in the amount of \$47,000 for salary and \$46,585.00 for expenses and \$154,000 for ambulance readiness for a total budget of \$247,585.00 any balance in said account to be carried forward to subsequent years.
- B. **VOTED** to establish the FY23 trash operating budget by use of receipts for trash disposal services in the amount of \$21,000 to be appropriated from Solid Waste Enterprise. Any balance in said account to be carried forward to subsequent years.
- C. **VOTED** to transfer from undesignated fund balance (free cash) account # 01- 000-3591- 000000 the sum of \$10,000.00 to be deposited in the Other Post-Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund in order to offset future health insurance costs for retirees.
- D. **VOTED** to raise and appropriate \$50.00 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.
- E. **VOTED** to transfer from undesignated fund balance (free cash) account # 01- 000-3591- 000000 the sum of \$2,047 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.

F. **VOTED** I move that the Town vote to authorize the Selectboard 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.

Moderator declared the vote unanimous at 11:15 AM

Article 5. Moved and seconded e to authorize spending limits for the FY23 revolving funds for certain Town departments for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022, as set forth in Article 5 of the Annual Town Meeting warrant. *Requires 2/3rd majority to pass.*

Revolving Fund	Authorized to Spend Fund	Revenue Source	Use of Fund	FY 2021 Spending Limit	FY 2022 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	\$30,000	\$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	\$8,000	\$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

Moderator declared the vote carried unanimously at 11:22 AM

ARTICLE 6. Moved and seconded to transfer \$27,296.00 from undesignated fund balance (free cash) account to aid with archiving, sorting, and destroying documents located in Bagg Hall.

Moderator declared the vote carried unanimously at 11:24 AM

ARTICLE 7. Moved and seconded to transfer **\$117,242.50** 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.

Moderator Declared the vote FAILED via electronic voting (64-40) at 11:35 AM

ARTICLE 8. Moved and seconded to transfer the sum of \$15,000 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.

Moderator Declared the vote carried via electronic voting (63-33) at 11:35 AM

ARTICLE 9. Moved and seconded to transfer the sum of \$15,000 from undesignated fund balance (free cash) account #01-000-3591-000000 to assist the town with recruitment of a new Police Chief.

Moderator declared the vote carried unanimously at 11:39

Reconsidered Article 7. Moved and seconded to transfer \$117,242.50 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.

Moderator declared the vote carried via electronic voting (73-27) at 11:50 AM

ARTICLE 10. Moved and seconded to transfer \$100,000.00 from undesignated fund balance (free cash) account #01-000-3591-000000 to purchase a six-wheel Dump Truck

Moderator declared the vote carried at 11:53 AM

ARTICLE 11. Moved and seconded to transfer \$60,000 from undesignated fund balance (free cash) account #01-000-3591-000000 to provide security upgrades at the Thomas Prince Elementary School; or take any other action relative thereto.

Moderator declared the vote unanimous at 11:55 AM

ARTICLE 12. Moved and seconded to transfer \$7,800 from undesignated fund balance (free cash) account #01-000-3591-000000 to supplement the installation of a generator at the Highway Department.

Moderator declared the vote carried unanimously at 11:57

ARTICLE 13. Moved and seconded to transfer \$100,000 from undesignated fund balance (free cash) account #01-000-3591-000000 to the Infrastructure Stabilization account #85-000-4970-000000.

Moderator declared the vote unanimous at 12:00 PM

ARTICLE 14. Moved and seconded to transfer \$25,000 from undesignated fund balance (free cash) account #01-000-3591-000000 to fund an Energy Contingency/Fuel Stability Account.

Moderator declared the vote unanimous at 12:01 PM

ARTICLE 15. Moved and seconded to transfer \$5,500 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.

Moderator declared the vote unanimous at 12:03 PM

ARTICLE 16. Moved and seconded to 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 listed to enter into such agreements on behalf of the Town, subject to appropriation for the first year payments of the agreements as stated in the Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

Article 16 – AMENDMENT. Moved and seconded to direct the Selectboard to ensure that the Police Cruiser, shown in article 16 of the Annual Town Meeting Warrant, is a hybrid vehicle.

Moderator declared the amendment carried via electronic voting (53-38-2) at 12:14 PM

Moderator Declared the vote carried as amended via electronic voting (76-15-1) at 12:15 PM

ARTICLE 17. Moved and seconded e to amend the General Bylaws, concerning the Board of Selectmen, 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.”

Moderator declared the vote carried unanimously at 12:19 PM

ARTICLE 18. Moved and seconded to amend the Zoning Bylaws, concerning the Board of Selectmen, by replacing: d. the words “Board of Selectmen,” wherever they appear, with the word “Selectboard;” e. the words “Selectman” or “Selectmen,” wherever either appears, with the words “Selectboard Member” or “Selectboard Members,” respectively; and f. the word “Chairman,” wherever it appears, with the word “Chair.”

Requires 2/3rd majority to pass.

Moderator declared the vote carried unanimously at 12:21 PM

ARTICLE 19. Moved and seconded to amend SECTION III, RESIDENTIAL-AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT of the Zoning Bylaws by adding as Section III.1. (R) the following provision:

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.

Requires 2/3rd majority to pass.

Moderator declared the amendment carried via electronic voting (77-9-1) at 12:36 PM

ARTICLE 20. Moved and seconded 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

Requires 2/3rd majority to pass.

Moderator declared the amendment carried via electronic voting (78-11) at 12:46 PM

ARTICLE 21. Moved and seconded e to amend SECTION V, BUSINESS-INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT, by adding as Section V.1.(D) the following provision:

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.

Moderator declared the amendment carried via electronic voting (81-7-1) at 12:51 PM

ARTICLE 22. Moved and seconded 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 l. 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:

Individual Member Weighted Factor per Member Town	Census Population	Percentage of Combined Population	Committee Members	Total Voting Weight
Total 5 Towns	45,438	100%	16	16
HOLDEN	19,905	43.81%	6	7.01
1.16/Member				
PAXTON	5,004	11.01%	2	1.76
0.88/Member				

PRINCETON	3,495	7.69%	2	1.23
0.62/Member				
RUTLAND	9,049	19.92%	3	3.18
1.06/Member				
STERLING	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.

Moderator declared the vote carried unanimously at 12:55 PM

ARTICLE 23. Moved and seconded 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.

Moderator declared the vote carried unanimously at 12:56 PM

ARTICLE 23. Moved and seconded 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.

Moderator declared the vote carried unanimously at 12:58 PM

Moved and seconded to ADJOURN the meeting.

Moderator declared the vote carried at 12:59 PM

Meeting ADJORNED at 12:59 PM

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. R. B.', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Nathan R. Boudreau, Town Clerk
Town of Princeton