

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
TOWN OF TOWNSEND
ANNUAL AND SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

July 25, 2020, 9:00 am

(Town Meeting was postponed from May 5, 2020, accordingly, to Chapter 53 of Acts of 2020)

Senior Center Parking Area
16 Dudley Road
Townsend, MA 01469

The Town Meeting began at 9:07 am. Quorum was met with 91 voters present and there were 13 visitors present. Moderator, John Barrett, introduced the Town Clerk, Kathleen Spofford, Town Administrator, James Kreidler, Board of Selectmen, Wayne Miller, Donald Klein and Veronica Kell and Town Counsel, Adam Costa. The Moderator then introduced the Finance Committee, Donna Lynn Pinkerton, Andrea Wood, Jerrilyn Bozicas and Steve Sheldon. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance lead by Boy Scout Troop 10, Liam Congdon, Rowan Congdon and Colin Synan. The Moderator instructed those present on the processes of Town Meeting according to Town Meeting Time and our own traditions. The Town Clerk then read the return of the Town Warrant for the Annual Town Meeting. The moderate nomination Gene Rauhala as Deputy Moderator; vote was unanimous.

Motion was made to adjourn the Annual Town Meeting and open the Special Town Meeting. Return of the Warrant for the Special Town Meeting was read by the Town Clerk. The Special Town Meeting began at 9:15.

ARTICLE 1

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, borrow or transfer from available funds in the treasury the sum of \$_____ for the purpose of paying prior fiscal year bills; or take any other action in relation thereto.

Motion was made to take no action.

SUBMITTED BY: Board of Selectmen
MOTION READ BY: Wayne Miller
VOTED: Passed Unanimously

ARTICLE 2

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from free cash, the sum of **\$126,331.00** for the purpose of offsetting FY19 Snow and Ice Deficits under the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 31D, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Moved that the Town vote to transfer from stabilization, the sum of \$126,331.00 for the purpose of offsetting FY20 Snow and Ice Deficits under the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 31D.

SUBMITTED BY: Board of Selectmen
MOTION READ BY: Donald Klein
VOTED: Passed Unanimously

ARTICLE 3

To see if the Town will vote to close out the Building Inspectional Revolving Fund, in the sum of **\$56,575.69**, or take any other action in relation thereto. (This revolving fund is no longer required as the high school project is closed out.)

Moved that the Town vote to close out the Building Inspectional Revolving Fund, in the sum of \$56,575.69.

SUBMITTED BY: Town Accountant
MOTION READ BY: Veronica Kell
VOTED: Passed Unanimously

ARTICLE 4

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Water Enterprise Retained Earnings the sum of **\$2,000.00** for match to a Massachusetts Municipal Vulnerability Planning Assistance Action Grant to assess climate impacts on the Towns wells, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Moved that the Town vote to transfer from Water Enterprise Retained Earnings the sum of \$2,000.00 for a match to a Massachusetts Municipal Vulnerability Planning Assistance Action Grant to assess climate impacts on the Town’s wells.

SUBMITTED BY: Water Commissioners
READ BY: Wayne Miller
VOTED: Passed Unanimously

ARTICLE 5

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer and appropriate and/or borrow and appropriate a sum of one hundred thirty two thousand nine hundred and thirty nine dollars and fifty two cents, (**\$132,939.52**) for a Climate Resilient Water Supply Assessment contingent on the award of grant funding to reimburse 75% of the cost. The Town will apply for a State of Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EOEEA) Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Action Grant to reimburse 75% of this appropriation. The Town will provide an in-kind match in the amount of **\$34,249.24**, or 25% of total cost, or take any action in relation thereto.

Motion was made to move that the Town vote to borrow and appropriate a sum of one hundred thirty two thousand nine hundred and thirty nine dollars and fifty two cents, (\$132,939.52) for a Climate Resilient Water Supply Assessment contingent on the aware of grant funding to reimburse 75% of the cost. The Town will apply for a State of Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EOEEA) Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Action Grant to reimburse 75% of this appropriation. The Town will provide an in-kind match in the amount of \$34,249.24, or 25% of total cost.

SUBMITTED BY: Board of Selectmen
READ BY: Wayne Miller
VOTED: Passed Unanimously

ARTICLE 6

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of **\$450,000.00** from the PEG Access Receipts Reserved account for the purpose of funding the production and broadcast of Public, Educational and Government (PEG) access television, said funds to be distributed under the authority and direction of the Board of Selectmen as it deems appropriate and pursuant to an agreement between the Town and its designee PEG access corporation, Townsend Community Access and Media, Inc., or take any action in relation thereto.

Moved that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of **\$425,000.00** from the PEG Access Receipts Reserved Account for the purpose of funding the production and broadcast of Public, Educational and Government (PEG) access television, said funds to be distributed under the authority and direction of the Board of Selectmen as it deems appropriate and pursuant to an agreement between the Town and its designee PEG access corporation, Townsend Community Access and Media, Ins.

SUBMITTED BY: Board of Selectmen
READ BY: Donald Klein
VOTED: Passed Unanimously

Motion was made to dissolve the Special Town Meeting.

VOTED: Passed Unanimously

The Special Town Meeting was dissolved at 9:25 am.

The Annual Town Meeting reconvened at 9:25 a.m.

ARTICLE 1

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to appoint all Town Officers unless other provisions are made by Massachusetts General Law, by Town Charter, or by vote of the Town, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Moved that the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to appoint all Town Officer unless other provisions are made by Massachusetts General Law, by Town Charter, or by vote of the Town.

SUBMITTED BY: Board of Selectmen
READ BY: Veronica Kell
VOTED: Passed by Majority

ARTICLE 2

To see if the Town will vote pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c.44, §53E½, as most recently amended, to: (1) establish the following revolving funds for Fiscal Year 2021 specifying the departmental receipts to be credited to each fund, the departmental purposes or programs for which each fund may be expended, and the entity authorized to expend each fund, fiscal year spending limits such bylaw to provide as follows:

Moved that the Town vote pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c.44, §53E½ , as most recently amended, to: (1) establish the following revolving funds for Fiscal Year 2021 specifying the

departmental receipts to be credited to each fund, the departmental purposes or programs for which each fund may be expended, and the entity authorized to expend each fund, fiscal year spending limits such bylaw to provide as follows:

	REVOLVING FUND	AUTHORITY TO SPEND FUND	REVENUE SOURCES	USE OF FUNDS	SPENDING LIMITS
1	Recycling and Solid Waste	Board of Health	Collection of recyclables and solid waste	Operating costs associated with recycling and solid waste	\$20,000.00
2	Recreation Programs	Recreation Commission	Recreation Programs	Operating costs associated with programming	\$52,000.00
3	Facilities Maintenance	Facilities Coordinator	Fees from Meeting Hall rental	Operating costs of the Meeting Hall	\$4,000.00
4	Cemetery	Cemetery and Parks Commission	Fees from burials	Operating and capital costs for cemeteries	\$28,000.00
5	Fire Alarm	Fire Chief	Fire alarm fees	Operating and capital costs for fire alarm system	\$4,000.00
6	Animal Care Program	Animal Control Officer	Fees for emergency care of animals	Expenses for injured or abandoned animals	\$1,000.00
7	Fire/EMS	Fire Chief	Fees from community events/fire watch	Expenses associated with Fire/EMS services	\$5,000.00
8	Police	Police Chief	NMRSD Receipts	School Resource Officer	\$80,000.00
9	Conservation	Conservation Commission	Forest cutting proceeds	Conservation purposes	\$20,000.00
10	Fire/EMS	Fire/EMS Chief	Hazardous Materials Supplies reimbursement	Hazardous Materials Supplies replacements	\$10,000.00

SUBMITTED BY: Board of Selectmen
READ BY: Wayne Miller
VOTED: Passed Unanimously

ARTICLE 3

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and transfer from available funds* in the treasury, such sums that may be necessary to defray the charges and expenses of the Town for Fiscal Year 2021 pursuant to a detailed budget totaling \$23,665,776.00, or action in relation thereto.

*FUND:	PURPOSE:	AMOUNT:
Title 5 MWPAT	Supplement to MWPAT Debt Repayment	\$ 27,538.00
West Townsend Reading Room	Supplemental Funding to Operate the WTRR	\$ 2,900.00
Ambulance Receipts Reserved	Supplemental Funding to Operate the EMS	\$ 475,000.00
Recreation Receipts	Supplemental Funding to Operate Recreation	\$ 30,000.00
Water Enterprise Fund	Supplemental Funding to Cover Water Overhead	\$ 262,181.80

DESCRIPTION:

This is the usual and customary Town budget for next fiscal year, FY21, which began on July 1, 2020. As has been customary you will be voting by the total for each of the following functional segments:

*General Government-	\$ 1,433,980.00
*Public Safety-	\$ 3,336,494.00
*Education-	\$ 13,985,684.00
*Streets and Highways-	\$ 731,217.00
*Solid Waste-	\$ 729,900.00
*Human Services-	\$ 465,638.00
*Culture and Recreation-	\$ 446,211.00
*Debt Service-	\$ 462,605.00
*Insurances-	\$ 2,074,047.00
and	
*Grand Total-	\$ 23,665,766.00

Moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate and transfer from available funds in the treasury as follows:

*FUND:	PURPOSE:	AMOUNT:
Title 5 MWPAT	Supplement to MWPAT Debt Repayment	\$ 27,538.00
West Townsend Reading Room	Supplemental Funding to Operate the WTRR	\$ 2,900.00
Ambulance Receipts		

Reserved	Supplemental Funding to Operate the EMS	\$ 475,000.00
Recreation Receipts	Supplemental Funding to Operate Recreation	\$ 30,000.00
Water Enterprise Fund	Supplemental Funding to Cover Water Overhead	\$ 262,181.80
PEG Access Fund	Supplemental Funding to Cover Cable Access	\$ 25,000.00

such sums that may be necessary to defray the charges and expenses of the Town for Fiscal Year 2021 pursuant to a detailed budget as follows:

*General Government-	\$ 1,433,980.00
*Public Safety-	\$ 3,336,494.00
*Education-	\$ 13,985,684.00
*Streets and Highways-	\$ 731,217.00
*Solid Waste-	\$ 729,900.00
*Human Services-	\$ 465,638.00
*Culture and Recreation-	\$ 446,211.00
*Debt Service-	\$ 462,605.00
*Insurances-	\$ 2,074,047.00
and	
*Grand Total-	\$ 23,665,766.00

SUBMITTED BY: Board of Selectmen
READ BY: Donald Klein
VOTED: Passed Unanimously

ARTICLE 4

To see if the Town will vote to fix the salaries and compensation of all elected Officers of the Town as provided by Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 41, Section 108, as amended, and as appropriated in this warrant, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Moved that the Town vote to fix the salaries and compensation of all elected Officers of the Town as provided by Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 41, Section 108, as amended and as appropriated in this warrant.

SUBMITTED BY: Board of Selectmen
READ BY: Veronica Kell
VOTED: Passed Unanimously

FY21 WATER ENTERPRISE DEPARTMENT BUDGET

(MAJORITY VOTE)

ARTICLE 5

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of **\$1,229,338.59** from Water Enterprise Fund revenues to operate the Water Department for Fiscal Year 2021, and in order to fund the cost of inter-municipal expenses that **\$262,180.72** of this sum be appropriated in the general fund; or take any other action in relation thereto.

Moved that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of **\$1,229,338.59** from Water Enterprise Fund revenues to operate the Water Department for Fiscal Year 2021, and in order to fund the cost of inter-municipal expenses that **\$262,180.72** of this sum be appropriated in the general fund.

SUBMITTED BY: Board of Water Commissioners
READ BY: Wayne Miller
VOTED: Passed Unanimously

ARTICLE 6

To see if the town will vote to transfer from the Water Enterprise Fund Retained Earnings the sum of **\$100,000.00** to pay down a Bond Anticipation Note (BAN) for the Main Street Water Main Replacement Project, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Moved that the Town vote to transfer from the Water Enterprise Fund Retained Earnings the sum of **\$100,000.00** to pay down a Bond Anticipation Note (BAN) for the Main Street Water Main Replacement Project.

SUBMITTED BY: Board of Water Commissioners
READ BY: Wayne Miller
VOTED: Passed Unanimously

ARTICLE 7

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, borrow or transfer from available funds in the treasury the sum or sums as detailed on the following chart for the purpose of funding the FY'21 Capital Plan as voted by the Capital Planning Committee as detailed below; or take any other action in relation thereto.

Department	Project/Equipment Title	Cost FY'21	Anticipated Funding Source
Cemetery/Parks	4500 Dodge Dump	\$ 40,000.00	Free Cash
	Truck 2WD	\$ 10,000.00	Cemetery Accounts
Fire/EMS	ALS Equipment Replacement (Cardiac Monitor, EZIO, PEDI, etc.)	\$ 63,450.00	Ambulance Reserve Receipt Account

Fire/EMS	Replace Ambulance 2 (1 st payment on 3yr lease)	\$ 103,160.00	Ambulance Reserve Receipt Account
Fire/EMS	Replace Forestry 1 (1995) Third Request	\$ 140,500.00 \$ 75,104.00	Capital Stabilization Fund Capital Exclusion
Fire/EMS	Replace Squad (2007- Replace 12 year-old) refurbish Cab & Chassis of 1995 truck	\$ 5,000.00	Capital Stabilization Fund
Fire/Police	Joint Fire/Police Radio Upgrade/Replacement Microwave Link Pepperell RECC/Tower Project	\$ 110,000.00 \$ 65,000.00	Capital Stabilization Fund Capital Stabilization Fund
Highway	New Cat 930M Loader (1 st payment on 5-yr lease)	\$ 39,404.00	Capital Stabilization Fund
Police	Vehicle Leases/police cruisers (3 rd payment)	\$ 59,655.00	Operating Budget (Tax Levy)
Water	Water Main Replacement Main Street Well to West Elm	\$1,200,000.00	Water Department Retained Earnings
Water	Witches Brook Station	\$ 75,000.00	Water Dept. Retained Earning
	Total All Projects & Equipment	\$1,986,273.00	

Moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate, borrow or transfer from available funds in the treasury the sum or sums as detailed on the following chart for the purpose of funding the FY'21 Capital Plan as voted by the Capital Planning Committee as detailed below:

Department	Project/Equipment Title	Cost FY'21	Anticipated Funding Source
Cemetery/Parks	4500 Dodge Dump Truck 2WD	\$ 40,000.00 \$ 10,000.00	Free Cash Cemetery Accounts
Fire/EMS	ALS Equipment Replacement (Cardiac Monitor, EZIO, PEDI, etc.)	\$ 63,450.00	Ambulance Reserve Receipt Account
Fire/EMS	Replace Ambulance 2 (1 st payment on 3yr lease)	\$103,160.00	Ambulance Reserve Receipt Account

Fire/Police	Joint Fire/Police Radio Upgrade/Replacement Microwave Link Pepperell RECC/Tower Project	\$110,000.00 \$ 65,000.00	Capital Stabilization Fund Capital Stabilization Fund
Fire/Police	Replace Squad (2007- Replace 12 year-old) refurbish Cab & Chassis of 1995 Truck	\$ 5,000.00	Capital Stabilization Fund
Police	Vehicle Leases/police cruisers (3 rd payment)	\$ 59,655.00	Operating Budget (Tax Levy)
Water	Witches Brook Station	\$ 75,000.00	Water Dept. Retained Earning
	Total All Projects & Equipment	\$531,265.00	

SUBMITTED BY: Capital Planning Committee
READ BY: Donald Klein
VOTED: Passed Unanimously

ARTICLE 8

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to (i) enter into one or more net metering credit purchase agreements with the owner(s) of solar photovoltaic facilities for periods of up to 20 years, and (ii) take any actions and execute any other documents and ancillary agreements necessary, convenient, or appropriate to accomplish the foregoing and to implement and administer such net metering credit purchase agreements, all of which agreements and documents shall be on such terms and conditions and for such consideration as the Board of Selectmen deem to be in the best interests of the Town, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Moved that the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to (i) enter into one or more net metering credit purchase agreements with the owner(s) of solar photovoltaic facilities for periods of up to 20 years, and (ii) take any actions and execute any other documents and ancillary agreements necessary, convenient, or appropriate to accomplish the foregoing and to implement and administer such net metering credit purchase agreements, all of which agreements and documents shall be on such terms and conditions and for such consideration as the Board of Selectmen deem to be in the best interests of the Town.

SUBMITTED BY: Board of Selectmen
READ BY: Wayne Miller

DESCRIPTION: This vote is not approving a contract it is merely authorizing the Board of Selectmen to be able to if the members wish to do so. This article would allow the Board of Selectmen to enter into an agreement that would result in the town saving no less than 15% off of its electricity bills for all town buildings. This would authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into an agreement to purchase credits equal to one kilowatt hour each that are

generated by the new solar farm that was built off of West Meadow Road. Each credit would offset a kilowatt hour of power consumption on the town's bills and would be sold to the town at a discounted rate set at no less than 15% lower than the cost of the power being offset.

Moderator disclosed that he has represented the owner of the company, Nexamp, in which the Town may or may not enter into contract with. Deputy Moderator was called to continue on this article.

Motion was made by Chaz Sexton-Diranian to take no action on this article at this time.

VOTED TO TAKE NO ACTION:

ARTICLE 9

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, borrow or transfer from available funds in the treasury the sum of **\$27,500.00** for the purpose of funding the Assessors' FY21 Periodic Inspections and Property Data Verification Program as mandated by the Massachusetts Department of Revenue, Bureau of Local Assessments, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Moved that the Town vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of **\$27,500.00** for the purpose of funding the Assessor's FY'21 Periodic Inspections and Property Data Verification Program as mandated by the Massachusetts Department of Revenue, Bureau of Local Assessments.

SUBMITTED BY: Board of Assessors
READ BY: Veronica Kell
VOTED: Passed Unanimously

ARTICLE 10

To see if the town will vote to transfer from free cash the sum of **\$55,000.00** to fund the second of three installments of the *Installment Payment Agreement* executed by the Board of Selectmen and former Police Chief Richard Bailey, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Moved that the Town vote to transfer from free cash the sum of **\$55,000.00** to fund the second of three installments of the *Installment Payment Agreement* executed by the Board of Selectmen and former Police Chief Richard Bailey.

SUBMITTED BY: Board of Selectmen
READ BY: Wayne Miller
VOTED: Passed by Majority

Motion to dissolve the Town Meeting at 11:00 a.m.

READ BY: Wayne Miller
VOTE: Passed Unanimously

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathleen M. Spofford, CMMC
Town Clerk