

TOWN OF AVON
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING



Tuesday, May 7, 2024

The Moderator, Michael Nelson, welcomed everyone to the Annual Town Meeting. Mr. Nelson thanked the previous Moderator, Frank Staffier, for his many years of service as Moderator. Introductions were made for all the individuals on stage and members of the Select Board and Finance Committee. Select Board Chair, Eric Beckerman introduced all department heads. Mr. Beckerman gave words of appreciation and gratitude to Bruce Lane for his 30 years of service as an elected Assessor. Mr. Beckerman also thanked Robert Borden, Building Inspector, for his years of service to Avon as he will be retiring at the end of June. Town Clerk, Patricia Bessette reviewed the electronic voting process. The Moderator went over the logistics of the meeting and the protocol for voting on the budget and articles.

Finance Committee Vice Chair, Suzette Waters reviewed the process on how to pass on a line item in the proposed FY25 budget, Article 3.

The Moderator called the meeting to order at 7:22 PM with 116 voters checked in. A required quorum of Fifty (50) is required. The Moderator called for the new Fire Chief, David Charest to lead the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Moderator called for Article 1:

ARTICLE 1: A motion was made and seconded and **VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE BY THE MAJORITY** to waive the reading of reports and minutes of the previous session(s) and to hear and act on the annual reports of the Town Officers and Town Departments for the year ending December 31, 2023 and to hear the reports of any committees.

ARTICLE 2: A motion was made and seconded and **VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE BY THE MAJORITY** to take this Article with Article 3: to fix the salaries of the elected Town Officers for the Fiscal Year 2025 and raise and appropriate the necessary funds to defray such costs.

ARTICLE 3: A motion was made and seconded and **VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE BY THE MAJORITY** to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds such sums of money as may be necessary to defray the Town charges for the ensuing Fiscal Year 2025, including salaries of the several elected officers of the Town, and make appropriations for the same.

<u>Dept</u>	<u>LINE</u>	<u>Description</u>	2024 Approved	FY25 Depart. Request	Select Board/ Fin Com Recommend.	FY 25 Budget Approved
<u>114</u>	<u>MODERATOR</u>					
		Salary	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100

<u>Dept</u>	<u>LINE</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>2024 Approved</u>	<u>FY25 Depart. Request</u>	<u>Select Board/ Fin Com Recommend.</u>	<u>FY 25 Budget Approved</u>
		Expenses	426	426	426	426
	Total Moderator		1,526	1,526	1,526	1,526
<u>122</u>	<u>SELECT BOARD</u>					
		Salary	138,383	150,227	150,227	150,227
		Expenses	27,772	28,050	28,050	28,050
	Total Select Board		166,155	178,277	178,277	178,277
<u>125</u>	<u>HUMAN RESOURCES</u>					
		Expenses	12,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
	Total Human Resources		12,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
<u>129</u>	<u>TOWN ADMINISTRATOR</u>					
		Salary	162,392	162,755	162,755	162,755
		Expenses	4,500	5,850	5,850	5,850
	Total Town Administrator		166,892	168,605	168,605	168,605
<u>131</u>	<u>FINANCE COMMITTEE</u>					
		Expenses	5,050	7,300	7,300	7,300
	Total Finance Committee		5,050	7,300	7,300	7,300
<u>132</u>	<u>FINCOM RESERVE</u>					
		Reserve Fund	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000
	Total Reserve Fund		75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000
<u>135</u>	<u>TOWN ACCOUNTANT</u>					
		Salary	118,563	131,126	131,126	131,126
		Expenses	41,328	47,805	47,805	47,805
	Total Town Accountant		159,891	178,931	178,931	178,931
<u>141</u>	<u>ASSESSORS</u>					
		Salaries	51,644	53,767	53,767	53,767
		Expenses	93,175	140,880	140,880	140,880*
	Total Assessors		144,819	194,647	194,647	194,647

<u>Dept</u>	<u>LINE</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>2024 Approved</u>	<u>FY25 Depart. Request</u>	<u>Select Board/ Fin Com Recommend.</u>	<u>FY 25 Budget Approved</u>
<u>145</u>	<u>TREASURER/COLLECTOR</u>	Salary	226,257	254,727	254,727	254,727
		Expenses	20,600	20,600	20,600	20,600
	Total Treasurer/Collector		246,857	275,327	275,327	275,327
<u>149</u>	<u>TECHNOLOGY</u>	Salary	85,000	87,550	87,550	87,550
		Expenses	260,000	274,000	274,000	274,000
	Total Technology		345,000	361,550	361,550	361,550
<u>151</u>	<u>LEGAL</u>	Retainer, Town Counsel	11,250	11,250	11,250	11,250
		Expenses	122,000	140,000	140,000	140,000
	Total Legal		133,250	151,250	151,250	151,250
<u>152</u>	<u>PERSONNEL BOARD</u>	Expenses	100	100	100	100
	Total Personnel Board		100	100	100	100
<u>155</u>	<u>PAYROLL DATA PROC.</u>	Expenses	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
	Total Payroll Data Proc.		20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
<u>161</u>	<u>TOWN CLERK</u>	Salary	153,442	159,902	159,902	159,902
		Expenses	9,873	10,493	10,493	10,493
	Total Town Clerk		163,315	170,395	170,395	170,395
<u>162</u>	<u>ELECTIONS/REGISTRARS</u>	Salary	3,500	5,500	5,500	5,500
		Expenses	7,925	10,900	10,900	10,900
	Total Elections/Registrars		11,425	16,400	16,400	16,400

<u>Dept</u>	<u>LINE</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>2024 Approved</u>	<u>FY25 Depart. Request</u>	<u>Select Board/ Fin Com Recommend.</u>	<u>FY 25 Budget Approved</u>
<u>163</u>	<u>CENSUS</u>					
		Expenses	3,700	3,700	3,700	3,700
	Total Census		3,700	3,700	3,700	3,700
<u>171</u>	<u>CONSERVATION COMMISSION</u>					
		Salary	-	-	-	-
		Expenses	4,850	8,800	8,800	8,800
	Total Conservation Comm.		4,850	8,800	8,800	8,800
<u>175</u>	<u>PLANNING BOARD</u>					
		Salaries	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500
		Expenses	1,800	2,000	2,000	2,000
	Total Planning Board		9,300	9,500	9,500	9,500
<u>176</u>	<u>BOARD OF APPEALS</u>					
		Expenses	200	500	500	500
	Total Board of Appeals		200	500	500	500
<u>180</u>	<u>Development/Town Planner</u>					
		Salaries	40,000	76,500	76,500	76,500*
		Expenses	-	17,650	17,650	17,650*
	Total Development/Town Planner		40,000	94,150	94,150	94,150
<u>184</u>	<u>CABLE TV ADV. BOARD</u>					
		Expenses	100	100	100	100
	Total Cable TV Adv. Board		100	100	100	100
<u>192</u>	<u>TOWN HALL & BUILDING MAINT.</u>					
		Salary	1,000	46,000	46,000	0.00*
		Expenses	85,682	95,700	95,700	95,700
	Total TH and Bldg. Maint.		86,682	141,700	141,700	141,700
<u>195</u>	<u>TOWN REPORTS</u>					
		Expenses	3,000	3,200	3,200	3,200
	Total Town Reports		3,000	3,200	3,200	3,200

<u>Dept</u>	<u>LINE</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>2024 Approved</u>	<u>FY25 Depart. Request</u>	<u>Select Board/ Fin Com Recommend.</u>	<u>FY 25 Budget Approved</u>
<u>210</u>	<u>POLICE DEPARTMENT</u>					
		Salary	2,241,086	2,274,083	2,274,083	2,274,083
		Expenses	221,392	253,692	253,692	253,692
		CMVI transfer	56,000	60,000	60,000	60,000
		Total Police Department	2,518,478	2,587,775	2,587,775	2,587,775
<u>215</u>	<u>FIRE & POLICE DISPATCH</u>					
		Salary	404,414	431,139	431,139	431,139
		Total Fire & Police Dispatch	404,414	431,139	431,139	431,139
<u>220</u>	<u>FIRE DEPARTMENT</u>					
		Salary	1,744,846	1,940,115	1,940,115	1,940,115
		Ambulance transfer	(75,000)	-	-	-
		Expenses	284,400	297,800	297,800	297,800
		Ambulance transfer	(50,000)	-	-	-
		Total Fire Department	1,904,246	2,237,915	2,237,915	2,237,915*
<u>241</u>	<u>BUILDING INSPECTOR</u>					
		Salary	138,636	175,274	175,274	175,274*
		Expenses	15,285	17,570	17,570	17,570
		Total Building Inspector	153,921	192,844	192,844	192,844
<u>242</u>	<u>GAS INSPECTOR</u>					
		Salary	10,876	13,500	13,500	13,500
		Expenses	600	800	800	800
		Total Gas Inspector	11,476	14,300	14,300	14,300
<u>243</u>	<u>PLUMBING INSPECTOR</u>					
		Salary	10,876	13,500	13,500	13,500
		Expenses	600	800	800	800
		Total Plumbing Inspector	11,476	14,300	14,300	14,300
<u>245</u>	<u>WIRING INSPECTOR</u>					

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		Salary	20,800	25,500	25,500	25,500
		Expenses	1,200	1,600	1,600	1,600
		Total Wiring Inspector	22,000	27,100	27,100	27,100
<u>292</u>	<u>ANIMAL CONTROL</u>					
		Expenses	15,700	17,000	17,000	17,000
		Total Animal Control	15,700	17,000	17,000	17,000
<u>294</u>	<u>TREE WARDEN</u>					
		Salary	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
		Expenses	18,000	18,000	18,000	18,000
		Total Tree Warden	19,000	19,000	19,000	19,000
<u>299</u>	<u>LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT</u>					
		Expenses	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
		Total Local Emerg. Mgt.	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
<u>300</u>	<u>AVON PUBLIC SCHOOLS</u>					
		Operating Expense	11,838,906	12,643,178	12,643,178	12,643,178
		School Choice offset	(1,164,512)	(1,166,313)	(1,166,313)	(1,166,313)
		Total Public School	10,674,394	11,476,865	11,476,865	11,476,865
<u>390</u>	<u>BLUE HILLS REG. SCHOOLS</u>					
		Operating Expense	702,200	741,619	741,619	741,619
		Capital Outlay	128,142	127,656	127,656	127,656
		Schools to Careers	15,058	15,058	15,058	15,058
		Total Blue Hills	845,400	884,333	884,333	884,333
<u>391</u>	<u>NORFOLK AGRICULTURAL</u>					
		Operating Expense	16,976	17,000	17,000	17,000
		Total Norfolk Aggie	16,976	17,000	17,000	17,000
<u>423</u>	<u>SNOW & ICE</u>					

<u>Dept</u>	<u>LINE</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>2024 Approved</u>	<u>FY25 Depart. Request</u>	<u>Select Board/ Fin Com Recommend.</u>	<u>FY 25 Budget Approved</u>
		Personal Services	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000
		Expenses	92,000	92,000	92,000	92,000
	Total Snow & Ice		100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
<u>424</u>	<u>STREET LIGHTING</u>					
		Expenses	100,000	110,000	110,000	110,000
	Total Street Lighting		100,000	110,000	110,000	110,000
<u>433</u>	<u>WASTE DISPOSAL</u>					
		Rubbish Collection	565,000	607,369	607,369	607,369
		Recycling Expenses	28,000	28,000	28,000	28,000
	Total Waste Disposal		593,000	635,369	635,369	635,369
<u>440</u>	<u>DPW</u>					
		Salary	938,418	983,389	983,389	983,389
		Expenses	598,726	685,526	685,526	685,526
	Total DPW		1,537,144	1,668,915	1,668,915	1,668,915*
<u>510</u>	<u>BOARD OF HEALTH</u>					
		Salary	161,267	163,848	163,848	163,848
		Expenses	18,200	18,200	18,200	18,200
	Total Board of Health		179,467	182,048	182,048	182,048
<u>529</u>	<u>HEALTH SERVICES</u>					
		Visiting Nurses	14,000	14,000	14,000	14,000
	Total Health Services		14,000	14,000	14,000	14,000
<u>541</u>	<u>COUNCIL ON AGING</u>					
		Salary	211,691	229,800	229,800	229,800
		Expenses	15,870	15,870	15,870	15,870
	Total Council on Aging		227,561	245,670	245,670	245,670
<u>543</u>	<u>VETERANS SERVICES</u>					
		Salary	7,000	7,210	7,210	7,210

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		Expenses	39,300	46,700	46,700	46,700
	Total Veterans Services		46,300	53,910	53,910	53,910
<u>610</u>	<u>LIBRARY</u>					
		Salary	327,425	359,033	359,033	359,033
		Expenses	147,121	163,162	163,162	163,162
	Total Library		474,546	522,195	522,195	522,195
<u>650</u>	<u>PARK & RECREATION</u>					
		Salary	62,437	72,288	72,288	72,288
		Expenses	31,633	31,633	31,633	31,633
	Total Park & Rec.		94,070	103,921	103,921	103,921
<u>695</u>	<u>CULTURAL COUNCIL</u>					
		Expenses	100	100	100	100
	Total Cultural Council		100	100	100	100
<u>699</u>	<u>MEMORIAL DAY</u>					
		Expenses	9,000	9,500	9,500	9,500
	Total Memorial Day		9,000	9,500	9,500	9,500
	<u>DEBT PAYMENT</u>					
<u>710</u>		Debt outside cap	1,910,600	1,384,025	1,384,025	1,384,025
<u>752</u>		Short Term Borrowing	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
<u>760</u>		Cost of Bond Issuance	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
	Total Debt Payment		1,928,600	1,402,025	1,402,025	1,402,025
	<u>PENSIONS</u>					
<u>911</u>		Norfolk County Retirement OPEB	1,846,616	1,961,866	1,961,866	1,961,866
	Total Pensions		1,991,616	2,106,866	2,106,866	2,106,866
	<u>INSURANCE</u>					

<u>Dept</u>	<u>LINE</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>2024 Approved</u>	<u>FY25 Depart. Request</u>	<u>Select Board/ Fin Com Recommend.</u>	<u>FY 25 Budget Approved</u>
<u>912</u>		Workmens Comp	112,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
<u>913</u>		Unemploy ment	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
<u>914</u>		Medical & Life	3,417,583	3,565,867	3,565,867	3,565,867
<u>916</u>		Medicare	255,000	260,000	260,000	260,000
<u>910</u>		Medicaid	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
<u>945</u>		Liability	185,000	212,500	212,500	212,500
	Total Insurance		4,029,583	4,248,367	4,248,367	4,248,367
<u>930</u>	CAPITAL PLANNING					
		Expenses	1,170	1,170	1,170	1,170
		Capital Reserve	75,000	90,000	90,000	90,000
	Total Capital Planning		76,170	91,170	91,170	91,170
	Total Budget		29,807,750	31,499,585	31,499,585	31,453,585
					CMVI	\$ (60,000)
						\$ 31,393,585

***Line Items with passes called against them.**

A motion was made and seconded and **VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE BY THE MAJORITY** to approve the following passed line items :141, 180, 220, 241, 440.

A motion was made and seconded and **DEFEATED** to approve line item 192 Town Hall & Building Maintenance Salary.

ARTICLE 4: A motion was made and seconded and **VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE BY THE MAJORITY** to authorize the Select Board to accept Chapter 90 funds and to enter into a contract or contracts, on such terms and conditions deemed necessary and appropriate by the Select Board, for the expenditure of any funds allotted or to be allotted by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and/or County of Norfolk for the construction, reconstruction and/or improvement of Town roads.

ARTICLE 5: A motion was made and seconded and **VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE BY THE MAJORITY** to transfer from the Septic Loan Receipts Account the sum of Twenty-Seven Thousand Three Hundred and Ten Dollars (\$27,310.00) and appropriate said amount for the repayment of the CLEAN Water Pollution Abatement Trust Loan voted and approved at the Annual Town Meeting of May 5, 2015, Article 37.

FINANCE ARTICLES:

ARTICLE 6: A motion was made and seconded and **VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE BY THE MAJORITY** to set the following annual spending limits for the revolving accounts authorized by May 2022 ATM Article 14, and to amend Section 15-5 of the Town's General Bylaws to include a new column in the chart set forth therein as follows:

Revolving Account:	Spending Limit:
COA Van	\$7,500
COA Lunch	\$15,000
Park and Recreation	\$50,000

NOTE: ATM May 2022 Article 14 established and authorized revolving funds for use by certain town departments, boards, committees, agencies, or officers under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, § 53E½.

ARTICLE 7: A motion was made and seconded and **VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE BY THE MAJORITY** for the town in accordance with G.L. c. 44, § 53(4) added by Section 9 of Chapter 77 of the Acts of 2023, to revoke Article 10 of the 2023 Annual Town Meeting which approved the dedication of 100% of the opioid settlement funds to be received to the Opioid Settlements Stabilization Fund established under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40, Section 5B, effective for the fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2023.

ZONING ARTICLES:

ARTICLE 8: A motion was amended and seconded and **VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE BY A 2/3RD Vote (Yes 66 / NO 11)** to amend the Town of Avon Zoning By-Laws with text pertaining to Dimensional and Density Regulations Table (§ 255-6.4) as posted with the Town Clerk and subject to a Public Hearing, by deleting the existing table and replacing it with the table set forth and the addition of footnote (l):
§ 255-6.4 Dimensional and Density Regulations Table.

Current:

				Minimum Yard Depth (b) (feet)				
	Minimum Lot Size (square feet)	Minimum Lot Area Per Dwelling Unit (square feet)	Minimum Lot Frontage (a) (feet)	Front	Rear	Side	Maximum Building Height (c) (feet)	Maximum Percentage of Lot Coverage by Structure
Industrial	40,000	---	200	40 (h)	40 (h)	25 (h)	40	60

To:

Zoning District	Minimum Lot Size (square feet)	Minimum Lot Area Per Dwelling Unit (square feet)	Minimum Lot Frontage (a) (feet)	Minimum Yard Depth (b) (feet)			Maximum Building Height (c) (feet)	Maximum Percentage of Lot Coverage by Structure
				Front	Rear	Side		
Industrial	40,000	---	200	40 (h)	40 (h)	25 (h)	52 (l)	60

(l) Except 40 feet when abutting or across the street from a residentially zoned district

NOTE: Fosters vertical development in the industrial park in the future; Provides more flexibility to industrial property owners; The land in the industrial park has relatively low elevation of 195 feet to 245 feet while Page Street is about 260-290 feet; Interim Fire Chief indicated support due to Town ladder being 100 feet long and other controlling regulations.

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will amend the Town of Avon General By-Laws with text pertaining to Wetlands Chapter 239-3.D and the addition of section 239-3.E., reducing wetlands restrictions on the industrial district by deleting the existing Section D and replacing it with new Sections D and E; all as set forth below:

Current:

D. Other than as stated in this section, the exceptions provided in the Wetlands Protection Act shall not apply under this bylaw.

To:

D. The industrial district shall not be required to have stricter performance standards or buffer zones than required under the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act

E. Other than as stated in this section, the exceptions provided in the Wetlands Protection Act shall not apply under this bylaw.

THIS ARTICLE WAS WITHDRAWN WITH NO DISCUSSION

ARTICLE 10: A motion was made and seconded and **VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE BY THE MAJORITY** to amend the Town of Avon General By-Laws with text pertaining to Wetlands Chapter 239-7.C, changing the permit expiration from two (2) years to three (3) years from the date of issuance, by deleting the existing Section C and replacing it with a new Section C; all as set forth below:

C. A permit shall expire two years from the date of issuance. Notwithstanding the above, the Commission in its discretion may issue a permit expiring five years from the date of issuance for recurring or continuous maintenance work, provided that annual notification of time and location of work is given to the Commission. Any permit may be renewed once for an additional one-year period, provided that a request for a renewal is received in writing by the Commission prior to expiration.

To:

C. A permit shall expire three years from the date of issuance. Notwithstanding the above, the Commission in its discretion may issue a permit expiring five years from the date of issuance for recurring or continuous maintenance work, provided that annual notification of time and location of work is given to the Commission. Any permit may be renewed once for an additional one-year period, provided that a request for a renewal is received in writing by the Commission prior to expiration.

NOTE: Three (3) years is allowed under the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act; Two (2) years may not be enough for some construction projects.

ARTICLE 11: A motion was made and seconded and **DEFEATED** to amend the General Bylaws of the Town of Avon by updating the following text in Article II § 7-8 by deleting the existing Article II § 7-8 and replacing it with a new Article II § 7-8; all as set forth below:

Current:

It shall be the duty of the Finance Committee to study the financial and other affairs of the Town and to advise all officers of the Town as to expenditures and recommendations for appropriations to be made by them. All officers of the Town shall, on the request of the Committee, furnish it with all the facts, figures, and all other information pertaining to their several departments. The Finance Committee shall consider all articles in the warrants for all Town Meetings and report in print to the Town prior to each Town Meeting, Annual and Special, their estimates and recommendations for action of the Town. The Finance Committee report shall be distributed to each dwelling within the Town not less than seven days prior to the Annual Town Meeting, and posted in not less than seven public places, including the Post Office, three days prior to a Special Town Meeting.

And replace it with:

It shall be the duty of the Finance Committee to study the financial and other affairs of the Town and to advise all officers of the Town as to expenditures and recommendations for appropriations to be made by them. All officers of the Town shall, on the request of the Committee, furnish it with all the facts, figures, and all other information pertaining to their several departments. The Finance Committee shall consider all articles in the warrants for all Town Meetings and report in print to the Town prior to each Town Meeting, Annual and Special, their estimates and recommendations for action of the Town. The Finance Committee report shall be made public within the Town not less than seven (7) days prior to the Annual Town Meeting and three (3) days prior to a Special Town Meeting. The report shall be posted on the Town website and in not less than seven (7) public places including the Post Office.

A motion was made and seconded and **VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE BY A 2/3RD Vote (Yes 89 / NO 15)** to move the question.

NOTE: The average cost to produce and mail the Finance Committee book to all households for a town meeting is \$1,250.

CAPITAL ITEMS:

ARTICLE 12: A motion was amended and seconded and **VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE BY THE MAJORITY** to transfer the following: from the Town Hall Building Account the sum of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000); ATM 2021 Article #28 the sum of Forty Three Thousand Dollars (\$43,000); ATM 2019 Article #13 the sum of One Million One

Hundred Thousand and Eighty Three Dollars and Fifty Seven Cents (\$1,100,083.57); Board of Assessors Excess Overlay the sum of Two Hundred and Twelve Thousand Dollars (\$212,000); from Free Cash the sum of Four Hundred and Ninety Four Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventeen Dollars (\$494,917) for a total sum of One Million Nine Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$1,950,000.57) and to appropriate said sum for the design of a new Municipal complex to include Town Hall, Council on Aging, Park and Recreation, and School Administration to be located on Assessors Map D5-6-9 and Map D5-6-10, including but not limited to professional engineering/architectural and owner's project manager services, plans for demolition and removal of the existing building(s) or portions thereof, and site preparation, including any required testing and/or investigations, and all other incidental and related expenses; and to authorize the Select Board to enter into any agreements, including contracts for terms in excess of three years, and to execute all documents necessary to effectuate the purposes of the vote taken hereunder.

Transfer From	Dollar Amount
Town Hall Building Account	100,000
ATM 2021 Article #28	43,000
ATM 2019 Article #13	1,100,083.57
Assessor Excess Overlay	212,000
Free Cash	494,917
Total	1,950,000.57

ARTICLE 13: A motion was made and seconded and **VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE BY THE MAJORITY** to transfer and appropriate from Free Cash the sum of Seven Hundred and Thirty Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$730,250) for the reconstruction of the existing salt shed located at 502 West Main Street to include demolition, engineering, new drainage, fencing, paving, and electrical.

NOTE: This ATM article is needed so the DPW can replace the existing salt shed and upgrades to the property. This is the only storage building we have that can store our winter road salt.

ARTICLE 14: A motion was amended and seconded and **VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE BY THE MAJORITY** to transfer from Special Town Meeting 2015 Article 14 the sum of One Hundred Ninety Nine Thousand Four Hundred and Three Dollars and Eighty cents (\$199,403.80) and Annual Town Meeting 2021 Article 7 the sum of Ninety Thousand Five Hundred and Ninety Six Dollars and Twenty Cents (\$90,596.20) for a total of Two Hundred and Ninety Thousand Dollars (\$290,000) and to appropriate said sum for the purchase of a new six-wheel dump truck.

Transfer From	Dollar Amount
STM 2015 Article #14	\$199,403.80
ATM 2021 Article #7	\$90,596.20
Total	\$290,000.00

NOTE: DPW will be trading in a 2015 Freightliner (6-wheel dump truck) as part of this purchase. Value will be taken off the purchase price.

ARTICLE 15: A motion was amended and seconded and **VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE BY A 2/3RD Vote (Yes 94 / NO 18)** to transfer from the MBTE Stabilization fund the sum of One Million Two Hundred and Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$1,250,000) and to appropriate said sum for the rehabilitation work of the Page and Central Street's water tank's rehabilitation and circulation systems.

NOTE: This work is required to ensure and extend the life expectancy of both water storage tanks by installing new coating systems inside and out.

ARTICLE 16: A motion was amended and seconded and **VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE BY THE MAJORITY** to transfer from Annual Town Meeting 2021 Article 7 the sum of Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) and to appropriate said sum to fund an update to the Towns Water Master Plan.

NOTE: This is needed to update the Water Master Plan to identify age and conditions of water mains and service lines for replacement when considering road paving projects.

ARTICLE 17: A motion was amended and seconded and **VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE BY THE MAJORITY** to transfer from Free Cash the sum of Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000) and to appropriate said sum to upgrade the phone systems at the Town Hall, the Police Station and the Fire Station.

NOTE: This project is to replace the backend phone system hardware located at Town Hall, as well as the Police and Fire stations. The current hardware will reach its end-of-life on July 1st 2024, which will no longer allow us to add licenses or make changes. This upgrade will allow the town to make any changes to the desk phones, add additional phones and licenses for the Town Hall, Council on Aging, Library, Police and Fire Stations, DPW garage, Argyle CCF Building, and the filter plant on Memorial Drive. It will also allow the IT Department to make any adds, moves, or changes which will eliminate the hourly billing currently being charged for these services. It will also allow us to upgrade the outdated IP desk phones with new hardware including Bluetooth handsets.

ARTICLE 18: A motion was amended and seconded and **VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE BY THE MAJORITY** to transfer from the 2019 Annual Town Meeting Article 18 the sum of Eight Thousand Five Hundred and Ten Dollars (\$8,510) and to appropriate said sum to pay for consultant or related services for the development of an employee handbook/policy manual.

NOTE: Many of the town's policies and procedures need updating to ensure compliance with federal, state, and local laws. This project will formalize all personnel policies and consolidate them by creating an official Employee Handbook, which would be distributed to every current employee and new hire for the town. The Employee Handbook will create uniformity and transparency as to the rules, guidelines, and behaviors expected of employees.

ARTICLE 19: A motion was made and seconded and **VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE BY THE MAJORITY** to transfer the sum of One Hundred Sixteen Thousand Seven Dollars and Seventy Cents (\$116,007.70) from the Ambulance Receipts Reserved for Appropriation Account

and to appropriate said sum for the 4th of 5 payments of the lease purchase agreement on the Fire Department's Rescue Pumper truck.

NOTE: This is the fourth of five payments of approximately \$120,000 which will be funded through the Ambulance Receipts Reserved for Appropriation Account.

ARTICLE 20: A motion was made and seconded and **VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE BY THE MAJORITY** to transfer the sum of Ninety-Four Thousand Dollars (\$94,000) from the Ambulance Receipts Reserved for Appropriation Account and to appropriate said sum to purchase a Fire Department command vehicle.

NOTE: Approval of this article will allow for the purchase of a new vehicle for the fire department for the Assistant Chief for use on emergency responses, administrative use for travel to and from meetings, inspections, training, and other duties. This is an additional vehicle for the department, as the Assistant Fire Chief position is a new position working days and not assigned to a shift.

ARTICLE 21: A motion was made and seconded and **VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE BY THE MAJORITY** to transfer the sum of One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000) from the Ambulance Receipts Reserved for Appropriation Account and to appropriate said sum for the 1st of 5 payments for the lease purchase agreement on a new Ambulance for the Fire Department.

NOTE: Approval of this article will allow for the leasing of a new ambulance and replace the 2014 ambulance which will be approx. 12 years old when the new ambulance arrives. The department operates two Advance Life Support ambulances and needs to replace them every 10-12 years. This will provide a reliable and up-to-standard ambulance which will include a patient-load system. This new ambulance will help to reduce repair costs and provide a reliable vehicle for response to emergencies.

HOUSE KEEPING ARTICLES:

ARTICLE 22: A motion was made and seconded and **VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE BY THE MAJORITY** to transfer from Free Cash the sum of Twenty-Four Thousand and Ten Dollars and Sixty Cents (\$24,010.60) to be placed in the Capital Stabilization Account.

NOTE: In accordance with the Towns Financial Policy Manual, the remaining Free Cash will be deposited as follows: 75% to General Stabilization, 10% to OPEB Trust, and 15% to Capital Stabilization.

ARTICLE 23: A motion was made and seconded and **VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE BY THE MAJORITY** to transfer from Free Cash the sum of Ninety-Six Thousand and Forty-Two Dollars and Thirty-Nine Cents (\$96,042.39) to be placed in the Stabilization Account.

NOTE: In accordance with the Towns Financial Policy Manual, the remaining Free Cash will be deposited as follows: 75% to General Stabilization, 10% to OPEB Trust, and 15% to Capital Stabilization.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:18 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia C. Bessette, Town Clerk