

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
TOWN OF WESTHAMPTON
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING/ELECTION
WARRANT

HAMPSHIRE SS.

To either of the Constables of the Town of Westhampton in the County of Hampshire

GREETING.

IN THE NAME OF The Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of said Town, qualified to vote in elections and in Town affairs, to meet at the **ELEMENTARY SCHOOL** in said WESTHAMPTON on **SATURDAY the TWENTY-SEVENTH day of JUNE next, at 10:00 o'clock in the morning**, and to meet at the **TOWN HALL for the election on SATURDAY the TWENTY-FIFTH day of JULY next, 2020 from 8:00AM to 12:00 P.M.** then and there to act on the following articles:

ARTICLE 1: To hear and act on all reports presented at said meeting.

ARTICLE 2: To elect by ballot necessary officers to serve in the ensuing year and to cast their votes on question 1:

Selectboard	One for three years
Board of Assessors	One for three years
Board of Assessors	One for two years
Planning Board	Two for three years
Planning Board	One for two years
Finance Committee	Three for three years
Westhampton Elementary School Committee	Two for three years
Westhampton Elementary School Committee	One for two years
Hampshire Regional School Committee	One for three years
Hampshire Regional School Committee	One for one year
Moderator	One for one year
Tree Warden	One for one year
Library Trustees	Two for three years
Constable (South District)	One for three years

Question 1:

Shall the Town of Westhampton be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so-called, the amounts required to pay for the bond issued in order to pay costs to purchase a four-wheel drive pickup truck for the Highway Department?

YES ☐

NO ☐

ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town will vote to leave the care of the highways in charge of the Selectboard.

ARTICLE 4: To vote in compliance with Section 108, Chapter 41 G.L., which requires that salaries of elected officials be fixed by vote of the Town.

Finance Committee voted 8-0-0 to recommend article as read

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, such sum of money as may be necessary to defray Town charges in the ensuing year.

Finance Committee voted 8-0-0 to recommend article as read

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, a sum of money to meet Westhampton's share of Hampshire Regional School District's assessment for Fiscal 2021, or any lesser sum as may be certified by the District, provided that any such certification shall be made prior to the establishment of the tax rate, and to meet this appropriation, a sum of money be raised by taxation, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Finance Committee voted 8-0-0 to recommend raise and appropriate of \$1,380,138.00

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, a sum of \$13,400.00 to meet Westhampton's share of Hampshire Regional School District's capital request for heating and cooling system repairs for Fiscal 2021, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Finance Committee voted 8-0-0 to recommend raise and appropriate of \$13,400.00

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, a sum of money for the Elementary School, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

Finance Committee voted 8-0-0 to recommend raise and appropriate of \$1,804,844.00

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, a sum of money for Vocational school tuition, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

Finance Committee voted 8-0-0 to recommend raise and appropriate of \$375,000.00

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, a sum of money for Vocational school transportation, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

Finance Committee voted 8-0-0 to recommend raise and appropriate of \$60,104.00

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or otherwise provide a sum of money to pave the rear parking lot of the Westhampton Elementary School and to determine whether this amount shall be raised by taxation, transferred from available funds, or otherwise, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Finance Committee voted 8-0-0 to recommend article as read

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, a sum of money for a Financial Audit for the Town, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Finance Committee voted 8-0-0 to recommend raise and appropriate of \$14,500.00

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money as may be certified from available funds, due to the Town as Chapter 90 Highway funds, from the Transportation Bond Issue, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Finance Committee voted 8-0-0 to recommend appropriation of certified funds

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, a sum of money for the procurement of a new generator for the highway department, and to determine whether this amount shall be raised by taxation, transferred from available funds, or otherwise, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Finance Committee voted 8-0-0 to recommend transfer of \$30,000.00 from Free Cash

ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, a sum of money for the procurement of a new four-wheel drive pickup truck for the highway department and to determine whether this amount shall be raised by taxation, transferred from available funds, by borrowing, or otherwise, or take any other action in relation thereto. (2/3 majority required for borrowing authorization).

Finance Committee voted 8-0-0 to recommend borrowing authorization of \$120,000.00 contingent upon a passage of debt exclusion ballot question

ARTICLE 16: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, a sum of money to establish and fund a new account for ambulance services, as provided by an agreement with the City of Easthampton, and to determine whether this amount shall be raised by taxation, transferred from available funds, or otherwise, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Finance Committee voted 8-0-0 to recommend raise and appropriate of \$15,000.00 and transfer of \$10,000.00 from Ambulance Receipts Reserve

ARTICLE 17: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, a sum of money to establish and fund a new account for Building Commissioner services, and to determine whether this amount shall be raised by taxation, transferred from available funds, or otherwise, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Finance Committee voted 8-0-0 to recommend article as read

ARTICLE 18: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, a sum of money to establish and fund a salary account for an Assistant Town Clerk, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Finance Committee voted 0-1-7 to not recommend article as read

ARTICLE 19: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, a sum of money to establish and fund an account for town consultant/planning services, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Finance Committee voted 8-0-0 to recommend raise and appropriate of \$6,000.00

ARTICLE 20: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or otherwise provide a sum of money to replace the slate roof of the town hall with an asphalt shingle roof and to determine whether this amount shall be raised by taxation, transferred from available funds, by borrowing, or otherwise, or take any other action in relation thereto. (2/3 majority required for borrowing authorization).

Finance Committee voted 8-0-0 to recommend transfer of \$90,000.00 from Free Cash

ARTICLE 21: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide \$20,000 to hold in anticipation of unemployment benefits for Town employees in accordance with Chapter 151A of the General Laws of Massachusetts.

Finance Committee voted 8-0-0 to recommend raise and appropriate of \$20,000.00

ARTICLE 22: To see if the Town will vote to re-authorize a revolving fund not to exceed \$2000 for the Fire Department, under MGL Chapter 44, sec 53 E1/2, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Finance Committee voted 8-0-0 to recommend re-authorizing

ARTICLE 23: To see if the Town will vote to re-authorize a revolving fund not to exceed \$6000 for the Westhampton Cemetery, under MGL Chapter 44, Sec 53 E1/2, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Finance Committee voted 8-0-0 to recommend re-authorizing

ARTICLE 24: To see if the Town will vote to re-authorize a revolving fund not to exceed \$8,000.00 for the Police Department School Resource Officer payroll, under MGL Chapter 44, sec 53 E1/2, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Finance Committee voted 7-1-0 to recommend re-authorizing

ARTICLE 25: To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from Free Cash to the Stabilization Fund, or take any action relative thereto. (Free Cash balance \$416,749.00 /Stabilization balance as of March 31 \$382,363.31)

Finance Committee voted to recommend transfer of \$0.00 from Free Cash

ARTICLE 26: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money from Free Cash to balance the budget, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Finance Committee voted to recommend transfer of \$120,000.00 from Free Cash

ARTICLE 27: To see if the Town will vote to adopt a resolution submitted by petition as follows.

RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE PROTECTION OF POLLINATORS AND ENHANCEMENT OF POLLINATOR HABITAT

WHEREAS, Bees and other pollinators are a crucial component of a healthy ecosystem and a vital link in our food system, providing the pollination responsible for over three quarters of the world's plant species, and for one out of every three bites of food that we eat, and

WHEREAS, pollinator populations are in sharp decline due to human land use practices that are causing ongoing habitat loss and fragmentation, the expansion of pesticide use by consumers and professionals, and the spread of pathogens and parasites, and

WHEREAS, extensive research has documented that neonicotinoids and other systemic pesticides have been shown to cause illness and death to honey bees, native bees, butterflies, moths, other insect pollinators, and beneficial insects, and

WHEREAS, guidelines for land management best practice are available which allow residents, businesses, farms, and towns to manage their land in ways that increase pollinator forage and nest sites while decreasing maintenance costs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by this Town Meeting that the Town of Westhampton is hereby declared a Pollinator-Friendly Community and that the town encourages the adoption of policies and practices that support pollinator health by minimizing the use of insecticides.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE Town of Westhampton will set an example by adopting the pollinator friendly practices below and urges property owners, residents, town departments, and business owners to adopt pollinator-friendly practices including:

*Planting more pollinator-supporting forage on their property, emphasizing native plant species, and adopting organic or chemical-free lawn and landscaping practices;

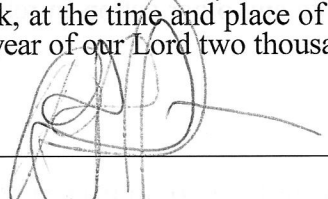
*Avoiding the planting of flowering plants which are treated with systemic insecticides and avoiding the use of seeds coated with systemic neonicotinoid;

*Avoiding the use of insecticides, including systemic insecticides, on their property;

*Reducing mowing and scheduling mowing when it will have the least probability of reducing forage for pollinators.

The Town Clerk is requested to send copies of this Resolution to Governor Charles Baker, Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources Commissioner John Lebeaux, State Senator Adams Hinds, and State Representative Lindsay Sabadosa.

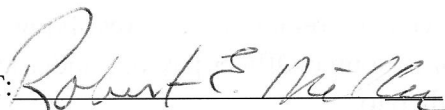
HEREOF FAIL NOT, and make due return of this Warrant, with your doings thereon, to the Town Clerk, at the time and place of meeting, as aforesaid. Given under our hands this 8th day of June in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty.



Maureen Dempsey

Selectboard of Westhampton

A true copy, ATTEST:



Constable of Westhampton

HAMPSHIRE, ss.

PURSUANT TO THE WITHIN WARRANT, I have notified and warned the inhabitants of the Town of Westhampton by posting up attested copies of the same at the Town Hall, Town

Clerk's Office, Westhampton Public Library and Outlook Farm, at least seven days before the date of the meeting, as within directed.

Return of Service: Robert E. Miller 6/17/2020
Constable Date

