

Annual Town Meeting  
Meeting Minutes  
May 8, 2021

63 Voters present

Moderator Ben Warren called the meeting to order at 9:08 A.M. and welcomed everyone to the Annual Town Meeting. He commended the efforts of all citizens and officials to keep Westhampton a wonderful place. The following articles were then acted upon:

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

**Moderator announced the 2020 Annual Report and budget provided at check in. Motion made & seconded to move article as read. Motion carried. (Corrected versions of Planning Board & Zoning By-Law Review Committee reports were later provided.)**

ARTICLE 2: To elect by ballot necessary officers to serve in the ensuing year:

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

**Moderator explained the article is informational and action will be taken election day June 5.**

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

**Motion made and seconded to move article as read. Motion carried.**

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.

**Motion made and seconded that the town approve the salaries of elected officials as:**

Salaries Elected Officials	Chair	Members	FY2022
<u>Moderator</u>			522.00
<u>Selectboard</u> (3)	2,135.00	1,678.00	5,491.00
<u>Assessors</u> (3)	3,272.00	2,922.00	9,116.00
<u>School Committee</u> (5)	492.00	286.00	1,636.00
<u>Tree Warden</u>			703.00

**Motion carried.**

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.

**Motion made and seconded that the Town approve the budget as recommended by the Finance Committee and raise and appropriate all items that are not a separate article vote. Moderator explained that if there were specific questions on any line item, they would be held (H) for further discussion. He then proceeded to read each line category to hear for holds.**

<b>GENERAL GOVERNMENT</b>		
COUNSEL FEES	20,000.00	
SELECTMEN EXPENSE	5,800.00	
DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM	2,100.00	
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT	43,038.00	
TOWN ACCOUNTANT SALARY	17,014.00	
TOWN ACCOUNTANT EXPENSE	4,350.00	
ASSESSOR EXPENSE	12,000.00	
ASSESSOR ASSISTANT	16,367.00	
TREASURER SALARY	17,014.00	
TREASURER EXPENSE	7,500.00	
TAX TITLE EXPENSE	6,500.00	
TAX COLLECTOR SALARY	17,014.00	
TAX COLLECTOR EXPENSE	19,716.00	
TAX TAKING EXPENSES	800.00	
TOWN CLERK SALARY	16,367.00	
TOWN CLERK EXPENSE	5,800.00	
CLERK, BOARD OF REGISTRARS	100.00	
CONSERVATION COMMISSION	225.00	
ZONING BOARD	600.00	H
PLANNING BOARD EXPENSE	300.00	
CONSULTING PLANNER	6,000.00	
<b>HIGHWAYS</b>		
HIGHWAY SALARIES	243,586.00	
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION	10,000.00	
HIGHWAY MATERIALS	95,843.00	
ROAD MACHINERY	43,811.00	
ROAD MACHINERY FUEL	43,050.00	
SNOW REMOVAL	100,000.00	
ROAD MACHINERY BLDGS	30,634.00	
TRANSFER STATION EXPENSES	84,108.00	
HILLTOWN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COOP	7,550.00	
<b>SCHOOLS &amp; LIBRARIES</b>		
LIBRARY	110,997.00	
<b>VETERANS</b>		
VETERANS EXPENSE	14,460.00	
VETERANS AGENT SALARY	1,910.00	
MEMORIAL DAY	200.00	
CULTURAL COUNCIL	75.00	
<b>CEMETERIES</b>		
CEMETERY SALARY	6,970.00	
CEMETERY COMMISSION	494.00	
<b>PROTECTION OF PERSONS &amp; PROPERTY</b>		
POLICE CHIEF SALARY	34,725.00	
POLICE DEPARTMENT	82,182.00	
FIRE CHIEF	13,764.00	
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR	2,665.00	
FIRE DEPARTMENT	42,200.00	
SAFETY COMPLEX	13,700.00	
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES	9,250.00	
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COORDINATOR	5,330.00	
INSPECTORS COMPENSATION	6,000.00	
BUILDING INSPECTOR/COMMISSIONNER SALARY	28,000.00	
INSPECTORS EXPENSE (see reconvene \$ 12,940.00)	11,140.00	
TREE WARDEN EXPENSE	2,600.00	
ANIMAL INSPECTOR	1,000.00	
ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER SALARY	2,000.00	
ANIMAL CONTROL/INSPECTOR EXPENSE	1,043.00	
BOARD OF HEALTH SALARY	1,317.00	
BOARD OF HEALTH EXPENSE	500.00	
FOOTHILLS HEALTH DISTRICT (see reconvene \$26,084.00)	28,997.00	
<b>DEBT &amp; INTEREST</b>		
DEBT (PUBLIC SAFETY DESIGN/ENG. & HWY PICKUP)	(40,000.00)	H
DEBT (PUBLIC SAFETY COMPLEX CONSTRUCTION)	(255,795.00)	H
INTEREST ON LONG TERM DEBT	(0)	H
<b>UNCLASSIFIED</b>		
INSURANCE & BONDS	87,570.00	

TOWN OFFICES	28,610.00
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT	15,272.00
COUNCIL ON AGING	3,025.00
COUNCIL ON AGING COORDINATOR	5,500.00
HISTORICAL	1,200.00
COUNTY RETIREMENT	229,706.00
PIONEER VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION	280.00
GROUP INSURANCE	395,000.00
OPEB TRUST FUND	5,000.00
MEDICARE	30,000.00
RESERVE FUND	15,000.00
<b>TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS AFTER RECONVENE</b>	<b>2,409,551</b>

**Holds explained:**

**Zoning Board – point of information. The Board will be charging applicants the legal notice fee.**

**DEBT (PUBLIC SAFETY DESIGN/ENG. & HWY PICKUP)**

**DEBT (PUBLIC SAFETY COMPLEX CONSTRUCTION)**

**INTEREST ON LONG TERM DEBT**

**These three line items all held until reconvened session as more information will be available.**

**Motion carried as amended to hold three line items until reconvened session.**

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 2022, 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.

**Motion made and seconded that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,439,409.00 for Westhampton’s share of Hampshire Regional School District's assessment for Fiscal 2022, 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. Motion carried.**

ARTICLE 7: 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.

**Motion made and seconded that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,926,818.00 for the Elementary School. Motion carried.**

ARTICLE 8: 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.

**Motion made and seconded that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$350,000.00 for vocational school tuition. Motion carried.**

ARTICLE 9: 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.

**Motion made and seconded that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$60,897.00 for vocational school transportation. Motion carried.**

**ARTICLE 10: It was voted that the Town raise and appropriate \$14,500.00 for a Financial Audit for the Town.**

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,925.00 for an Actuary Audit of Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB), or take any other action in relation thereto.

**Motion made and seconded that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$0.00 for an Actuary Report on the OPEB costs and liability for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022. It was explained that the report would be done but funded from another source. Motion carried.**

**ARTICLE 12: It was voted that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,000.00 for Treasurer/Collector/Town Clerk Support/Training Expenses.**

**ARTICLE 13: It was voted that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,620.00 for Administrative Assistant Search/Training Expenses.**

**ARTICLE 14: It was voted that the Town transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$9,000.00 for painting interior walls and refinishing floors of great hall at Town Hall.**

**ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, a sum of money for design and construction of a break room in the highway department garage, or take any other action in relation thereto.**

**Motion made and seconded that the Town transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$24,000 for design and construction of a break room in the Highway Department Garage. Much discussion regarding need, timing and cost calculation.**

**Motion made and seconded to defer action until reconvened session. Motion carried.**

**ARTICLE 16: 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.**

**Motion made and seconded to appropriate a sum of \$185,193.00 as may be certified from available funds, due to the Town as Chapter 90 Highway funds, from the Transportation Bond Issue. Motion carried.**

**ARTICLE 17: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, a sum of money 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.**

**Motion made and seconded that the Town transfer of \$10,000.00 from Ambulance Receipts Reserved, and raise and appropriate \$15,000.00, to pay for ambulance services provided by the City of Easthampton. Motion carried.**

**ARTICLE 18: 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.**

**Motion made and seconded to move article as read. Motion carried.**

**ARTICLE 19: 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.**

**Motion made and seconded to move article as read. Motion carried.**

**ARTICLE 20: 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.**

**Motion made and seconded to move article as read. Motion carried.**

**ARTICLE 21: 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.**

**Motion made and seconded to move article as read. Motion carried.**

ARTICLE 22: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$5,000.00 for Police Department equipment and training, or take any other action in relation thereto.

**Motion made and seconded to move article as read. Motion carried.**

ARTICLE 23: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$7,500.00 for Police Reform Training, or take any other action in relation thereto.

**Motion made and seconded to move article as read. Motion carried**

ARTICLE 24: 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.

**Motion made and seconded to transfer \$50,000.00 from Free Cash to the Stabilization Fund. Motion carried.**

ARTICLE 25: 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.

**Motion made and seconded to defer action to reconvened session. Motion carried.**

ARTICLE 26: To see if the Town will vote to adopt a resolution submitted by petition as follows:

### **Resolution Declaring Westhampton to be a Pollinator-Friendly Community**

The purpose of this resolution is to increase pollinator education and take action to further support the health of pollinators.

Bees, butterflies and other pollinators are vital parts of our ecosystem. They provide essential services for valued crops and thus contribute to our local agricultural economy. The caterpillars of moths and butterflies are an exceedingly important food source for songbirds, enabling them to successfully rear their young.

As a right-to-farm community, our action in support of pollinator health concurrently supports local farms. In addition, these efforts increase community resilience, enhance food security and contribute to the overall health of the environment.

Some pollinator species are in sharp decline due to multiple stressors, including a loss of habitat, the impact of climate change, the arrival of non-native parasites and pathogens, an increase in artificial lighting, and exposure to pesticides and other environmental contaminants. The overall impact is a reduction in biodiversity.

A federal strategy to promote the health of honey bees and other pollinators was created to address these issues due to the fact that pollinators contribute over 15 billion dollars in agricultural value to the United States each year.

In addition, Massachusetts created a Pollinator Protection Plan (in 2017) which outlines best management practices and actions to benefit pollinators.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Town of Westhampton join in this effort to support pollinators by declaring the town of Westhampton a Pollinator-Friendly Community. As such, the town encourages the adoption of policies and practices that support pollinator health including:

- ☐ Increasing community education on pollinators and pollinator health.
- ☐ Following pollinator-friendly best practices as outlined in the Massachusetts Pollinator Protection Plan.
- ☐ Expanding pollinator habitat on town properties.

The Town Clerk is requested to send copies of this resolution to Governor Charles Baker and Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources Commissioner John Lebeaux.

**Motion made and seconded to move article as read. Motion carried**

**Motion made and seconded to adjourn until a reconvened session at a date not yet determined. Motion carried at 10:20am.**

**Annual Town Meeting Re-convene  
Meeting Minutes  
June 19, 2019**

**28 voters present**

The Meeting was called to order by Moderator Ben Warren at 9:04 A.M. with a quorum present. The Moderator announced vacancies available for appointed positions and asked interested citizens to contact the Selectboard. He then announced that the meeting would proceed directly to the held items in Article 5 now that there was better information regarding the financial items held and asked for **a motion to open Article 5 to consider the held items – motion made, seconded and carried.**

**It was voted unanimously to raise and appropriate \$40,000 for Debt (Public Safety Design/Eng. & Hwy Pickup) aka Line 97 on FY22 budget worksheet.**

**It was voted unanimously to raise and appropriate \$255,795 for Debt (Public Safety Complex Construction) aka Line 98 on FY22 budget worksheet.**

**Clerk's note – Interest on Long Term Debt aka Line 99 on FY22 budget worksheet was originally held but now passed over as no appropriation was indicated on the revised worksheet.**

The Moderator then announced that the meeting could reconsider other line items in Article 5 now that there was better information:

**It was voted unanimously to reconsider the Inspector Expenses Account at \$12,940.00.**

**It was voted unanimously to reconsider the Foothills Health District at \$26,084.00.**

**ARTICLE 15: It was voted 21-4 to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$25,000 for design and construction of a break room in the highway department garage.**

It was noted that the project would be funded and completed in two parts, this year and next year.

**Article 25: It was voted unanimously to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$100,000 to balance the budget.**

**Motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to dissolve the Annual Town Meeting at 9:33 A.M.**

Respectfully submitted,

Katrin Kaminsky, Town Clerk

**RECAPITULATION**

<b>Article 4 Salaries of Elected Officials</b>	<b>17,468</b>
<b>Article 5 Budget</b>	<b>2,409,551</b>
<b>Article 6 Hampshire Regional HS Budget</b>	<b>1,439,409</b>
<b>Article 7 Elementary School</b>	<b>1,926,818</b>
<b>Article 8 Vocational Tuition</b>	<b>350,000</b>
<b>Article 9 Vocational Transportation</b>	<b>60,897</b>
<b>Article 10 Financial Audit</b>	<b>14,500</b>
<b>Article 12 Treas/Collector/Clerk Support/Training</b>	<b>2,000</b>
<b>Article 13 Admin. Asst. Search/Training</b>	<b>3,620</b>
<b>Article 17 Ambulance Service</b>	<b>15,000</b>
<b>Article 18 Unemployment</b>	<b>20,000</b>
<b>Article 22 Police Equipment &amp; Training</b>	<b>5,000</b>
<b>Article 23 Police Reform Training</b>	<b>7,500</b>

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<b>Total raise and appropriate [recap pg.4 (B)]</b>	<b>6,271,763</b>
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<b>Article 17 Ambulance Receipts Reserved [recap pg.4 (D)]</b>	<b>10,000</b>
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<b>Article 14 &amp; 15 from Free Cash for specific purpose [recap pg.4 (C)]</b>	<b>34,000</b>
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<b>Article 24 from Free Cash to Stabilization fund [recap pg.4 (C)]</b>	<b>50,000</b>
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<b>Article 16 Chapter 90 Available Funds [recap pg.4 (D)]</b>	<b>185,193</b>
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<b>TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS [recap pg.4 (A)]</b>	<b>6,550,956</b>
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<b>Article 25 from Free Cash to balance budget [recap pg.2]</b>	<b>100,000</b>
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