

**THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
TOWN OF WESTHAMPTON
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MAY 14, 2022**

Agreeable to the foregoing warrant and with a quorum of approximately 60 present at Town Hall, Moderator Ben Warren called the meeting to order at 9:11am. Thanks were extended to those who donated to the improvements in the Hall: The floors were sanded, repaired and refinished by Mike Labrecque and crew. The walls, wainscoting, doors and trim were prepped and painted by Phil Dowling with assistance from Maureen Dempsey. The windows were prepped and painted by Pat and Joe Coffey and Adam Golash. Wade Clement and crew installed the projector and screen. Peter and Mary Montague donated a podium for the Moderator. It was noted that the warrant had been clarified by dividing the budget article into multiple articles by category and that the meeting handout provided further clarity by listing line items within those articles. Thanks were extended to Douglas Finn, Administrative Assistant, for the handout and for the projection of this information on the new screen during the meeting. The following articles were then acted upon:

ARTICLE 1: It was voted unanimously to accept all reports presented at said meeting.
The Annual Town Report was available and oral reports were presented for Zoning By-Law Review Committee and Capital Planning Committee.

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

Board	Term	Candidate(s)	Residence
Selectboard	One for three years	Susan Bronstein Scott Johndrow	72 Main Rd. 29 Hathaway Rd.
Board of Assessors	One for three years	Winifred (Winnie) Gorman	67 Main Rd.
Planning Board	Two for three years	Wade Clement Jennifer Milikowsky	15 North Rd. 36 Clapp Rd.
Planning Board	One for one year	John Zimmerman	48 North Rd.
Finance Committee	Three for three years	Steve Holt Scott Stanton	34 North Rd. 18 South Rd.
Finance Committee	Two for two years		
Library Trustees	Two for three years		
Elementary School Committee	Two for three years	Morley Cleary Scott Johndrow	31 Southampton Rd. 29 Hathaway Rd.
Moderator	One for one year	Benjamin Warren	207 Reservoir Rd.
Tree Warden	One for one year	Thomas Jenkins	8 Perry Hill Rd.
Constable (North District)	One for three years	Leroy Douchkoff	103 Montague Rd.

The Moderator noted that this article is informational and will be addressed in the final motion at the end of the meeting. (For election results see separate document)

ARTICLE 3: It was voted unanimously to authorize the Selectboard to take care of the highways, including entering into contracts, and accepting any money from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts or other sources.

ARTICLE 4: It was voted unanimously to authorize the Selectboard to apply for and expend grants from federal or state programs.

ARTICLE 5: It was voted unanimously to amend the general bylaw of the Town of Westhampton, Article 5 “The Finance Committee”, by adding section 5-4-4 as follows:

5-4-4 The Town shall establish and maintain the following revolving funds in accordance with Section 53E-1/2 of Chapter 44 of the General Laws:

5-4-4-1 - For the purchase of Fire Department materials, supplies and training, to be funded by inspection fees, and to be expended without further appropriation by the Fire Chief.

5-4-4-2 – For the maintenance, upkeep and groundskeeping of the Westhampton Cemetery, to be funded by sales of plots and burial fees, and to be expended without further appropriation by the Cemetery Superintendent.

ARTICLE 6: It was voted unanimously to authorize or re-authorize the following Revolving Funds for the purposes and amounts as listed below.

FY2023 – REVOLVING FUNDS

FUND	PURPOSE	SOURCE OF FUNDS	MAX AMOUNT
Fire Department	Materials, supplies and training	Inspection Fees	\$2,000.00
Westhampton Cemetery	Cemetery upkeep, maintenance and grounds-keeping	Plot purchases, donations	\$6,000.00
Police Dept / School Resource Officer	School Resource Officer (SRO) policing activities and materials	Fees paid for services	\$8,000.00

ARTICLE 7: It was voted unanimously as amended 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, and to raise and appropriate the sum of Seventeen Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty Seven Dollars (\$17,987) exactly for Salaries and Compensation to be as of July 1, 2022 as follows:

<u>Official</u>	<u>Salary</u>	<u>Appropriate</u>
Moderator:	\$ 538	\$ 538
Selectboard Chair:	\$ 2,199	\$ 2,199
Selectboard Member (2):	\$ 1,728	\$ 3,456
Board of Assessors Chair:	\$ 3,370	\$ 3,370
Board of Assessors Member (2):	\$ 3,009	\$ 6,018
School Committee Chair:	\$ 506	\$ 506
School Committee Member (4):	\$ 294	\$ 1,176
<u>Tree Warden:</u>	<u>\$ 724</u>	<u>\$ 724</u>
TOTAL:		\$17,987

ARTICLE 8: It was voted unanimously to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Hundred Eleven Thousand, Seven Hundred Fifty Eight Dollars (\$311,758) exactly, as recommended by the Finance Committee, for the provision of General Government Services, in accordance with the specific purposes and amounts as follows:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Selectboard Expense	5,800
Information Technology Support	22,904
Document Management System	2,100
Administrative Assistant Salary	57,384
Reserve Fund	15,000
Accounting Officer Salary	17,525
Independent Audit	14,500
Accounting Officer Exp.	4,790
Assessor Assistant	16,859
Assessors Expense	16,577
Treasurer Salary	17,525
Treasurer Expense	8,250
Tax Title Expense	6,500
Tax Collector Salary	17,525
Tax Collector Expense	20,150
Tax Taking Expense	800
Counsel Fees	18,000
Town Clerk Salary	16,859
Town Clerk Expense	7,715
Training: Treasurer, Collector, Clerk	2,000
Clerk Board of Registrars	100
Con Com Expense	225
Planning Board Expense	500

Zoning Board of Appeals Expense	600
Town Offices Expense	19,070
Town Hall & Annex Repairs	2,500

TOTAL 311,758

It was noted that the Administrative Assistant Salary will be based on a full-time 40 hour week. Several board & committee chairs expressed appreciation for assistance received from Douglas Finn, Administrative Assistant.

ARTICLE 9: **It was voted unanimously to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Eight Thousand, Eight Hundred Thirty Three Dollars (\$208,833) exactly, as recommended by the Finance Committee, for the provision of Fire, Police and EMS services, in accordance with the specific purposes and amounts as follows:**

<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Police Chief Salary	35,767
Police Dept. Expense	76,804
Police Reform	7,500
Fire Chief Salary	14,177
Fire Department Expense	42,750
Safety Complex Building	14,100
Emergency Management Director Salary	2,745
Emergency Medical Serv.	9,500
EMS Coordinator Salary	5,490
TOTAL	208,833

It was noted that Police Reform potential expenses are largely unknown at this time.

ARTICLE 10: **It was voted unanimously to take the sum of Nine Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty Dollars and Seventy One Cents (\$9,720.71) from Ambulance Receipts Reserved, and raise and appropriate the sum of Fifteen Thousand, Two Hundred Seventy Nine Dollars and Twenty Nine Cents (\$15,279.29) exactly, as recommended by the Finance Committee, for the provision of Ambulance Services.**

ARTICLE 11: **It was voted unanimously to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty Two Thousand, Eight Hundred Sixty Dollars (\$52,860) exactly, as recommended by the Finance Committee, for the provision of Building Inspection and Other Public Safety Services, in accordance with the specific purposes and amounts as follows:**

<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Inspector Compensation	6,000
Building Insp/Comm Salary	28,000
Inspector Exp.	12,000
Tree Warden Expense	2,600
Animal Control Officer - Salary	2,060
Animal Control Officer Expenses	2,200
TOTAL	52,860

ARTICLE 12: **It was voted unanimously to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Million Twenty Three Thousand Sixty Nine Dollars (\$2,023,069) exactly, as recommended by the Finance Committee, for the provision of Educational Services at the Westhampton Elementary School for the 2022-2023 School Year.**

ARTICLE 13: **It was voted unanimously to raise and appropriate the sum of One Million Five Hundred Fifteen Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty Nine Dollars (\$1,515,829) exactly, as recommended by the Finance Committee, for Westhampton’s Assessment for Educational Services at the Hampshire Regional School for the 2022-2023 School Year,**

ARTICLE 14: **It was voted unanimously to take no action on this article.**
To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, a sum of money for charges relative to School Choice, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 15: **It was voted unanimously to take no action on this article.**
To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide a sum of money for charges relative to Charter School Expenses, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 16: It was voted unanimously to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000) exactly, as recommended by the Finance Committee, for Vocational Tuition Expenses for 2022-2023 School Year.

ARTICLE 17: It was voted unanimously to raise and appropriate the sum of Seventy Three Thousand One Hundred Dollars (\$73,100) exactly, as recommended by the Finance Committee, for Vocational Transportation expenses for the 2022-2023 School Year.

ARTICLE 18: It was voted unanimously to raise and appropriate the sum of Four Hundred Ninety Two Thousand, One Hundred Thirty Nine Dollars (\$492,139) exactly, as recommended by the Finance Committee, for the provision of Road Maintenance Services, in accordance with the specific purposes and amounts as follows:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Highway Administration	10,000
Highway Salaries	246,915
Highway Materials	98,239
Road Machinery	47,985
Road Machinery Fuel	51,000
Road Machinery Buildings	38,000
TOTAL	492,139

ARTICLE 19: It was voted unanimously to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) exactly, as recommended by the Finance Committee, for Snow Removal Services.

ARTICLE 20: It was voted unanimously but one to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty Three Dollars (\$100,983) exactly, as recommended by the Finance Committee, for Salaries and Expenses related to the operation of the Westhampton Transfer Station and the long term monitoring and maintenance of the closed Westhampton Landfill.

ARTICLE 21: It was voted unanimously but one to raise and appropriate the sum of Nine Thousand, Five Hundred Dollars (\$9,500) exactly, as recommended by the Finance Committee, for the operation and maintenance of the Westhampton Cemetery, in accordance with the specific purposes and amounts as follows:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Cemetery Superintendent’s Salary	9,000
Cemetery Commission	500
TOTAL	9,500

ARTICLE 22: It was voted unanimously to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty Five Thousand, Two Hundred and Two Dollars (\$35,202) exactly, as recommended by the Finance Committee, for the provision of Public Health Services, in accordance with the specific purposes and amounts as follows:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Board of Health Salary	1,359
Board of Health Expense	500
The Hilltown Resource Management Cooperative	8,000
The Foothills Health District	24,313
Animal Inspector Salary	1,030
TOTAL	35,202

ARTICLE 23: It was voted by a majority to raise and appropriate the sum of Nine Thousand, Twenty Five Dollars (\$9,025) exactly, as recommended by the Finance Committee, for the provision of Council on Aging Services, in accordance with the specific purposes and amounts as follows:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
COA Coordinator	6,000
Council on Aging	3,025
TOTAL	9,025

ARTICLE 24: It was voted unanimously to raise and appropriate the sum of Twelve Thousand, Nine Hundred Sixty Eight Dollars (\$12,968) exactly, as recommended by the Finance Committee, for the provision of Veterans Services and Benefits, in accordance with the specific purposes and amounts as follows:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Veterans Agent	1,968
Veterans Benefits	11,000
TOTAL	12,968

ARTICLE 25: It was voted by a majority to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Nineteen Thousand, Eight Hundred and Six Dollars (\$119,806) exactly, as recommended by the Finance Committee, for the maintenance and operation of the Westhampton Public Library.

<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Library	119,806
TOTAL	119,806

ARTICLE 26: It was voted by a majority as amended to raise and appropriate the sum of One Thousand Four Hundred Seventy Five Dollars (\$1,475) exactly, as recommended by the Finance Committee, for the provision of Culture and Recreational Activities and Services, in accordance with the specific purposes and amounts as follows:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Historical Commission	1,200
Memorial Day	200
Cultural Council	75
TOTAL	1,475

(The amendment restored the Historical Commission budget to the FY22 amount.)

ARTICLE 27: It was voted by a majority to raise and appropriate the sum of One Million, Sixty Four Thousand, Eight Hundred Thirty Nine Dollars (\$1,064,839) exactly, as recommended by the Finance Committee, for Employment Benefits, Insurance, and other Mandated Expenses, in accordance with the specific purposes and amounts as follows:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Public Safety Building Construction	256,800
Pioneer Valley Planning Commission	286
Hampshire County Retirement	257,903
Unemployment Insurance	20,000
Group Health Insurance	402,250
Medicare Insurance	32,600
Liability Insurance & Bonds	90,000
Other Post-Employment Benefits Trust	5,000
TOTAL	1,064,839

ARTICLE 28: It was voted by a majority to appropriate the sum of One Hundred Eighty Four Thousand, Three Hundred Seventy Six Dollars (\$184,376), as may be certified from available funds, due to the Town as Chapter 90 Highway funds from the Transportation Bond Issue.

ARTICLE 29: It was voted by a majority to transfer from Free Cash the sum of Two Thousand Nine Hundred Twenty Five Dollars (\$2,925) exactly, for an Actuary Report on the OPEB costs and liability for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023.

ARTICLE 30: It was voted by a majority to transfer from Free Cash the sum of Two Hundred Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$220,000) exactly, for the purpose of purchasing a utility tractor with articulating brush mower deck, and other requested and necessary equipment and additions, for use by the Westhampton Highway Department.

ARTICLE 31: It was voted unanimously to transfer from Free Cash the sum of Twenty Nine Thousand Dollars (\$29,000) exactly, for the purpose of purchasing of a Trailer Mounted Compressor, for use by the Westhampton Highway Department.

(Articles 32 & 33 generated much discussion as to funding source. It was explained that although ARPA funds had been used to pre-order these vehicles, the intention of the Selectboard had always been to request funding from Town Meeting.)

ARTICLE 32: It was voted by a majority to transfer from Free Cash the sum of Seventy Six Thousand Dollars (\$76,000) exactly, for the purpose of purchasing a new medium-duty four-wheel-drive truck with necessary and requested upfit additions, for use by the Westhampton Highway Department.

ARTICLE 33: It was voted by a majority to transfer from Free Cash the sum of Sixty Five Thousand Dollars (\$65,000) exactly, for the purpose of purchasing a new light- or medium-duty four-wheel-drive truck with necessary and requested upfit additions, for use by the Westhampton Police Department.

ARTICLE 34: It was voted by a majority to transfer from Free Cash the sum of Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$7,500) exactly, for the purchase of upgrades to radios and other communication equipment, for use by the Westhampton Police Department.

ARTICLE 35: It was voted by a majority to transfer the sum of One Hundred Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$160,000) exactly, from Free Cash to the Stabilization Fund.

(An amendment to reduce the amount to \$25,000 failed but generated much discussion on general budgeting, the use of Free Cash and impacts on the tax rate.)

ARTICLE 36: It was voted unanimously as amended to transfer the sum of Ninety Six Thousand, Nine Hundred Fifty Two Dollars (\$96,952) exactly from Free Cash to balance the budget and reduce the tax rate for the Fiscal Year 2023.

It was voted unanimously at 11:34 am to adjourn this meeting to Saturday, June 4, 2022 at 8 o'clock AM, at the Town Hall, 1 South Road, at which time and place the polls will be open until 12 o'clock Noon for the election of town officers under Article 2 of the warrant for this meeting, and that upon the announcement of the results of the election, this meeting be dissolved.

Respectfully submitted,
Katrin Kaminsky, Town Clerk