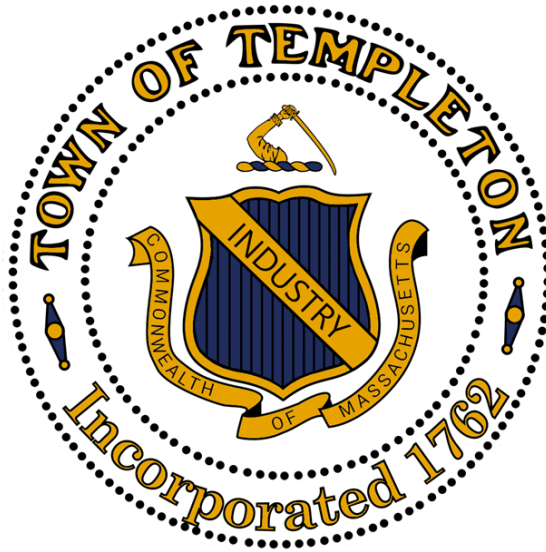


TOWN OF TEMPLETON

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT

VOTER INFORMATION GUIDE

May 10, 2023 @ 6:00PM



**Narragansett Regional Middle School
460 Baldwinville Road, Baldwinville**

<https://www.templetonma.gov/>

A WELCOME FROM THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

Templeton has an Open Town Meeting/Select Board form of government. While there are many things the Select Board can do on a day-to-day basis, there are many things it cannot do, which is why we have Town Meeting. In our Town, the legislative body is the Open Town Meeting and is how we adopt by-laws, accept certain state laws, appropriate money, buy/sell land, and the like.

The Town will hold its Annual Town meeting on May 10, 2023, under a “warrant” issued by the Select Board. This is my fifth Town Meeting as Town Administrator. The warrant has a variety of articles that the voters as our legislative body will act upon, including making capital purchases and improvements, establishing or continuing revolving funds, operating the Town for the coming Fiscal Year, adopting by-law changes to conform to state law or improving the operations of Town government.

Each item included in the warrant is called an article and provides the voters with a sense of the scope of the action they are being asked to take. You will find that each article is published at length in this guide and this time around you will see the anticipated motion follows the same.

This Voter Information Guide provides you plenty of information so you may be prepared. Here is the format the guide follows:

Article # and Title
Article Sponsor
Vote Required

Anticipated Motion: The anticipated motion to be proposed by the Select Board.
These mostly mirror the original warrant articles.

Summary: A brief description of the reasons for – and impact of - the article.
Comments and Recommendations of the Advisory Committee

Citizen's Petitions await motions by those who filed them.

Please feel free to contact me directly at Town Hall via office line at 978.894.2778 or by email at alamontagne@templetonma.gov, if you have questions you would like to ask before the meeting.

I look forward to meeting you at the Meeting.

Sincerely Yours,



Adam Lamontagne

Town Administrator

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Moderator's Rules

On a general note, there are often materials on a display table near the check-in tables for people to use at Town Meeting or that provide general information to Town residents. These materials have been pre-approved by me prior to placement to ensure they are appropriate to be distributed at this forum. If you would like to make such materials available to Town Meeting members, please submit them to me for approval at least 72 hours (i.e. three days) before the start of Town Meeting. Only those materials approved by me will be on the display table. Any unapproved materials will be removed at my direction. You should submit any materials you wish to have pre-approved to me at the following email address (blaster25jhg@gmail.com) at least 72 hours (i.e. three days) before the meeting. I will respond as quickly as possible.

Town Meeting is run by a Town Moderator who the voters elect for a one-year term. Our By-Laws call for the most current issue of TOWN MEETING TIME to be considered the general guideline for all procedures of town meetings, except those procedures already provided for by the by-laws. Subject to change, I have some additional rules that I follow. Those are to:

- 1) Call the meeting to order and go over some housekeeping issues such as the location of fire exits, asking you to silence cell phones and electronic devices, and the like.
- 2) Pledge of Allegiance.
- 3) Read the Constables' return of the Warrant to show that it was properly served and posted.
- 4) Introduce Special Guests, and the like.
- 5) As I call each Article, a Motion will be read and seconded (generally by the Select Board, unless it is a citizen petition) and shown on the screen behind me unless there was no ability for the room to readily accommodate such a screen.
- 6) I will then ask for the Recommendation of the Advisory Committee (just their vote on their "Advisory Committee Recommendation's" document).
- 7) Return to the Motion maker for any explanation.
- 8) Open the floor for discussion (including first recognizing the Advisory Committee for any particular reasons behind their recommendation).
- 9) Anyone wishing to speak on any issue must first proceed to a microphone and be recognized by the Moderator. I will not entertain any shout outs and you must use a microphone unless I permit otherwise. You will be asked to state your name and address every time you are given permission to speak. You may also be asked if you are speaking as a resident or on behalf of a board or committee.

Any amendments to the main motion must be submitted to me in writing, and signed by the motion maker of said amendment.

Anyone unruly or disorderly will be given a warning and advised that they are out of order. If the situation continues they will be escorted out of the meeting and placed in a convenient place until the meeting is adjourned.

- 10) If I am not certain of a voice vote or if a vote declared by me is immediately questioned by seven (7) or more people standing and or recognized by me, I will proceed to a hand count.

Otherwise general parliamentary procedure and common courtesy rule the meeting.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "J H Graves". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John H. Graves

Town Moderator

Common Terms of Finance

As you read the warrant articles there will be some terms that are unique to public finance or particular to Massachusetts. Below are some definitions of those terms to help you better understand what the request might be for and how it is to be funded.

Fiscal Year: Most government entities follow a budget year of their choosing, or that is specified by the state, that is different than the January 1 to December 31 calendar year. Templeton follows a Fiscal Year (FY) of July 1 of a year to June 30 of the following year. We always refer to the Fiscal Year as of the year in which it ends (June 30, 2023 is FY '23).

Free Cash: Most budgets assume you collect every dollar - and spend every dollar - you think you will. That never really happens. There are often variations. Free Cash is defined as the remaining, unrestricted funds from operations of the previous fiscal year (i.e. after any liabilities or potential variances you cannot account for) including unexpended free cash from the prior year. In simplest terms, it is actual receipts in excess of revenue estimates and unspent amounts in the appropriation line items. Free cash is not available for appropriation until certified by the Department of Revenue (DOR) Director of Accounts.

Retained Earnings: This is the phrase used for free cash of an enterprise fund such as the Sewer fund.

Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB): We promise the people we hire (under certain conditions) that we will give them other benefits (health, dental, and life insurance) beyond just their retirement monies. We are required to calculate how much money it would take to pay for those other benefits and to develop a plan to set that money aside to cover this promise.

Stabilization Fund: The state allows the Town to set up funds in which it can set aside monies in anticipation of paying for allowable, generally unforeseen (i.e. think “rainy day” funds) or high cost items expenditures. Generally speaking, it takes a majority vote to put money into these funds and a 2/3 vote to withdraw money from them. The Town has two such funds.

Capital Expense (CAPEX): This covers replacement or major repair of our equipment or facilities such as Town Hall and the like.

Operating (OPEX): This provides monies to getting through major economic downturns without having to devastate services, high cost unforeseen assessments the state or others might require of us, and the like.

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT

ARTICLE 1 PAYMENT OF LATE BILLS Submitted by the Select Board 4/5ths Vote Required

Anticipated Motion: *I move* to authorize the payment of late bill(s) from the FY 2022 budgets of the following departments in the following amounts:

Senior Services Department	\$249.99
Insurance & Benefits	\$250.00

And to meet said appropriation by a transfer of said sum from certified free cash.

Summary: These were received outside of Fiscal Year 2022.

Advisory Committee Comments & Recommendation:

The Committee recommends a YES vote on Article 1, with a vote of 4-0.

Original Warrant Article in its Entirety

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the payment of late bill(s) from the FY 2022 budgets of the following departments in the following amounts:

Senior Services Department	\$249.99
Insurance & Benefits	\$250.00

And to meet said appropriation by a transfer of said sum from certified free cash,

Or take any other action related thereto.

ARTICLE 2 FISCAL YEAR 2023 OPERATING BUDGET AMENDMENT(S) Submitted by the Select Board Majority Vote Required

Anticipated Motion: *I move* to approve and appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars and No Cents (\$202,500.00) for supplemental appropriations to the Fiscal Year 2023 Operating Budget as follows:

Department	Amount	Reason
Insurance & Benefits	\$52,500	Increased Enrollment
Emergency Management	\$2,500	Funds Necessary for Grant
Snow & Ice	\$150,000	FY '23 Deficit

And to meet said appropriation by a transfer of said sum from certified free cash.

Summary: This appropriation will allow us to fund our Insurance & Benefits account to cover the increased enrollment through Fiscal Year 2023. We were successful to get awarded a Hazard Mitigation Plan Update grant, but it requires a municipal commitment of \$2,500. This will be moved to Article 25 because under this current article it would have to be expended by the end of FY 2023. The free cash contained in this article will cover a significant amount of our snow & ice deficit.

Advisory Committee Comments & Recommendation:

The Committee recommends a YES vote on Article 2, with a vote of 4-0.

Original Warrant Article in its Entirety

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Five Thousand and No Cents (\$205,000.00) for supplemental appropriations to the Fiscal Year 2023 Operating Budget as follows:

Department	Amount	Reason
Insurance & Benefits	\$52,500	Increased Enrollment
Emergency Management	\$2,500	Funds Necessary for Grant
Snow & Ice	\$150,000	FY '23 Deficit

And to meet said appropriation by a transfer of said sum from certified free cash,

Or take any other action related thereto.

**ARTICLE 3
SNOW AND ICE DEFICIT
Submitted by the Select Board
Two-Thirds Vote Required**

Anticipated Motion: *I move* to transfer the sum of Seventy Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$70,000.00) or any lower sum, from the Operations (OPEX) Stabilization Fund, to close the FY 2023 deficit for snow and ice removal.

Summary: This would close out our snow & ice deficit for Fiscal Year 2023. Should Town Meeting approve this, we would still have \$1.46 Million in our Operations (OPEX) Stabilization Fund.

Advisory Committee Comments & Recommendation:

The Committee is split on their recommendation vote on Article 3, with a vote of 2-2.

Original Warrant Article in its Entirety

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of Seventy Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$70,000.00) or any lower sum, from the Operations (OPEX) Stabilization Fund, to close the FY 2023 deficit for snow and ice removal.

Or take any other action related thereto.

ARTICLE 4
FISCAL YEAR 2023 SEWER DEPARTMENT OPERATING BUDGET SUPPLEMENT
Submitted by the Select Board on behalf of the Sewer Commissioners
Majority Vote Required

Anticipated Motion: *I move* to appropriate the sum of Forty Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$40,000.00), to increase the FY 2023 Sewer Department Budget by said sum to total, in the aggregate, the sum of One Million Four Hundred Seventy Nine Thousand Dollars Seven Hundred Fifty Dollars and No Cents (\$1,479,750.00) and to meet said appropriation by a transfer of said sum from certified retained earnings.

Summary: Due to rising inflation, and unanticipated repairs, the costs of operating the Wastewater Treatment Plant and Collection system are increasing (chemicals, heating oil, lab testing, lab supplies, and replacing or repairing equipment). If this Article and Article 18 are approved, we would have roughly \$63k in Sewer retained earnings.

Advisory Committee Comments & Recommendation:

The Committee recommends a YES vote on Article 4, with a vote of 4-0.

Original Warrant Article in its Entirety

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of Forty Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$40,000.00), to increase the FY 2023 Sewer Department Budget by said sum to total, in the aggregate, the sum of One Million Four Hundred Seventy Nine Thousand Dollars Seven Hundred Fifty Dollars and No Cents (\$1,479,750.00) and to meet said appropriation by a transfer of said sum from certified retained earnings.

Or take any other action related thereto.

ARTICLE 5
AMEND COMMUNITY SERVICES REVOLVING FUND
Submitted by the Select Board
Majority Vote Required

Anticipated Motion: *I move* to amend Article I, Section 28-6 of the General Bylaws, entitled Departmental revolving funds, by making certain deletions (in strikethrough) and additions (in bold) to subsection E, as follows:

E. Establishment of the several departmental accounts. The authorized departmental revolving accounts are as follows:

Revolving Fund Name	Programs and Purposes of Fund	Departmental Receipts to be Credited to Fund	Officer Authorized to Expend from Fund	Fiscal Years
Burial and Improvement Fund	Wages for weekend burials and cemetery capital improvements	Fees charged for weekend burials	Cemetery Commission	FY 2018 and subsequent fiscal years
Recycling Fund	Operation of the recycling program	Receipts from the sale of recycling equipment and disposal of recycled goods	Board of Health	FY 2018 and subsequent fiscal years
Plumbing and Gas Inspector Compensation Fund	Wages for the Gas and Plumbing Inspector	80% of the fees collected for gas and plumbing permits	Office of Development Services Director	FY 2018 and subsequent fiscal years
Electrical (Wiring) Inspector Compensation Fund	Wages for the Electrical (Wiring) Inspector	80% of the fees collected for electrical (wiring) permits	Office of Development Services Director	FY 2018 and subsequent fiscal years
Community Services Fund Parks and Recreation Fund	Wages of seasonal or part-time staffing, supplies, and general associated expenses	Fees received for rentals of facilities, sports, instructional, day-camp, and program offerings	Director of Community Services Director of Public Services / Chair of Parks and Recreation Commission or One Commissioner voted annually.	FY 2019 2024 and subsequent fiscal years

Summary: This would amend one of our revolving funds since the Town has approved special legislation through the Commonwealth for a Parks and Recreation Commission.

Advisory Committee Comments & Recommendation:

The Committee recommends a YES vote on Article 5, with a vote of 4-0.

Original Warrant Article in its Entirety

To see if the Town will vote to amend Article I, Section 28-6 of the General Bylaws, entitled Departmental revolving funds, by making certain deletions (in strikethrough) and additions (in bold) to subsection E, as follows:

E. Establishment of the several departmental accounts. The authorized departmental revolving accounts are as follows:

Revolving Fund Name	Programs and Purposes of Fund	Departmental Receipts to be Credited to Fund	Officer Authorized to Expend from Fund	Fiscal Years
Burial and Improvement Fund	Wages for weekend burials and cemetery capital improvements	Fees charged for weekend burials	Cemetery Commission	FY 2018 and subsequent fiscal years
Recycling Fund	Operation of the recycling program	Receipts from the sale of recycling equipment and disposal of recycled goods	Board of Health	FY 2018 and subsequent fiscal years
Plumbing and Gas Inspector Compensation Fund	Wages for the Gas and Plumbing Inspector	80% of the fees collected for gas and plumbing permits	Office of Development Services Director	FY 2018 and subsequent fiscal years
Electrical (Wiring) Inspector Compensation Fund	Wages for the Electrical (Wiring) Inspector	80% of the fees collected for electrical (wiring) permits	Office of Development Services Director	FY 2018 and subsequent fiscal years
Community Services Fund Parks and Recreation Fund	Wages of seasonal or part-time staffing, supplies, and general associated expenses	Fees received for rentals of facilities, sports, instructional, day-camp, and program offerings	Director of Community Services Director of Public Services / Chair of Parks and Recreation Commission or One	FY 2019 2024 and subsequent fiscal years

			Commissioner voted annually.	
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Or take any other action related thereto.

<p style="text-align: center;">ARTICLE 6 CONSENT AGENDA Submitted by the Select Board Majority Vote Required</p>

Anticipated Motion: *I move* to approve a consent agenda consisting of the following non-controversial actions ~~or take any other action related thereto~~. Such items may be voted as a block, or singly, or in any combination but, however voted, will be treated for accounting and legislative purposes as if each item were voted as a separate article.

A. REPORTS OF TOWN OFFICERS

Accept the reports of the Town Officers as printed in the 2022 Town Report:

B. REPORTS OF TOWN COMMITTEES

Allow any Town Committee to present its report.

C. SET ANNUAL SPENDING LIMITS OF REVOLVING FUNDS

Set the annual spending limits of the Town's revolving funds as follows:

Burial & Improvement Fund	\$10,000
Recycling Fund	\$10,000
Plumbing & Gas Inspector Fund	\$20,000
Electrical Inspector Fund	\$25,000
Parks and Recreation Fund	\$60,000

D. ACCEPT TRANSPORTATION NETWORK COMMUNITY FEE ASSESSMENT

Appropriate such sum of money as may be received by the Town from the Massachusetts Transportation Network Community Fee Assessment to an account entitled MART Dial A Ride.

Summary: Paragraphs A and B are annual housekeeping items to accept certain reports. Paragraph C sets the maximum amount that can be spent out of the currently existing revolving funds established in the By-Laws. This includes the amended Parks and Recreation Fund from Article 5 to compensate for a change of programming from the Parks and Recreation Commission. Paragraph D appropriates Templeton's portion of the state surcharge on ride share companies to the MART Dial A Ride account.

Advisory Committee Comments & Recommendation:

The Committee recommends a YES vote on Article 6, with a vote of 4-0.

Original Warrant Article in its Entirety

To see if the Town will vote to approve a consent agenda consisting of the following non-controversial actions or take any other action related thereto. Such items may be voted as a block, or singly, or in any combination but, however voted, will be treated for accounting and legislative purposes as if each item were voted as a separate article.

A. REPORTS OF TOWN OFFICERS

Accept the reports of the Town Officers as printed in the 2022 Town Report:

B. REPORTS OF TOWN COMMITTEES

Allow any Town Committee to present its report.

C. SET ANNUAL SPENDING LIMITS OF REVOLVING FUNDS

Set the annual spending limits of the Town's revolving funds as follows:

Burial & Improvement Fund	\$10,000
Recycling Fund	\$10,000
Plumbing & Gas Inspector Fund	\$20,000
Electrical Inspector Fund	\$25,000
Parks and Recreation Fund	\$60,000

D. ACCEPT TRANSPORTATION NETWORK COMMUNITY FEE ASSESSMENT

Appropriate such sum of money as may be received by the Town from the Massachusetts Transportation Network Community Fee Assessment to an account entitled MART Dial A Ride.

Or take any other action related thereto.

ARTICLE 7
AMEND THE BYLAWS RE: RECREATION COMMISSION
Submitted by the Select Board
Majority Vote Required

Anticipated Motion: *I move* to amend Article IV of the General Bylaws by changing the title of the Article from “Recreation Commission” to “Parks and Recreation Commission,” and by amending Section 9-16 of that Article as follows:

§ 9-16 Membership; appointment; terms; ~~vacancies~~.

~~The Select Board (Board) shall appoint a Recreation Commission consisting of seven members: three members to be appointed from Precinct A, three members to be appointed from Precinct B, and one member to be appointed at-large. The term for each member shall be one year. Any seat that becomes vacant during the one-year term shall be filled by the appointing authority for the remainder of the unexpired term.~~ **Reference Chapter 311 of the Acts of 2022.**

Summary: This is to cleanup language of our bylaws since the Town received approval of special legislation for the establishment of a Parks & Recreation Commission.

Advisory Committee Comments & Recommendation:

The Committee recommends a YES vote on Article 7, with a vote of 4-0.

Original Warrant Article in its Entirety

To see if the Town will vote to amend Article IV of the General Bylaws by changing the title of the Article from “Recreation Commission” to “Parks and Recreation Commission,” and by amending Section 9-16 of that Article as follows:

§ 9-16 Membership; appointment; terms; ~~vacancies~~.

~~The Select Board (Board) shall appoint a Recreation Commission consisting of seven members: three members to be appointed from Precinct A, three members to be appointed from Precinct B, and one member to be appointed at-large. The term for each member shall be one year. Any seat that becomes vacant during the one-year term shall be filled by the appointing authority for the remainder of the unexpired term.~~ **Reference Chapter 311 of the Acts of 2022.**

Or take any other action related thereto.

ARTICLE 8
AMEND THE BYLAWS RE: ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Submitted by the Select Board
Majority Vote Required

Anticipated Motion: *I move* to amend Chapter 9 of the General Bylaws as follows:

§ 9-2 Appointment; terms; officers; compensation

Upon the effective date of this revised article of the Town Bylaws, the terms of all existing members of the Advisory Committee shall terminate at the next Town Meeting, the Moderator shall then appoint five members to serve until the conclusion of the next Annual Town Meeting. The Moderator of the Annual Town Meeting shall, within 30 days after said meeting, appoint one member of said Committee for a term of one year, two members for terms of two years, and two members for terms of three years. After the term of these initial appointments, the Moderator shall within 30 days after the adjournment of every Annual Town Meeting, appoint for a term of three years the number of persons as may be necessary, to provide a committee of five members. The terms of office of said members shall commence immediately upon being sworn in by the Town Clerk and shall expire at the close of final adjournment of the Annual Town Meeting at which their successors are appointed. The Advisory Committee shall choose its own officers ~~and its members shall serve without pay~~, and it shall cause to be kept a true record of its proceedings.

Summary: This article was brought to the Select Board at the request of the Advisory Committee for the Select Board to place on the warrant. This would strike language within the bylaw relative to Advisory members serving without pay.

Advisory Committee Comments & Recommendation:

The Committee recommends a YES vote on Article 8, with a vote of 3-0-1 present.

Original Warrant Article in its Entirety

To see if the Town will vote to amend Chapter 9 of the General Bylaws as follows:

§ 9-2 Appointment; terms; officers; compensation

Upon the effective date of this revised article of the Town Bylaws, the terms of all existing members of the Advisory Committee shall terminate at the next Town Meeting, the Moderator shall then appoint five members to serve until the conclusion of the next Annual Town Meeting. The Moderator of the Annual Town Meeting shall, within 30 days after said meeting, appoint one member of said Committee for a term of one year, two members for terms of two years, and two members for terms of three years. After the term of these initial appointments, the Moderator shall within 30 days after the adjournment of every Annual Town Meeting, appoint for a term of three years the number of persons as may be necessary, to provide a committee of five members. The

terms of office of said members shall commence immediately upon being sworn in by the Town Clerk and shall expire at the close of final adjournment of the Annual Town Meeting at which their successors are appointed. The Advisory Committee shall choose its own officers ~~and its members shall serve without pay~~, and it shall cause to be kept a true record of its proceedings.

Or take any other action related thereto.

ARTICLE 9
AMEND THE BYLAWS RE: FLAGS
Submitted by the Select Board
Majority Vote Required

Anticipated Motion: *I move* to amend Chapter 240 of the General Bylaws by inserting a new Article VI as follows:

§ 240-16

[Reserved].

§ 240-17 Flags for Display on Town Owned Flagpoles

This bylaw permits the following, but not limited to, town-owned flags to be flown on Town-owned flagpoles: The Flag of the United States of America, the flag of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the flag of the Prisoners of War/Missing In Action (POW/MIA), Fire-Fighter's flag, and the flags of the Departments of Defense. The Town may approve other flags to be flown on Town-owned flagpoles as an expression of the Town's official sentiments. Flagpoles are not intended to serve as a forum for free expression by the public. No more than two (2) flags may be flown on a single flagpole at a time.

Flags with the following characteristics will specifically not be accepted for display:

- a. Flags that promote political fundraising within the meaning of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 55;
- b. Flags that promote or oppose a candidate, ballot question, political party, political committee or any other matter placed, or to be placed, before the voters at the polls or that otherwise promotes a political campaign purpose within the meaning of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapters 50 through 55;
- c. Flags that endorse religion or any particular religion, or that endorse opposition to religion or any particular religion;
- d. Flags that contain commercial advertising;
- e. Flags that are not appropriate for general audiences of all ages;

- f. Applications may also be denied if they do not comply with the requirements of this policy or other relevant requirements, bylaws, regulations, or policies of the Town.

Approval of the placement of flag on Town-owned flagpoles shall be the responsibility of the Select Board and selectively delegated to the Town Administrator. In cases where delegated responsibility causes a difference of approval or denial for any of the authorized approvers, the ultimate final decision authority resides with the Select Board. The approval of requests for placement of flags on Town-owned flagpoles shall be accomplished by making requests to the Select Board in accordance with established Select Board policy. A record of approvals and denials shall be kept in the Select Board and Town Administrator's municipal offices.

§ 240-18

[Reserved]

Summary: This article was created by the Select Board to prescribe the type, manner of use, and potential restrictions for flags flown on town-owned flagpoles while following Massachusetts General Law(s). This article creates a new Article VI (6) of Chapter 240 of the Town Bylaws which addresses flags and reserves sections 16 and 18 for future use under Article VI.

Advisory Committee Comments & Recommendation:

The Committee recommends a YES vote on Article 9, with a vote of 4-0.

Original Warrant Article in its Entirety

To see if the Town will vote to amend Chapter 240 of the General Bylaws by inserting a new Article VI as follows:

§ 240-16

[Reserved].

§ 240-17 Flags for Display on Town Owned Flagpoles

This bylaw permits the following, but not limited to, town-owned flags to be flown on Town-owned flagpoles: The Flag of the United States of America, the flag of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the flag of the Prisoners of War/Missing In Action (POW/MIA), Fire-Fighter's flag, and the flags of the Departments of Defense. The Town may approve other flags to be flown on Town-owned flagpoles as an expression of the Town's official sentiments. Flagpoles are not intended to serve as a forum for free expression by the public. No more than two (2) flags may be flown on a single flagpole at a time.

Flags with the following characteristics will specifically not be accepted for display:

- g. Flags that promote political fundraising within the meaning of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 55;
- h. Flags that promote or oppose a candidate, ballot question, political party, political committee or any other matter placed, or to be placed, before the voters at the polls or that otherwise promotes a political campaign purpose within the meaning of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapters 50 through 55;
- i. Flags that endorse religion or any particular religion, or that endorse opposition to religion or any particular religion;
- j. Flags that contain commercial advertising;
- k. Flags that are not appropriate for general audiences of all ages;
- l. Applications may also be denied if they do not comply with the requirements of this policy or other relevant requirements, bylaws, regulations, or policies of the Town.

Approval of the placement of flag on Town-owned flagpoles shall be the responsibility of the Select Board and selectively delegated to the Town Administrator. In cases where delegated responsibility causes a difference of approval or denial for any of the authorized approvers, the ultimate final decision authority resides with the Select Board. The approval of requests for placement of flags on Town-owned flagpoles shall be accomplished by making requests to the Select Board in accordance with established Select Board policy. A record of approvals and denials shall be kept in the Select Board and Town Administrator's municipal offices.

§ 240-18

[Reserved]

Or take any other action related thereto.

<p style="text-align: center;">ARTICLE 10 AMEND CEMETERY REGULATIONS Submitted by the Select Board on behalf of the Cemetery Commission Majority Vote Required</p>
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Anticipated Motion: *I move* to approve, pursuant to Chapter 114, Section 23 of the Massachusetts General Laws, the amendment of the Cemetery Commission's Regulations by adding to the Regulations a new section as follows:

Interment and Monument Fees:

The Cemetery Commission may adopt, amend, and enforce a schedule of fees for interments and monument installations based on factors affecting the cost, time,

and labor for the interment or installation, including but not limited to the time of year or the size of the monument.

Summary: This will allow the Cemetery Commissioners to set their own fee schedule.

Advisory Committee Comments & Recommendation:

The Committee recommends a YES vote on Article 10, with a vote of 4-0.

Original Warrant Article in its Entirety

To see if the Town will vote to approve, pursuant to Chapter 114, Section 23 of the Massachusetts General Laws, the amendment of the Cemetery Commission's Regulations by adding to the Regulations a new section as follows:

Interment and Monument Fees:

The Cemetery Commission may adopt, amend, and enforce a schedule of fees for interments and monument installations based on factors affecting the cost, time, and labor for the interment or installation, including but not limited to the time of year or the size of the monument.

Or take any other action related thereto.

**ARTICLE 11
FUNDING OF COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACCOUNT(S)
Submitted by the Select Board on behalf of the Community Preservation Committee
Majority Vote Required**

Anticipated Motion: *I move* to appropriate the sum of Five Hundred Ten Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$510,000.00) to the several accounts of the Community Preservation Committee, as recommended by the Community Preservation Committee, as follows:

	Amount	% of Total
Administrative Account	\$25,500	5%
Historic Resources Reserve	\$51,000	10%
Community Housing Reserve	\$51,000	10%
Open Space & Recreation Reserve	\$51,000	10%
General Reserve	<u>\$331,500</u>	65%
Total	\$510,000	100%

And to meet said appropriation by a transfer from the Community Preservation annual revenues, which include the amount to be collected as a surcharge on real property, and the November 2023 state match for CPC permissible expenses.

Summary: This is the annual article where we distribute the local CPA tax surcharge and the state match to its several sub-accounts in accordance with the statutory provisions. Specific projects are then considered by Town Meeting under separate warrant articles (such as Article 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16).

Advisory Committee Comments & Recommendation:

The Committee recommends a YES vote on Article 11, with a vote of 4-0.

Original Warrant Article in its Entirety

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of Five Hundred Ten Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$510,000.00) to the several accounts of the Community Preservation Committee, as recommended by the Community Preservation Committee, as follows:

	Amount	% of Total
Administrative Account	\$25,500	5%
Historic Resources Reserve	\$51,000	10%
Community Housing Reserve	\$51,000	10%
Open Space & Recreation Reserve	\$51,000	10%
General Reserve	<u>\$331,500</u>	65%
Total	\$510,000	100%

And to meet said appropriation by a transfer from the Community Preservation annual revenues, which include the amount to be collected as a surcharge on real property, and the November 2023 state match for CPC permissible expenses.

Or take any other action related thereto.

<p align="center">ARTICLE 12 CPA FUNDING FOR BAPTIST COMMON CEMETERY ACCESS Submitted by the Select Board on behalf of the Community Preservation Committee Majority Vote Required</p>

Anticipated Motion: *I move* to appropriate the sum of Thirty Eight Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$38,000.00) for the below mentioned project as follows:

Item Agent to Expend	Amount	Purpose	CPA Fund/Source
Building & Grounds / Cemetery Commission	\$38,000	To create walking trail to Baptist Common Cemetery ¹	\$38,000 Open Space

¹ The appropriation of \$38,000 from the Templeton CPA Fund Balance Reserved for Open Space Resources for the Department of Public Works, in conjunction with Templeton Cemetery Commission, to create a walking trail on Town-owned land from Baldwinville Road to gain access to the historic

Baptist Common Cemetery. The work will include some tree/brush work, installation of split rail fencing, signage, and additional landscaping.

Summary: Contained within article.

Advisory Committee Comments & Recommendation:

The Committee recommends a YES vote on Article 12, with a vote of 4-0.

Original Warrant Article in its Entirety

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of Thirty Eight Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$38,000.00) for the below mentioned project as follows:

Item Agent to Expend	Amount	Purpose	CPA Fund/Source
Building & Grounds / Cemetery Commission	\$38,000	To create walking trail to Baptist Common Cemetery ¹	\$38,000 Open Space

¹ The appropriation of \$38,000 from the Templeton CPA Fund Balance Reserved for Open Space Resources for the Department of Public Works, in conjunction with Templeton Cemetery Commission, to create a walking trail on Town-owned land from Baldwinville Road to gain access to the historic Baptist Common Cemetery. The work will include some tree/brush work, installation of split rail fencing, signage, and additional landscaping.

Or take any other action related thereto.

<p style="text-align: center;">ARTICLE 13 CPA FUNDING FOR DWELLY FARM ONGOING RESTORATION Submitted by the Select Board on behalf of the Community Preservation Committee Majority Vote Required</p>
--

Anticipated Motion: *I move* to appropriate the sum of Thirty Six Thousand Five Hundred Dollars and No Cents (\$36,500.00) for the below mentioned project as follows:

Item Agent to Expend	Amount	Purpose	CPA Fund/Source
North County Land Trust	\$36,500	Wildlife habitat improvement, invasive plant management and promotion ¹	\$36,500 Open Space

¹ The appropriation of \$36,500 from the Templeton CPA Fund Balance Reserved for Open Space Resources for the non-profit North County Land Trust to continue wildlife habitat improvement, invasive plant management and to promote public participation in open space activities at the Dwelly Farm Conservation Area on Barre Road, Templeton.

Summary: Contained within Article.

Advisory Committee Comments & Recommendation:

The Committee recommends a YES vote on Article 13, with a vote of 4-0.

Original Warrant Article in its Entirety

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of Thirty Six Thousand Five Hundred Dollars and No Cents (\$36,500.00) for the below mentioned project as follows:

Item Agent to Expend	Amount	Purpose	CPA Fund/Source
North County Land Trust	\$36,500	Wildlife habitat improvement, invasive plant management and promotion ¹	\$36,500 Open Space

¹ The appropriation of \$36,500 from the Templeton CPA Fund Balance Reserved for Open Space Resources for the non-profit North County Land Trust to continue wildlife habitat improvement, invasive plant management and to promote public participation in open space activities at the Dwelly Farm Conservation Area on Barre Road, Templeton.

Or take any other action related thereto.

<p style="text-align: center;">ARTICLE 14 CPA FUNDING FOR GRANGE HALL ADA BATHROOMS Submitted by the Select Board on behalf the Community Preservation Committee Majority Vote Required</p>

Anticipated Motion: *I move* to appropriate the sum of Eighty Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$80,000.00) for the below mentioned project as follows:

Item Agent to Expend	Amount	Purpose	CPA Fund/Source
Narragansett Historical Society	\$80,000	Rehabilitate Ground Floor Restrooms ¹	\$80,000 Historic Resources

¹ The appropriation of \$80,000 from the Templeton CPA Fund Balance Reserved for Historic Resources for the non-profit Narragansett Historical Society to rehabilitate ground floor restrooms of the historic Templeton Grange Hall to enable Americans with Disabilities Act compliant access. Public benefit to include no cost to residents of Templeton to access when the building is open to the public.

Summary: Contained within Article.

Advisory Committee Comments & Recommendation:

The Committee recommends a YES vote on Article 14, with a vote of 4-0.

Original Warrant Article in its Entirety

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of Eighty Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$80,000.00) for the below mentioned project as follows:

Item Agent to Expend	Amount	Purpose	CPA Fund/Source
Narragansett Historical Society	\$80,000	Rehabilitate Ground Floor Restrooms ¹	\$80,000 Historic Resources

¹ The appropriation of \$80,000 from the Templeton CPA Fund Balance Reserved for Historic Resources for the non-profit Narragansett Historical Society to rehabilitate ground floor restrooms of the historic Templeton Grange Hall to enable Americans with Disabilities Act compliant access. Public benefit to include no cost to residents of Templeton to access when the building is open to the public. Or take any other action related thereto.

<p style="text-align: center;">ARTICLE 15 CPA FUNDING FOR TOWN HALL CUPOLA PRESERVATION / RESTORATION Submitted by the Select Board on behalf of the Community Preservation Committee Majority Vote Required</p>
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Anticipated Motion: *I move* to appropriate the sum of Thirty Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$30,000.00) for the below mentioned project as follows:

Item Agent to Expend	Amount	Purpose	CPA Fund/Source
Building & Grounds / Select Board	\$30,000	Cupola Restoration ¹	\$30,000 Historic Resources

¹ The appropriation \$30,000 from the Templeton CPA Fund Balance Reserved for Historic Resources for the Department of Public Works, in conjunction with the Templeton Select Board, for the preservation and restoration of the cupola atop the historic culturally significant Town Hall building in East Templeton.

Summary: Contained within Article.

Advisory Committee Comments & Recommendation:

The Committee recommends a YES vote on Article 15, with a vote of 4-0.

Original Warrant Article in its Entirety

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of Thirty Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$30,000.00) for the below mentioned project as follows:

Item Agent to Expend	Amount	Purpose	CPA Fund/Source
Building & Grounds / Select Board	\$30,000	Cupola Restoration ¹	\$30,000 Historic Resources

¹ The appropriation \$30,000 from the Templeton CPA Fund Balance Reserved for Historic Resources for the Department of Public Works, in conjunction with the Templeton Select Board, for the preservation and restoration of the cupola atop the historic culturally significant Town Hall building in East Templeton.

Or take any other action related thereto.

ARTICLE 16
CPA FUNDING FOR RESURFACING GILMAN WAITE TENNIS COURTS / FENCING REPLACEMENT
Submitted by the Select Board on behalf of the Community Preservation Committee
Majority Vote Required

Anticipated Motion: *I move* to appropriate the sum of One Hundred Thirty Nine Thousand Five Hundred Dollars and No Cents (\$139,500.00) for the below mentioned project as follows:

Item Agent to Expend	Amount	Purpose	CPA Fund/Source
Building & Grounds / Parks & Recreation Commission	\$139,500	Reclaim & resurface the Tennis Courts at Gilman Waite ¹	\$139,500 Undesignated

¹ The appropriation of \$139,500 from the Templeton CPA Fund Balance Unbudgeted Reserve for the Department of Public Works, in conjunction with Templeton Parks and Recreation Commission, to reclaim and resurface the tennis courts at Gilman Waite for subsequent use for tennis and/or pickleball and to replace adjoining fencing with appropriate chain link material.

Summary: Contained within Article.

Advisory Committee Comments & Recommendation:

The Committee recommends a YES vote on Article 16, with a vote of 4-0.

Original Warrant Article in its Entirety

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of One Hundred Thirty Nine Thousand Five Hundred Dollars and No Cents (\$139,500.00) for the below mentioned project as follows:

Item Agent to Expend	Amount	Purpose	CPA Fund/Source
Building & Grounds / Parks & Recreation Commission	\$139,500	Reclaim & resurface the Tennis Courts at Gilman Waite ¹	\$139,500 Undesignated

¹ The appropriation of \$139,500 from the Templeton CPA Fund Balance Unbudgeted Reserve for the Department of Public Works, in conjunction with Templeton Parks and Recreation Commission, to reclaim and resurface the tennis courts at Gilman Waite for subsequent use for tennis and/or pickleball and to replace adjoining fencing with appropriate chain link material.

Or take any other action related thereto.

ARTICLE 17
PROPERTY VALUATION ACCOUNT
Submitted by the Select Board on behalf of the Board of Assessors
Majority Vote Required

Anticipated Motion: *I move* to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide the sum of Twenty Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars and No Cents (\$22,500.00) from the FY24 tax levy and other general revenues of the Town to be spent by the Board of Assessors for Full Valuation, Interim Statistical Updates, Cyclical Inspections and the Purchase of Supportive Upgrades.

Summary: This is the annual appropriation to pay for the costs of keeping our property values up to date in accordance with state requirements.

Advisory Committee Comments & Recommendation:

The Committee recommends a YES vote on Article 16, with a vote of 4-0.

Original Warrant Article in its Entirety

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide the sum of Twenty Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars and No Cents (\$22,500.00) from the FY24 tax levy and other general revenues of the Town to be spent by the Board of Assessors for Full Valuation, Interim Statistical Updates, Cyclical Inspections and the Purchase of Supportive Upgrades.

Or take any other action related thereto.

ARTICLE 18
FY 2024 SEWER DEPARTMENT OPERATING BUDGET
Submitted by the Select Board on behalf of the Sewer Commission
Majority Vote Required

Anticipated Motion: *I move* to appropriate the sum of One Million Four Hundred Forty Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty Three Dollars and No Cents (\$1,440,723.00) to operate the Sewer Department for Fiscal Year 2024 and to meet said appropriation by a transfer of Sixteen Thousand One Hundred Forty Eight Dollars and No Cents (\$16,148.00) from the certified retained earnings of the Sewer Fund and the balance from the receipts and revenues to be collected on behalf of the Sewer Department for said fiscal year.

Summary: This article is the annual operating budget for the Sewer Department. This Department is an enterprise fund and operates with the payments made to it by users of the system.

Advisory Committee Comments & Recommendation:

The Committee recommends a YES vote on Article 18, with a vote of 4-0.

Original Warrant Article in its Entirety

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of One Million Four Hundred Forty Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty Three Dollars and No Cents (\$1,440,723.00) to operate the Sewer Department for Fiscal Year 2024 and to meet said appropriation by a transfer of Sixteen Thousand One Hundred Forty Eight Dollars and No Cents (\$16,148.00) from the certified retained earnings of the Sewer Fund and the balance from the receipts and revenues to be collected on behalf of the Sewer Department for said fiscal year.

Or take any other action related thereto.

**ARTICLE 19
FY 2023 CABLE DEPARTMENT OPERATING BUDGET
Submitted by the Select Board
Majority Vote Required**

Anticipated Motion: *I move* to appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Twenty Two Thousand Three Hundred Dollars and No Cents (\$222,300.00) to operate the Cable Department for Fiscal Year 2024 and to meet said appropriation by a transfer of Ninety Seven Thousand Three Hundred Dollars and No Cents (\$97,300.00) from the certified retained earnings of the Cable Fund and the balance from the receipts and revenues to be collected on behalf of the Cable Department for said fiscal year.

Summary: This is the annual operating budget for the Cable Department. The Department is operated as an enterprise fund and is funded with the payments made to the Town by the local cable franchisee.

Advisory Committee Comments & Recommendation:

The Committee recommends a YES vote on Article 19, with a vote of 4-0.

Original Warrant Article in its Entirety

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Twenty Two Thousand Three Hundred Dollars and No Cents (\$222,300.00) to operate the Cable Department for Fiscal Year 2024 and to meet said appropriation by a transfer of Ninety Seven Thousand Three Hundred Dollars and No Cents (\$97,300.00) from the certified retained earnings of the Cable Fund and the balance from the receipts and revenues to be collected on behalf of the Cable Department for said fiscal year.

Or take any other action related thereto.

ARTICLE 20
SET THE SALARIES OF ELECTED TOWN OFFICIALS
Submitted by the Select Board
Majority Vote Required

Anticipated Motion: *I move*, in accord with MGL Ch. 41 § 108, to fix or maintain the salaries of certain elected officials for Fiscal Year 2024 as follows:

Town Clerk	\$	72,000	Yearly
Select Board (Each)	\$	3,750	Yearly
Moderator	\$	500	Yearly
Water Commissioner (Each)	\$	2,550	Yearly ¹
Sewer Commissioner (Each)	\$	3,000	Yearly ¹
Light Commissioner (Each)	\$	2,550	Yearly ²

¹ Paid for by an enterprise.

² Paid for by the Light Department.

Summary: It is a requirement of statute that the compensation of these elected officials be set at a Town Meeting. In general, this is done at an Annual Town Meeting.

Advisory Committee Comments & Recommendation:

The Committee recommends a YES vote on Article 20, with a vote of 3-0-1 present.

Original Warrant Article in its Entirety

To see if the Town will vote, in accord with MGL Ch. 41 § 108, to fix or maintain the salaries of certain elected officials for Fiscal Year 2024 as follows:

Town Clerk	\$	72,000	Yearly
Select Board (Each)	\$	3,750	Yearly
Moderator	\$	500	Yearly
Water Commissioner (Each)	\$	2,550	Yearly ¹
Sewer Commissioner (Each)	\$	3,000	Yearly ¹
Light Commissioner (Each)	\$	2,550	Yearly ²

¹ Paid for by an enterprise.

² Paid for by the Light Department.

Or take any other action related thereto.

ARTICLE 21
FUNDING FOR AMBULANCE DEPARTMENT OPERATIONS
Submitted by Select Board
Majority Vote Required

Anticipated Motion: *I move* to transfer Five Hundred Thirty Four Thousand Five Hundred Dollars and No Cents (\$534,500.00) from the Fire Department/Ambulance – Receipts Reserved for Appropriation, to be spent by the Fire Chief to pay for the operation of the ambulance service within the Fire Department during FY 2024, with any unexpended monies in the ambulance budget being returned to the Receipts Reserved for Appropriation Account and with any unexpended balances in the Receipts Reserved for Appropriation account being carried forward to the subsequent fiscal year.

Summary: The Town has broken out the ambulance expenses and will be fully funded by the Ambulance Receipts.

Advisory Committee Comments & Recommendation:

The Committee recommends a YES vote on Article 21, with a vote of 3-0-1 present.

Original Warrant Article in its Entirety

To see if the Town will vote to transfer Five Hundred Thirty Four Thousand Five Hundred Dollars and No Cents (\$534,500.00) from the Fire Department/Ambulance – Receipts Reserved for Appropriation, to be spent by the Fire Chief to pay for the operation of the ambulance service within the Fire Department during FY 2024, with any unexpended monies in the ambulance budget being returned to the Receipts Reserved for Appropriation Account and with any unexpended balances in the Receipts Reserved for Appropriation account being carried forward to the subsequent fiscal year.

Or take any other action related thereto.

**ARTICLE 22
FY 2024 GENERAL FUND OPERATING (OPEX) BUDGET
Submitted by Select Board
Majority Vote Required**

Anticipated Motion: *I move* to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Million Four Hundred Twenty-Three Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty-Eight Dollars and No Cents (\$10,423,968.00) for the operations of General Government for Fiscal Year 2024.

Dept Code	Name	FY 24 Budget
120	Select Board (1)	\$ 390,237
130	Advisory Committee (2)	\$ 50,000
135	Town Accountant	\$ 180,500
141	Assessor	\$ 113,850
147	Treasurer/Collector	\$ 164,800
155	IT & Communications	\$ 120,000
161	Town Clerk	\$ 133,500
200	Police & Dispatch	\$ 1,578,000
220	Fire	\$ 822,000
230	Emergency Management	\$ 1,750

250	Development Services	\$	207,750
400	Highway	\$	829,453
410	Building & Grounds	\$	386,175
420	Snow & Ice (2)	\$	148,750
430	Parks & Recreation	\$	50,511
500	Veterans Service	\$	121,099
600	Senior Services	\$	144,220
610	Library	\$	91,275
620	Historical & Culture	\$	1,750
700	Debt Service	\$	2,128,348
900	Insurance & Benefits	\$	2,760,000
		\$	10,423,968

- (1) Contains Reserve Transferrable by Select Board for Merit & Equity Raises for Non-Union Personnel/CBAs
- (2) Contains MGL Ch. 40 §6 Reserve Transferrable by Advisory Committee for "...emergency or unforeseen expenditures..."

Summary: This is the annual operating budget for the general fund. The Select Board acknowledges a degree of concern over the uncertain picture on what that local aid will eventually be and understands the challenge for the out years. If that final figure puts the budget out of balance, we will present an article to the Fall Town Meeting to “right-size” the budget.

Advisory Committee Comments & Recommendation:

The Committee recommends a YES vote on Article 22, with a vote of 3-1.

Original Warrant Article in its Entirety

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Million Four Hundred Twenty-Three Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty-Eight Dollars and No Cents (\$10,423,968.00) for the operations of General Government for Fiscal Year 2024.

Or take any other action related thereto.

ARTICLE 23
FY 2024 CAPITAL BUDGET – ROLLING STOCK & IMPROVEMENTS
Submitted by the Select Board
Majority Vote Required

Anticipated Motion: *I move* to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Eighty Thousand Two Hundred Sixty Eight Dollars and No Cents (\$180,268.00) toward a capital purchase and improvement as generally illustrated below:

DPW – B&G	Truck, Swap Loader	\$180,268
	Total	\$180,268

and to meet said appropriation by a transfer of One Hundred Eighty Thousand Two Hundred Sixty Eight Dollars and No Cents (\$180,268.00) from certified free cash.

Summary: The Town currently has a four door that is 12 years old with lots of body rot. Frame is extremely rusted and has many mechanical problems. The Director of Public Services has been trying to replace this for couple of years as it is becoming unsafe. The replacement would be a Ford F-550 swap loader. A swap loader will be a 4-wheel drive truck with plow and able to change bodies such as leaf box, sander, dump body being more universal with many options with only one truck. This new truck would be used 12 months through all seasons.

Advisory Committee Comments & Recommendation:

The Committee recommends a YES vote on Article 23, with a vote of 4-0.

Original Warrant Article in its Entirety

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Eighty Thousand Two Hundred Sixty Eight Dollars and No Cents (\$180,268.00) toward a capital purchase and improvement as generally illustrated below:

DPW – B&G	Truck, Swap Loader	\$180,268
	Total	\$180,268

and to meet said appropriation by a transfer of One Hundred Eighty Thousand Two Hundred Sixty Eight Dollars and No Cents (\$180,268.00) from certified free cash.

Or take any other action related thereto.

ARTICLE 24 FY 2024 CAPITAL FUNDED THROUGH CAPEX Submitted by the Select Board Two-Thirds Vote Required		
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Anticipated Motion: *I move* to raise and appropriate the sum of Sixty Nine Thousand Two Hundred Forty One Dollars and No Cents (\$69,241.00) towards capital purchases and improvements as generally illustrated below:

DPW – Highway	Software, work orders and asset management	\$40,942
DPW – B&G	Mower, zero-turn	\$16,060
Parks & Rec.	Water-reel device for irrigation	\$12,239
	Total	\$69,241

and to meet said appropriation by a transfer from the Capital (CAPEX) Stabilization Fund the sum of Sixty Nine Thousand Two Hundred Forty One Dollars and No Cents (\$69,241.00).

Summary: These were additional items that were recommended by the Capital Improvements Committee. If these are approved, we would still have roughly \$150k in the Capital (CAPEX) Stabilization Fund.

Advisory Committee Comments & Recommendation:

The Committee recommends a YES vote on Article 24, with a vote of 4-0.

Original Warrant Article in its Entirety

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Sixty Nine Thousand Two Hundred Forty One Dollars and No Cents (\$69,241.00) towards capital purchases and improvements as generally illustrated below:

DPW – Highway	Software, work orders and asset management	\$40,942
DPW – B&G	Mower, zero-turn	\$16,060
Parks & Rec.	Water-reel device for irrigation	\$12,239
	Total	\$69,241

and to meet said appropriation by a transfer from the Capital (CAPEX) Stabilization Fund the sum of Sixty Nine Thousand Two Hundred Forty One Dollars and No Cents (\$69,241.00).

Or take any other action related thereto.

**ARTICLE 25
FY 2024 SPECIAL ARTICLES
Submitted by the Select Board
Majority Vote Required**

Anticipated Motion: *I move* to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-One Thousand Four Hundred Thirty Dollars and No Cents (\$21,430.00) toward a program of special articles as generally illustrated below:

DPW – Highway	Street Sign Replacement	\$7,500
DPW - Highway	Community Sand Pile Shed	\$4,500
Town Hall -B&G	Electrical Panels	\$6,930
Emergency Management	Municipal Funds ~ Hazard Mitigation Grant	\$2,500
	Total	\$21,430

and to meet said appropriation by a transfer of Twenty-One Thousand Four Hundred Thirty Dollars and No Cents (\$21,430.00) from certified free cash.

Summary: These are the special articles for FY '24.

Advisory Committee Comments & Recommendation:

The Committee recommends a YES vote on Article 25, with a vote of 4-0.

Original Warrant Article in its Entirety

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Eighteen Thousand Nine Hundred Thirty Dollars and No Cents (\$18,930.00) toward a program of special articles as generally illustrated below:

DPW – Highway	Street Sign Replacement	\$7,500
DPW - Highway	Community Sand Pile Shed	\$4,500
Town Hall -B&G	Electrical Panels	\$6,930
	Total	\$18,930

and to meet said appropriation by a transfer of Eighteen Thousand Nine Hundred Thirty Dollars and No Cents (\$18,930.00) from certified free cash.

Or take any other action related thereto.

ARTICLE 26
AUTHORIZE LEASE OF A TANKER FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT
Submitted by the Select Board
Two-Thirds Vote Required

Anticipated Motion: *I move* to raise and appropriate the sum of Ninety Seven Thousand Seven Hundred Eighty-Nine Dollars and Seventy-Eight Cents (\$97,789.78) from free cash to pay for the first year of a five year lease for a tanker for the Fire Department with said lease not to exceed Four Hundred Eighty-Eight Thousand Nine Hundred Forty-Nine Dollars and Ninety Cents (\$488,949.90) in total, including provisions for an early pay-off, without penalty, and a One Dollar (\$1.00) buy-out upon the conclusion of all regularly scheduled lease payments, and to authorize the Select Board to enter into a contract with the lessor containing the said terms and conditions.

Summary: This capital item purchase is part of the Chiefs schedule for replacement of Fire apparatus. This new tanker will replace a 34-year-old tanker.

Advisory Committee Comments & Recommendation:

The Committee recommends a YES vote on Article 26, with a vote of 3-0-1 present.

Original Warrant Article in its Entirety

To see if the Town, will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ninety Seven Thousand Seven Hundred Eighty-Nine Dollars and Seventy-Eight Cents (\$97,789.78) to pay for the first year of a

five year lease for a tanker for the Fire Department with said lease not to exceed Four Hundred Eighty-Eight Thousand Nine Hundred Forty-Nine Dollars and Ninety Cents (\$488,949.90) in total, including provisions for an early pay-off, without penalty, and a One Dollar (\$1.00) buy-out upon the conclusion of all regularly scheduled lease payments, and to authorize the Select Board to enter into a contract with the lessor containing the said terms and conditions.

Or take any other action related thereto.

ARTICLE 27
MONTACHUSETT REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL
Submitted by the Select Board on behalf of the Montachusett Regional Vocational
Technical School District
Majority Vote Required

Anticipated Motion: *I move* to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Hundred Eighty Eight Thousand One Hundred Eighty Nine Dollars and No Cents (\$588,189.00) as the amount assessed upon the Town for the Fiscal Year 2024 assessment by the Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School District for the purposes of educating and transporting the Town's enrolled students and capital and debt expenses provided, however, that any stated amount shall be reduced to any lesser amount which shall subsequently be certified by the school committee and certified to the Town, for Fiscal Year 2024.

Summary: This is our annual article to pay the assessment upon us by the District.

Advisory Committee Comments & Recommendation:

The Committee recommends a YES vote on Article 27, with a vote of 4-0.

Original Warrant Article in its Entirety

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Hundred Eighty Eight Thousand One Hundred Eighty Nine Dollars and No Cents (\$588,189.00) as the amount assessed upon the Town for the Fiscal Year 2024 assessment by the Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School District for the purposes of educating and transporting the Town's enrolled students and capital and debt expenses provided, however, that any stated amount shall be reduced to any lesser amount which shall subsequently be certified by the school committee and certified to the Town, for Fiscal Year 2024.

Or to take any action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 28
NARRAGANSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Submitted by the Select Board on behalf of the Narragansett Regional School District
Majority Vote Required

Anticipated Motion: *I move* to raise and appropriate the sum of Seven Million Six Hundred Ninety Two Thousand Four Hundred Thirty Three Dollars and No Cents (\$7,692,433.00) as the amount assessed upon the Town for the Fiscal Year 2024 assessment by the Narragansett

Regional School District for the purposes of educating and transporting the Town's enrolled students provided, however, that any stated amount shall be reduced to any lesser amount which shall subsequently be certified by the school committee and certified to the Town, for Fiscal Year 2024.

Summary: This is our annual article to pay the assessment upon us by the District.

Advisory Committee Comments & Recommendation:

The Committee recommends a YES vote on Article 28, with a vote of 4-0.

Original Warrant Article in its Entirety

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Seven Million Six Hundred Ninety Two Thousand Four Hundred Thirty Three Dollars and No Cents (\$7,692,433.00) as the amount assessed upon the Town for the Fiscal Year 2024 assessment by the Narragansett Regional School District for the purposes of educating and transporting the Town's enrolled students provided, however, that any stated amount shall be reduced to any lesser amount which shall subsequently be certified by the school committee and certified to the Town, for Fiscal Year 2024.

Or take any other action related thereto.

<p style="text-align: center;">ARTICLE 29 AMENDING THE NARRAGANSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT AGREEMENT Submitted by the Select Board on behalf of the Narragansett Regional School District School Committee Majority Vote Required</p>
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Anticipated Motion: *I move* to approve the amendments to the Narragansett Regional School District Agreement as recommended and approved by the Regional School District Committee.

Summary: See Appendix A.

Advisory Committee Comments & Recommendation:

The Committee is split on their recommendation vote on Article 29, with a vote of 2-2.

Original Warrant Article in its Entirety

To see if the Town will approve the amendments to the Narragansett Regional School District Agreement as recommended and approved by the Regional School District Committee,

Or take any other action related thereto.

ARTICLE 30
ACCEPT LAYOUT OF LAUREL VIEW ROAD AS TOWN WAY
Submitted by the Select Board
Majority Vote Required

Anticipated Motion: *I move* to accept Laurel View Road, as laid out in the As-Built Plan approved by the Select Board and filed with the Town Clerk on January 30, 2023, as a public way pursuant to Chapter 82, Section 23 of the General Laws.

Summary: This article would accept Laurel View Road as a town roadway.

Advisory Committee Comments & Recommendation:

The Committee recommends a YES vote on Article 30, with a vote of 4-0.

Original Warrant Article in its Entirety

To see if the Town will vote to accept Laurel View Road, as laid out in the As-Built Plan approved by the Select Board and filed with the Town Clerk on January 30, 2023, as a public way pursuant to Chapter 82, Section 23 of the General Laws.

Or take any other action related thereto.

ARTICLE 31
ESTABLISH OPIOID REMEDIATION STABILIZATION FUND
Submitted by the Select Board
Two-Thirds Vote Required

Anticipated Motion: *I move* to establish an Opioid Abatement Stabilization Fund, in accordance with Chapter 40, Section 5B of the Massachusetts General Laws, to be used, upon further appropriation, for the purposes of implementing the abatement strategies set forth in the Massachusetts State-Subdivision Agreement for Statewide Opioid Settlements, dated March 4, 2022.

Summary: This article will allow the Town to set up a separate fund to receive the opioid settlements for later appropriation.

Advisory Committee Comments & Recommendation:

The Committee recommends a YES vote on Article 30, with a vote of 4-0.

Original Warrant Article in its Entirety

To see if the Town will vote to establish an Opioid Abatement Stabilization Fund, in accordance with Chapter 40, Section 5B of the Massachusetts General Laws, to be used, upon further appropriation, for the purposes of implementing the abatement strategies set forth in the

Massachusetts State-Subdivision Agreement for Statewide Opioid Settlements, dated March 4, 2022.

Or take any other action related thereto.

ARTICLE 32
ACCEPT FOURTH PARAGRAPH OF CHAPTER 40, SECTION 5B
Submitted by the Select Board
Majority Vote Required

Anticipated Motion: *I move* to accept the fourth paragraph of Chapter 40, Section 5B, of the Massachusetts General Laws, which allows the dedication, without further appropriation, of all, or a percentage not less than 25 percent, of particular fees, charges or receipts to a stabilization fund established under Chapter 40, Section 5B of the Massachusetts General Laws, to be effective for all fiscal years beginning on July 1, 2023. This will allow the Town to take the action described in Article 33.

Summary: The Town must accept this statute to accept and dedicate for future appropriation the funds identified in Article 33.

Advisory Committee Comments & Recommendation:

The Committee recommends a YES vote on Article 30, with a vote of 4-0.

Original Warrant Article in its Entirety

To see if the Town will vote to accept the fourth paragraph of Chapter 40, Section 5B, of the Massachusetts General Laws, which allows the dedication, without further appropriation, of all, or a percentage not less than 25 percent, of particular fees, charges or receipts to a stabilization fund established under Chapter 40, Section 5B of the Massachusetts General Laws, to be effective for all fiscal years beginning on July 1, 2023. This will allow the Town to take the action described in Article 33.

Or take any other action related thereto.

ARTICLE 33
DEDICATE RECEIPTS FROM STATEWIDE SETTLEMENT
Submitted by the Select Board
Two-Thirds Vote Required

Anticipated Motion: *I move* to dedicate all or a percentage, which may not be less than 25 percent, of the receipts from the Statewide Opioid Settlements, as defined in the State-Subdivision Agreement for Statewide Opioid Settlements, to the Opioid Abatement Stabilization Fund established in accordance with Chapter 40, Section 5B of the Massachusetts General Laws, effective for the fiscal year 2024, beginning on July 1, 2023.

Summary: This dedicates the statewide opioid settlement funds to go right into the opioid abatement stabilization fund.

Advisory Committee Comments & Recommendation:

The Committee recommends a YES vote on Article 30, with a vote of 4-0.

Original Warrant Article in its Entirety

To see if the Town will vote to dedicate all or a percentage, which may not be less than 25 percent, of the receipts from the Statewide Opioid Settlements, as defined in the State-Subdivision Agreement for Statewide Opioid Settlements, to the Opioid Abatement Stabilization Fund established in accordance with Chapter 40, Section 5B of the Massachusetts General Laws, effective for the fiscal year 2024, beginning on July 1, 2023.

Or take any other action related thereto.

Appendix A

NARRAGANSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

REGIONAL AGREEMENT PRE-K-12

Regional Agreement Amendment Committee

Voted on April 18, 2022

To support this Amended Regional Agreement
And send it to the
Narragansett Regional School District
School Committee

The changes highlighted in this version were required by DESE (Department of Elementary & Secondary Education) in August & October 2022

NARRAGANSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGIONAL AGREEMENT

I	Regional District School Committee	p. ____
II	Type of Regional School District	p. ____
III	Students (including Tuition Students & Assignment of –Students	p. ____
IV	Location & Lease of District Schools	p. ____
V	Budget & Payment by the Towns	p. ____
VI	Apportionment of Costs	p. ____
VII	Notice of Debt Authorization	p. ____
VIII	Transportation	p. ____
IX	Amendments	p. ____
X	Admission of Additional Towns	p. ____
XI	Withdrawal of Member Towns	p. ____
XII	Conflicts	p. ____
XIII	Review	p. ____
XIV	Effective Date & Jurisdiction	p. ____
	Appendix A: Statement of Candidate	p. ____
	Appendix B: Petition Accompanying Statement of Candidate	p. ____
	Appendix C: Chapter 484 of the Acts of 1976	p. ____

REGIONAL AGREEMENT AS PROPOSED/AMENDED IN 2022

The Regional Agreement, hereinafter referred to as the “Agreement,” entered into pursuant to Chapter 71 of the General Laws, as amended, between the Towns of Phillipston and Templeton in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, hereinafter referred to as the “Member Towns,” is hereby amended in the year 2022 in its entirety to read as follows:

Section I. REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

(A) Name and Composition

The district shall be called the Narragansett Regional School District, hereinafter referred to as the “District.” The District school committee, hereinafter referred to as the “Committee,” shall consist of eight members, five of whom shall be residents of the Town of Templeton and three of whom shall be residents of the Town of Phillipston.

(B) Elected Members

(1) Pursuant to Chapter 484 of the Acts of 1976 (Appendix C) the members of the Committee shall be elected with residency requirements by all of the voters of the District at District-wide elections held on the same day in each Town during the annual elections in each member town.

(2) Nominations for membership on the Committee shall be made in accordance with the procedures prescribed by MGL, Chapter 53, Sections 6 and 122, as amended, and other applicable provisions of law.

(3) The term of office of each elected member shall be three years and until his/her successor is elected and qualified. At every annual District election, there shall be elected one member of the Committee from the Town of Phillipston and either one or two members of the Committee from the Town of Templeton as is necessary to maintain the membership of the Committee in accordance with subsection I (A).

(4) Alternative Election Process – In the event that the District-wide elections cannot be held on the same day as each Town’s annual election, Committee members will be elected as follows:

(a) The Committee shall call a District-wide election with residency requirements in accordance with Chapter 484, the Acts and Resolves of 1976, on a date in conjunction with the election date of one of the Member Towns or at another date selected by the Committee.

(b) The District-called election will also be consistent with the provisions in the Appendix of this Agreement.

(5) Vacancies If a vacancy occurs among the members of the Committee, the District shall, forthwith, upon knowledge of the same, notify the Board of Selectmen, hereinafter referred to as the “Select Board,” of the Town in question and the remaining members of the Committee who represent that Town of said vacancy. The members of the Select Board and the remaining members of the Committee for the Town in which the vacancy occurred shall then meet in joint public session in order to appoint someone who resides in that Town to serve until the next District-wide election. At that next District-wide election, a person will be elected to serve the balance of the unexpired term which had become vacant.

(6) Organization Within seven (7) days after the annual District-wide election, the Committee shall organize and choose by ballot a chairperson and vice chairperson from its own membership and appoint a treasurer and a secretary who may be the same person, but who need not be members of the Committee. At such organization meeting or at any other meeting, the Committee shall fix the time and place for its regular meetings and provide for the calling of special meetings, and may choose such other officers as it deems advisable and prescribe their powers and duties. The Chairperson may appoint persons to serve on subcommittees.

(7) Powers and Duties The Committee shall have all the powers and duties conferred and imposed upon school committees by law and conferred and imposed upon it by this Agreement, and such other additional powers and duties

as are specified in MGL, Chapter 71, Sections 16 to 16 (I), inclusive, and any amendments thereof or additions thereto now or hereinafter enacted, or as may be specified in any applicable special law.

(8) Quorum The quorum for the transaction of business shall be a majority of the full membership of the Committee, but a number less than the majority may adjourn. A member of each Town must be physically present or participating remotely for the Committee to conduct any vote.

(9) Votes Requiring a Super Majority All Committee votes will adhere to the requirements as outlined in law or regulation without limitation or restriction. A passing vote on the following issues requires six (6) of eight (8) votes of the Committee including at least one (1) vote of approval from each Member Town:

- (a) To amend the Regional Agreement.
- (b) To establish or terminate an employment contract with a superintendent of schools.
- (c) To reconfigure grades among the buildings.
- (d) To close a school.
- (e) To lease and renew leases for land and buildings for educational purposes.

Section II. TYPE OF REGIONAL DISTRICT

The District shall include all grades from pre-kindergarten through grade twelve (PK – 12) for students who reside in the Member Towns. The Committee is hereby authorized, in its discretion to establish and maintain state-aided vocational education, acting as trustees therefore, in accordance with the provisions of MGL, Chapter 74, and acts amendatory thereof, in addition thereto or dependent thereon and is authorized to join or form educational collaboratives consistent with MGL, Chapter 40, Section 4E, as amended.

Section III. STUDENTS: INCLUDING TUITION STUDENTS AND ASSIGNMENT OF STUDENTS

(A) The Committee may accept for enrollment in the District students from towns other than the member towns on a tuition basis and on such terms as it may determine.

(B) Students shall be assigned by the Superintendent of Schools, who shall take into account, but not be bound by, any recommendations of the Committee, consistent with the Educational Reform Act of 1993, as amended; provided that any time the assignment of students results in more than 10% of the students of the whole school residing in the other Member Town than where the school is located, then that reassignment shall require a seven (7) out of eight (8) Committee vote in favor. So called "School Choice" students shall be exempt from this requirement.

Section IV. LOCATION AND LEASE OF DISTRICT SCHOOLS

(A) All District schools shall be located within geographical limits of the District. specifically, Narragansett Middle School and Narragansett Regional High School.

(B) The District is hereby authorized to lease the premises and elementary school buildings in their respective Towns, when there is a need to do so. Each of the leases authorized above shall be for a term of not more than twenty (20) years. Each of the leases shall contain a provision for the extension of the term thereof for an additional term not in excess of twenty (20) years each, renewable during the term at the option of the Committee by notice to the Town at least one (1) year prior to the expiration of the initial or any renewal term; and each lease shall contain provisions for termination of the lease as well as provision for the Towns to reclaim their building. The Committee is authorized to maintain general charge and superintendence of all leased buildings. Each of the leases shall contain provisions authorizing the District describing the process to improve, alter, remodel or modernize any of the leased buildings. at its own expense. As part of the general charge and superintendence of the elementary leased buildings, the Committee shall be included in the decision-making process regarding any town-initiated capital

expenditures or repair or maintenance related to the elementary leased buildings. No rental shall be charged to the District by any of the Member Towns; however, the Committee shall bear all costs for insurance, maintenance and repair, utilities and other services; provided, however, that any single necessary repair or maintenance project to be undertaken in any fiscal year at an estimated or actual cost in excess of \$15,000 shall be considered a capital cost and paid solely and entirely by the Town in which the building is located. Capital costs for leased school buildings in excess of \$15,000 shall be exclusively assessed to the member town that owns the building.

(C) Each lease involving a Member Town shall be on such other terms as may be determined by the Select Board thereof and the Committee, who shall execute the lease for the Member Town and the District, respectively.

Section V. DISTRICT BUDGET AND PAYMENT BY THE TOWNS

(A) Budget The Committee shall annually determine the District's budget consistent with the timelines, terms and requirements of MGL, Chapter 71, Section 16B, as amended, and other pertinent provisions of law and consistent with regulations promulgated by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (hereinafter referred to as "DESE").

(B) Public Budget Hearing and Budget Approval

(1) After conducting a public hearing, consistent with MGL, Chapter 71, Section 38N, as amended, the Committee, by a minimum two-thirds (2/3) vote of all its members (Chapter 71, Section 16B), shall annually approve an operating, transportation, and capital/debt budget for the next fiscal year to maintain and operate the District. The hearing will be posted in accordance with the Open Meeting Law in advance of the hearing, stating the time, place and purpose of the hearing at which it shall present the proposed District tentative budget and shall answer any reasonable inquiries with respect thereto. Following the public hearing on the tentative budget, the Committee may make any such modifications to its tentative budget as it may deem necessary or desirable. The Committee will approve a final budget and submit it to the District Treasurer, Chair of the Select Board and Chair of the Finance Committee of both Member Towns.

(2) The budget will be itemized in such detail consistent with DESE regulations. Such budget shall be adopted not later than forty-five (45) days prior to the earliest date on which the business session of the Annual Town Meeting of any Member Town is to be held, but in no event later than March 31, provided that said budget need not be adopted earlier than February 1. The amounts so apportioned under Section VI for each Member Town shall be certified by the District Treasurer to the Treasurers of the Member Towns according to MGL, Chapter 71, Section 16B, as amended. The annual budget, as adopted by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of all of the members of the Committee, must be approved by a simple majority vote at both Member Town Meetings. If a budget is not approved by both Member Towns, the District shall follow the process to approve a final budget as stated in MGL, Chapter 71, Section 16B, as amended.

(C) Amendments to Approved Budgets [603 CMR 41.05 (5). ~~as amended~~]

(1) The Committee may propose, with a two-thirds (2/3) vote, an amendment to a previously approved budget. If such amendment results in an increase in the total amount of the budget or an increase in assessment for any Member Town, such amendment shall be submitted to the local appropriating authorities for their approval. The Treasurer of the District shall submit the proposed amendment by certified mail to the Member Towns within seven (7) days from the date of the Committee vote. The local appropriating authority of each Member Towns shall have forty-five (45) days from the date of the Committee's vote to meet and consider the amendment. The proposed amendment shall be effective if it is approved by both of the Member Towns.

(2) If a local appropriating authority does not vote on the proposed amendment within the forty-five-day (45-day) period and that local appropriating authority has previously appropriated funds for its assessment in an amount greater than or equal to the Member Town's assessment for the amended budget, that Member Town shall be deemed to have approved the amended budget.

(3) If a proposed amendment to a previously approved budget does not increase the total amount of the budget and reduces or leaves unchanged the assessment for every Member Town, the amendment shall not require approval by the local appropriating authorities and shall be effective upon a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Committee.

(4) If the Commissioner (hereinafter referred to as the “Commissioner”) of DESE adjusts the Required Local Contribution of any Member Town or Member Towns subsequent to the approval of the budget, the Committee shall propose an amendment to the budget to reflect such adjustment.

(5) Whenever a Member Town’s assessment is reduced to a smaller amount than previously appropriated by the local appropriating authority, the appropriation shall automatically be deemed to be reduced to such lesser amount.

(D) The dates on or before which each Member Town shall pay its proportionate share of the capital/debt, transportation, and operating costs to the District each year shall be as follows:

July 15	1/12 of total assessment
August 15	1/12 of total assessment
September 15	1/12 of total assessment
October 15	1/12 of total assessment
November 15	1/12 of total assessment
December 15	1/12 of total assessment
January 15	1/12 of total assessment
February 15	1/12 of total assessment
March 15	1/12 of total assessment
April 15	1/12 of total assessment
May 15	1/12 of total assessment
June 15	1/12 of total assessment

Section VI. APPORTIONMENT OF COSTS

(A) For the purpose of apportioning assessments by the District to the Member Towns, costs shall be divided into three categories: (1) operating costs, (2) transportation costs, and (3) capital/debt costs.

(B) Operating costs shall include all costs (not including transportation and capital/debt costs), such as salaries, wages, supplies, texts, repair and maintenance

expenditures, interest on notes issued in anticipation of revenue and other costs incurred in the day-to-day operation of the District.

(C) Transportation costs ~~related to District-owned buildings~~ will include all ~~other~~ costs related to the transportation of all resident students who are transported by the District to and from school.

(D) Capital/debt costs ~~related to District-owned buildings~~ shall include all expenditures relating to capital outlay, such as payment of the principal of and interest on bonds or other obligations issued by the District to finance capital costs, and any other expenses associated with the acquisition of real estate, construction and improvement of buildings, grading, purchase of equipment, and other activities incidental to any ~~subsequent~~ additions and improvements thereto. Capital costs shall also include any payments of principal or interest on any outstanding or future bonds or other evidence of indebtedness issued by either member town to finance capital expenses.

(E) Apportionment of Operating Costs

(1) The operating costs assessed to each Member Town will consist of each Member Town's Minimum Local Contribution (MGL, Chapter 70, as amended) and each Member Town's share of Above Minimum Local Contribution.

(2) The aggregate Above Minimum Local Contribution is arrived at by subtracting from the Operating Budget the following: Chapter 70 state aid, the Minimum Required Combined Local Contributions of both Member Towns, and other general revenue sources to the District (e.g., interest, tuition payments, fees, etc.).

This formula is illustrated below:

Operating Budget (which excludes transportation and capital/debt)
- (minus) Chapter 70 aid (as calculated by DESE)
- (minus) Minimum Required Combined Local Contributions of both
Member Towns (as calculated by DESE)
- (minus) Other general revenue sources to the District
= (equals) Total Above Minimum Contribution for all Member Towns

(3) The Above Minimum operating costs shall be apportioned to the Member Towns on the basis of their respective student enrollments in the PK - 12 District. Each Member Town's share of operating costs, as aforesaid, for each such fiscal year shall be determined by computing to the nearest 1/100 of 1% the ratio which that Town's student enrollment in the District schools on the October 1 immediately preceding the first day of the fiscal year for which the apportionment is determined bears to the total in-district student enrollment from all the Member Towns in the District on the same date.

(F) Assessment of Transportation Costs The transportation portion of the assessment shall be calculated by reducing the District's transportation costs by the amount of Chapter 71 Transportation reimbursement. The remaining amount shall be allocated to the Member Towns based on each Member Town's proportionate share of ~~residents in the District~~ students in the District as of October 1 of the immediately preceding fiscal year for which the apportionment is determined.

(G) Apportionment of Capital/Debt Costs

(1) All capital costs in connection with any particular District-owned school shall be apportioned among the Member Towns on the basis of each Member Town's student enrollment in such school. Each Member Town's share shall be determined by computing the ratio which its student enrollment in such school on the October 1 next preceding the first day of the fiscal year for which the apportionment is made bears to the total student enrollment from all the Member Towns in such school on that date. ~~If there is no enrollment in such school on a regional basis on the aforesaid October 1, the apportionment of capital costs with respect thereto shall be made on the basis of the estimated student enrollments from each Member Town in such school on the aforesaid date had there been any enrollment, such estimate to be made by the Committee.~~

(2) All capital costs under \$15,000 in town-owned buildings shall be apportioned among the member towns on the basis of their respective student enrollments in the PK - 12 District. All capital costs in excess of \$15,000, in town-owned buildings, shall be paid directly by the town in which the school is located.

(3) Debt shall include the payment of principal of and interest on bonds, notes or other obligations of the District to finance such debt. The ratio of debt between the Member Towns shall change annually based on the ratio of enrollment between the two Member Towns on October 1 of the immediately preceding fiscal year.

(H) Total Assessment to Each Member Town

The total assessment to each Member Town shall be the sum of the Minimum Local Contribution, the Above Minimum Local Contribution, transportation, and capital/debt, as calculated above.

Section VII. NOTICE OF DEBT AUTHORIZATION

(A) The Committee may vote to incur debt consistent with the terms and conditions of MGL, Chapter 71, Section 16, as amended. At the time of taking action to incur debt, and except for the incurring of temporary debt in anticipation of revenue, the Committee, by two-thirds (2/3) vote, will choose either the process that appears in MGL, Chapter 71, Section 16 (d), as amended, or MGL, Chapter 71, Section 16 (n), as amended.

(1) Chapter 71, Section 16 (d) states in part: written notice of the amount of the debt and of the general purposes for which it was authorized shall be given ~~certified mail~~ to the Select Board in each of the Member Towns comprising the District not later than seven (7) days after the date on which the debt was authorized by the Committee; provided further, that no debt may be incurred until the expiration of sixty (60) days after the date on which the debt was authorized; and provided further, that before the expiration of this period, any Member Town of the District may hold a Town Meeting for the purpose of expressing disapproval of the amount of debt authorized by the Committee, and if at that meeting a majority of the voters present and voting express disapproval of the amount authorized by the Committee, the debt shall not be incurred. Notice of the amount of debt and the general purpose for which it was authorized shall be sent by certified mail to the Select Boards of the Member Towns.

(2) Chapter 71, Section 16 (n) states in part: the vote of the Committee authorizing such debt must be approved by a majority of the registered voters in the Member Towns voting on the question at an election.

(B) Not later than seven (7) days after the date on which the Committee authorizes the incurring of debt, other than temporary debt in anticipation of revenue to be received from Member Towns, written notice by certified mail of the date of said authorization, the sum authorized, and the general purpose or purposes for authorizing such debt shall be given to the Select Board in both Member Towns. Debt may be incurred by the District, if approved by the Member Towns in accordance with the Committee's chosen method under MGL, Chapter 71, Section 16 (d), as amended, or MGL, Chapter 71, Section 16 (n), as amended.

(C) Each Member Town shall pay to the District its proportionate share of capital costs that ~~consists of~~ includes payments of principal and/or interest on bonds or notes issued by the District in accordance with the schedule in V (D).

Section VIII. TRANSPORTATION

~~Regular school transportation~~ **Transportation to and from school** shall be provided by the District to resident-enrolled students K – 12 according to MGL and Committee policy. ~~and the cost thereof shall be apportioned to the Member Towns based on the total number of resident-enrolled students in each Member Town as defined in the assessment section. [VI]~~

Section IX. AMENDMENTS

(A) This Agreement may be amended from time-to-time in the manner hereinafter provided, but no such amendment shall be made which shall substantially impair the rights of the holders of any bonds or notes or other indebtedness of the District then outstanding, or the rights of the District to procure the means for payment thereof, provided that nothing in this section shall prevent the admission of a new

town or towns to the District and the reapportionment accordingly of that part of the costs of land acquisition and construction represented by bonds or notes of the District or by bonds or other evidence of indebtedness of the Member Towns which were issued to finance capital expenses in connection with the schools referenced in Section IV hereof then outstanding and of interest thereon.

(B) An amendment may be proposed by vote of the Committee or by vote of any Town Meeting of any Member Town. Any such proposal for amendment shall be presented to the Secretary of the Committee who shall deliver by certified mail a notice in writing to the Select Board of each of the Member Towns that a proposal to amend this Agreement has been received and shall enclose a copy of such proposal. The Select Board in each Member Town shall include in the warrant for the next Annual or a Special Town Meeting called for the purpose an article stating the proposal or substance thereof. Such amendment shall take effect upon its acceptance by each of the Member Towns by a majority vote at such next Annual or Special Town Meeting, and by the Commissioner of DESE.

Section X. ADMISSION OF ADDITIONAL TOWNS

(A) By an amendment of this Agreement adopted under and in accordance with Section IX above, any other town or towns may be admitted to the District upon adoption as therein provided of such amendment and upon acceptance by the town or towns seeking admission of the Agreement, by majority vote, as so amended and also upon compliance with such provisions of law and regulation as may be applicable and such terms as may be set forth in such amendment.

(B) A new Member Town may be admitted to the District as of July 1 of any fiscal year, provided that all requisite approvals for such admission, including the Commissioner's approval, shall be obtained no later than the preceding December 31st.

Section XI. WITHDRAWAL OF MEMBER TOWNS

(A) The withdrawal of a Member Town from the District may be effected by an amendment to this Agreement in the manner hereinafter provided by this section. Either Member Town's withdrawal from this two-town region will terminate this entire Agreement and both Member Towns will remain liable for all outstanding obligations. Either Member Town seeking to withdraw shall, by vote at an Annual or Special Town Meeting, request the Committee to draw up an amendment to this Agreement setting forth the terms by which such Member Town may withdraw from the District.

(B) Obligations of Member Towns

(1) With the termination of the District, each Member Town shall remain: (a) liable for any unpaid operating costs which have been certified by the District Treasurer to the Treasurer of both Member Towns including the full amount so certified for the year in which such District dissolution takes effect; (b) liable for its share of the indebtedness, other than temporary debt in anticipation of revenue, of the District outstanding at the time of such District dissolution, and for interest thereon, to the same extent and in the same manner as though the Member Town had not withdrawn from the District, except that such liability shall be reduced by any amount which any Member Town has paid over at the time of District dissolution and which has been applied to the payment of such indebtedness; and (c) liable for other liabilities incurred during all times that both Member Towns were a member of the District (e.g., OPEB for professional and non-professional staff). All expenses related to a withdrawal from the District will be borne by the Member Town(s) which initiate(s) a withdrawal from the District.

(2) Upon dissolution of the District, monies for future payments of funded indebtedness, interest thereon, and/or any other liabilities (e.g. OPEB), shall be used only for such purpose and until so used shall be deposited in a trust specifically named for such purpose.

(C) The Clerk of the Member Town seeking to withdraw shall notify the Committee by certified mail that such Town has voted to request the Committee to draw up an amendment to the Agreement (enclosing a certified copy of such vote). Thereupon, the Committee shall draw up an amendment to the Agreement setting forth such terms of withdrawal as it deems advisable. The Secretary of the Committee shall

deliver a notice by certified mail to the Select Board of both Member Towns that the Committee has drawn up an amendment to the Agreement providing for the withdrawal of a Member Town (enclosing a copy of such amendment). The Select Board of each of the Member Towns shall cause to be presented for determination by vote at the next Annual or a Special Town Meeting called for the purpose the question of accepting the proposal. The article in the warrant for such Annual or Special Town Meeting and the question on the official ballot to be used at such meeting shall include the proposal.

(D) The withdrawing Town's annual share of any future installment of principal and interest on obligations outstanding on the effective date of its withdrawal shall be fixed at the percentage prevailing for such Town at the last annual apportionment made next prior to the effective date of the withdrawal.

(E) A request to withdraw shall become effective only if the amendment to the Agreement is approved by a majority vote of the Committee, is approved by majority vote at an Annual or Special Town Meeting in both of the Member Towns, is approved by the Commissioner, and can only become effective on a July 1 no less than one full year after the completion of these requirements.

(F) In the event of the withdrawal of a Member Town from the District, which dissolves the District, any leases (authorized by Section IV (B) of the Agreement) of buildings, facilities, or grounds in the withdrawing Town, including any lease entered into subsequent to the acceptance of this Agreement, shall be terminated on the effective date of such withdrawal.

(G) Upon the effective date of withdrawal, the terms of office of all members serving on the Committee shall terminate.

Section XII. CONFLICTS

Whenever there is a conflict between the expressed terms of this Agreement and any state or federal law or educational regulation to the contrary, the law or regulation shall prevail.

Section XIII. REVIEW

Beginning in 2030, and every five (5) years thereafter, the Committee shall itself review and/or appoint an advisory committee to study and recommend amendments to this Agreement; however, the failure to do so shall not affect the validity of this Agreement.

Section XIV. EFFECTIVE DATE AND JURISDICTION

This amended Agreement shall take effect, except as provided below, on the first day of the month of _____ in the year _____, if prior to that date, **the Commissioner** and the Towns of Phillipston and Templeton at Town Meetings held in each Town have voted affirmatively by majority vote on this amended Agreement, and shall thereupon supersede the District Agreement executed as of January 26, 1955. **as amended by Town votes in 2004.**

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereunto set their hands and seals, the day and year first above written.

NARRAGANSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Signed By: _____
CHAIR OF THE NARRAGANSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE Date

INHABITANTS OF THE TOWN OF TEMPLETON

Signed By: _____
CHAIR OF THE SELECT BOARD Date

INHABITANTS OF THE TOWN OF PHILLIPSTON

Signed By: _____
CHAIR OF THE SELECT BOARD Date

COMMISSIONER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

Signed By: _____
Date

Appendix A

The provisions of this section define the process for Town residents who are candidates for a Committee seat in the current Town-managed elections or for a District-managed election should that ever be necessary. It is included as an Appendix so this section can be a resource for the District when/if needed.

STATEMENT OF CANDIDATE

I (_____), on oath declare that I reside at (number if any) on (name of street) in the town of (_____); that I am qualified to vote for town officers therein; that I am a candidate for membership of the Narragansett Regional School District School Committee for a term of (three years) (_____ years to fill a vacancy) to be voted for at the annual district election to be held on Monday, the ____ day of the month of _____, in the year _____, and I suggest that my name be printed as such candidate on the ballot to be used at said annual district election.

(Signed)

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Subscribed and sworn to on this _____ Day of the month of _____, in the year _____ before me,

(Signed)

Justice of the Peace, or Notary Public

Appendix B

PETITION ACCOMPANYING STATEMENT OF CANDIDATE

Whereas (name of candidate) is a candidate for membership on the Narragansett Regional School District School Committee for a term of (three years) (years to fill a vacancy), we, the undersigned, whose residences are as shown below and who are each qualified to vote for town officers where we reside, do hereby request that the name of said (name of candidate) as a candidate for said office be printed on the ballot to be used at the annual district election to be held on Monday, the _____ day of the month of _____, in the year _____.

We further state that we believe him or her to be of good moral character and qualified to perform the duties of the office.

The petition, which may be on one or more papers, need not be sworn to. The registrars of voters of the member towns shall cooperate with one another for the purposes of determining the sufficiency of signatures on petitions and, shall deliver such petitions and candidates' statements with written indications of the registrars' determinations to the secretary of the district at least twenty-eight days before the date for holding the annual district election. There shall not be printed on the ballot for use at such annual district election the name of any person as a candidate, unless he or she shall have filed, within the time herein prescribed, the statement and petition herein described.

At least ten days before the date for holding the annual district election, the secretary shall post in a conspicuous place in each town hall within the district the names and residences of the candidates who have duly qualified as such, as they are to appear on the ballots to be used at the annual district election, and shall cause the ballots which shall contain said names, with a designation of residence, and of the office and term of service, to be printed, and the ballots so printed shall be official and no others shall be used at the annual election, except as provided in clause (5) of this subsection. The names of candidates residing in each member town shall be arranged on the ballot alphabetically according to their surnames. There shall be printed on such ballots such directions as will aid the voter,, as for example: "vote for one," "vote for not more than four," and the like.

Annual district elections under this subsection shall be called by a warrant which shall be addressed to the residents of the member towns qualified to vote for town officers where they reside and signed by the Chairperson of the Committee and which shall set forth the date of the election, the polling places, which shall be not less than one in each member town, the hours at which the polls will be opened and closed and the number of members resident in each town who are to be elected. Notice of each election shall be given by positing a copy of the warrant attested by the secretary in at least one public place in each member town and by publishing a copy thereof at least once in a newspaper of general circulation in the District seven days at least before said election. A certificate of the secretary shall be conclusive evidence of the posting and publication of the warrant. The number and location for the polling place, or places, in each member town shall be determined by the Chairperson of the Committee after consultation with the appropriate officials of such town; and the hours during which all the polls in the District are open shall be uniform throughout the district; provided, that they shall be opened not earlier than fifteen minutes before six o'clock in the forenoon nor later than twelve o'clock noon, and shall be kept open at least four hours, but in no event later than eight o'clock in the evening. The secretary shall be responsible for preparing the ballots used at the election, and the order of the names appearing thereon and any necessary instructions to voters shall be determined in accordance with clause (3) of this subsection. The election officials of each member town shall certify the results of the election to the Committee which shall tabulate such results at a meeting of the Committee; and the Chairperson of the Committee shall thereupon announce the names of the persons elected to membership on the Committee. Thereafter the certifications of the municipal election officials and the tabulations of the Committee shall be kept by the secretary with the records of the District. Promptly after their election, members of the Committee shall be sworn to the faithful discharge of their duties by the municipal clerk of the town in which they reside, and in each case a record of such oath shall be made and kept by the secretary or delivered to the secretary by such clerk. Except as provided herein, the election shall be conducted in each member town in the same manner as town meetings for the election of town officers. The expenses of that part of an election under this section which is conducted in a member town shall be borne by such town.

Notwithstanding the provisions of clauses (1), (3) and (4) of this subsection, if in any event the annual district election is to coincide with elections in the Towns of Templeton and Phillipston in all respects as to polling places and hours of voting, the Committee may arrange with the appropriate officials of the towns for the official ballots used by the towns at such elections to also contain the instructions and names of candidates for election to membership on the Committee, and no separate ballot shall then be used for the election of Committee members.

Appendix C

Chap. 484. AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE NARRAGANSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT TO HOLD ANNUAL DISTRICT WIDE ELECTIONS WITH RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS AND VALIDATING CERTAIN PROCEEDINGS TAKEN IN SAID DISTRICT AND IN THE MEMBER TOWNS OF PHILLIPSTON AND TEMPLETON.

SECTION 1. The Narragansett regional school district consisting of the member towns of Phillipston and Templeton may by amendment to its regional school district agreement provide that members of its regional district school committee may be elected from the district at an **annual** district-wide election called by said district. Said amendment may provide for residency requirements relating to the composition of the regional district school committee. Said amendment may further provide for the duties to be performed by the secretary and other officials of said district and by the clerks, registrars of voters and other officials of said member towns with respect to the annual district election, which duties may be the same as, or similar to, the duties performed for town elections.

SECTION 2. The amendment to its regional school district agreement proposed by the regional district school committee by the vote passed on May eighteenth, nineteen hundred and seventy-six, containing provisions authorized by section one of this act is hereby validated.

SECTION 3. The proceedings taken by the regional district school committee of said district on May eighteenth, nineteen hundred and seventy-six and at town meetings held in the town of Phillipston on June twenty-fifth, nineteen hundred and seventy-six and the town of Templeton on June tenth, nineteen hundred and seventy-six, at which said amendment was considered are hereby validated and confirmed in all respects.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

Approved October 26, 1976

[illegible]

[illegible]