

Town Moderator, Robert G. Gaynor, II. Declared a quorum and called the meeting to order at 6:35. The Pledge of allegiance was recited lead by the Moderator. The Moderator discussed procedures of Town Meeting and introduced new town meeting members. The Moderator explained how our lottery system works and that we would be waiting to vote on Article 17 until the end of the meeting. The reason for this was because this article was contingent on another article passing.

The Town Administrator, Cody Haddad explained that there was a Scribner's error in the funding notes item (a) should have read From Solid Waste Revenue instead of From Solid Waste Retained Earnings. The Moderator explained that there were five seats up front for anyone that was having trouble hearing. There were also monitors with closed captioning at the front of the room.

Town Clerk, Susan Lawless read the call to order as follows: The warrant articles we are about to discuss have been signed by our selectboard and were posted in five locations by our Constable Thomas Hammond on April 12, 2023. I move that this meeting dispense with the reading of the constables return of service of that warrant. I further move that the Moderator not be required to read the warrant articles verbatim but be allowed to refer to the articles by number and by subject matter. This motion was seconded and **passed unanimously**.

**ARTICLE 1** To hear and act on the reports of the Town Officers and Committees.

John Bruno, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen made a motion and it was seconded that the Town vote Article 1 as presented in the warrant.

Mr. Bruno read a statement on behalf of the Board of Selectmen. He addressed the problems the town has faced in the past year. Mr. Bruno stated how grateful he is for the strong leadership of Selectmen Selig and Interim Town Administrator/Town Accountant Sandra Nolan during this difficult time. Since November the new Selectboard has done as much as they can to bring stability to the office. He feels they have been successful and have been addressing things as quickly as possible, but they still have a lot of work to do.

### **ARTICLE PASSES**

**ARTICLE 2** To see if the Town will vote to amend the Wage and Personnel By-Law as recommended by the Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee or take any other action relative thereto:

(A) Amend the compensation range for the below as shown:

Call Firefighter EMT-P Step 4: From \$24.02 To \$26.00

Geriatric Nurse: From \$19.45 To \$26.00

Assistant Outreach Worker: From \$16.11 to \$18.00

(B) Amend the classification of a Police Lieutenant/Deputy Chief from Grade 14 to Unclassified.

**Proposed by Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee**

Jonathan Selig, Selectboard member made a motion and it was seconded that the Town vote to amend the Wage and Personnel By-law as presented in Article 2 of the warrant.

Mr. Selig explained that these items were proposed to the Wage and Personnel Committee as immediate outliers in terms of being under compensated. These specific positions the Town has had extreme difficulty recruiting for. The Town is conducting a compensation and classification study, which will be acted upon at a future Town Meeting to review all other positions.

Finance Committee Recommends  
Board of Selectmen Recommends  
**ARTICLE PASSES**

### ARTICLE 3

To see if the Town will vote to determine the salaries of several elective Town Officers, July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024, or take any action thereon:

	<u>2020-</u> <u>2021</u>	<u>2021-</u> <u>2022</u>	<u>2022-</u> <u>2023</u>	<u>2023-</u> <u>2024</u>
Moderator	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200
Town Clerk	\$56,062	\$56,623	\$57,190	\$70,720
Selectmen (each)	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500
Treasurer- Collector	\$72,033	\$73,764	\$74,502	\$74,502
Assessors (each)	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500
Highway Surveyor	\$76,419	\$77,184	\$77,956	\$77,956

#### Proposed by the Finance Committee

Todd Dargie, Chairman of the Finance Committee made a motion and it was seconded that the Town vote to set the salaries of several elected Town Officers for July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 as printed in the warrant.

Finance Committee Recommends  
Board of Selectmen Recommends  
**ARTICLE PASSES**

### ARTICLE 4

Operating Budget.

To determine what sums of money the Town will raise and appropriate, including appropriations from available funds, to defray charges and expenses to the Town, including debts and interest or take any action thereon.

#### Proposed by the Finance Committee

Todd Dargie made a motion and it was seconded to vote on Article 4 as printed in the warrant.

Finance Committee Recommends  
Board of Selectmen Recommends

#### This article was voted in Sections:

General Government		Expended FY21	Expended FY22	Expended FY23	Recommended FY24
1	Moderator - Salary	\$0	\$200	\$200	\$200
2	Selectmen - Salary	\$4,500	\$4,500	\$4,500	\$4,500
3	Town Admin. - Salary	\$111,250	\$95,906	\$125,000	\$136,475
4	Selectmen - Clerical	\$85,121	\$85,836	\$86,619	\$88,289
5	Selectmen - Expense	\$3,639	\$3,358	\$3,925	\$3,925

6	Law	\$100,885	\$316,514	\$124,500	\$139,500
7	Town Hall - Electricity	\$14,177	\$14,298	\$15,000	\$16,000
8	Town Meeting Warrants	\$5,333	\$6,904	\$6,600	\$7,000
9	Audit	\$25,500	\$31,500	\$31,500	\$32,500 (A)
10	Fin Comm - Clerical	\$4,104	\$3,438	\$5,140	\$5,010
11	Fin Comm - Expense	\$255	\$180	\$359	\$359
12	Accountant - Salary	\$80,078	\$80,678	\$81,664	\$98,000
13	Accountant - Clerical	\$42,992	\$45,108	\$47,273	\$39,977
14	Accountant - Expense	\$307	\$1,554	\$1,625	\$1,625
15	IT – Wages		\$37,645	\$52,297	\$52,354
16	IT – Expenditures	\$100,885	\$116,383	\$110,191	\$143,455
17	Assessors - Salary	\$4,500	\$4,500	\$4,500	\$4,500
18	Principal Assessor/Appraiser	\$78,979	\$79,828	\$80,617	\$71,586
19	Assessors - Clerical	\$65,374	\$66,028	\$69,634	\$66,331
20	Assessors - Expense	\$12,020	\$13,102	\$15,160	\$15,160
21	Office Machines – Expense	\$5,614	\$4,653	\$6,000	\$6,000
22	Treasurer/Collector Salary	\$73,033	\$63,214	\$74,482	\$75,502
23	Treasurer/Collector - Clerical	\$138,018	\$137,835	\$154,379	\$115,000
24	Treasurer - Expense	\$7,495	\$7,368	\$7,500	\$7,500
25	Collector - Expense	\$14,850	\$12,798	\$14,850	\$14,922
26	Treasurer - Banking & Payroll Expense	\$7,451	\$7,581	\$8,000	\$8,000
27	Tax Title - Treasurer	\$313	\$8,170	\$5,000	\$5,000
28	Town Clerk - Salary	\$57,062	\$56,623	\$57,190	\$70,720
29	Town Clerk - Clerical	\$19,643	\$34,061	\$42,133	\$40,086
30	Town Clerk - Expense	\$3,728	\$3,434	\$4,035	\$4,035
31	Elect/Register	\$29,461	\$10,897	\$37,200	\$18,011
32	Wage & Personnel - Expense	\$225	\$225	\$250	\$250
33	Recruitment & Employment Costs	\$3,921	\$7,260	\$7,500	\$10,000
34	Cons Commission - Expense	\$758	\$536	\$800	\$800
35	Conservation Agent – Wages				\$28,000
36	Planning Board – Wages			\$16,888	\$0
37	Planning Board - Expense	\$720	\$900	\$2,000	\$2,000
38	Zoning Board of Appeals - Expense	\$441	\$272	\$825	\$825
39	Regulatory - Clerical	\$74,874	\$62,787	\$67,325	\$85,500
40	Building Committee - Clerical	\$11,879	\$12,040	\$12,142	\$12,100
41	Building Committee - Expense	\$202	\$386	\$450	\$450
42	Town Buildings - Director of Building Maintenance		\$88,340	\$92,718	\$94,617
43	Town Buildings - Custodial	\$187,864	\$108,492	\$137,230	\$153,338
44	Town Buildings - Expense	\$34,145	\$44,991	\$35,360	\$35,360
45	Town Building Preventative Maintenance	\$53,373	\$65,133	\$52,616	\$53,616
46	Town Buildings - Snow & Ice Expense	\$0	\$1,473	\$2,000	\$2,000
	<b>Total General Government</b>	<b>\$1,466,215</b>	<b>\$1,746,919</b>	<b>\$1,705,177</b>	<b>\$1,770,378</b>

There was a hold placed on line #3 and line #12. Selectmen Bruno explained that line #3 is contractual and that line #12 is due to the Accountant retiring. This increase would be to pay out vacation time and to cross train with the new Accountant. There was also a hold on line#22 Sandra Nolan Town Accountant explained that this increase was for a stipend for being certified.

**Motioned and Seconded to vote on lines 1-46 General Government**

Finance Committee Recommends

Board of Selectmen Recommends

**ARTICLE PASSES**

**Public Safety- Police**

47	Police - Chief Salary	\$120,403	\$130,476	\$137,500	\$145,531
48	Police - Wages	\$1,103,039	\$1,180,821	\$1,240,965	\$1,540,000

49	Police - Training	\$14,865	\$9,897	\$10,000	\$10,000
50	Police - Clerical	\$48,529	\$48,807	\$49,087	\$49,881
51	Police - Expense	\$69,792	\$66,930	\$70,000	\$70,000
52	Police - Station Maintenance	\$15,898	\$18,713	\$20,000	\$20,000
53	Police - Cruiser Maintenance	\$15,904	\$13	\$13,000	\$13,000
	<b>Total Police</b>	<b>\$1,388,430</b>	<b>\$1,468,644</b>	<b>\$1,540,552</b>	<b>\$1,848,412</b>

**Motion & Seconded to vote on lines 47-53 Public Safety Police**

Finance Committee Recommends

Board of Selectmen Recommends

**ARTICLE PASSES**

**Public Safety - Fire**

54	Fire - Chief Salary	\$127,444	\$145,751	\$140,000	\$143,000
55	Fire - Clerical	\$38,118	\$43,473	\$44,273	\$49,420
56	Fire - Wages	\$957,604	\$1,000,942	\$1,082,804	\$1,121,611
57	Fire - Training	\$28,749	\$58,758	\$59,007	\$70,775
58	Fire - Expense	\$46,240	\$42,718	\$46,750	\$57,850
59	Fire - Station Maintenance	\$15,232	\$11,711	\$17,000	\$18,500
60	Fire - Vehicle/Equip Maintenance	\$32,452	\$27,476	\$33,500	\$33,500
61	Fire - Medical Supplies	\$29,986	\$24,382	\$29,500	\$50,000
62	Ambulance Billing	\$25,887	\$25,489	\$27,500	\$28,500
	<b>Total Fire</b>	<b>\$1,301,711</b>	<b>\$1,375,286</b>	<b>\$1,480,334</b>	<b>\$1,573,156</b>

**Motioned & Seconded to vote on lines 54-62 Public Safety Fire**

Finance Committee Recommends

Board of Selectmen Recommends

**ARTICLE PASSES**

**Public Safety- Other Public Safety**

63	Emergency Management	\$629	\$944	\$4,550	\$5,500
64	Building Inspector - Wages	\$75,965	\$75,106	\$71,496	\$79,617
65	Asst Building Inspector Wages	\$2,238	\$1,222	\$0	\$0
66	Building Inspector - Expense	\$2,688	\$4,658	\$6,988	\$6,888
67	Sealer Weights/Measure - Salary	\$2,716	\$2,744	\$2,772	\$2,772
68	Sealer Weights/Measure - Expense	\$28	\$32	\$527	\$527
69	Animal Control Officer - Salary	\$17,809	\$22,555	\$22,825	\$0
70	Animal Control Officer - Expense	\$2,776	\$3,516	\$4,600	(B) \$29,952
	<b>Total Other Public Safety</b>	<b>\$104,849</b>	<b>\$110,776</b>	<b>\$113,758</b>	<b>\$125,256</b>

**Motioned & Seconded to vote on lines 63-70 Public Safety-Other Public Safety**

Finance Committee Recommends

Board of Selectmen Recommends

**ARTICLE PASSES**

71	Dispatch Services	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$200,000	\$200,000
	<b>Total Communications</b>	<b>\$150,000</b>	<b>\$150,000</b>	<b>\$200,000</b>	<b>\$200,000</b>
	<b>Total Public Safety</b>	<b>\$2,944,990</b>	<b>\$3,104,706</b>	<b>\$3,334,644</b>	<b>\$3,746,824</b>

**Motioned & Seconded to vote on line 71 Dispatch Services**

Finance Committee Recommends

Board of Selectmen Recommends

**ARTICLE PASSES**

**Schools**

72	Elementary - School Costs	\$5,650,356	\$5,956,288	\$6,006,890	\$6,359,846
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73	Vocational – Education	\$116,454	\$87,367	\$156,500	\$156,500
74	Special Needs – Tuitions	\$1,857,349	\$2,105,416	\$2,092,389	(C) \$1,962,047
75	Special Needs – Transportation	\$494,866	\$767,836	\$790,523	\$797,759
76	Silver Lake Assessment	\$4,632,541	\$5,307,074	5,123,706	\$5,169,829
77	Debt Exclusion Budget Silver Lake	\$463,867	\$450,993	\$457,454	\$457,666
	<b>Total Schools</b>	<b>\$13,215,432</b>	<b>\$14,674,974</b>	<b>\$14,627,462</b>	<b>\$14,903,647</b>

**Motioned & Seconded to vote on lines 72-77 Schools**

Finance Committee Recommends

Board of Selectmen Recommends

**ARTICLE PASSES**

**Public Works- Highway**

78	Highway - Surveyor Salary	\$76,419	\$77,184	\$77,956	\$77,956
79	Highway - Wages	\$305,695	\$289,582	\$321,054	\$330,210
80	Highway - Clerical	\$42,814	\$50,270	\$47,615	\$46,890
81	Highway - Expense	\$5,631	\$3,765	\$6,771	\$6,771
82	Highway - Barn Maintenance	\$11,185	\$6,679	\$11,610	\$12,750
83	Highway - Equipment	\$49,242	\$52,905	\$52,500	\$52,500
84	Highway - Town Roads	\$49,027	\$57,410	\$58,705	\$58,705
85	Highway Stormwater Management	\$82,669	\$115,617	\$144,400	\$144,400
86	Highway - Snow & Ice	\$147,541	\$187,304	\$177,509	\$177,509
87	Street Lights	\$34,786	\$36,274	\$32,500	\$36,500
88	Traffic Lights	\$2,348	\$2,703	\$7,500	\$7,500
89	Tree Warden Salary	\$-	\$-	\$1	\$1
90	Tree Maintenance	\$3,315	\$3,000	\$7,000	\$7,000
91	Insect & Pest Control	\$-	\$-	\$1	\$1
	<b>Total Highway</b>	<b>\$810,672</b>	<b>\$882,693</b>	<b>\$945,122</b>	<b>\$958,693</b>

**Motioned & Seconded to vote on lines 78-91 Public Works - Highway**

Finance Committee Recommends

Board of Selectmen Recommends

**ARTICLE PASSES**

**Public Works - Cemetery**

92	Cemetery - Supt Salary	\$11,450	\$11,565	\$11,861	\$11,681
93	Cemetery - Wages	\$65,204	\$62,689	\$69,329	\$69,850
94	Cemetery - Supplies & Equip	\$5,145	\$6,195	\$6,195	\$6,195
	<b>Total Cemetery</b>	<b>\$81,799</b>	<b>\$80,449</b>	<b>\$87,205</b>	<b>\$87,726</b>

**Motioned & Seconded to vote on lines 92-94 Public Works - Cemetery**

Finance Committee Recommends

Board of Selectmen Recommends

**ARTICLE PASSES**

**Public Works - Water**

95	Water - Supt Salary	\$99,857	\$81,395	\$84,632	\$88,350
96	Water - Wages	\$189,052	\$221,354	\$234,283	\$218,810
97	Water - Clerical	\$44,078	\$49,560	\$49,983	\$50,650
98	Water - Supply	\$176,956	\$182,452	\$182,600	\$193,899
99	Water - Insurance	\$32,744	\$32,742	\$50,000	\$54,000
100	Water - Retirement	\$21,629	\$32,742	\$20,000	\$35,700
101	Water - Legal fees	\$-	\$-	\$1,500	\$1,500
102	Water - Meters	\$19,980	\$27,317	\$50,000	\$50,000
103	Water - Gas & Oil	\$8,108	\$10,926	\$13,000	\$15,600
104	Water - Vehicle/Equipment Maintenance	\$7,574	\$2,972	\$15,000	\$15,000

105	Water - Tower/Wells Maintenance	\$99,994	\$55,202	\$125,000	\$125,000
	<b>Total Water</b>	<b>\$699,973</b>	<b>\$711,623</b>	<b>\$829,598</b>	<b>\$848,509 (E)</b>

**Motioned & Seconded to vote on lines 95-105 Public Works - Water**

Finance Committee Recommends

Board of Selectmen Recommends

**ARTICLE PASSES**

**Public Works - Solid Waste Management**

106	Recycling Office - Clerical	\$32,443	\$32,346	\$32,533	\$32,663
107	Recycling Office - Expense	\$2,869	\$3,280	\$3,501	\$3,501
108	Recycling Center - Wages	\$71,626	\$63,010	\$76,024	\$75,855
109	Recycling Center - Expense	\$45,918	\$21,324	\$39,046	\$54,780
110	Hazardous Waste Collection	\$8,308	\$14,066	\$5,950	\$19,950
111	Trash Collection/Disposal	\$218,293	\$239,103	\$332,460	\$365,000
	<b>Total Solid Waste Management</b>	<b>\$379,458</b>	<b>\$373,029</b>	<b>\$489,514</b>	<b>\$551,749 (F)</b>
	<b>Total Public Works</b>	<b>\$1,971,901</b>	<b>\$2,047,795</b>	<b>\$2,351,439</b>	<b>\$2,446,677</b>

**Motioned & Seconded to vote on lines 106-111 Public Works – Solid Waste Management**

Finance Committee Recommends

Board of Selectmen Recommends

**ARTICLE PASSES**

**Health and Human Services**

112	Health - Clerical	\$43,279	\$44,904	\$46,057	\$45,500
113	Health - Expense	\$8,028	\$5,656	\$7,873	\$10,373
114	Health - Inspections	\$68,478	\$74,618	\$77,493	\$79,617
115	Health - Nursing Service	\$143	\$2,333	\$7,000	\$7,000
116	Landfill - Engineering & Monitoring	\$15,216	\$15,217	\$15,217	\$19,534
117	Inspector of Animals	\$3,223	\$3,256	\$3,289	\$3,289
118	Council on Aging Director Salary		\$63,868	\$67,872	\$67,856
119	Council on Aging - Wages	\$151,194	\$78,485	\$119,587	\$124,085
120	Council on Aging - Expense	\$2,702	\$3,962	\$9,450	\$9,075
121	Popes Tavern Electricity	\$2,862	\$3,186	\$3,300	\$4,000
122	Veterans Agent - Salary	\$15,518	\$15,674	\$15,831	\$15,831
123	Veterans Agent - Expense	\$1,202	\$1,001	\$1,350	\$1,350
124	Veterans Benefits	\$164,932	\$157,286	\$205,225	\$188,000
125	Housing Authority	\$-	\$-	\$1	\$1
126	A.D.A. - Expense	\$-	\$-	\$1	\$1
	<b>Total Health and Human Services</b>	<b>\$475,776</b>	<b>\$469,445</b>	<b>\$579,546</b>	<b>\$575,512</b>

**Motioned & Seconded to vote on lines 112-126**

Finance Committee Recommends

Board of Selectmen Recommends

**ARTICLE PASSES**

**Culture and Recreation**

127	Library - Director Salary	\$66,923	\$72,151	\$72,863	\$73,113
128	Library - Wages	\$137,209	\$134,152	\$180,377	\$182,964
129	Library - Expense	\$79,256	\$90,988	\$86,951	\$88,714
130	Youth & Rec - Wages	\$18,051	\$18,521	\$18,387	\$18,448
131	Youth & Rec - Expense	\$11,077	\$10,792	\$13,216	\$13,216
132	Youth & Rec - Director	\$18,023	\$18,521	\$18,387	\$18,387
133	Parks - Wages	\$0	\$0	\$100	\$4,100
134	Parks - Expense	\$201	\$550	\$1,562	\$2,000
135	Cable Television	\$193,925	\$193,148	\$198,000	\$198,000 (G)

136	Patriotic Celebrations	\$0	\$0	\$300	\$300
137	Historical Commission	\$2,204	\$2,186	\$3,500	\$3,500
138	Historical District Commission	\$0	\$0	\$446	\$446
139	Holidays in Halifax	\$0	\$2,545	\$3,395	\$3,395
140	Halifax Fireworks Committee	\$0	\$1,779	\$3,300	\$3,300
141	Beautification Comm - Expense	\$388	\$396	\$500	\$500
142	Agricultural Commission	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
143	Website Committee Expense	\$2,850	\$2,993	\$3,050	\$3,308
144	Music Rights	\$364	\$366	\$366	\$400
	<b>Total Culture and Recreation</b>	<b>\$533,451</b>	<b>\$548,646</b>	<b>604,761</b>	<b>\$614,091</b>

**Motioned & Seconded to vote on lines 127-144**

Finance Committee Recommends

Board of Selectmen Recommends

**ARTICLE PASSES**

**Debt Service**

145	Debt WPAT	\$10,200	\$0	\$0	\$0
146	Debt WPAT II	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000 (H)
147	Debt - Landfill Capping	\$99,281	\$95,569	\$91,857	\$0
148	Debt - HES Roof & Repairs	\$327,350	\$327,350	\$308,350	\$300,830 (I)
149	Debt - HES Fire Suppression System	\$17,250	\$214,189	\$153,275	\$169,150
150	Interest on Temporary Loans	\$0	\$0	\$5,000	\$5,000
	<b>Total Debt Service</b>	<b>\$453,881</b>	<b>\$637,608</b>	<b>\$568,482</b>	<b>\$484,980</b>

**Motioned & Seconded to vote on lines 145-150**

Finance Committee Recommends

Board of Selectmen Recommends

**ARTICLE PASSES**

**Fixed Costs**

151	Plymouth County Retirement	\$1,277,154	\$1,429,623	\$1,579,441	\$1,729,048 (J)
152	Group Insurance - Town Share	\$1,052,498	\$1,052,852	\$1,054,560	\$1,107,288
153	Medicare - Town Share	\$129,205	\$127,859	\$144,303	\$146,468
154	Insurance	\$256,439	\$268,006	\$315,741	\$335,000
155	OPEB Trust	\$37,000	\$38,000	\$39,000	\$44,000
156	Telephone	\$40,305	\$39,856	\$40,000	\$40,000
157	Gas & Oil - All Depts.	\$63,632	\$91,315	\$110,000	\$110,000
158	Heating Oil - All Bldgs.	\$35,043	\$56,720	\$60,000	\$60,000
	<b>Total Fixed Costs</b>	<b>\$2,891,275</b>	<b>\$3,104,231</b>	<b>\$3,343,045</b>	<b>\$3,571,804</b>
	<b>Total General Operating</b>	<b>\$23,953,922</b>	<b>\$26,334,323</b>	<b>\$27,114,556</b>	<b>\$28,113,913</b>

**Motioned & Seconded to vote on lines 151-158**

Finance Committee Recommends

**ARTICLE PASSES**

**Funding Notes**

	<b>Expended FY21</b>	<b>Expended FY22</b>	<b>Budget FY23</b>	<b>Recommended FY24</b>
(A) From Solid Waste Retained Earnings	8,500	8,500	8,500	8,500
From Water Revenues	8,500	8,500	8,500	8,500
(B) From Dog Fund	24,112	24,038	26,235	27,201
(C) The total Special Education Tuition amount is \$2,808,026 for special needs students who need out of district				

placements, this number is reduced by \$845,979 in Circuit Breaker Money from the State, leaving a balance of \$1,962,047 to be paid by the Town.

(D)	Under Debt Exclusion	463,867	450,993	457,454	457,666
(E)	From Water Fund Revenue	699,973	711,623	829,598	848,509
(F)	From Solid Waste Fund Revenue	239,458	198,029	314,514	316,749
	From Solid Waste Fund Retained Earnings	140,000	140,000	140,000	200,000
	From Raise and Appropriate		35,000	35,000	35,000
(G)	From PEG Access Fund Revenue	193,925	168,148	173,000	198,000
	From PEG Access Retained Earnings		25,000	25,000	
(H)	From Abatement Trust Revenue	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
(I)	Under Debt Exclusion	327,350	317,850	308,350	300,830
(J)	From Water Retained Earnings	55,000	55,000	75,000	75,000

**ARTICLE 7** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money to pay the costs of water treatment plant upgrades, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto; to determine whether this amount shall be raised by taxation, transfer from available funds, borrowing or otherwise provided; or take any other action relative thereto.

**Proposed by the Board of Water Commissioners**

John Bruno made a motion and it was seconded that the Town vote to appropriate \$3 million to pay costs of water treatment plant upgrades, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectmen, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to G.L. c. 44, §8(4), or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor. The amount authorized to be borrowed shall be reduced to the extent of any grants, gifts or other funds received by the Town to be used to pay costs of this project.

Bill Lindsay, Water Superintendent explained that this article is for the upgrades to all four wells. This project has been in the works for years and was put on hold due to the Covid Pandemic.

Finance Committee Recommends

**ARTICLE PASSES**

**ARTICLE 5** To see if the Town will vote to fix the maximum amount that may be spent during Fiscal Year 2024 beginning on July 1, 2023, for the revolving funds established in town by-laws Section 23-3, for certain departments, boards, committees, agencies, or officers in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53E1/2, or take any other action relative thereto.

Revolving Fund	Department, Board, Committee, Agency or Officer authorized to spend from the fund	FY2024 Spending Limit
Conservation Commission	Conservation Commission	\$ 20,000
Board of Health Consulting	Board of Health	\$ 30,000
Recycling Bins	Highway Surveyor	\$



		5,000
Earth Removal Review	Board of Selectmen	\$ 10,000
Planning Board Consulting	Planning Board	\$ 30,000
Building Inspector Consulting	Building Inspector	\$ 15,000
Youth & Recreation Programs	Youth and Recreation	\$ 90,000
Youth & Recreation Advertisements	Youth and Recreation	\$ 40,000
CPR Classes	Fire Chief	\$ 5,000
ZBA Consulting	Zoning Board of Appeals	\$ 35,000
Library Computer, Printers & Copier	Library Trustees	\$ 5,000
Selectmen Legal Advertising	Board of Selectmen	\$ 1,500
Council on Aging Elderbus	Council on Aging	\$ 15,000
Inspector Wages	Building Inspector	\$ 100,000
Concession Stand	Board of Selectmen	\$ 10,000
Solar Projects	Board of Selectmen	\$ 10,000
Library Book Replacement	Library Trustees	\$ 2,000
Water Tower/Cell Tower Inspections	Board of Water Commissioners	\$ 20,000

**Proposed by the Board of Selectmen**

Naja Nessralla, Selectboard member made a motion and it was seconded that the Town approve Article 5 as printed in the warrant.

Mr. Nessralla explained that this is a housekeeping article that sets the maximum amount that can be spent during the fiscal year for each account. These amounts are unchanged from last year.

Finance Committee Recommends

Board of Selectmen Recommends

**ARTICLE PASSES**

ARTICLE 21 To see if the Town will vote to approve an agreement for payments in lieu of taxes (“PILOT”) with Halifax Solar LLC for all real and personal property located at 107 River Street in the amount of \$83,000 each year through Fiscal Year 2040 or take any other action relative thereto.

**Proposed by the Board of Selectmen**

Mr. Selig made a motion and it was seconded that the Town vote to approve article 21 as printed in the warrant.

Mr. Selig explained that the Town is seeking authorization to negotiate an agreement for payments in lieu of taxes (PILOT) for the real and personal property located at 115 River Street.

River Street Associates has represented that the project will be a solar powered system with an alternating current nameplate capacity of 1.5 megawatts. PILOT agreements can provide predictability for the Town regarding tax payments theTown will receive each year.

Finance Committee Recommends

Board of Selectmen Recommends

**ARTICLE PASSES**

ARTICLE 23 To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to petition the General Court to enact legislation to expand the membership of the Board of Selectmen from three to five, substantially in the form below, and further to authorize the selectmen to approve amendments to the bill before enactment by the General Court which shall be within the scope of the general public objectives of the petition, or to take any other action relative thereto:

AN ACT TO INCREASE THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN IN THE TOWN OF HALIFAX

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same as follows:

SECTION 1. The number of members of the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Halifax shall be increased to five (5). Each selectman shall serve for a three (3) year term with not more than two (2) selectmen's terms to run concurrently.

Notwithstanding the preceding sentence, at the next annual town election following at least 65 days after the effective date of this act, one (1) additional member shall be to an initial two (2) year term and one (1) additional member shall be elected to a three (3) year term. Nothing in this act shall affect the terms of these members serving as selectmen on the effective date of this act.

**Proposed by John Gravinese and nine others.**

Mary Gravinese (resident) made a motion and it was seconded that the Town vote to approve article 23 as printed in the warrant.

Mrs. Gravinese explained that she has been attending meetings and thinks that while our current Selectboard may represent some of the community she doesn't feel that they represent everyone in the community. She feels that with a larger board more residents would be represented. Mr. Bruno spoke to the fact that he didn't agree. He said when we vote the majority of votes is how the positions are elected so he feels that they are representing the majority of people. Several residents also voiced their opinion for and against this article and the need for more people to become involved and to run for office.

Finance Committee Does Not Recommend

Board of Selectmen Does Not Recommend

**ARTICLE FAILS**

ARTICLE 18 To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to M.G.L Chapter 40, Section 5B, to establish a Stabilization Fund, to be called the "Opioid Settlements Stabilization Fund", for the purpose of funding and implementing the strategies for responding to the opioid epidemic as set forth in detail in the portion of the Massachusetts State-Subdivision Agreement for Statewide Opioid Settlements that is entitled "Municipal Use of Abatement Funds" or take any other action relative thereto.

**Proposed by the Board of Selectmen**

Mr. Bruno made a motion and it was seconded that the Town vote to establish the Opioid Settlements Stabilization Fund as printed in Article 18 of the warrant.

Cody Haddad, Town Administrator explained that we have received a significant amount of funding from this settlement and establishing this will help us to account for this money. This money can't be used on just anything we would come back to Town Meeting to vote to approve spending of this money.

Finance Committee Recommends  
Board of Selectmen Recommends  
**ARTICLE PASSES WITH A 2/3 VOTE**

Note: Articles 18 and 19 go together and Article 18 must pass prior to Article 19.

ARTICLE 19 To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money from the General Fund to the Opioid Settlements Stabilization Fund, being the amount of abatement funds currently apportioned to and received by the Town for Fiscal Year 2023 from all Statewide Opioid Settlements or take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Selectmen

Mr. Bruno made a motion and it was seconded that the Town vote to appropriate \$32,901.14 from the General Fund Opioid Settlement Revenues to the Opioid Settlements Stabilization Fund.

Mr. Haddad explained that this article will transfer this money into the Stabilization fund that was created in the passing of the previous article. This is the money that we have received so far from this settlement.

Finance Committee Recommends  
**ARTICLE PASSES WITH A 2/3 VOTE**

ARTICLE 12 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$3,500 to be spent by the Board of Selectmen to support South Shore Resource and Advocacy Center for domestic violence intervention and prevention services for its residents or take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by Board of Selectmen

Mr. Selig made a motion and it was seconded that the Town vote to transfer from undesignated fund balance the sum of \$3,500 to support South Shore Resource and Advocacy Center for domestic violence intervention and prevention services for its residents.

Mr. Selig explained that this article is a non-profit that helps survivors of domestic abuse. Like Article 11 another article I'm proud to support.

Finance Committee Recommends  
**ARTICLE PASSES**

ARTICLE 25 To see if the Town will vote to accept Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 41, Section 97A, commonly known as the "strong chief" section, concerning Police Chiefs, which reads as follows:

*In any town which accepts this section there shall be a police department established by the selectmen, and such department shall be under the supervision of an officer to be known as the chief of police. The selectmen of any such town shall appoint a chief of police and such other officers as they deem necessary, and fix their compensations, not exceeding, in the aggregate, the annual appropriation therefor. In any such town in which such appointments are not subject to chapter thirty-one, they shall be*

*made annually or for a term of years not exceeding three years, as the selectmen shall determine, and the selectmen may remove such chief or other officers for cause at any time after a hearing. The chief of police in any such town shall from time to time make suitable regulations governing the police department, and the officers thereof, subject to the approval of the selectmen; provided, that such regulations shall become effective without such approval upon the failure of the selectmen to take action thereon within thirty days after they have submitted to them by the chief of police. The chief of police in any such town shall be in immediate control of all town property used by the department, and of the police officers, whom he shall assign to their respective duties and who shall obey his orders. Section ninety-seven shall not apply in any town which accepts the provisions of this section. Acceptance of the provisions of this section shall be by a vote at an annual town meeting.*

And to see if the Town will vote to rescind Article 11 of the Town Meeting Vote of 1924, accepting the provisions of Massachusetts General Law Chapter 41, Sections 100 and 97 commonly known as the “weak chief” section which reads as follows:

*In towns which accept this section or have accepted corresponding provisions of earlier laws there shall be a police department established under the direction of the selectmen, who shall appoint a chief of police and such other police officers as they deem necessary and fix their compensation in an amount not in the aggregate exceeding the annual appropriation therefor. In any such town in which such appointments are not subject to chapter thirty-one, they shall be made annually or for a term of years not exceeding three years, as the selectmen shall determine, and the selectmen may remove such chief or other officers for cause at any time during such appointment after a hearing. The selectmen may make suitable regulations governing the police department and the officers thereof. The chief of police shall be in immediate control of all town property used by the department, and of the police officers, who shall obey his orders.*

**Proposed by Barbara J. Gaynor and nine others.**

Barbara Gaynor made a motion and it was seconded To see if the Town will vote to accept Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 41, Section 97A, commonly known as the “strong chief” section, concerning Police Chiefs, which reads as follows. She asked if she needed to read the whole article and was told she could move the article as printed in the warrant.

Chief Chaves explained that the difference would be that it would give him the ability to make suitable regulations for the department and the Selectmen would not be able to come up with unreasonable demands for the department.

Residents spoke and asked questions about this article to better understand how the situation currently works.

Finance Committee has no Recommendation

Board of Selectmen has no Recommendation

**ARTICLE PASSES**

**ARTICLE 6** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$75,000 to the Reserve Fund to cover extraordinary or unforeseen expenditures during Fiscal Year 2024 in accordance with Chapter 40, Section 6 of the Massachusetts General Laws, and to transfer from available funds the sum of \$50,000 to the Water Department Reserve Fund or take any other action relative thereto.

**Proposed by the Finance Committee**

Mr. Dargie motioned and it was seconded that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$75,000 to the Reserve Fund to cover extraordinary or unforeseen expenditures during Fiscal Year 2024 in accordance with Chapter 40, Section 6 of the Massachusetts General Laws, and to transfer from Water Retained Earnings the sum of \$50,000 to the Water Department Reserve Fund.

Finance Committee Recommends

**ARTICLE PASSES**

ARTICLE 9 FUNDING OF FY 2024 CAPITAL PLAN

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, transfer from free cash, or to authorize the Town Treasurer, with approval of the Selectmen, to borrow (and issue bonds or notes therefore) any sum or sums of money, or by any combination of these methods of financing, as may be necessary or desirable, make available funds for the purpose of funding the recommendation of the Finance Committee for the Fiscal Year 2024 Capital Plan:

**Highway**

Road Maintenance:	\$300,000
Wheeled Excavator:	\$150,080

**Municipal Maintenance**

ADA Compliance Projects:	\$500,000
Town Hall Portico Repair:	\$ 50,000
Library Window Replacement:	\$ 45,000

**Fire Department**

Fire Command Vehicle:	\$ 80,000
Motorola Minitor Pagers:	\$ 4,576

**Police Department**

Two Police Cruisers:	\$110,000
Bullet Proof Vests:	\$ 5,000
Portable Radios:	\$ 15,789

**Accounting**

GASB Study:	\$ 7,300
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Or take any other action relative thereto.

**Proposed by the Finance Committee**

Mr. Dargie made a motion and it was seconded that the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$1,267,745 from undesignated fund balance for the purpose of funding the Fiscal Year 2024 Capital plan as printed in article 9 of the warrant.

The Moderator read each section individually and took a vote. A resident asked the Highway Surveyor several questions regarding highway items. A resident asked Fire Chief Witham a couple of questions regarding the vehicles in the department. Police Chief Chaves answered several questions regarding the fleet that we currently have and them being traded in. Ms. Fava asked that the wording be changed so that these vehicles will be traded in and not used in other places around time. Point of Information – Ms. Gaynor said the police chief already stated that the cruisers will be traded-in so she doesn't understand the need for the amendment. Point of Procedure – Mr. Bruno stated that a motion would need to be made to amend this article. Ms. Fava made a motion and it was seconded that the article be amended to say that the police vehicles will be traded in or auctioned. – **AMENDMENT FAILED**

Highway – PASSES

Municipal Maintenance – PASSES

Fire Department – PASSES

Police Department – PASSES

Accounting – PASSES

Finance Committee Recommends

Board of Selectmen Recommends

**ALL ITEMS PASSED**

ARTICLE 16 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$69,500 for the Highway Department to purchase a woodchipper or take any other action relative thereto.

**Proposed by the Highway Surveyor**

Steve Hayward motioned and it was seconded to Passover this article and put the Town on notice that this will come up again.

**PASSOVER PASSED**

ARTICLE 10 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$18,660 for the Assessors' Recertification Account or take any other action relative thereto.

**Proposed by the Board of Assessors**

John Shiavone Board of Assessors member made a motion and it was seconded that the Town vote to transfer from undesignated fund balance the sum of \$18,660 for the Assessors' Recertification Account.

Mr. Shiavone explained that this article requests this money every year. This amount is spread out over three years, so they don't have to ask for one large amount every three years.

Finance Committee Recommends

Board of Selectmen Recommends

**PASSES**

ARTICLE 24 To see if the Town will vote to direct the Board of Selectmen to request to the General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to enact legislation which would make the positions of Town Clerk, Treasurer/Collector and Highway Surveyor appointed, rather than elected, or take any action relative thereto or thereon.

**Proposed by John Gravinese and nine others.**

Resident Mary Gravinese made a motion and it was seconded that the Town vote Article 24 as printed in the warrant.

Mrs. Gravinese explained her reasoning for bringing this article forward. She brought this forward because over the past couple of years we have lost people in these key elected positions. She is concerned that if the current people in these positions leave, we will not have qualified candidates to fill the positions.

Point of order – Selectmen Bruno asked town counsel to make sure this motion was in order. Town Administrator Haddad said the way the article is currently worded would not legally allow the town to move forward. Mrs. Gravinese asked motioned and seconded to be amended to say that the Town request its representatives in the General Court to introduce special legislation, in substantially the form set forth below, to make the positions of Town Clerk, Treasurer/Collector and Highway Surveyor appointed, rather than elected and to authorize the General Court, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to make changes of form to the text thereof as may be necessary or advisable in order to accomplish the intent and public purpose of this legislation and in order to secure passage.

**AN ACT TO MAKE THE POSITIONS OF TOWN CLERK, TREASURER/COLLECTOR AND HIGHWAY SURVEYOR APPOINTED IN THE TOWN OF HALIFAX**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same as follows:

Section 1: Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the positions of Town Clerk, Treasurer/Collector and Highway Surveyor shall be appointed by the Board of Selectmen in the Town of Halifax.

Section 2: This Act shall take effect upon passage.

Finance Committee Has No Recommendation  
Board of Selectmen Recommends  
**AMENDMENT PASSES**

Motioned and seconded to vote on Article 24 as amended. Mr. Haddad explained that the amendment just explains specifically what would happen and the means to make it happen. Several residents asked questions and spoke about this article and how they felt about it. Mrs. Kniffen came to the microphone to say she was having trouble hearing. Mr. Hayward, Highway Surveyor explained that he is against his position becoming appointed.

**ARTICLE FAILS**

ARTICLE 15 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$150 for the use of the Trustees for County Cooperative Extension Service and authorize the Selectmen to appoint a Town Director within fifteen days as provided in revised Chapter 128, Section 41 of the Massachusetts General Laws or take any other action relative thereto.

**Proposed by the Board of Selectmen**

Naja Nessralla made a motion and it was seconded that the Town vote to transfer from undesignated fund balance the sum of \$150 for the use of the Trustees for County Cooperative Extension Service and authorize the Selectmen to appoint a Town Director within fifteen days as provided in revised Chapter 128, Section 41 of the Massachusetts General Laws.

Mr. Nessralla explained that this article allows the Town to participate in the 4-H Youth & Family Development program.

Finance Committee Recommends  
**ARTICLE PASSES**

ARTICLE 8 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds \$260,000 to fund the anticipated provisions of various collective bargaining agreements and Wage & Personnel amendments for Fiscal Year 2024 or take any other action relative thereto.

**Proposed by the Board of Selectmen**

John Bruno motioned and it was seconded that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$260,000 to fund the anticipated provisions of the collective bargaining agreements for Fiscal Year 2024 between AFSCME AFL-CIO Union Council 93, Local 1700 (Highway/Cemetery), IAFF, Local 3159 (Firefighters), Massachusetts C.O.P., Local 459 (Sergeants), the Halifax Association of Police Patrolmen and the Town of Halifax and wage increases for non-union employees.

Mr. Bruno explained that this article will put aside \$260,000 to fund the provision of collective bargaining agreements that the Town will settle for Fiscal Year 2024. As previously mentioned, the Town is also undergoing a compensation and reclassification study, hence there not being an across-the-board increase for wage and personnel employees. Once that study is complete, we intend to come back to Town meeting to implement the recommendations, so our staff are fairly compensated. This funding would be utilized for that expense as well.

**ARTICLE PASSES**

ARTICLE 13 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$38,000 to support a part-time school resource officer for the Silver Lake Middle School or take any other action relative thereto.

**Proposed by the Silver Lake Regional School Committee**

Gordon Laws, member of the Silver Lake Regional School Committee made a motion and it was seconded that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$38,000 to support a part-time school resource officer for the Silver Lake Middle School.

Mr. Laws explained that this article is voted on annually and that each of the three towns pay a portion to fund this position.

Finance Committee Recommends

Board of Selectmen Recommends

**ARTICLE PASSES**

**ARTICLE 22** To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40, Section 3, to authorize the Board of Selectmen to negotiate the terms and conditions of, and enter into, a lease, license, or other contractual agreement of not more than 30 years in duration, at the 5.2 acre site of the Hemlock Lane Landfill located at 60 Hemlock Lane for the purpose of granting access to, and allowing the installation of solar generating facilities, at this site or take any other action relative thereto.

**Proposed by the Board of Selectmen**

Naja Nessralla motioned and it was seconded that the Town vote to approve article 22 as printed in the warrant.

Mr. Nessralla explained that this article would allow the Town to lease out the Hemlock Lane landfill for up to 30 years for the purpose of installing solar arrays. The Town would receive annual lease payments and may have the opportunity to purchase the power generated at the facility for use at municipal buildings at a cheaper cost than the open market.

Finance Committee Recommends

**ARTICLE PASSES**

**ARTICLE 20** To provide the authority for the Board of Selectmen, or their designee (The Board of Assessors) to negotiate a proposed Solar Energy PILOT Agreement between the Town of Halifax and River Street Associates LLC for 115 River Street on behalf of the Town or take any other action relative thereto.

**Proposed by the Board of Selectmen**

Jonathan Selig motioned and it was seconded that the Town vote to approve article 20 as printed in the warrant.

Mr. Selig explained that the Town is seeking authorization to negotiate an agreement for payments in lieu of taxes (PILOT) for the real and personal property located at 115 River Street.

River Street Associates has represented that the project will be a solar powered system with an alternating current nameplate capacity of 1.5 megawatts. PILOT agreements can provide predictability for the Town regarding tax payments Town will receive each year.

Finance Committee Recommends

**ARTICLE PASSES**

**ARTICLE 14** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$202,458.79 for the replacement of two (2) Roof Top Units at the Silver Lake Regions School District (High School) or take any other action relative thereto.

**Proposed by Silver Lake Regional School Committee**



Mr. Laws read a letter explaining that he will be asking for a different dollar amount for this article to change the amount to \$100,100.00 for replacement of one roof top unit instead of the original 2 due to the increase in the cost of materials and labor. A resident asked how much money was left in the stabilization account to help make her decision.

Mrs. Nolan made a motion and it was seconded that the town vote to transfer from the special purpose stabilization fund a sum of \$100,100 for the replacement of one rooftop unit at the Silver Lake Regional High School.

Finance Committee Recommends

Board of Selectmen Recommends

**ARTICLE PASSES**

**ARTICLE 26** This article was pulled but this article should be the last article of the meeting. This article is in regards to the positions that will be on the ballot at the election.

**ARTICLE 11** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$3,500 to be spent by the Board of Selectmen to support South Coastal Counties Legal Services, Inc.'s continued free legal services in civil matters to elders, low-income families and their children or take any other action relative thereto.

**Proposed by the Board of Selectmen**

Jonathan Selig motioned and it was seconded that the Town vote to transfer from undesignated fund balance the sum of \$3,500 to support South Coastal Counties Legal Services, Inc.'s continued free legal services in civil matters to elders, low-income families, and their children.

Mr. Selig explained that this article helps bring free legal services to low-income families and I think it's a great article and I'm honored to speak to it.

Finance Committee Recommends

**ARTICLE PASSES**

**ARTICLE 17** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer a sum of money from surplus revenue for the purpose of supplementing the Stabilization Fund pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40, Section 5B, or take any other action relative thereto.

**Proposed by the Finance Committee**

Todd Dargie made a motion and it was seconded that the Town vote to transfer from undesignated fund balance the sum of \$96,075 to be added to the General Stabilization Fund.

**ARTICLE PASSES WITH A 2/3 VOTE**

**ARTICLE 26** To see if the Town will vote to elect one Board of Assessor member for a term of three years, one Board of Health member for a term of three years, one Highway Surveyor for a term of three years, one Halifax Housing Authority member for a term of three years, two Board of Library Trustees members for terms of three years, one Park Commissioner for a term of three years, one Planning Board member for a term of five years, two Halifax Elementary School Committee members for a term of three years, one Halifax Elementary School Committee member to fill an unexpired term of one year, one Silver Lake Regional School Committee member for a term of three years, one Board of Selectmen member for a term of three years and one Board of Water Commissioner member for a term of three years.

John Bruno made a motion and it was seconded to adjourn to a time certain being Saturday May 13, 2023 at 10AM to 6PM to meet at the Halifax Elementary School to take up article 26 and that the Town Meeting will be dissolved at that time.

**ARTICLE PASSES**

The Moderator adjourned the meeting at 9:07 on May 8, 2023

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan Lawless".

Susan Lawless, CMC  
Town Clerk