

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 14, 2023**

While waiting for the quorum to be met, Moderator, John Barrett, allowed the reading and presentation of Article 5, which is an informational article and presentation and no vote required. The presentation ended when the quorum was reached. The Special Town Meeting was called to order at 7:49 p.m. The quorum was made with 80 voters present. The Moderator introduced Town Clerk, Kathleen Spofford, Selectmen Dr. Theresa Morse, Chaz Sexton-Diranian, Joseph Shank, Town Counsel, Jane Friedman, Town Administrator, Eric Slagle and Finance Committee members Don Hayes and Jerrilyn Bozicas, and Town Treasurer Melissa Dunnet. The Moderator appointed counters: Rebecca Sturtevant, Brian Funaiole, Susan Shuford and Vin Divulas who were sworn in by the Town Clerk. Rules of the town meeting according to Town Meeting Time were reviewed. The reading of the Warrant was read by the Town Clerk.

**PRIOR FISCAL YEAR ARTICLE
(9/10ths VOTE)**

ARTICLE 1:

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash or other available funds in the treasury the sum of **\$13,332.47** or any other sum for the purpose of paying prior fiscal year bills for various vendors or take any other action in relation thereto.

Motion: I move that the Town vote to transfer from Free Cash or other available funds in the treasury the sum of **\$13,332.47** or any other sum for the purpose of pain prior fiscal year bills for various vendors.

SUBMITTED BY: Board of Selectmen

READ BY: Charles Sexton-Diranian

VOTED: Passed unanimously

**CURRENT FISCAL YEAR FINANCIAL ARTICLES
(MAJORITY VOTE)**

ARTICLE 2:

To see if the Town will vote to amend its vote under Article 5 of the May 2, 2023 Annual Town Meeting to remove the sum of **\$349,760.00** in ARPA funding from the approved budget and to amend certain line items within said budget as follows:

<u>Amend</u>	<u>Account Name</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
Line 7	Community Svcs Coordinator	\$ 66,628	\$ 10,000
Line 8	Human Resources Manager	\$ 49,971	\$ 10,000
Line 162	Con Com Wages – Cons Agent	\$ 44,606	\$ 39,050
Line 253	Police – Salary & Wages – Op Staff	\$822,630	\$792,630

Line 290	Fire/EMS – Wages – Ops Capt	\$227,000	\$187,000
Line 291	Fire/EMS – Wages – FF Para	\$348,545	\$303,445
Line 326	Fire/EMS – Vehicle Supplies	\$20,400	\$5,400
Line 327	Fire/EMS – Medical Supplies	\$25,000	\$5,000
Line 529	Highway – Pavement Mgmt	\$201,474	\$146,913
Line 611	Housing Trust – Wages – Sup. Stf.	\$4,505	\$0
Line 614	Housing Trust – Prof Svcs	\$41,500	\$0
Line 615	Housing Trust – Training	\$1,000	\$0
Line 616	Housing Trust – Office and Gen Sup	\$500	\$0
Line 617	Housing Trust – Travel/Mileage	\$100	\$0
Line 683	Library – Wages – Library Techs	\$187,063	\$191,724
Line 787:	Total Budget	\$26,371,886	\$26,022,126

FUNCTIONAL SEGMENTS			%
	FY 23	FY 24	Change
General Government-	\$ 1,681,288.00	\$ 1,785,131.00	6.2%
Public Safety-	\$ 3,536,076.00	\$ 3,700,640.00	4.7%
Education-	\$ 14,550,389.00	\$ 14,918,837.00	2.5%
Highways and Streets-	\$ 742,714.00	\$ 1,010,799.00	36.1%
Solid Waste-	\$ 748,052.00	\$ 770,053.00	2.9%
Human Services-	\$ 518,574.00	\$ 548,597.00	5.8%
Culture and Recreation-	\$ 488,490.00	\$ 531,851.00	8.9%
Debt Service-	\$ 369,674.00	\$ 456,115.00	23.4%
Insurances-	\$ 2,233,403.00	\$ 2,300,102.00	3.0%
Grand Total-	\$ 24,868,661	\$ 26,022,126	4.6%

or take any other action in relation thereto.

Motion: I move the Town vote to amend its vote under Article 5 of the May 2, 2023 Annual Town Meeting to remove the sum of **\$349,760.00** in ARPA funding from the approved budget and to amend certain line items within said budget as follows:

Amend	Account Name	From	To
Line 7	Community Svcs Coordinator	\$ 66,628	\$ 10,000
Line 8	Human Resources Manager	\$ 49,971	\$ 10,000
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Line 327	Fire/EMS – Medical Supplies	\$ 25,000	\$ 5,000
Line 529	Highway – Pavement Mgmt	\$ 201,474	\$ 146,913
Line 611	Housing Trust – Wages – Sup. Stf.	\$ 4,505	\$ 0
Line 614	Housing Trust – Prof Svcs	\$ 41,500	\$ 0
Line 615	Housing Trust – Training	\$ 1,000	\$ 0
Line 616	Housing Trust – Office and Gen Sup	\$ 500	\$ 0
Line 617	Housing Trust – Travel/Mileage	\$ 100	\$ 0
Line 683	Library – Wages – Library Techs	\$ 187,063	\$ 191,724
Line 787:	Total Budget	\$26,371,886	\$26,022,126

FUNCTIONAL SEGMENTS			%
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Debt Service-	\$ 369,674.00	\$ 456,115.00	23.4%
Insurances-	\$ 2,233,403.00	\$ 2,300,102.00	3.0%
Grand Total-	\$ 24,868,661	\$ 26,022,126	4.6%

SUBMITTED BY: Board of Selectmen

READ BY: Joseph Shank

VOTED: Passed by majority

ARTICLE 3:

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of **\$431,000** or any other sum from State Revolving Fund loan proceeds for capital expenditures for Fiscal Year 2024 for the following items:

1. Safety railing and cable system for the Highland Tank - **\$11,000**;
2. Purchase of Gate Exerciser/Vacuum Trailer and equipment - **\$100,000**;
3. Purchase F350 Utility Truck and equipment - **\$100,000**;
4. Purchase Cat 440 Backhoe – **\$170,000**;
5. Planning and engineering for proposed Lunenburg Rd. Water Tank - **\$50,000**;

or take any other action in relation thereto.

Motion: I move the Town vote to appropriate the sum of **\$431,000.00** or any other sum from the State Revolving Fund Load proceeds for capital expenditures for Fiscal Year 2024 for the following items:

1. Safety railing and cable system for the Highland Tank - **\$11,000;**
2. Purchase of Gate Exerciser/Vacuum Trailer and equipment - **\$100,000;**
3. Purchase F350 Utility Truck and equipment - **\$100,000;**
4. Purchase Cat 440 Backhoe – **\$170,000;**
5. Planning and engineering for proposed Lunenburg Rd. Water Tank - **\$50,000;**

SUBMITTED BY: Board of Selectmen

READ BY: Dr. Theresa Morse

VOTED: Passed by majority

ARTICLE 4:

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the PEG Access Receipts Reserved Account the sum of **\$44,695.59**, funds equal to five percent (5%) of Comcast's Gross Annual Revenues in Townsend for the 4th Quarter of FY23, subject to receipt and availability, and authorize the Board of Selectmen and Town Administrator to expend and distribute said funds to Townsend Community Access Media, Inc. on a quarterly basis for the purpose of annual funding of the production and broadcast of Public, Educational, and Government (PEG) access television on terms contained in a certain Grant Agreement between the Town of Townsend, MA and Townsend Community Access Media, Inc., effective September 15, 2020; or take any other action in relation thereto.

Motion: I move that the Town vote to appropriate from the PEG Access Receipts Reserved Account the sum of **\$44,695.59**, funds equal to five percent (5%) of Comcast's Gross Annual Revenues in Townsend for the 4th Quarter of FY'23, subject to receipt and availability, and authorize the Board of Selectmen and Town Administrator to expend and distribute said funds to Townsend Community Access Media, Inc. on a quarterly basis for the purpose of annual funding of the production and broadcast of Public Educational, and Government (PEG) access television on terms contained in a certain Grant Agreement between the Town of Townsend, MA and Townsend Community Access Media, Inc., effective September 15, 2020.

SUBMITTED BY: Board of Selectmen

READ BY: Charles Sexton-Diranian

VOTED: Passed unanimously

ARTICLE 5:

To see if the Town will vote to hear a presentation to Special Town Meeting voters on the MBTA Communities Law zoning plan process or take any other action in relation thereto.

SUBMITTED BY: Board of Selectmen

NO VOTE TAKEN

A motion was made and seconded to dissolve the Special Town Meeting. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was dissolved at 8:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathleen M. Spofford, Town Clerk

